

# 'Pathway to Reconciliation'



"Navigator"

# WHO'OKELE

December 11, 2015

FOR THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE TEAM IN HAWAII

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## Pearl Harbor Day honors fallen heroes

Staff Sgt. Chris Hubenthal

Defense Media Activity - Hawaii News Bureau

and Ho'okele Staff

More than 3,000 guests and approximately 50 Pearl Harbor survivors attended the 74th Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration, held Dec. 7 at Kilo Pier at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The U.S. Navy and the National Park Service co-hosted the event to honor the sacrifices made by those who fought and lost their lives during the attack on Pearl Harbor 74 years ago.

Adm. Harry Harris, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, gave the featured address.

"Today and for every tomorrow, we owe a debt to the men and women who gave their full measure of devotion on Dec. 7 and throughout World War II," Harris said.

"As we commemorate this day, let us re-dedicate ourselves to delivering to future generations the same gift of security and peace that was purchased for us by those who sacrificed so much in defense of our freedom seven decades ago," Harris said.

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Dr. David Kennedy delivered the keynote speech. "The fact that the bloody conflict began (for America) 74 years ago today may eventually go down in history as one of the most tragic episodes in a long, sorry history of violent human contestations," Kennedy said.

The commemoration also included a Hawaiian blessing, a military wreath presentation conducted by representatives from

See DEC. 7 page A-9



Photo illustration

THE MEMORY OF THE GALLANT MEN  
RE-ENTOMBED AND THEIR SHIPMATES  
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN ACTION  
DECEMBER 7, 1941 ON THE U.S.S. ARIZONA

THIS MEMORIAL WALL WAS INSTALLED AND REDEDICATED BY AMVETS NOVEMBER 2014

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### Aegis Ashore test flight at PMRF

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) Operational Test Agency, in conjunction with U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. European Command, and Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, successfully conducted the first intercept flight test Dec. 9, Hawaii Standard Time, of a land-based Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) weapon system and Standard Missile (SM)-3 Block IB Threat Upgrade guided missile, launched from the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Test Complex at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) on Kauai.

During the test, a target representing a medium-range ballistic missile was air-launched from a U.S. Air Force C-17 aircraft over the broad ocean area southwest of Hawaii. An AN/TPY-2 radar in Forward Based Mode, located at PMRF, detected the target and relayed tar-

get track information to the Command, Control, Battle Management, and Communication (C2BMC) system. The Aegis Weapon System at the Aegis Ashore site received track data from C2BMC and used its component AN/SPY-1 radar to acquire, track, and develop a fire control solution to engage the target. The Aegis Weapon System then launched the SM-3 Block IB Threat Upgrade guided missile from its Vertical Launch System. The SM-3's kinetic warhead acquired the target reentry vehicle, diverted into its path, and destroyed the target using the kinetic force of a direct impact.

The primary purpose of the test, designated Flight Test Operational-02 Event 1a, was to assess the operational effectiveness of the Aegis Ashore capability as part of a larger BMDS architecture. Aegis Ashore uses a nearly

See AEGIS page A-9



### 15th Wing hosts Dec. 7 Remembrance

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Oelrich  
15th Wing Public Affairs

The 15th Wing hosted the 74th Remembrance Ceremony at 7:55 a.m. Dec. 7 in commemoration of the attack on Hickam Field in 1941.

Survivors and their family members attended the ceremony, which honored the men and women who lost their lives on Hickam Field during the two waves of attacks launched by the Imperial Japanese Navy on

Dec. 7, 1941. "I am both honored and humbled to speak to you on this historic day, the most important day in Hickam Field's history," said Col. Randy Huiss, 15th Wing commander, while addressing the crowd.

"On 7 December 1941, the lives of everyone stationed at Hickam Field changed forever. Stories of [heroism], duty and sacrifice during this attack bring us back to a time when the ground shook with enemy bombs," he said.

Retired Air Force Col.

Andrew Kowalski was a first sergeant at the time of the attack. He was awakened by loud explosions and immediately reported for duty at the wing headquarters, where his job was to answer the phone and maintain the official list of Hickam casualties. A few months later, he was recommended for officer training school. Kowalski celebrated his 101st birthday this past August.

Sylvia Phillips, the widow of Maj. Claude Phillips, a Silver Star recipient, attended the ceremony in honor of her late husband.

On Dec. 7, then Tech Sgt. Phillips operated a damaged B-17's machine gun, shooting down a Japanese aircraft.

