



HONORING THE PAST,
INSPIRING THE FUTURE

75TH ANNIVERSARY
NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR
REMEMBRANCE DAY
COMMEMORATION

DECEMBER 7, 2016





PEARL HARBOR - 'UNITING A DIVIDED NATION'

Courtesy Naval History and Heritage Command

At 6:00 a.m. on 7 December, six Imperial Japanese Navy carriers launched a first wave of 181 planes comprising torpedo bombers, dive bombers, horizontal bombers and fighters.

The Japanese aircrews achieved complete surprise when they hit American ships and military installations on Oahu shortly before 8:00 a.m. They attacked military airfields at the same time they hit the fleet anchored in Pearl Harbor. The Navy air bases at Ford Island and Kaneohe Bay, the Marine airfield at Ewa and the Army Air Corps fields at Bellows, Wheeler and Hickam were all bombed and strafed as other elements of the attacking force began their assaults on the ships moored in Pearl Harbor. The purpose of the simultaneous attacks was to destroy the American planes before they could rise to intercept the Japanese.

Of the more than 90 ships at anchor in Pearl Harbor, the primary targets were the eight battleships anchored there. Seven were moored on Battleship Row along the southeast shore of Ford Island while the USS *Pennsylvania* (BB-38) lay in dry dock across the channel. Within the first minutes of the attack all the battleships adjacent to Ford Island had taken bomb and/or torpedo hits. The USS *West Virginia* (BB-48) sank quickly. The USS *Oklahoma* (BB-37) turned turtle and sank. At about 8:10 a.m., the USS *Arizona* (BB-39) was mortally wounded by an armor-piercing bomb which ignited the ship's forward ammunition magazine. The resulting explosion and fire killed 1,177 crewmen, the greatest loss of life on any ship that day and about half the total number of Americans killed. The USS *California* (BB-44), USS *Maryland* (BB-46), USS *Tennessee* (BB-43) and USS *Nevada* (BB-36) also suffered varying degrees of damage in the first half hour of the raid.

There was a short lull in the fury of the attack at about 8:30 a.m. At that time the USS *Nevada* (BB-36), despite her wounds, managed to get underway and move down the channel toward the open sea. Before she could clear the harbor, a second wave of 170 Japanese planes, launched 30 minutes after the first, appeared over the harbor. They concentrated their attacks on the moving battleship, hoping to sink her in the channel and block the narrow entrance to Pearl Harbor. On orders from the harbor control tower, the USS *Nevada* (BB-36) beached herself at Hospital Point and the channel remained clear.

When the attack ended shortly before 10:00 a.m., less than two hours after it began, the American forces had paid a fearful price. Twenty-one ships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet were sunk or damaged: the battleships USS *Arizona* (BB-39), USS *California* (BB-44), USS *Maryland* (BB-46), USS *Nevada* (BB-36), USS *Oklahoma* (BB-37), USS *Pennsylvania* (BB-38), USS *Tennessee* (BB-43) and USS *West Virginia* (BB-48); cruisers USS *Helena* (CL-50), USS *Honolulu* (CL-48) and USS *Raleigh* (CL-7); the destroyers USS *Cassin* (DD-372), USS *Downes* (DD-375), USS *Helm* (DD-388) and USS *Shaw* (DD-373); seaplane tender USS *Curtiss* (AV-4); target ship (ex-battleship) USS *Utah* (AG-16); repair ship USS *Vestal* (AR-4); minelayer USS *Oglala* (CM-4); tug USS *Sotoyomo* (YT-9); and Floating Drydock Number 2. Aircraft losses were 188 destroyed and 159 damaged, the majority hit before they had a chance to take off. More than 2,400 Americans were killed, including civilians. There were nearly 1,200 military and civilian wounded.

Japanese losses were comparatively light. Twenty-nine planes, less than 10 percent of the attacking force, failed to return to their carriers.

