HONORING THE PAST,
INSPIRING THE FUTURE

75TH ANNIVERSARY
NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR
REMEMBRANCE DAY
COMMENORATION
DECEMBER 7, 2016
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-39) 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”
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 Halsey (DDG 97) Pass-in-Review

MISSING MAN
199th Fighter Squadron, Hawai‘i Air National Guard
19th Fighter Squadron, U.S. Air Force

FLYOVER FORMATION
Joint Service Color Guard, U.S. Pacific Command
Pacific Fleet Band
Ms. Ciana Pelekai

PRESENTATION OF COLORS,
NATIONAL ANTHEM, AND
HAWAI‘I PONO‘I

HAWAI‘IAN 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
Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr.
Commander, U.S. Pacific Command

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Rear Admiral Margaret Kibben
Chief of Navy Chaplains

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