

WHO'OKELE

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USS Arizona survivors piped aboard, welcomed back

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

Four Sailors who were serving on the USS Arizona and survived the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor paid a visit on Dec. 2 to the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. Upon arrival, all four—John Anderson, Louis Conter, Donald Stratton, and Lauren Bruner—were piped aboard and saluted by an honor cordon of volunteers from several branches of the armed services while the Pacific Fleet Band played patriotic music.

Lt. Cmdr. Alex Torres, assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, was the lead volunteer coordinator for the ceremony. It was his second time serving in this capacity.

"I was in charge last year and was asked to do it again this year," he said. "I feel very privileged."

Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (SW/AW/EXW) Leszek Romero, also assigned to JBPHH, was the one to actually pipe the Arizona survivors aboard.

"This is an amazing honor," he said. "These men are definitely part of one of the greatest generations."

Romero, a native of Honduras who joined the U.S. Navy on Sept. 11, 2001, credits men like the



(Above) Survivors of the USS Arizona arrive at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

(Right) Lauren F. Bruner, right, survivor of USS Arizona (BB 39), answers questions during a press conference Dec. 2. John D. Anderson, Louis A. Conter and Donald G. Stratton, survivors of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, were also in attendance as part of the USS Arizona Reunion Association's annual meeting.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter

ones being honored for inspiring him to enlist.

After the ceremony marking their arrival, the four veterans participated in a press conference where they spoke of their experiences and answered questions from the audience. Many people were impressed that four men in

their 90s could make such long, exhausting trips, to which Stratton simply replied, "Everybody has to be someplace."

This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It is also the final year the USS Arizona Reunion Association will hold an official re-

union. On Sunday, Dec. 7, the survivors will mark the occasion by holding a ceremony on the USS Arizona Memorial where they will

pour a "final toast" to their shipmates.

However, the four survivors were confident that this would not be their final

reunion, official or not.

"I don't think this will be our last one," said Conter. "We still have some time to go."



U.S. Navy Photo

Pearl Harbor survivors talk with local schoolchildren who attended the National Park Service and U.S. Navy-hosted joint memorial ceremony at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument Dec. 7, 2013.

Pearl Harbor Day commemoration to preserve memory of attack

National Park Service

The theme of this year's historic commemoration, "Preserving the Memory," focuses on how to keep the story of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Oahu and World War II alive for the nation and the world.

The National Park Service and the U.S. Navy will host a joint memorial ceremony on Sunday from 7:45 to 9:30 a.m. commemorating the 73rd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The ceremony will take place on the main lawn of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, looking directly out to the USS Arizona Memorial, at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

More than 2,500 distinguished guests and the general public are expected to join current and former military personnel, including Pearl Harbor survivors and other World War II veterans, for the annual observance of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

This year's Dec. 7 ceremony will be co-hosted by Paul DePrey, superintendent, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, National Park Service, and Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. The keynote speaker will be Gen. Lori J. Robinson, commander of Pacific Air Forces.

Highlights of the ceremony will include music by the Navy's U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, morning colors, a Hawaiian blessing, a cannon salute by members of the U.S. Army, wreath presentations, echo Taps, and recognition of the men and women who survived the attack and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country on Dec. 7, 1941.

At 7:55 a.m., the exact moment the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began 73 years ago, a moment of silence will be observed. A U.S. Navy ship will render honors to the USS Arizona

and all Pearl Harbor survivors, and a flyover will be conducted above Pearl Harbor.

The ceremony will conclude with a "Walk of Honor" by Pearl Harbor survivors and other World War II veterans through an honor cordon of military service members and National Park Service men and women.

In conjunction with this year's theme and to connect Pearl Harbor survivors across the U.S. with the commemoration ceremony taking place at Pearl Harbor, the National Park Service is hosting a broadcast via live webcast of this year's event. Prior to the start of the ceremony, Pearl Harbor survivors and WWII veterans will be interviewed and viewers will get a "behind the scenes" look at the ceremony. Those who are unable to attend the ceremony in person will be able to watch the event in their home-

See DEC. 7, A-4

USS O'Kane to return from deployment

Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Public Affairs

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) will return to its homeport at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam today from a nine-month deployment to the Arabian Gulf and western Pacific Ocean.

The ship and crew of nearly 280 Sailors, assigned to Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31, conducted goodwill activities with partner nations along with various presence operations with two carrier strike groups during the ship's deployment.

"I am extremely proud of O'Kane's crew. Through their hard work and dedication, we were able to successfully complete mission tasking on deployment," said Cmdr. Gina McCaine, O'Kane's commanding officer.