Imperial Japan's success was overwhelming, but it was not complete. They failed to damage any American aircraft carriers, which by a stroke of luck, had been absent from the harbor. They neglected to damage the shoreside facilities at the Pearl Harbor Naval Base, which played an important role in the Allied victory in World War II.

American technological skill raised and repaired all but three of the ships sunk or damaged at Pearl Harbor (the USS *Arizona* (BB-39) considered too badly damaged to be salvaged, the USS *Oklahoma* (BB-37) raised and considered too old to repair, and the USS *Utah* (AG-16), which was not raised.

Most importantly, the attack on Pearl Harbor united a divided nation and was translated into a wholehearted commitment to victory in World War II, led by Pearl Harbor survivors and other World War II veterans, who created more peace, freedom and stability in the world.

Starting with the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 2016, through the anniversary of the Japanese surrender aboard USS *Missouri* on Sept. 2, 2020, the Navy will commemorate the pivotal role Sailors played in America's World War II victory:



- Highlighting the toughness, initiative, accountability and integrity of American Sailors and Navy civilians throughout the war and how their actions inspire the same attributes in Navy people today.
- Showcasing the innovative spirit of World War II Sailors and the American industrial base which lives on today in the strong connection between the Navy and its partners in industry.
- Illustrating the United States' commitment to regional security and maintaining strong alliances, and how, since the end of WWII, regional powers including Japan and Germany, have evolved and are major contributors to peace and prosperity worldwide.
- Emphasizing that with partnerships spanning the vast Pacific and Atlantic oceans, America is a maritime nation whose security is tied to the sea and depends on a capable and credible U.S. Navy.

For the U.S. Navy, today's event will begin four years of commemorative events and close review of the history of what was a transformative event for the Navy, the nation and the world.

Source: Department of Defense. "A Grateful Nation Remembers"

HONORING THE PAST, INSPIRING THE FUTURE

7 December 2016

WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument National Park Service

Daniel A. Martinez
Chief Historian

December 7, 1941...75 years have passed since the winds of war swept over the island of Oahu. Every year since then, Americans have paused to honor that past. We remember that day with pride and sadness. As a nation we are inspired by our veterans — their courage, their perseverance and their valor. But that remembrance is not one sided...it is a shared history with our allies and with our former enemy Imperial Japan. The term “Remember Pearl Harbor” now resonates with us today as a phrase that embodies reconciliation and peace. Recently a marker was placed along the eastern shoreline of Ford Island near the site of the USS *Arizona* Memorial. It was a gift from the people of the Japanese city of Nagaoka. The purpose was to celebrate the 70 years of peace that has existed between the United States and Japan.

After the guns fell silent in 1945, the world took a deep breath and wondered with awe and pondered the implication of what had happened during World War II. Throughout the war years, starting in 1942, the date of December 7th was observed. The Navy remembered the dead with a small ceremony on that day. That acknowledgment continued for the next two years of the war.

On December 7, 1955, the first efforts to memorialize Pearl Harbor took place. A ten-foot basalt stone was placed on the eastern edge of Ford Island by the Navy Club. It stood within 100 yards of the submerged wreckage of the USS *Arizona*. It honored all the American servicemen killed on December 7, 1941 and was the first such memorial at Pearl Harbor. But others, in particular the Navy, wanted something more permanent.

The Navy's original specifications called for a bridge-like structure that spanned the sunken battleship. Architect Alfred Preis' vision was a catenary span over the *Arizona* creating an open, soaring effect. Preis also designed an open-assembly deck for the Memorial that could accommodate 200 people. A separate room was set aside to enshrine a wall of names bearing the *Arizona*'s dead. When visitors enter the shrine room they are confronted with a wall of Vermont marble bearing the names of 1,177 of the *Arizona*'s dead. It is a vivid reminder of the loss of life and that the ship below is a tomb for many of her crew. There was a strong sense that the USS *Arizona* is sacred ground and its waters are hallowed. So this element was essential, for it represented the tragic loss and sacrifice that the architect understood as an important aspect of the Memorial's design and meaning.