Matthew Trovinger, grandson of the late Staff Sgt. Clayton Wedel, was also in attendance. On Dec. 7, 1941, his grandfather was assigned to the 23rd Materiel Squadron which suffered numerous casualties. During a Hickam Historical Tour, Trovinger received confirmation that his grandfather was assigned to Hickam Field the

See 15TH WING page A-9



Sunset tribute honors Sailors lost aboard USS Utah See page A-2



Blackened Canteen ceremony honors spirits of fallen See page A-2



New case is unveiled for Hickam's 'Old Glory' See page A-7



Hickam Elementary hosts 'Greatest Generation' See page A-8



Fox Sports joins Dec. 7 remembrance commemoration See page B-1



Pearl Harbor to celebrate Festival of Lights Dec. 14-18 See page B-6

# Sunset tribute honors Sailors lost aboard USS Utah

Story and photo by  
MC3 Gabrielle Joyner

Navy Public Affairs Support  
Element Detachment Hawaii

Pearl Harbor survivors, World War II veterans and guests gathered at the USS Utah Memorial for a sunset tribute held Dec. 6 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Navy Region Hawaii hosted the event, commemorating the 74th anniversary of those who bravely served on the Florida-class battleship and honored the 58 crew members still entombed aboard the sunken vessel.

Those in attendance included retired Chief Petty Officer Gil Meyer, who is a Pearl Harbor survivor and was one of the crew members serving aboard USS Utah on the fateful morning of Dec. 7, 1941.

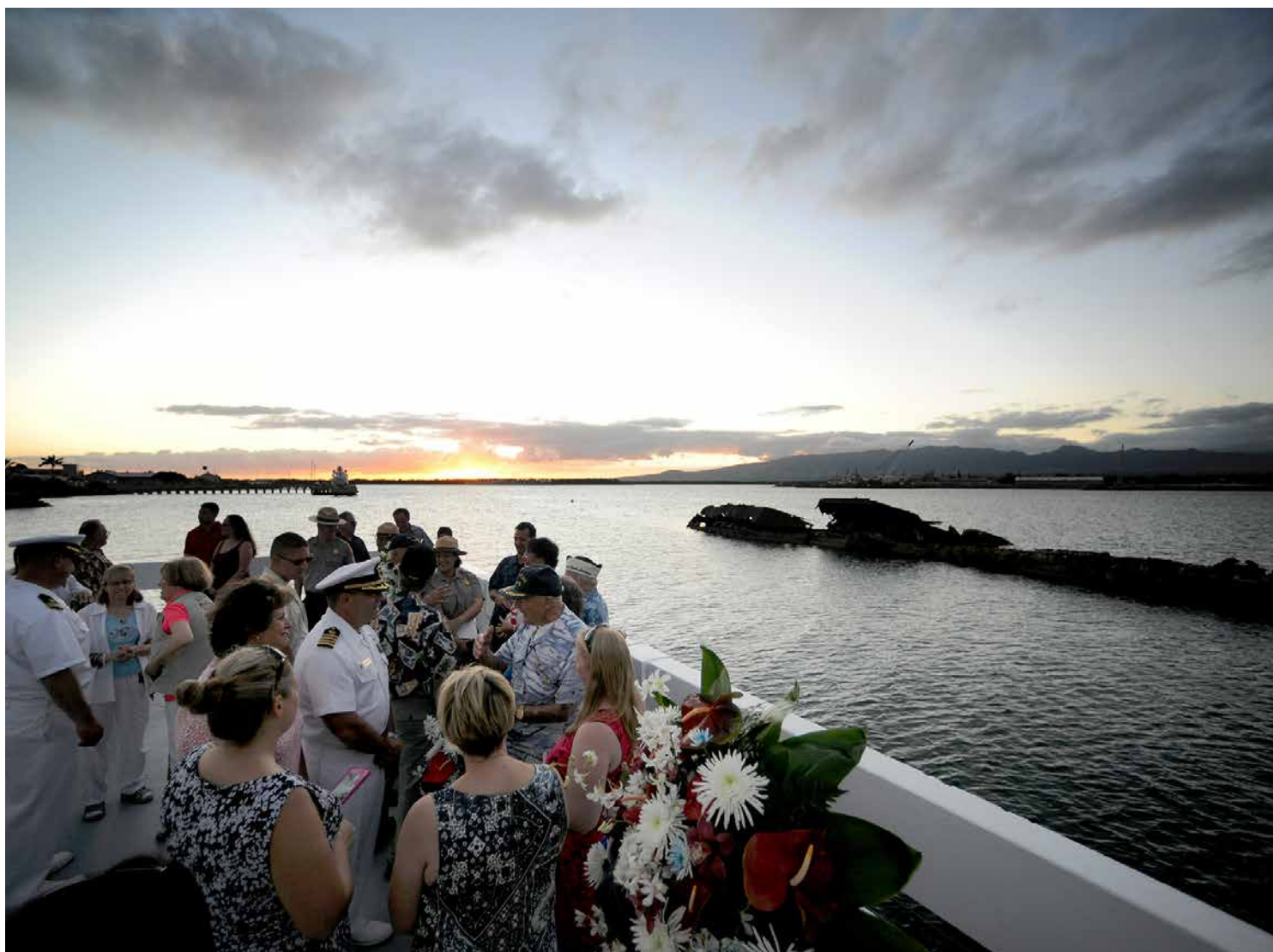
Retired Navy Master Chief Yeoman James Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivors' liaison, recounted Meyer's story of that day.