During a change of command ceremony at sea Nov. 19, McCaine relieved Cmdr. James Juster as commanding officer of O'Kane.

"O'Kane's crew members have been tremendous ambassadors of the Navy and United States. Their teamwork and camaraderie have been impressive," Juster said.

While deployed in the U.S. 5th and U.S. 7th Fleet areas of responsibility (AORs), O'Kane Sailors participated in community relations projects in Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, India and Guam by tutoring special needs children, assisting with general community clean up, participating in sporting events and other activities.

Also during the deployment, the ship's visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team safely conducted 47 maritime interdiction operations while in the U.S. 5th Fleet AOR. O'Kane is named for Rear Adm. Richard O'Kane, a submarine commander in World War II who received the Medal of Honor for his service aboard USS Tang (SS-306). O'Kane directly participated in more successful attacks on shipping than any other submarine officer during the war. The ship's motto is "A Tradition of Honor."

The ship is part of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific and U.S. 3rd Fleet. For more information, visit the ship's website <http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/ddg77/Pages/default.aspx>.



U.S. Navy file photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan

The guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam March 7 for a deployment to the western Pacific Ocean and Arabian Gulf. The ship returns to its homeport today.



JBPHH hosts first COMPACAF visit to emphasize communication
See page A-2



USS Chafee holds change of command at joint base
See page A-7



Japan's Nagaoka city builds strong relationship with Pearl Harbor
See page A-2



Battle continues against coconut rhinoceros beetle
See page A-8



'Going airborne'
See page B-1



Annual Festival of Lights at Pearl Harbor to begin Dec. 8
See page B-3

JBP HH hosts first COMPACAF visit to emphasize communication

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

Gen. Lori Robinson, Pacific Air Forces commander, made her inaugural base visit Nov. 25 to Joint Base Pearl Harbor (JBPHH) to learn more about the 15th Wing's mission and Airmen.

Robinson conducted her initial base tour to gain a better understanding of unit readiness and base capabilities and services while interacting with Airmen face-to-face.

"It's about dialogue, communication and understanding where we are and where we're going," she told a crowd of Airmen during an all-call. "Your success is the command's success, and my job is to do what I can to help with that success."

Robinson also stressed the importance of continued communication and feedback up and down the chain of command.

"In times of uncertainty and con-



Gen. Lori Robinson, Pacific Air Forces commander, shakes hands with Senior Airman Cory Prater, 647th Security Forces Squadron, during her visit Nov. 25 to the squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

cern, you can expect me to be a communicator," she said. "It's so important to communicate with commanders and chiefs so they can communicate with Airmen and their families. This ensures we un-

derstand what's happening in the field and allows us to grow the institution and make it better."

In addition to the all-call, Robinson met with Airmen from the active duty and guard flying squadrons, the 647th Air Base Group and the 15th Medical Group where she got a first-hand look at day-to-day operations and the Airmen who accomplish them.

"I'm so impressed with the young Airmen that gave briefings and talked to us today," she said. "I'm incredibly proud of some of the successes I saw."

Robinson encouraged Airmen to keep up the good work while continuing to be open-minded and think outside the box in the way they do business.

"We are Airmen. We go over things, not through things," she said. "We get it done through innovation. I saw that all day today; it was huge."

The general also emphasized the importance of teamwork while encouraging Airmen to stay focused

on the bigger picture.

"I have walked away today with an incredible sense of the team effort, and that starts with great leadership," she said. "We're all a part of something bigger than ourselves. It's not about me. It's not about you. It's about the institution and understanding it is a total force effort. You all live that every day."

"It's all about taking care of each other and looking toward the same goal," she said.

She also informed Airmen that PACAF will continue to focus on the command's core tenets and lines of operation and assured them that they and their families will remain a top priority.

As Robinson wrapped up her visit to the base, she expressed her pride and gratitude to Airmen and their families.

"Thanks for what you do every day," she said. "Whether you're in the guard, active-duty or you're a civilian, I appreciate what you and your family do every day to get the job done."

Japan's Nagaoka city builds strong relationship with Pearl Harbor

Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

People from all over the United States and the world are coming to Hawaii to participate in the Dec. 7 ceremonies marking the 73rd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

One person making a particularly long journey is Tamio Mori. Mori is the mayor of Nagaoka city in Japan and will be traveling from his home city to attend this Sunday's events. It will be his first time in attendance. He was invited by Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

Nagaoka is one of Honolulu's official sister cities and, for many years, Nagaoka has had a productive relationship with both Honolulu and Pearl Harbor. This



Nagaoka Mayor Tamio Mori

relationship dates back to 2007 when a student exchange program between Nagaoka and Honolulu was initiated.