Another design component was a grill that would be located on either side of the shrine room. Initially “The Tree of Life” was the only symbolic element purposefully planned by Preis. He understood that this was a universal symbol that represented peace and harmony and could be found within most cultures around the world. It is interesting to note that his overall design concept was explained by him several years later after repeated inquiries about his architectural masterpiece.

“The form, wherein the structure sags in the center but stands strong and vigorous at the ends, expresses initial defeat and ultimate victory. Wide openings in the walls and roof permit a flooding of sunlight and

a close view of the sunken battleship eight feet below, both fore and aft. At low tide, as the sun shines upon the hull, the barnacles which encrust it shimmer like gold jewels...a beautiful sarcophagus. The overall effect is one of serenity. Overtones of sadness have been omitted to permit the individual to contemplate his own personal responses, his innermost feelings.”



In 1980 the National Park Service took over the operations of the USS *Arizona* Memorial but continue to work together as partners with the Navy. A presidential proclamation in 2008 renamed the national park WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument. Visitation to the site had risen to 1.6 million annually. Looking toward the future the National Park Service and its fundraising association, Pacific Historic Parks, unveiled a dramatic interpretive landscape in 2010. It afforded guests with a new visitor center, two new museums, renovated theaters, and visitor services. This new experience enhanced the visitors’ understanding and appreciation of the drama of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the military bases on the island of Oahu.

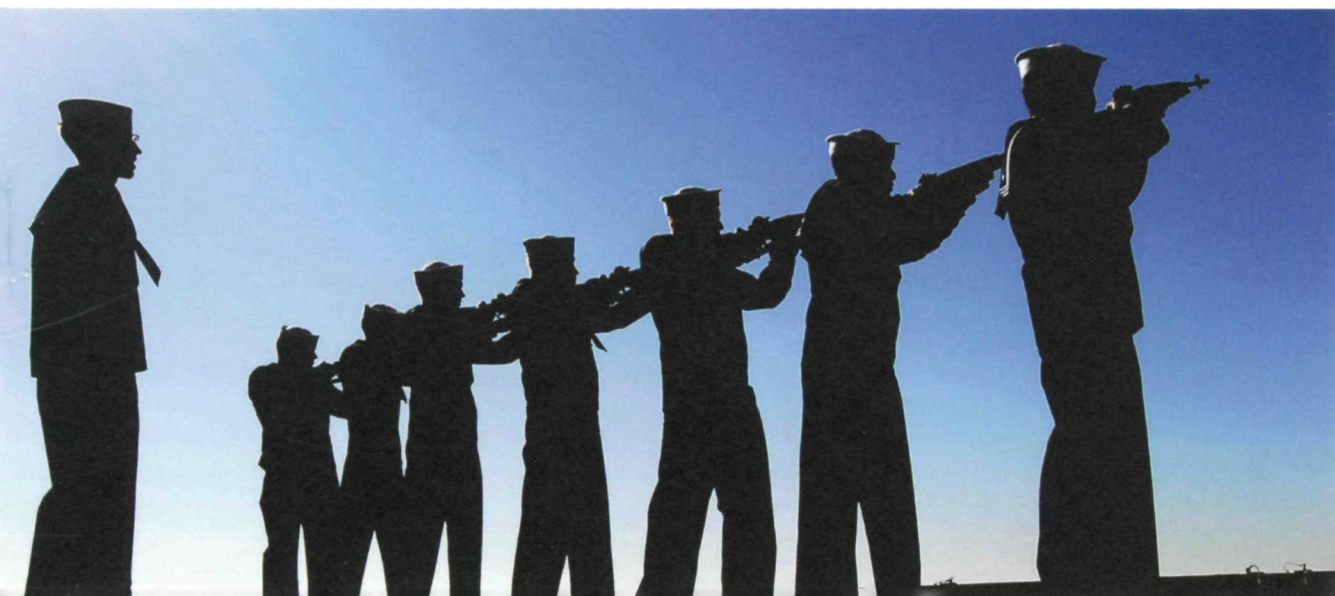
Today the USS *Arizona* Memorial, along with USS *Oklahoma* Memorial and USS *Utah* Memorial and other memorials on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, represents all lives lost in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