"After the ship was hit by torpedoes, rolled over and sank, Gil Meyer slid off the bottom of the ship and swam ashore, dodging bullets from strafing aircraft," said Taylor.

"Soon after the attack, he was assigned to the light-cruiser USS Detroit and remained on the ship throughout the war. Gil says it was a hair-raising experience to be on board one of the first ships to enter Tokyo Bay," Taylor said.

After the tribute, the guests stood in reverence for the sounding of Taps, followed by the presentation of the wreaths by the Pearl Harbor survivors and special guests.

Rainey McKenna from the National Park Service said she felt the event was intimate



Pearl Harbor survivors speak with guests at the USS Utah Memorial sunset tribute Dec. 6 on Ford Island. Several events took place during the 74th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day to pay tribute to the nation's military while enlightening Americans about veterans and service.

and moving and felt honored to have a conversation with one of the Pearl Harbor survivors, Delton "Wally" Walling.

"He is a wonderful human, very warm, very inviting, and I was able to hear some of his stories about his time and where he was when this happened," said McKenna.

"They [stories] gave me in-

sight into an experience that I don't have a lot of familiarity with and many of these stories are new to me, so it was a chance to really hear what the day was like and what it meant to him. It was a wonderful thing to be here with our [Pearl Harbor] survivors, to share this moment at the USS Utah," she said.

McKenna also mentioned the tribute was one of the events shared on Dec. 7 on a live stream program.

"We are on an island and there are only so many who can join us here on this special day, but there is so much interest, and we've had people inquiring about this and planning on joining the live feed

from all over the world," said McKenna.

"This is something that touched many people. It was part of a greater story, and there's this interest that still persists in what happened here that day, and I think it's something that we can share with thousands, if not millions, of people," she said.

# Blackened Canteen ceremony honors spirits of fallen

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt.  
Chris Hubenthal

Defense Media Activity -  
Hawaii News Bureau

World War II veterans from the United States and Japan joined in a silent prayer and poured bourbon whiskey into the hallowed waters of Pearl Harbor during a blackened canteen ceremony in observation of Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 6.

The annual commemoration provided a moment for attendees to observe the continued peace and reconciliation that the two nations share and to remember those who lost their lives during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and World War II.

The canteen used to pour the whiskey was recovered from a B-29 bomber that was destroyed after colliding with another B-29 bomber over Shizuoka, Japan in 1945.

Daniel Martinez, USS



American and Japanese veterans pour bourbon whiskey into the hallowed waters of Pearl Harbor as a way to observe and celebrate the continued peace and reconciliation between the two nations during a Blackened Canteen ceremony as part of the Pearl Harbor Day 74th Commemoration Anniversary Dec. 6, at the USS Arizona Memorial.

Arizona Memorial chief historian, explained the significance of pouring bourbon whiskey as an offering of peace.

"The whiskey is really the water of life," Marti-

nez said.

"For the Japanese, the highest honor is to pour whiskey, American whiskey, as a part of home. To pour it on the stone that's in Shizuoka and

here at the USS Arizona Memorial, as it falls into the water, it's a way of extending the hand of friendship, forgiveness and peace," he explained.

For the last 20 years, Dr. Hiroya Sugano, director general of the Zero Fighter Admirers Club, has been conducting this act of reconciliation with the National

Park Service at the USS Arizona Memorial.

Jack Detour, U.S. Air Force retired colonel and World War II veteran, poured an offering to the fallen alongside Japanese veterans and said he believes that Sugano's efforts in continuing these ceremonies is a great way to respect those who lost their lives in World War II.

"I think it's fantastic," Detour said. "I think that what the gentlemen has done to keep this going is great because one of the main things that they did is they took care of burying our 23 B-29 pilots that crashed in Japan."

"After the war now we have a very close relation with Japan and a friendly relation with them and it's great. Anything I can do to further that relationship with Japan I'll be happy to do," Detour said.

The ceremony was co-hosted by the National Park Service and Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor.

# Diverse VIEWS



If you could ask a Pearl Harbor survivor one question, what would it be?



**Tech. Sgt. Orlando Crespo**  
647th Civil Engineers Squadron

"Over the many years after the war, have you been able to look past the actions of the Japanese government?"

**Staff Sgt. Lee Ancona**  
USMC Recruiting Hawaii

"I would ask them, what have you done to help you cope with the loss of your brothers and sisters?"



**Staff Sgt. Emmanuel Escobar**  
735th Air Mobility Squadron

"What was going through your mind when the attack first started?"

**YN2 Christopher Floranz**  
Pearl Harbor

"I would ask them if they feel that their name and legacy have been cemented in history."



**Maj. Dorinda Mazza**  
15th Comptroller Squadron

"What words of wisdom can you give to those currently serving in the armed forces?"