"One major part of that exchange involved Japanese students witnessing the Pearl Harbor memorial ceremony as well as building a relationship between Nagaoka's Yamamoto Isoroku museum and the Arizona Memorial Museum," said Mori.

"Nagaoka students visit Hawaii each December to



Nagaoka is famous for its fireworks and holds an annual fireworks festival every summer.

learn about the shared war experience and how America honors its military heroes," he said.

Nagaoka is the home of Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, the architect of the attack on Pearl Harbor that cost 2,403 Americans their lives. On Aug. 1, 1945, Nagaoka was

destroyed by American bombs, killing 1,485 people.

"We feel the pains of war just like the people of Honolulu and hope to build mutual understanding as well as appreciation for the pursuit of peace for ourselves and future generations," said Mori.

"The youth exchange, which will also occur this December, is a continuation of this desire and commitment. I will accompany these students to the memorial ceremony along with my wife," he added.

The relationship between Nagaoka and Honolulu will no doubt grow even stronger in 2015. Nagaoka will be contributing fireworks to next year's ceremonies at Pearl Harbor, marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the restoration of peace between Japan and the United States.

Nagaoka is famous for its unique fireworks, which are manufactured in the city, and is home to an annual fireworks festival held every summer that attracts upwards of 900,000 spectators.

Mori sees his city's participation in the 2015 ceremonies as another way of

bringing Japan and the U.S. even closer together.

"We have enjoyed nearly 70 years of peaceful development and relations, and I wanted to mark this event with a fireworks display at Pearl Harbor, the site of the Japanese attack," he said.

"This event on Aug. 15, 2015 will not only remember and honor those who were lost in this tragic episode in history but also symbolize our dedication to future peaceful relations between our countries and to work for peace in the world.

"We are grateful to the U.S. Navy, Navy Region Hawaii, the City and County of Honolulu, as well as the National Park Service, Valor in the Pacific National Monument, Pacific Historic Parks, Pacific Aviation Museum, USS Missouri Foundation, and those others who support this planned event," Mori explained.

Commentary

COMPACAF extends holiday greetings

Gen. Lori Robinson

Pacific Air Forces Commander



Gen. Lori J. Robinson

Fellow Airmen, As we take time to celebrate the holiday season, David and I want to give you a very heartfelt "thank you" for all you and your families do to deliver mission success for PACAF each and every day.

During these first few weeks in command, I have had an opportunity to visit a few of our bases and talk with our hard working 46,000 PACAF Airmen. Your success has certainly been the command's success. I am overwhelmed by your accomplishments and humbled to be a part of the proud PACAF team.

PACAF Airmen have conducted a wide range of operations in 2014, participating in more than 50 joint and multinational exercises, saving lives and property during humanitarian aid and disaster relief missions, and establishing the Pacific Integrated Air and Missile Defense Center.

As you spend time with

family and friends over the holidays, I ask that you remember our military members who are deployed or serving remote tours and separated from their loved ones. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to execute the mission thousands of miles away.

Each and every one of you are vital to accomplishing our mission here in the Pacific. Please take care of yourselves, your families and each other. Happy holidays to you and your families

Commentary

Preserving Memory of Pearl Harbor Day, 'Greatest Generation'

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

This year's Pearl Harbor Day commemoration ceremony theme is "Preserving the Memory": a commitment to ensure future generations learn and understand the service and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation on Dec. 7, 1941.

It is an honor to welcome back our Pearl Harbor survivors and participate in remembrance ceremonies for them and their fallen comrades. We also welcome back the many family members who are equally dedicated to preserving the memory.

Tom Brokaw named their generation the "Greatest" and for good reason. Those we lost on "the day of infamy" were serving American ideals of freedom, justice and equality for all.

Those who survived the attack 73 years ago had their innocence taken away from them — life's expectations were overturned as new priorities for survival prevailed. Plans were changed and aligned with the march to war. Their lives were transformed forever. And so was

brothers and sisters.

And the bond can last a lifetime.

Many of our Pearl Harbor survivors were teenagers on Dec. 7, 1941. Now, 73 years later, they return to honor their shipmates.

This week, Navy Region Hawaii's Pearl Harbor survivors liaison Jim Taylor will conduct no fewer than four burial services for Sailors who wish to return and remain with their brothers in Pearl Harbor forever.

The bond is strong. It goes beyond friendship. It's like saying, "You are part of my family, and I will die to protect you. Your life is more important than my own."

Perhaps if we understand and fully appreciate that bond we can learn how to apply it universally, collectively. And when we fully comprehend commitment beyond our own self-interest, we can preserve the peace and freedom we enjoy.

