

November Diversity

November is Native American Heritage Month. Native American Heritage Month celebrates the culture and heritage of native people who enrich this country. I want to share a couple of inspirational stories that I found featuring Native American Women.

The first from A Mighty Girl:

In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, we're sharing the incredible story of Mary Golda Ross, the first Native American aerospace engineer! During WWII, Ross worked on the P-38 Lightning, one of the fastest airplanes at the time, and later she worked on cutting edge research during the early space race as part of Lockheed's top-secret Skunk Works program. To read the inspiring story of this trailblazing engineer, visit <https://www.iamightygirl.com/blog?p=26040>

For an inspiring picture book telling her story, we highly recommend "Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer" for ages 5 to 9 at <https://www.iamightygirl.com/classified-mary-golda-ross>

To introduce older kids to five more remarkable women in engineering -- plus a variety of engineering projects they can try at home - we highly recommend "Gutsy Girls Go for Science: Engineers" for ages 8 to 11 at <https://www.iamightygirl.com/gutsy-girls-engineers>

To inspire kids with the stories of more trailblazing women of the early space race, we recommend "Margaret and the Moon" for ages 5 to 9 (<https://www.iamightygirl.com/margaret-and-the-moon>), "Counting on Katherine" for ages 5 to 9 (<https://www.iamightygirl.com/counting-on-katherine>), and the graphic novel "Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier" for ages 10 and up (<https://www.iamightygirl.com/astronauts-women-on-the-final...>)

For toys and kits to encourage your Mighty Girl's interest in engineering and invention, visit our blog post, "Building Her Dreams: 60 Building Toys for Mighty Girls," at <https://www.iamightygirl.com/blog?p=10430>



Mary Golda Ross (1908-2008)

First Native American Aerospace Engineer

- Ross was the great-granddaughter of Cherokee Nation Chief John Ross and grew up in the Cherokee Nation capital of Tahlequah, Oklahoma.
- She earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1928 and a master's degree in 1938.
- During WWII, she was hired as a mathematician by Lockheed and worked on the P-38 Lightning, one of the fastest airplanes at the time.
- In 1952, she joined Lockheed's top-secret Advanced Development Projects division, commonly known as Skunk Works.
 - She worked on the cutting-edge Agena rocket project and on preliminary design concepts for flyby missions to Venus and Mars.
 - When asked about women entering the space program, Ross said that women would make "wonderful astronauts" but added that she'd "rather stay down here and analyze the data."

And the second from We The Kids:

In honor of Veterans Day and Native American Heritage Month.

Minnie Spotted Wolf (Blackfoot) was the first Native American female Marine to serve during WWII. She enlisted in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve in July 1943.

Prior to joining the Marines, Minnie (1923–1988), from Heart Butte, Montana, had worked on her father's ranch doing such chores as cutting fence posts, driving a two-ton truck, and breaking horses. Her comment on Marine boot camp: "It was hard but when it was over, I was proud of myself and all that I accomplished." After being discharged, Minnie went to Northern Montana College and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Education from the College of Great Falls. She taught elementary school for 29 years.



Also in November is Movember

Every November, a fundraiser is held to raise awareness for men's health issues. These include prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's suicide. Consider holding a fundraiser in your office and celebrating the department that raises the most money.