**AWR2 Dillan Nicolette**  
JBPHH 1st LT

"I would ask a Pearl Harbor survivor how the Navy and the world compares to the Navy and world in the 1940s."



**Col. Curt Wilken**  
PACAF

"Where were you when the attack started, and when did you realize something was wrong?"

**ET1 Jonathan Velazquezrivera**  
PHNSY and IMF

"I would ask, what was going through your mind when the attack happened?"



Provided by Lt. Paul Fylstra and David D. Underwood Jr.

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at [editor@hookelenews.com](mailto:editor@hookelenews.com) or [karen.spangler@navy.mil](mailto:karen.spangler@navy.mil)

## Presidential Proclamation

# National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 2015

**President Barack Obama**



President Barack Obama

Nearly seven and a half decades ago, as dawn broke over the island of Oahu, bombs broke through the sky as Japanese forces launched an unprovoked attack on our nation—absorbing America into a conflict that would change the course of human dignity and freedom.

More than 2,400 precious lives and much of our Pacific Fleet were lost, yet the ensuing unification of our people proved mightier than the attack that aimed to weaken us.

On National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we pay tribute to the men, women and children—military and civilian—who lost their lives on Dec. 7, 1941, honor all

*Commentary*

who served in the wake of that infamous day and recognize the sacrifices today's service members make to carry forward the inextinguishable torch of liberty for generations to come.

Reacting to the surprise attack, patriots from every corner of our country answered the call to serve

and banded together in common cause. Sixteen million Americans left behind everything they knew and everyone they loved to fight for freedom far from home and liberate a continent from the grip of tyranny.

Courageous individuals from all walks of life crossed oceans and stormed beaches, uplifting a generation and paving the way for our fiercest adversaries to become some of our closest allies. In the example of those who came forth in the months and years following the attack on Pearl Harbor, we see an enduring truth: that no challenge is too great when we stand as one people committed to the ideals which the stars and stripes symbolize.

Seventy-four years after the attack on Pearl

Harbor, we endure as a nation dedicated to affirming the inherent dignity of every person—even in the face of unspeakable violence. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt said the day after the attack, "The American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory."

On this day, let us honor the memory of all who gave their lives so that President Roosevelt's words could be realized, and let us resolve to uphold the legacy of our country, for which generations of brave men and women have fought and sacrificed.

The Congress, by Public Law 103-308, as amended, has designated Dec. 7 of each year as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day."

## A 'Pathway to Reconciliation' thank you

**Rear Adm. John Fuller**

*Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific*

On Monday, Dec. 7, 2015, more than 3,000 people came aboard the Joint Base to join in the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony.

This year marks seven decades of peace—the end of the Second World War and the continuation along the "Pathway to Reconciliation" (this year's remembrance theme).

We conducted Monday's ceremony at Kilo Pier overlooking USS Arizona Memorial and Battleship Missouri Memorial.

From where I sat, the morning sun made the memorials appear to glow as USS Preble and its crew performed a pass-in-review, rendering honors to Pearl Harbor victims and survivors.

Hundreds of people—military and civilian—made the ceremony a successful and touching tribute to our veterans.

Thank you.

I am hesitant to call out individuals by name because there are so many who deserve our gratitude. So to avoid the inevitable risk of leaving someone out, I'll give 'shout outs' to organizations with the understanding that their great team players did great, great work.

Big thanks go to the National Park Service professionals. They not only co-hosted Monday's event at Kilo Pier but also sponsored many other ceremonies and events starting more than a week ago.

I thank our other uniformed services teammates—part of the extended ohana and joint effort. I thank our Japanese guests who demonstrated warmth and grace. And I thank the many wreath donors and other sponsors and partners.

Of course, I am exceptionally proud of the region and Joint Base team—military and civilian—who coordinated all the details with various stakeholders. Well done!



Rear Adm. John Fuller

This year Fox Sports showed us how much the nation appreciates our military service members. The Fox NFL Sunday show broadcasted live from Mighty Mo and aired features that focused on our Pearl Harbor attack survivors and our service members here today. Fox Sports also provided live coverage of two NCAA games from Bloch Area: Oklahoma vs. Villanova and Navy vs. Oregon.

Over the past week, Major League baseball players, USA Women's World Soccer team members and

NCAA athletes came to pay their respects at the monuments. They met wounded warriors, toured ships and spent time with military families.

Thank you. Because of the positive national media coverage and extensive use of social media, we achieved greater awareness and recognition of our veterans—especially the Greatest Generation.

Many of the young athletes who visited with us are the same age as the veterans who served in Pearl Harbor 74 years ago.

Most of the Pearl Harbor survivors were in their late teens or early '20s when their world was turned upside down. They went on to fight and win in the Pacific War.

To these veterans we owe the biggest thanks of all.

Thank you for preserving our freedom and for taking us on the pathway to reconciliation and peace.

We are forever in your debt.