This week's series of commemorative ceremonies will help us better appreciate and value the importance of our survivors' contributions.

The Greatest Generation Pearl Harbor survivors were resilient. They buried their shipmates, repaired their ships and spent the next four years in combat. While

in combat they buried more shipmates. They provided a common sense of purpose—"Remember Pearl Harbor"—that connected all Americans in a new sense of patriotism.

Most important, their common cause helped transform the world: More freedom and democracy, more prosperity, more civil rights—with greater equality for women, the beginning of less discrimination and more integration.

As Tom Brokaw writes in "The Greatest Generation," most of the veterans of the war were ready to go to work. They didn't ask for a handout from the government, but a grateful nation offered the G.I. Bill that helped them get an education, job skills and an opportunity to excel.

Those who survived never forgot the friends and brothers they lost or the common cause for which they fought.

I encourage you to meet and thank the veterans of World War II who are on the waterfront or out in town this week. And I hope to see you Sunday morning at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center as we honor and preserve the memory of these members of the Greatest Generation.

Diverse Views



The theme of this year's Dec. 7 Pearl Harbor Day remembrance ceremony is "Preserving the Memory." How can we preserve the history of what happened on that day of infamy on Dec. 7, 1941 so future generations will never forget it?



MM1 Charles Young
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

"Do something like make a walk-in ship mock-up, something that could show the surprise of the fighter attack. I think that's the hardest thing to show: the surprise and shock of what happened."

Staff Sgt. Gavin Cruz
392nd Intelligence Squadron



"A good or even great way of preserving what happened that day is through stories from brave heroes who served our country. It's articles like these that remind us of that tragic day. Talk to a veteran. I'm sure he or she would be more than happy to share his or her experience."



FC3 Haily Cooper
USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)

"We could encourage more people to go see the Arizona Memorial. Other than that I think we do everything we can to teach about it."

Maj. Mark Smith
Special Operations Command Pacific



"Continue to study history and when possible, meet those that served on that day of infamy. Take the opportunity to teach your children of the courage and valor that took place that day, so they will understand the sacrifices that were made and are still being made to protect our great country."



MM1 Corey Dowdell
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

"Maybe do something with local television. Put it on the local news. Get it out there and advertise."

Staff Sgt. Terrell Thomas, Jr.
647th Civil Engineers Squadron



"I believe the best way to preserve the memory for future generations is to always remember what we are blessed with now. Those men and women who died that day brought a nation together, and we're stronger because of that."



Capt. Brianna Rodriguez
HQ PACAF

"We can preserve history by teaching future generations the sacrifices made on that tragic day. The military and the National Park Service do an amazing job with upkeep of the various memorials in Pearl Harbor. Also, there are several remembrance ceremonies held each year so that we, as a nation, never forget."

Provided by Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi 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 or karen.spangler@navy.mil

JBPHH gives advisories in support of Pearl Harbor Day events

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

In support of the Navy/National Park Service 73rd anniversary Pearl Harbor Day commemoration, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam announces the following advisories:

Today, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and Sunday from 7 to 10 a.m., the Ford Island Bridge will close to all vehicle and pedestrian traffic in sup-

port of the ship "pass-in-review" rehearsal and the commemoration ceremony.