On this 75th anniversary, the nation’s eyes are now turned towards Pearl Harbor as the commemoration of Pearl Harbor is patriotically and emotionally observed. The generation, both military and civilian, that witnessed the attack and later fought in World War II are now slowly fading away. But the memory of their sacrifice and the valor they displayed will continue to inspire all Americans who pause to honor the past.

Not many years ago, the President in his proclamation message on National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day indirectly addressed this year’s theme of Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future with these words...

“In that darkest hour, men and women who had considered themselves ordinary found within themselves the ability to do something extraordinary. And in the months and years that followed, Americans all across the country would respond to Pearl Harbor with firm resolve, many joining our Armed Forces to defend our shores and our freedom.”

“This courage is not uncommon in the story of America — a story of heroes whose sacrifice and valor speak to their love of comrades and country; and whose goodness guides our quest for lasting peace. Today, and every day, we draw strength from the moment when the best among us defended an island and a Nation from the onslaught of tyranny, and forever altered the course of our history.” -- President Barack Obama





ADMIRAL HARRY B. HARRIS, JR.

COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND

Admiral Harry B. Harris Jr. was born in Japan and reared in Tennessee and Florida. Since graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978 and designation as a naval flight officer, he has served in every geographic combatant command and participated in numerous major operations to include Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Odyssey Dawn.

Harris' graduate education focused on East Asia security. He attended Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, and Oxford University.

Harris has commanded VP-46, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 1, Joint Task Force-Guantanamo, the U.S. 6th Fleet, Striking and Support Forces NATO, and the U.S. Pacific Fleet. In May 2015, he assumed command of the U.S. Pacific Command.



REAR ADMIRAL JOHN V. FULLER

COMMANDER, NAVY REGION HAWAII

Rear Admiral Fuller is the son of a retired Army Colonel. He received his commission from the United States Naval Academy in 1987. He served at sea aboard USS *Vandegrift* (FFG 48), USS *Kauffman* (FFG 59), USS *Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54), and with Amphibious Force, Seventh Fleet. He commanded USS *Mason* (DDG 87), Task Group – Iraqi Maritime, and Destroyer Squadron Twenty-Two. His shore assignments have included the United States Naval Academy; the Office of the Secretary of Defense; Special Assistant to the LCS/JHSV Council Chairman, Navy Staff; Operational Definition team lead for the Small Surface Combatant Task Force; and Deputy for LCS, Surface Warfare Division. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science, a Master of Science in Management from the Naval Postgraduate School and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the College of Naval Command and Staff at the Naval War College. He was also a Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI Fellow. RDML Fuller assumed duties as Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Commander, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific on June 26, 2015.



LAURA JOSS

REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR THE PACIFIC WEST REGION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)

Laura Joss is responsible for overseeing operations for 60 units of the National Park System, along with two affiliated areas, three national trails, and many other associated sites within the states of California, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii, parts of Arizona and Montana, as well as the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Previously, Joss served as the Associate Regional Director for resource stewardship and research in the Intermountain Regional Office.

She works with the region's outstanding staff, volunteers, visitors and partners as the National Park Service Centennial concludes its centennial year and prepares for its second century of stewardship.