## Oklahoma capsizes at Pearl Harbor after attack



Official U.S. Navy photo

This photo shows a view of the capsized U.S. Navy battleship USS Oklahoma (BB-37) at Pearl Harbor. USS Maryland (BB-46) is visible at right. The attack on Pearl Harbor by Imperial Japan occurred just before 8 a.m. Dec. 7, 1941. Within minutes, the Oklahoma sustained damage from multiple torpedoes and capsized. Hundreds of Oklahoma service members were buried as unknowns in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). This year, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency disinterred the service members in an effort to identify them and return the fallen to their families.

## State tobacco laws to change Jan. 1, including smoking ban for those under 21

**Brandon Bosworth**

*Assistant Editor, Ho'okele*

The new year will bring major changes to Hawaii's laws relating to tobacco and nicotine.

Effective Jan. 1, 2016 the state ban on smoking in various enclosed and par-

tially enclosed areas expands to include electronic smoking ("vaping") devices frequently known as e-cigarettes.

In addition, as of Jan. 1 Hawaii will become the first state to ban smoking for anyone under the age of 21. Senate Bill 1030 prohibits individuals under the age of

21 from buying, possessing or consuming tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, and bans businesses from selling these products to those under the age of 21.

People under the age of 21 convicted of breaking the law will be fined \$10 for the first offense and \$50 for subsequent offenses un-

less the person performs at least 48 hours of community service.

For information about quitting tobacco use, contact Naval Health Clinic Hawaii Health Promotion at 471-2280. Navy Medicine tobacco cessation programs are available to all Sailors, Marines, beneficiaries,

family members and retirees.

On the Hickam side of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, the Human Performance and Rehabilitation Center offers tobacco cessation programs for service members and family members. For more information, call 448-6170.

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The Greatest Generations Foundation photo by John Riedy, director of photography  
 Pearl Harbor survivor Larry Parry walks in somber reverence during the Pearl Harbor commemoration at Kilo Pier.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal  
 Sailors assigned to the USS Preble (DDG-88), render their respect Dec. 7 during a moment of silence as part of the 74th National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Commemoration.



Members of the JBPHH color guard stand at attention during ceremony honoring service members killed aboard the bat



Retired Master Chief Yeoman Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivor liaison, delivers remarks during the USS Utah Memorial sunset tribute at Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor on the 74th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day to pay tribute to the nation's military while enlightening Americans about veterans and service.



# 'Pathway to Reconciliation'



**U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tamara Vaughn**  
(Above) Peter B. Dupre', center, a World War II Veteran, plays Taps on his harmonica during a floral tribute aboard the USS Arizona Memorial. The floral tribute was part of a Pearl Harbor Survivor/ World War II Family and Friends Harbor Tour that took place at JBPHH.



**U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tamara Vaughn**  
The USS Oklahoma (BB 37) Memorial remembrance of the Battleship Oklahoma on Dec. 7, 1941.

**U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Meranda Keller**  
(Below) Japanese Buddhist monks pray during an interfaith prayer service aboard the USS Arizona Memorial, Dec. 7.



**U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Gabrielle Joyner**  
at Hickam. Several events took place leading up to

**U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal**  
(Right) The Blackened Canteen ceremony is a way for Americans and Japanese veterans and observers to extend a hand of continued friendship, peace and reconciliation by pouring bourbon whiskey as an offering to the fallen in the hallowed waters of Pearl Harbor.



Photo courtesy of The Greatest Generations Foundation

(Right) Pearl Harbor survivors traveling with the Greatest Generations Foundation visited Hickam Elementary School on Dec. 3.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jeff Troutman

(Below) Rear Adm. John Fuller, commander Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, speaks with Pearl Harbor survivor Ed Schuler during a wreath dedication ceremony aboard the USS Arizona Memorial, Dec. 7 in remembrance of the 74th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jeff Troutman

(Above) Pearl Harbor survivors enter the USS Arizona Memorial for a wreath dedication ceremony in remembrance of the 74th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks, Dec. 7.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Oelrich

(Above) Durward Swanson looks for his former commander on the Dec. 7 Memorial Plaque after participating in the 74th Remembrance Ceremony hosted by the 15th Wing at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Dec. 7.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jeff Troutman

(Right) John Langdell, the son of retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Langdell, speaks at his father's interment ceremony aboard the USS Arizona Memorial. Joseph Langdell, the last surviving officer stationed aboard the USS Arizona during the Pearl Harbor attacks, died at the age of 100 in February of this year. Langdell was one of the final surviving witnesses to the Pearl Harbor attacks before his death, and wished to be interred with his fellow shipmates on the USS Arizona.