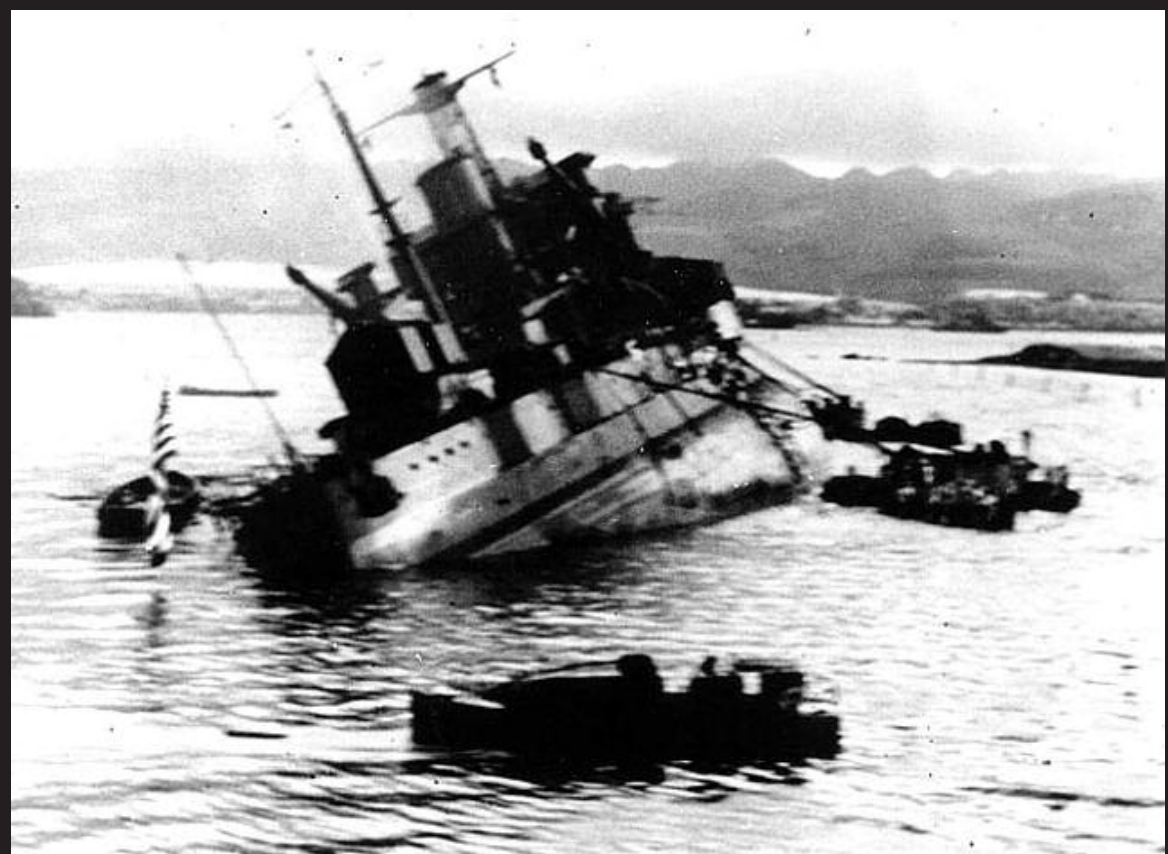
Today, between 11 to 11:30 a.m., a rehearsal for a cannon salute will be conducted, and a cannon salute will take place on Sunday between 9 and 9:30 a.m. during the ceremony. There will be loud noises and some smoke emanating from the area around Hotel piers during the rehearsal

and the ceremony.

Sunday, beginning at approximately 9:20 a.m., or at the conclusion of the commemoration ceremony, a vintage aircraft will conduct a flyby over Pearl Harbor and Ford Island. The aircraft will be emitting decorative smoke to emphasize the pattern flown.

For more information on Pearl Harbor Day events, visit www.pacifichistoricparks.com.

USS Utah capsizes off Ford Island



Official U.S. Navy photograph

The USS Utah (AG-16) capsizes off Ford Island during the attack on Pearl Harbor after being torpedoed by Imperial Japanese aircraft. Utah was photographed during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack from USS Tangier (AV-8), which was moored astern of Utah. Note the colors half-raised over the fantail, boats nearby and sheds covering Utah's after guns.

HO'okele

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Ho'okele is delivered weekly to Navy & Air Force housing units and Navy and Air Force installations throughout Oahu.

Commentary

What's on Pearl Harbor survivor's Kindle?

Bill Doughty

Former Lt. Cmdr. Ed Vezey, a Pearl Harbor survivor who was aboard USS Oklahoma (BB-37) during the attack of Dec. 7, 1941, told me recently his favorite author is James D. Hornfischer. Among the books on Vezey's Kindle are "Neptune's Inferno," "Last of the Tin Can Sailors" and his top pick, "Ship of Ghosts."

"That book had the most impact on me," Vezey said. "The thing I like about it is how it goes from civilian life to what they did despite the inhumanity they witnessed. Hornfischer really knows how to show the brutality of naval combat. [USS] Houston ran right into the buzzsaw."

For Vezey, who is thought to be the last USS Oklahoma Pearl Harbor survivor living in the state of Oklahoma, "The Guadalcanal Campaign was worse than Pearl Harbor. During the war, instead of hour after hour, it was weeks and months, every day and every night."

Vezey recalls "no-good



Photos from Navy Reads (Left) Then-Lt. Edward Vezey Jr.

torpedoes" against the enemy, waters "teeming with submarines," and the effects of a battleship's ferocious guns targeting smaller ships. "Sixteen-inch guns would go right through a destroyer, and they would try to hit below the water line," Vezey said.

Vezey is scheduled to speak at the USS Oklahoma Memorial ceremony on Ford Island this Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The memorial is located adjacent to Battleship Row, where USS Oklahoma was berthed in 1941 and where Battleship Missouri

Memorial sits today.

