USS Oklahoma Memorial

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

USS Arizona Memorial Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i



Honoring the Oklahoma



Why a Memorial?

The USS Oklahoma Memorial stands to honor the 429 men who lost their lives aboard the Oklahoma on December 7th, 1941. These men were not only sailors and Marines, they were 429 brothers, sons, husbands, and fathers. Edward F. Slapikas, Searc, always lent a helping hand to younger sailors. John L. Wortham, GM2c, looked forward to returning to his wife and baby boy. Slapikas, Wortham and their crewmates never went home; on December 7th Japanese torpedoes destroyed their ship and lives in mere minutes. Their memorial stands on the shores of Ford Island, next to the former berth of the Oklahoma. Those who escaped and swam ashore may have walked or crawled across this ground. To them these shores were a place of sanctuary, or a place they longed for as they lay trapped inside the capsized Oklahoma. For us, it is a place to remember.

eating the Memorial

The horrendous number of deaths on the USS Oklahoma-429— was second only to the 1,177 men who perished aboard the USS Arizona. For almost 60 years, there was no memorial to commemorate the men or their ship. Part of the Oklahoma sat submerged near Ford Island while many of her crew lay in unidentified mass graves. At the Punchbowl cemetery, where countless young servicemen rest, no one knew exactly where the Oklahoma crew was buried. It seemed to some that the Okie had been forgotten. Beginning in 2000, USS Oklahoma survivors, members of the USS Oklahoma Memorial at Pearl Harbor Committee, and hundreds of others came together to create the memorial. In 2006, President Bush officially signed the memorial into law as a national memorial entrusted to the National Park Service. On December 7th, 2007, the memorial was formally dedicated as an enduring reminder of the Oklahoma and her crew. To those listed at right we owe a debt of gratitude for their contributions.

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Architectual Theory

The memorial's black granite walls suggest the once formidable hull of the Oklahoma while the white marble standards represent its lost sailors and Marines. Each perfectly aligned marble standard symbolizes an individual in pristine white dress uniform, inspired from the naval tradition of 'manning the rails.' In full dress whites the ship's crew stand at attention along the rails or in the rigging of the ship to display respect and honor. The marble standards of this memorial stand perfectly straight, 'manning the rails' of the Oklahoma, forever.

Visiting the Memorial



To visit the memorial purchase shuttle tickets at the USS Bowfin ticket counter, just north of the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center. Combine the Oklahoma Memorial with visits to the Battleship Missouri Memorial Museum or the Pacific Aviation Museum, also located on Ford Island. Tickets include transport to all three sites. Personal cameras and one water bottle per visitor are permitted, but purses, handbags, camera bags, or items that permit concealment are not allowed.

May We Never Forget Those of the Oklahoma



James N. Phipps, Sea2c





United States Navy Willard H. Aldridge, Searc Hugh R. Alexander, Lt. Comdr Stanley W. Allen, Ens (VO-1) Hal J. Allison, F2c Leon Arickx, Searc Kenneth B. Armstrong, Midric Daryle E. Artley, QM20 John C. Auld, Seaze John A. Austin, Chf Carp Walter H. Backman, RM2c Gerald J. Bailey, Searc Robert E. Bailey, SF3c Wilbur F. Ballance, Searc Layton T. Banks, Cox Leroy K. Barber, F1c Malcolm J. Barber, Fic Randolph H. Barber, F2c Cecil E. Barncord, EM3c Wilber C. Barrett, Seazo Harold E. Bates, F1c Raph C. Battles, Fic Ralph C. Battles, Fic Earl P. Baum, Searc Howard W. Bean, RM3c Walter S. Belt, Jr., Fic Robert J. Bennett, Fig Harding C. Blackburn, Y3c William E. Blanchard, Bmkric Clarence A. Blaylock, F3c Leo Blitz, MM2c Rudolph Blitz, F1c John G. Bock, Jr., Sea2c Paul L. Boemer, Cox James B. Booe, Chmster James B. Boring, F20 Ralph M. Boudreaux, MAttıc Lawrence A. Boxrucker, F2c Raymond D. Boynton, Sea2c Carl M. Bradley, F2c Oris V. Brandt, Searc Jack A. Breedlove, FC3c Randall W. Brewer, MAttıc William Brooks, Searc Wesley J. Brown, Fic William G. Bruesewitz, Seaic James R. Buchanan, MM2c Earl G. Burch, Bkr3c Oliver K. Burger, WT1c Millard Burk, Jr., Searc Rodger C. Butts, SC1c Archie Callahan, Jr., MAtt2c Raymond R. Camery, F1c William V. Campbell, Sea2c Murry R. Cargile, Searc Harold F. Carney, MM1c Joseph W. Carroll, F2c Edward E. Casinger, F2c Biacio Casola, Searc Charles R. Casto, Fic Richard E. Casto, F20 James T. Cheshire, CPhM(PA) Patrick L. Chess, SF3c David Clark, Jr., Sea20 Gerald L. Clayton, SK2c Hubert P. Clement, FC1c Floyd F. Clifford, Sea2c George A. Coke, Searc James E. Collins, Searc John G. Connolly, Chf Pay Clk Keefe R. Connolly, HA10 Edward L. Conway, EM1c Grant C. Cook, Jr., F1c Robert L. Corn, FC1c Beoin H. Corzatt, Flc John W. Craig, SK1c Warren H. Crim, F3c Samuel W. Crowder, F1c William M. Curry, EM1c Glenn G. Cyriack, SK2c Marshall E. Darby, Jr., Ens James W. Davenport, Jr., Fic Francis D. Day, CWT (PA) eslie P. Delles, EM30 Leslie P. Delles, EM3c Frank A. Hryniewicz, Seatc Ralph A. Derrington, CMM(PA) Charles E. Hudson, WTic Francis E. Dick, Muszc Lorentz E. Hultgren, MM2c Robert M. Hunter, Ens Kenneth E. Doernenburg, Fic Claydon I. C. Iverson, F3c Willie Jackson, OCic Carl D. Dorr, F2c Herbert B. Jacobson, F3c Challie B. Jacobson, F3c Cha Bernard V. Doyle. Seaze Stanislaw F. Drwall, Pmkric Cyril I. Dusset, MAttic Buford H. Dyer, Searc

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