(Below) Gilbert Meyer, a Pearl Harbor survivor, speaks with service members at the USS Utah Memorial sunset tribute on Ford Island. Several events took place leading up to the 74th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day to pay tribute to the nation's military while enlightening Americans about veterans and service.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Meranda Keller



(Above) Delton "Wally" Walling, Pearl Harbor survivor, accepts a ceremonial wreath to present to the entombed crew of the USS Utah during a sunset tribute at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Gabrielle Joyner



# Window on Pearl Harbor-Hickam



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## Remember Pearl Harbor

**Karen S. Spangler**

*Managing Editor*

Seventy-four years have passed since the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, but for many of those who attended Monday's commemoration ceremony, the recollections were as clear as though it were yesterday.

That "day of infamy" held vivid memories for some of the guests in attendance—themselves survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack. It was an especially meaningful time for them—as they gathered from all parts of the country to remember former friends and shipmates who made the ultimate sacrifice.

As the ceremony unfolded, it brought reflections of a day 74 years earlier—when the U.S. Navy received its worst defeat in history. The roar of aircraft engines, machine gun fire, explosions, gut-wrenching screams of agony and the cries from the Navy's proudest ships, crippled and devastated by the enemy attack, shattered the silence of that long ago Sunday morning.

For those who attended this year's ceremony, there were many similarities from commemorations in previous years.

Sailors in sharp white

dress uniforms manned the rails and rendered honors as the USS Preble passed by the Arizona Memorial. Speakers offered eloquent words about the Dec. 7, 1941 attack and the legacy of the "Greatest Generation."

Wreath presenters from all branches of the armed forces, dignitaries and representatives from numerous organizations came forward to pay their respects to the lost warriors of Dec. 7.

But this year, as in recent years, one thing was noticeably different: the declining numbers of Pearl Harbor survivors who were in attendance at the commemoration. There weren't as many of those bright green and white aloha shirts and jaunty Pearl Harbor survivor caps in the audience.

The few remaining heroes of another generation are well into their golden years, typically now in their mid-to-late '90s and for many of them, the long trip to Hawaii is no longer possible. But those who can make the trip are diligent about returning to Pearl Harbor to pay respects to their former shipmates.

It's their time for a personal tribute to those who were lost—fathers, sons, brothers, friends.

From the harbor waters surrounding the USS Ari-

zona, oil continues to seep from the remains of the once mighty battleship. It mingles with the floral blossoms that visitors leave behind as they pay homage to the memory of the Arizona. It is a constant reminder of the legacy that is Pearl Harbor, an ever-present memory of the day that tragedy struck Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Navy and the nation.

The Pearl Harbor survivors have carried the poignant memories of the catastrophic event at Pearl Harbor for more than 70 years. As they humbly express their gratitude that their lives were spared, they shed tears of sadness for the loss of their shipmates.

And for many of these heroes of another generation, their last tribute takes place at Pearl Harbor—as they return to their duty stations and their final resting place with former shipmates.

It is important that we always remember their courage, their commitment and their sacrifices. We can only be stronger and more united as a nation by remembering the tragedies and sacrifices of the past and honoring those who gave so much to make our lives better and America stronger.

We must never forget Pearl Harbor.



Sara Dillon, the vice commander's wife; U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Mark C. Dillon, Pacific Air Forces vice commander; retired U.S. Air Force Col. Andrew Kowalski and former U.S. Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Durward Swanson, Hickam Field attack survivors, watch as "Old Glory" is unveiled, Dec. 7 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

### New case is unveiled for Hickam's 'Old Glory'

**Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Amanda Dick**

*Headquarters Pacific Air Forces*

Headquarters Pacific Air Forces unveiled the new case to house "Old Glory" during a ceremony Dec. 7 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Presided over by Maj. Gen. Mark C. Dillon, PACAF vice commander, the ceremony highlighted the history of the American flag that flew at Hickam Field, dubbed the Hickam flag, during the attacks on Pearl Harbor and Hickam on Dec. 7, 1941, as well as honored two Hickam survivors, former U.S. Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. Durward Swanson and U.S. Air Force retired Col. Andrew Kowalski.

"It is a distinct honor to have these ironmen with us," Dillon said. "Yes, we can never forget what they did, but because of Tech. Sgt. Swanson's actions that fateful day, that same garrison flag is also here. Tech. Sgt. Swanson, we thank you for doing your duty that night and retiring our torn and tattered 'Old Glory.'"

Swanson, along with Sgt. Albert Lloyd, took the flag down at the end of the day following the attacks.

"We were just doing our checks," Swanson recalled in a previous article.

"We had security guards posted around the entire field. Then, it [was] night time, and I said to Lloyd, 'The flag is still flying. We've got to take that down.' We took the flag down and folded it the best we could as shattered as it was," Lloyd remembered.

Soon after the attacks, "Old Glory" was sent to Washington, D.C. under the safekeeping of Gen. Henry "Hap" Arnold,

chief of the Army Air Forces. It was later displayed during war bond drives as a reminder of the events at Pearl Harbor and Hickam throughout the course of World War II.

The flag was also prominently displayed on the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay during the signing of the surrender documents that ended the war. The Hickam flag eventually returned back to HQ PACAF in 1980.