Vezey helped make the USS Oklahoma Memorial a reality. The memorial, dedicated Dec. 7, 2007, is in tribute to 429 Marines and Sailors who lost their lives aboard the USS Oklahoma during the attack.

In an interview with Brandice J. Armstrong at Tinker Air Force Base in 2010, Vezey, who had reported to USS Oklahoma in April 1941 as an ensign, said, "It's hard to convey to non-Sailors how important this ship is when you're a Sailor. It's your mother, your home and if you

spend a lot of time at sea like we did, it's the fundamental island [of] security."

Today, Vezey exercises daily and lives a healthy lifestyle. He has two "themes" in life.

"The first is that life is one whale of an adventure, but don't let go when it tries to throw you off," Vezey said. "The second is to keep pedaling, or else the bike will fall over. This is fundamentally true in your health, your job skills, your marriage. If you stop pedaling, all of a sudden you discover life is passing you by."

"Life can be great if you don't quit," Vezey said.

That attitude is reflected in Hornfischer's "Ship of Ghosts" and, a generation later, in Craig Venter's autobiography, "A Life Decoded."

(Hornfischer's three books mentioned in this article and Venter's "A Life Decoded" have each been reviewed on Navy Reads, an unofficial blog in support of the Navy's Professional Reading Program and related books: <http://navyreads.blogspot.com/> — Ed.)

Dec 7: 'Preserving the Memories'

Continued from A-1

town as it takes place.

Online registration to view the event is required. All those interested in watching are encouraged to visit the following link to signup: <http://bit.ly/LiveBroadcastDec7>.

Public access to the Pearl Harbor 73rd Anniversary Commemoration ceremony

The commemoration ceremony is free of charge and the public is invited to attend. Seats for the general public at the commemoration ceremony are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. The visitor center will open at 6 a.m. Seating for the public will begin at 7:15 a.m.

Limited public parking at visitor center for ceremony

Additional parking will be available at Richardson Field and Aloha Stadium. Free shuttles will be provided from the stadium to the visitor center. The public is encouraged to arrive early to allow time to park and go through security at the visitor center.

Limited public tour schedule for USS Arizona Memorial

Due to the morning cere-

mony, public tours on Dec. 7 to the USS Arizona Memorial will operate on a special schedule. The first public tour will begin at 11 a.m. with the last tour beginning at 1 p.m. Tours begin every 15 minutes and include a 23-minute movie presentation followed by a short boat ride and visit to the memorial. Tickets are free and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Security

Cameras are permitted; however, due to strict security measures, camera bags, purses, handbags and/or other items that offer concealment are not allowed. Bag storage is available at the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park.

Dress code

Military dress is summer whites or service equivalent. The civilian dress code for the commemoration is aloha business attire, long pants and collared shirts.

More information

For more information about the Pearl Harbor Day 73rd Anniversary Commemoration ceremony and special events, visit www.pacifichistoricparks.org.

(See additional Pearl Harbor Day events on page A-6.)

Pearl Harbor survivor Sterling Cale writes book

National Park Service

Sterling Cale, Pearl Harbor survivor and long-time USS Arizona Memorial volunteer, has released his first book, "A True American."

The National Park Service and Pacific Historic Parks invited the public to celebrate the book and Cale's 93rd birthday Dec. 3 at WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument. The event included a book



Sterling Cale

signing, cake and photos with the author.

Cale's military career has taken him around the world and back again, from a farm in Illinois to Hawaii, Guadalcanal, Korea and Vietnam. With a front row view of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Cale bravely rescued men from the burning water and collected bodies from the wreckage of the USS Arizona.

His story is one of ser-

vice, sacrifice and what it means to be a true American. Published by Pacific Historic Parks, Cale's 56-page book includes photos of his time in Hawaii, his service in Vietnam, volunteering at the USS Arizona Memorial and more.

"A True American: The Story of a Pearl Harbor Survivor, WWII, Korean and Vietnam War Veteran" is available at the Pearl Harbor Museum Store, operated by Pacific

Historic Parks, and online at phpstore.org for \$9.95.

"Our Pearl Harbor survivors are our most precious resource. We are grateful for Uncle Sterling's years of service at the USS Arizona Memorial and honored to celebrate his 93rd birthday with him at the monument," said Paul DePrey, superintendent, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

"It is our mission to

keep history alive for future generations. Uncle Sterling's amazing story is sure to inspire USS Arizona Memorial visitors for years to come. Pacific Historic Parks is proud to be the publisher of Uncle Sterling's book," said Gene Caliwag, president and CEO, Pacific Historic Parks.

