

USS Arizona Memorial

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

USS Arizona Memorial
Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i



USS ARIZONA SURVIVORS INTERRED

A. TESLOW	GM2c	1982	F. M. CAMPBELL	Ens	2001
H. MILLIKIN	Sea2c	1984	D. H. STARKS	MMic	2001
J. PEIL	BM2c	1988	F. M. FALGE	Sea1c	2001
L. PITZ	Sea1c	1989	L. P. ROBINSON	GM2c	2001
E. OLIPHANT	GM3c	1990	E. H. PECOTTE	GM3c	2001
S. FLANAGAN, JR.	Ens	1992	J. L. LAWSON	AMMic	2001
R. CORNELIUS	Sea2c	1992	G.D. PHRANER, JR.	Sea1c	2001
H. EGAN	FC3c	1993	W. E. JEFFERS	Sea1c	2003
G. L. NELSON, JR.	Sea2c	1993	R. A. LOTT	Sea1c	2003
H. W. GAUT	Sea1c	1995	J. H. GARFIELD	Ens	2004
N. W. COPLIN	Sea1c	1996	A. F. CZARNECKI	MMic	2004
J. W. GREEN	GM3c	1996	N. B. CHAPMAN	Sea2c	2004

It is a hard thing to have survived when we owe our place to the dead.

Rene Quinton
Soldier's Testament

The Fortunate Few

During the Pearl Harbor attack, 1,512 officers, sailors, and marines were assigned to the battleship USS *Arizona*. Only 335 survived the "Day of Infamy." Many of these survivors were aboard the *Arizona* during the attack. Others were away on liberty, attending training, or assigned to special duty ashore. Since that tragic day all of these men have worn the mantle of "survivor" with grace and reluctance. Many feel fortunate to have survived but some are haunted by the loss of their friends and fellow shipmates. As you read through this list you may wonder, as they have, why were they spared from the sea of death that engulfed their shipmates on that fateful day in 1941?

Their Stories

"Were you scared? Yes, one does get scared. Then you think, Will I ever see home again? Will I see my family? How can I get out of this alive?" That's when you pray a lot and tell yourself to remember your Navy and Marine Corp training; stay calm, and try to be like Major Shapley and [Lieutenant] Commander Fuqua. Those who have seen war carry unforgettable memories of their fellow men."

Russell J. McCurdy, Lt Col, USMC Retired

"There was a tremendous explosion as I reached the quarterdeck ladder, and a terribly burned sailor laid under the ladder. I got him by the hand to get him to safety when the forward part of the *Arizona* blew up. We were thrown back toward the stern. This sailor I managed to save; my twin [brother] I could not."

John D. Anderson, BMC, USN Retired
Twin brother, Delbert, died on the *Arizona*.

Vincent Vlach was at home with his wife in Honolulu at the start of the attack. He hurried to Pearl Harbor amidst the air strike to help men from their boats as they came ashore. Many were badly burned, injured, and covered with oil. Vincent said his "whites [uniform] were a bloody and oily mess."

Vincent J. Vlach Jr., LCDR, USN Retired



Vincent Vlach with wife, Jeanne, September 3, 1941

Honoring a Final Request

In the Shrine Room at the USS *Arizona* Memorial, a large wall lists the names of the *Arizona*'s dead. A smaller wall (top of page) contains the names of *Arizona* survivors who chose to rejoin their shipmates in their final resting place. Each of these men asked that their remains be placed back into the *Arizona*. To honor this final request, National Park Service divers ceremoniously transport the urns of survivors back to the ship (at right). Resting their remains in the sunken wreck allows them to finally reunite with their brothers who died on December 7, 1941.



