



## USS Arizona Brothers

On December 7, 1941, Japanese bombs exploded into the hull of the USS *Arizona*, engulfing the ship in a giant fireball and leaving thousands dead. Amidst the destruction, one thing remained intact—the bond of brotherhood.

Like the waters of the Pacific, family ties ran deep on the *Arizona*. Serving aboard were a father and son and 38 sets of brothers. Naturally, they wanted to be together. Their families back home felt the same, but worried about losing all of their boys when disaster struck. These fears became reality as the sinking of the *Arizona* killed 23 sets of brothers and the father and son.

Similar tragedies early in World War II prompted the Navy to release a bulletin discouraging family members from serving together on the same ship. After this bulletin, no policies, regulations, or laws were made to enforce it. Even the deaths of five Sullivan brothers aboard the USS *Juneau* in November 1942 could not force a stricter policy, nor did it stop determined brothers from enlisting and serving together.

Today is no different as warnings are given to families requesting to be stationed together. Yet, if their ship is not in a hostile area they can still serve together. Their desire to be with family often overpowers the risks. Simply put, brothers want to be with brothers.

*I think it bothered him his whole life that his brother went down when he was on shore leave. I think he felt like he let his brother and his shipmates down.*

Anthony Czarnecki's son, David, reflecting on the memories of his father.



Brothers Edward and Wesley Heidt enjoy time with family.

Delbert Anderson (background left) and brother John (background right) were the only set of twins on the USS *Arizona* during the attack. John survived, while Delbert did not.

As the *Arizona* tilted and sank, John Anderson was ordered onto a barge taking wounded men to safety. "I can't go, my brother's up there" refused Anderson as he was shoved onto the barge and taken to Ford Island. After landing, John knew he could not stay. He muscled his way back to the barge, ignoring the calls of "You'll get killed out there" and set out toward the sinking, smoking, flaming *Arizona*.

The *Arizona* brothers were more than comrades in arms, more than mere shipmates. Separated from their loved ones, they only had each other. This real "Band of Brothers" strived to remain together, even if it meant they died together.



Edward Heidt, F1c and Wesley Heidt, MM2c served and died as brothers aboard the USS *Arizona*.



## MORE ABOUT THE MEN

- There were a total of 79 individual brothers, of which 63 died as a result of the attack.
- Of the 63 brothers who died, only four were recovered and identified: George Bromley, Donald and Joseph Lakin, and Gordon Shive. The remaining 59 brothers remain unaccounted.
- There were three sets of three brothers: the Beckers, the Dohertys, and the Murdocks. One from each set survived
- In addition to the brother sets, there was one father and son on the USS *Arizona* that were killed in action. The father was Thomas Augusta Free, MM1c; and his son William Thomas Free, Sea2c. Both men were from the state of Texas, but son William is memorialized at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawai'i, under the state of California.
- The information herein is subject to revision, but is deemed reliable at the time of publication.

## FOOTNOTES

- 1) State determination: For personnel killed in action, their next of kin's location is used. For survivors, their last known address or next of kin is used. This listing does not necessarily represent their place of birth, place of enlistment, nor original home state.
- 2) Andrew Allison is memorialized at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawai'i, under the state of Tennessee.
- 3) The famous Sullivan brothers joined the U.S. Navy to avenge the death of William Ball.
- 4) John Albert Doherty is memorialized at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawai'i, under the state of Montana.
- 5) Donald and Joseph Lakin's grave markers at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawai'i, indicate their coming from the state of Kansas.
- 6) Francis and Norman Morse are memorialized at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawai'i, under the state of Colorado.
- 7) The Warriners were the only set of *Arizona* brothers to survive the attack. Kenneth was training at Fleet Signal School in San Diego, California, although still assigned to the *Arizona*. Russell was wounded (badly burned), but survived.