For more information on the book launch, visit www.pacifichistoricparks.org or the Facebook page fb.com/pacificparks.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden
Gen. Lori Robinson, Pacific Air Forces commander, speaks to active duty and guard maintenance Airmen during her visit Nov. 25 to a maintenance hangar at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

(Right) Rear Adm. Rick Williams, right, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, at right, serves Thanksgiving meals Nov. 27 at the Silver Dolphin Bistro, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo courtesy of Silver Dolphin Bistro



(Above) The Pearl Harbor magnetic silencing facility (MSF) team completed a successful magnetic treatment (deperm) event Nov. 25. Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam has the only drive-in submarine deperm facility in the Pacific Fleet area of responsibility (with two certified deperm engineers) and a state-of-the-art type 6 electromagnetic measurement range. This enables the U.S. Pacific Fleet submarine force to maintain its magnetic stealth capability.

U.S. Navy photo by Cmdr. Dennis Mojica

(Right) Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Robert Titus signals an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter from the aft missile deck of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) during a Nov. 13 replenishment-at-sea in the waters south of Japan. Halsey is participating in Keen Sword, a joint/bilateral field training exercise involving U.S. military and the Japan Self-Defense Force.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Bradley J. Gee



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Amanda Morris
(Above) Master Sgt. Shawn Pangborn, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron F-22 Raptor crew chief, and 1st Lt. Jeff Braden, 19th Fighter Squadron pilot from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam review the day's flight Nov. 23, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

Events this weekend remember Pearl Harbor Day

National Park Service

Additional events have been planned in conjunction with the 73rd anniversary commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day, which will be held from today to Sunday. They are as follows:

Hawaii Pops Concert honoring USS Arizona Band, 7:30 p.m. today, Pacific Aviation Museum.

Table seating \$95, general admission \$45.

Join Hawaii Pops as they honor Band 22, the band of the USS Arizona. The performance will feature selections that were played in the Battle of Music on Dec. 6, 1941 and other selections of the era. Admission for Pearl Harbor survivors and Medal of Honor recipients is free. Tickets are available at www.hawaii-pops.com or at the Honolulu box office at 550-8457.

USS Utah Sunset Ceremony and Interment, 5-6 p.m. Saturday, USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island.

Free admission—base access required.

Pearl Harbor survivors, military personnel and their sponsored guests are invited to attend a sunset ceremony at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island, honoring those lost aboard the USS Utah.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor Anniversary Dinner Gala—"Destinations & Dreams," 6:30-10:30 p.m. Saturday, Ford Island hangars.

General admission \$250.

The annual fundraiser for Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. Capt. Chelsey B. Sullenberger will be this year's guest speaker. Emcee for the evening will be actor, journalist and TV host David Hartman. Honoree of the evening is the museum's past chairman of the board, Adm. Ronald J. Hays. The event will include cocktails, dinner, enter-



tainment and prize opportunities to help support the museum's restoration and education programs. Event will be hosted in the battlefield hangars of Ford Island. For ticket sales, visit www.PacificAviationMuseum.org or call 808-441-1006.

Hickam Field Ceremony, 7:55-9 a.m. Sunday, Atterbury Circle, JBPHH.

Free admission—base access required.

The 15th Wing will host the Dec. 7, 1941 remembrance ceremony at 7:55 a.m. Sunday at the Atterbury Circle historic flag pole on the Hickam side of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The event

will honor the 189 killed and 303 wounded during the attacks. The ceremony is open to all military identification card holders, veterans, survivors of the attack, and guests of attending survivors. Base access is required. Attendees must be in place by 7:15 a.m.

Barbers Point Remembrance Ceremony, 7:45 a.m. Sunday, Barbers Point Golf Course.

Free admission. The Aloha Chapter of the Marine Corps League and the Honolulu Council of the Navy League of the United States will observe the 73rd anniversary of the

Japanese attack at Ewa Marine Corps Air Station to honor those Marines who fought and died there.

Blackened Canteen Ceremony, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Sunday.

Free admission with USS Arizona Memorial ticket.

Dr. Hiroya Sugano, director general of the Zero Fighter Admirers' Club, will be here from Japan to conduct this annual commemoration of peace and reconciliation ceremony with a silent prayer and pouring whiskey from a World War II-blackened canteen into the water from the USS Arizona Memorial

as an offering to the spirits of the fallen. A roundtable discussion will follow at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. Tickets will be available beginning at 6 a.m. Sunday at the USS Arizona Memorial ticket desk.

USS Oklahoma Memorial Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance on Ford Island, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Sunday.

Free admission. Free shuttle to Ford Island departs every 15 minutes from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. from the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park shuttle stop.