According to Steve Diamond, HQ PACAF command historian, the brand new case was created in accordance with modern conservation standards since the former case provided inadequate protection, as it was not sealed properly, letting in humidity and bugs, and had poor lighting.

"We now have non-harming LED lighting and better glass to protect [the flag] from UV rays," Diamond said.

"Overall, this is the type of case you would find in the Bishop Museum and the Air Force Museum."

"[The flag] is the most unique and symbolic artifact that's a witness to what happened Dec. 7, 1941," he continued.

"Nothing like it exists anywhere. It was here at the start of America's participation [in WWII], and what's very symbolic, it was also present at the end of the war," he said.

As for Swanson, he said he was happy to see the flag again.

"It thrills my heart," he said. "[The case] is very nice. As long as the flag is up, that's what matters to me."

Due to damage the flag received on its "proper" display side, the only way to preserve and display it was to attach the protective backing onto the "proper" display side, causing it to be displayed in reverse.



# Hickam Elementary hosts 'Greatest Generation'

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Christopher Stoltz

15th Wing Public Affairs

On a normal school day, students from Hickam Elementary receive history lessons from their teachers. However, on Dec. 3, they had a chance to speak to individuals who are actually in their history books; as members of the "Greatest Generation" visited and spent their day at the school.

The visit marks the second time the Pearl Harbor survivors have visited Hickam Elementary and given students the opportunity to learn more about the attack on Pearl Harbor from individuals who were there in person.

"Our students were able to experience living history by interacting with these remarkable men," said Alisa Estrella Bender, Hickam Elementary School principal.

"Their personal stories and shared experiences gave our students greater awareness to honor, sacrifice and patriotic duty," Bender said.

One of the students who was fortunate enough to speak with



Members of the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Association wait for choral performances to begin during their visit to Hickam Elementary, Dec. 3, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

the survivors was fifth grader Chloe Malone, who said having the opportunity to speak to the survivors is something she will always remember.

"Listening to the survivors allowed us to learn more about the event from their perspective," said Malone. "I would like to thank them for their service and anyone

who is currently in the military as well."

After hearing stories about the attack on Pearl Harbor and fielding various questions from the students, the Pearl Harbor survivors enjoyed a school lunch and even attended a formal concert.

Songs from students, who ranged from kindergarten to sixth grade, filled the concert hall,

bringing tears to many people in the room. After the songs ended, survivors gave thanks to the children for their performances. Although the room was loud seconds earlier, one could hear a pin drop as the survivors gave thanks and made their way back to the shuttle which brought them to Hickam Elementary.

Quoting former President John F. Kennedy, Bender said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

"For us, we were reminded to live our gratitude for what these men, as well as other veterans, have done for our nation," said Bender.

Although the 'Greatest Generation' will be very busy with next year's 75th remembrance, they said they would make time and come back to Hickam Elementary.

"We would be honored to have them back next year," said Bender. "It touched our hearts when they said they wanted to come back to Hickam Elementary School again."

# PH survivor takes final voyage back to Pearl Harbor

Story and photos by MC3 Katarzyna Kobiljak

Navy Public Affairs Support Element Detachment Hawaii

Family, friends and military service members gathered to pay tribute to the retired Chief Boatswain's Mate Donald Show in an ash-scattering ceremony held Dec. 7 at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"My dad would have loved this ceremony," said Jeannette Siciliani, daughter of the late Show, who served aboard USS Phoenix during the Pearl Harbor attacks Dec. 7, 1941.

"He loved his Navy. He always said that ocean was his wife. This is what he wanted, and I am blessed to be here to honor his wish," said Siciliani.

The ash-scattering ceremony was one of several events during the 74th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day to pay tribute to the nation's military while enlightening Americans about veterans and service.

"It was Don's wish to make a final voyage back to Pearl Harbor after his death, so he could be reunited with his shipmates, his brothers, lost that fateful day in 1941," said Pearl Harbor survivors' liaison retired Navy Master Chief Yeoman James Taylor during his speech.

Taylor, the master of ceremony, talked about Show and his life before he introduced Show's family members.

"The ceremony was beautiful, and it really exceeded my expectations," said Zach Show, son of Donald Show. "We are



so happy and so honored and thankful for what everyone did for us."

Musician 2nd Class Rick Baty played Taps, and the

base ceremonial guard honored Show with a rifle salute. Both of Show's children received an American flag, a gesture that made them tearful.

After the ceremony ended, Show's children and friends dropped purple flowers into the water.

"I saw them [flowers] drift

toward where USS Phoenix was located, and I felt like it was a sign from my dad saying that is right where he wanted to be," said Siciliani.