	Name (Survivors in Bold)	Rate	State (1)
1.	ALLISON, Andrew "K" ALLISON, "J" "T"	F1c F1c	MO (2) MO
2.	ANDERSON, Delbert Jake <b>ANDERSON, John Delmar</b>	BM2c <b>BM2c</b>	MN <b>NM</b>
3.	<b>BALL, Masten "A"</b> BALL, William "V" (3)	<b>F1c</b> Sea1c	<b>IA</b> IA
4.	<b>BECKER, Harvey Herman</b> BECKER, Marvin Otto BECKER, Wesley Paulson	<b>GM2c</b> GM3c Sea1c	<b>CA</b> KS KS
5.	<b>BIRDELL, Estelle</b> BIRDELL, Rayon Deloris	<b>MM1c</b> F2c	<b>CA</b> MO
6.	BROMLEY, George Edward BROMLEY, Jimmie	SM3c Sea1c	WA WA
7.	CHANDLER, Donald Ross <b>CHANDLER, Edwin Ray</b>	Pvt <b>Sea1c</b>	AL <b>CA</b>
8.	CHAPMAN, Naaman "N" <b>CHAPMAN, Noel "B"</b>	Sea1c <b>Sea2c</b>	NE <b>NE</b>
9.	CHRISTIANSEN, Edward Lee <b>CHRISTIANSEN, Harlan Carl</b>	Bkr3c <b>AS</b>	KS <b>KS</b>
10.	CONLIN, Bernard Eugene CONLIN, James Leo	Sea2c F2c	IL IL
11.	CONRAD, Homer Milton Jr. CONRAD, Walter Ralph	Sea1c QM2c	OH CA
12.	COOPER, Clarence Eugene COOPER, Kenneth Erven	F2c F2c	CA CA
13.	<b>CZARNECKI, Anthony Francis</b> CZARNECKI, Stanley	<b>MM1c</b> F1c	<b>MI</b> MI
14.	DOHERTY, George Walter DOHERTY, John Albert <b>DOHERTY, John Andrew</b>	Sea2c MM2c <b>CGM</b>	CA CA (4) <b>CA</b>
15.	<b>ELLIS, George William</b> ELLIS, Richard Everett	<b>SC1c</b> Sea1c	<b>NE</b> NE
16.	FLANNERY, James Lowell <b>FLANNERY, Wendell Lee</b>	SK3c <b>Cox</b>	OH <b>KY</b>
17.	<b>FLORY, Dale Frederick</b> FLORY, Max Edward	<b>WT2c</b> Sea2c	<b>CA</b> IN
18.	HEIDT, Edward Joseph HEIDT, Wesley John	F1c MM2c	CA CA
19.	INGALLS, Richard Fitch INGALLS, Theodore "A"	SC3c SC3c	NY NY
20.	IVERSEN, Earl Henry IVERSEN, Norman Kenneth	Sea2c Sea2c	CA CA
21.	JONES, Daniel Pugh JONES, Woodrow Wilson	Sea2c Sea2c	AL AL
22.	JONES, Edmon Ethmer JONES, Homer Loyd	Sea1c SC3c	CO CO
23.	KENISTON, Donald Lee KENISTON, Kenneth Howard	Sea2c F3c	OH OH
24.	KENNINGTON, Charles Cecil KENNINGTON, Milton Homer	Sea1c Sea1c	TN TN

	Name (Survivors in Bold)	Rate	State (1)
25.	KRAMB, James Henry KRAMB, John David	Sea1c Msmth1c	NY NY
26.	LAKIN, Donald Lapier LAKIN, Joseph Jordan	Sea1c Sea1c	CA (5) CA (5)
27.	LIVERS, Raymond Edward LIVERS, Wayne Nicholas	Sea1c F1c	NM NM
28.	MILLER, George Stanley MILLER, Jessie Zimmer	Sea1c Sea1c	OH OH
29.	MORSE, Francis Jerome MORSE, Norman Roi	BM1c WT2c	CA (6) VA (6)
30.	MURDOCK, Charles Luther MURDOCK, Melvin Elijah <b>MURDOCK, Thomas Daniel</b>	WT1c WT2c <b>CY</b>	AL AL <b>AL</b>
31.	NICHOLS, Alfred Rose NICHOLS, Louis Duffie	Sea1c Sea2c	AL AL
32.	O'BRYAN, George David O'BRYAN, Joseph Benjamin	FC3c FC3c	KY KY
33.	SHIVE, Gordon Eshom SHIVE, Malcolm Holman	PFC RM3c	CA CA
34.	SKILES, Charley Jackson Jr. SKILES, Eugene	Sea2c Sea2c	MO MO
35.	STARKOVICH, Charles STARKOVICH, Joseph Jr.	EM3c F2c	WA WA
36.	VELIA, Galen Steve <b>VELIA, Keith Lloyd</b>	SM3c <b>Sea2c</b>	KS <b>KS</b>
37.	<b>WARRINER, Kenneth T. (7)</b> <b>WARRINER, Russell Walter (7)</b>	<b>Sea2c</b> <b>Sea1c</b>	<b>WI</b> <b>WI</b>
38.	WELLS, Raymond Virgil Jr. WELLS, William Bennett	Sea2c Sea1c	MO MO

### Rate Abbreviations (1941)

1c	First Class
2c	Second Class
3c	Third Class
AS	Apprentice Seaman
Bkr	Baker
BM	Boatswain's Mate
CGM	Chief Gunner's Mate
Cox	Coxswain
CY	Chief Yeoman
EM	Electrician's Mate
F	Fireman
FC	Fire Controlman
GM	Gunner's Mate
MM	Machinist's Mate
Msmth	Metalsmith
PFC	Private First Class
Pvt	Private
QM	Quartermaster
RM	Radioman
SC	Ship's Cook
Sea	Seaman
SK	Storekeeper
SM	Signalman
WT	Watertender

### State Abbreviations

AL	Alabama
CA	California
CO	Colorado
IA	Iowa
IL	Illinois
IN	Indiana
KS	Kansas
KY	Kentucky
MI	Michigan
MN	Minnesota
MO	Missouri
NE	Nebraska
NM	New Mexico
NY	New York
OH	Ohio
TN	Tennessee
VA	Virginia
WA	Washington
WI	Wisconsin

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