Former aircraft factory worker visits B-29 Bomber Plane in Sioux City

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SIoux City (KTIV) – This Sunday is the last day to go to the Sioux Gateway Airport and see a few of the historic planes that were used during World War II.

One Storm Lake woman couldn’t give up the chance to see the B-29 bomber because of her special ties to the making of the plane.

96-year-old Zoe Petersen is from Storm Lake, Iowa.

Saturday, she joined a large group of people at Sioux Gateway Airport to see the World War II, B-29 Bomber called “FiFi”.

The difference between her and everyone else there?

She had a small part in helping to make planes just like “FiFi”.

“I was working in the Glenn L. Martin Bomber Plant in Omaha. And then later, they brought in plans for making the B-29’s,” said former aircraft factory worker, Zoe Petersen.

Petersen worked the night shift at the aircraft factory and her husband was in 101st Airborne and served as a medic.

She said she remembers very well how big and loud the B-29 bomber plane was.

“It’s renewing memories. I knew it was noisy and you could hear it all over in those days. It was interesting, I was young then. It was fun. Almost fun," said Petersen.

Petersen’s son, David, said at first his mother couldn’t decide whether or not she wanted to come to see the bomber plane.
He said he knew it would be a good experience because of how often she would talk about her time at the factory.

“It’s terrific. I’m very proud of what both Mom and Dad did their whole lives and that was her contribution at that time,” said David Petersen.

Petersen said her job at the factory was moving parts where needed during the night shift.

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Libbie Randall