SUPERINTENDENT JACQUELINE ASHWELL

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, WWII VALOR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL MONUMENT

Jacqueline Ashwell is the Superintendent of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, which includes the USS *Arizona* Memorial, USS *Oklahoma* Memorial, and the USS *Utah* Memorial among other WWII sites. Ashwell moved to Oahu in October 2015 from Seattle, where she had served as the Superintendent of the Seattle Area National Park Sites. Ashwell is passionate about historic preservation, community and employee engagement, and developing the next generation of stewards who will care for the nation's most sacred places, such as the memorials at Pearl Harbor. With the 75th commemoration of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and the National Park Service's centennial, Ashwell recognizes the importance of stewardship and sharing this history with a global audience in the century to come.

NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION



WELCOME	Master of Ceremonies, Rob Franklin Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy
MOMENT OF SILENCE	USS <i>Halsey</i> (DDG 97) Pass-in-Review
MISSING MAN FLYOVER FORMATION	199th Fighter Squadron, Hawai'i Air National Guard 19th Fighter Squadron, U.S. Air Force
PRESENTATION OF COLORS, NATIONAL ANTHEM, AND HAWAI'I PONO'I	Joint Service Color Guard, U.S. Pacific Command Pacific Fleet Band Ms. Ciana Pelekai
HAWAIIAN BLESSING	Kahu Kamaki Kanahele and Kahu Herbert Hew Len
PRAYER FOR PEACE	Reverend Tsunekiyo Tanaka Japan Religious Committee for World Federation
GUEST SPEAKERS	Superintendent Jacqueline Ashwell, National Park Service World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument Ms. Laura Joss Pacific West Regional Director, National Park Service Rear Admiral John V. Fuller Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific
KEYNOTE SPEAKER	Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr. Commander, U.S. Pacific Command
WREATH PRESENTATIONS	Territory of Hawaii, U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard
BENEDICTION	Rear Admiral Margaret Kibben Chief of Navy Chaplains
RIFLE SALUTE	U.S. Marine Corps
ECHO TAPS & POSTLUDE	Pacific Fleet Band
VINTAGE PLANE FLY-BY	Pacific Warbirds
TUGBOAT WATER TRIBUTE	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

WREATH DONORS 2016



State of Hawaii	Military Order of the Purple Heart
State of Arizona	National Cemetery of the Pacific
National Park Service	The National WWII Museum
U.S. Pacific Command	Navy Musicians Association
75th Commemoration Pearl Harbor Committee	New Zealand Consulate- General
442 Film Project & 44nd RCT I Company	New Zealand Defense Force
442nd Veterans Club	Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association
The American Legion, National Commander	Pacific Historic Parks
The American Legion, Auxiliary	Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Illinois Chapter 1
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)	Reiyukai America
Australian-American Association	Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor
City and County of Honolulu	Sons and Daughter of Pearl Harbor Survivors
City of Nagaoka	Sons of The American Legion, National Commander
Consular Corps of Hawaii	Sons of The American Legion, National Vice Commanders
Consulate General of Japan	Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu
Daughters of the American Colonists	United Seamen's Service
Daughters of the American Revolution, National Society	U.S. Submarine Veterans
Daughters of the American Revolution, Nevada State Society	USS <i>Arizona</i> Reunion Association
Fleet Reserve Association, Branch & Unit 46	USS <i>Blandy</i> (DD-943)
Fleet Reserve Association (National) and Ladies Auxiliary	USS <i>Helena</i> (CL-50)
Freemason's of Hawaii	USS <i>Honolulu</i> (CL-48)
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.	USS <i>Missouri</i> Association (BB-63)
Honolulu Navy League	USS <i>Nevada</i> Aviation Unit VO-5
Japan Religious Committee for World Federation	USS <i>Nevada</i> Reunion Association
Jewish War Veterans of the USA	USS <i>Oklahoma</i> (BB-37)
Marine Corps League, Aloha Detachment #363	USS <i>West Virginia</i> (BB-48)
The Media School, Indiana University	Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Military Officers Association of America, Hawaii Aloha Chapter	VFW Post 110 and MIS Veterans Club