# Bringing home remaining USS Oklahoma fallen

**Staff Sgt. Chris Hubenthal**  
Defense Media Activity –  
Hawaii News Bureau

NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC, Hawaii – Personnel from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) worked alongside caretakers of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP) to disinter the last of the 388 unknown service members associated with the USS Oklahoma.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, destroying nearly 20 naval vessels, 200 aircraft and killing more than 2,000 U.S. service members. Among the destruction was the USS Oklahoma that was struck by torpedoes with a crew of more than 400 still aboard. Nearly 74 years later, the possibility of giving a name to the 388 unidentified heroes of the historical battleship is closer to becoming a reality, thanks to the joint efforts.

Caretakers from the NMCP helped exhume the final four caskets, and honor guard members of the DPAA performed a

dignified transfer during the ceremony.

“We’ve been working for multiple years with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency,” said James Horton, director of the NMCP.

“A decision was made, partly from push from the families to get some final resolve, and we got special permission to do those disinterments for the agency as opposed to having them contract them out,” he said.

Horton said that supporting events like the dignified transfer is more than just a part of the job for staff members at the NMCP.

“It is part of what we feel is a personal responsibility for us to take care of our fellow veterans,” Horton said.

“For our guys to be able to be a part of that, to be able to help get that process going and to do it with the passion and caring that we do, it makes it that much more personal for us as well.”

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class John Maze, DPAA mortuary affairs specialist and team sergeant,

served as the team leader for the honor guard detail that rendered honors for the unknown heroes of the USS Oklahoma.

“Everybody knows that it’s a high visibility event and we prepare for it,” Maze said. “It is just an honor to serve in that position and bring our service members home and get them back to their families.”

At the end of the ceremony, the last four caskets were transported to the DPAA and, although the final unknown service members have been disinterred, the process now shifts to identifying the fallen.

Ray Emory, a Pearl Harbor survivor who lives in Hawaii and is a former Navy chief, carried out painstaking research on the USS Oklahoma unknowns and was a strong advocate for their identification and accounting. Emory was serving on the USS Honolulu at the time of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Dr. Debra Zinni, DPAA forensic anthropologist, explained how she and her colleagues work to identify the heroes of the USS Oklahoma.

“The remains associated to the USS Oklahoma will be accessioned in the laboratory here in Hawaii where we will cut for DNA for some of the remains,” Zinni said.

“The dental analysis will be conducted here in our laboratory here in Hawaii. The post cranial remains will be sent to our laboratory in Offutt, where additional skeletal testing and DNA testing will also be conducted,” she said.

Zinni said that the whole process wouldn’t be possible without the family members of the fallen.

“The disinterment for the remains associated with the USS Oklahoma would not have been able to be accomplished without the family members’ support,” Zinni said. “The families needed to provide a family reference sample, and their overwhelming support really is what drives that process.”

DPAA estimates that 80 percent of the remains associated with the USS Oklahoma will be identified within five years and, as the next chapter in bringing closure to the families of the fallen begins, DPAA continues to work toward finding and identifying other heroes across the world.

“This mission is important because service members—past, present and future—need to know that if they need to make the ultimate sacrifice they will not be forgotten,” Zinni said.

“This agency will use all of its resources to investigate, locate and recover their remains and provide those answers to the nation and their family members. There is a saying that ‘some gave all and all gave some’ and that was many years ago, and the way that we can honor their sacrifice and their service is to provide those answers to the families and repatriate their remains,” she said.

The task of identifying the USS Oklahoma unknowns was a multi-faceted process involving several agencies and joint service teams, including the NMCP, Navy Service Casualty Officers and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory.

## Dec. 7

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each military service, a rifle salute performed by the U.S. Marine Corps, musical performances from the Pacific Fleet Band, and a vintage plane fly-by conducted by the Pacific Warbirds.

The USS Preble (DDG 88) also rendered honors while performing a pass-in-review during the ceremony.

## 15th Wing

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day Japan attacked.

After a morning of remembrance, Huiss ended his speech with a challenge.

“As you leave this ceremony and go about the business of your lives, please take a moment to remember the stories of that fateful day,” he said.

“Seek out our history, listen to those who have seen and done incredible things for our nation, because the stories link us to the past. They are how we remember and how we learn the lessons written by the sacrifices of those who came before us,” Huiss said.

## AEGIS

*Continued from page A-1*

identical configuration of the Vertical Launch System, fire control system, and SPY-1 radar currently in use aboard Aegis BMD cruisers and destroyers deployed at sea around the world.

“Today’s test demonstrated that the same Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense capability that has been fielded at sea and operational for years, will soon be operational ashore as part of the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) Phase 2 capability in Romania. I am very proud of the tremendous effort by the entire government/industry team in executing this vitally important mission for our Nation and our allies,” said Vice Adm. James D. Syring, MDA director.

The MDA and the U.S. Navy cooperatively manage the Aegis BMD program.

For more information about all elements of the BMDS, visit [www.mda.mil](http://www.mda.mil).

## Survivors honor USS Oklahoma’s fallen



U.S. Navy photo by MCl Rebecca Wolfbrandt

Pearl Harbor survivors render honors during a ceremony at the USS Oklahoma (BB 37) Memorial on Ford Island.