The event will be hosted by the National Park Service in honor of those who served on the USS Oklahoma during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The USS Oklahoma (BB-37) Memorial was officially dedicated on Dec. 7, 2007. The memorial is located on Ford Island near Fox-5 Pier next to the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

The battleship Oklahoma was berthed along Ford Island on Dec. 7, 1941 and suffered the second greatest loss of life during the attack. The memorial includes 429 marble columns symbolizing each of the crew members who lost their lives on that fateful day. Members of the public wishing to attend the ceremony can catch a free shuttle departing every 15 minutes from the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park, which is adjacent to the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade, 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Ft. DeRussy to Kapiolani Park.

Free admission. The Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade committee will host the Pearl Harbor Parade featuring Pearl Harbor survivors, military and government officials, and marching bands and parade units from the U.S. mainland and Hawaii.



Hickam Elementary hosts survivors of Dec. 7, 1941 attack

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

Twelve survivors of the Dec. 7, 1941, attacks on Pearl Harbor and Hickam visited Hickam Elementary School Dec. 4 to commemorate the anniversary of the event and speak with the students about their experiences while stationed in Hawaii 73 years ago.

"We want to thank you for visiting our school and for all you have done for us," said Rory Vierra, Hickam Elementary School principal.

The survivors traveled here from the continental U.S. as part of a trip organized by the Greatest Generation Foundation, a non-profit international organization dedicated to promoting recognition and respect for war veterans of past and current conflicts.

"I think it's great that they're here because it gives the students a historical context of



Hickam Elementary School students greet survivors of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and Hickam Airfield at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The survivors visited the school Dec. 4 to commemorate the anniversary of the attack and to share their stories with the students and faculty.

what occurred here," Vierra here, so it's important for [the their community." Students lined the entrance of

the school and greeted the survivors, many of whom were visibly emotional to see the support of the students. Twelve students were selected as escorts for the guests and accompanied them to individual classrooms where they shared their personal stories.

One of the survivors, Robert Blum, was the only member of the group assigned to Hickam Airfield at the time of the attacks. He shared his story with Lizbeth Rabaino's fourth grade class.

"We were scared, but we were also angry so we kicked into gear and did what we had to do to survive," Blum said as he described the beginning of the attack.

Blum was a technical school aircraft maintenance instructor here in 1941 and was wounded in the attack by a bomb detonation.

The survivors will also have an opportunity to visit other areas of the base to speak with service members and share their stories.

USS Chafee holds change of command ceremony at joint base

Story and photo by
Ensign James Duncan

USS Chafee (DDG-90)
Public Affairs

Cmdr. Shea S. Thompson relieved Cmdr. Anthony Littmann as commanding officer of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG-90) during a change of command ceremony held Nov. 25 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Littmann served as executive officer aboard Chafee through a U.S. 7th Fleet deployment, participation in Operation Valiant Shield and Koa Kai 2012 before assuming command in April 2013.

During his command tour, Littmann led Chafee through an extended maintenance period and



Cmdr. Shea S. Thompson, left, prepares to receive the Command at Sea insignia from Cmdr. Anthony Littmann during the USS Chafee (DDG-90) change of command ceremony held Nov 25.

basic phase as well as ready excellence. Littmann led the crew through the inport period

by implementing a command philosophy of maintaining a "steady strain" approach while being "stronger, better, faster."

"To the officers, chiefs and crew of Chafee, I leave you with one final thought and one that as a surface warfare professional I consider the greatest compliment I can offer: I will gladly sail this warship into battle and fight alongside each and every one of you," he said.

For his time aboard, Littmann was presented the Meritorious Service Medal by Capt. Christopher Bushnell, Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31. Littmann is scheduled to transfer to Washington, D.C. for his next tour.

After reading his orders and assuming command, Thompson addressed the crew. "Chafee, you are al-

ready stronger, better and faster. It is now time for you to be disciplined, fearless and lethal as we carry out our nation's bidding,"

Thompson assumed the position of executive officer of USS Chafee on March 17, 2013.

Thompson is a native of San Marcos, Calif. and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1997 and also holds an MBA from the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, Calif. He is married to Dr. Darcy Thompson and has three children.

Thompson's sea tours have been spent serving in the Asian Pacific theater. His operational division officer assignments include duty as damage con-

trol assistant and first lieutenant aboard the USS George Philip (FFG 12) as well as a tour as the navigator onboard the USS Cape St. George (CG 71).

As a department head, he served aboard the USS John Paul Jones (DDG-53).

This change of command was the seventh in the ship's 11 years of service.

Chafee is named for the late Sen. John Chafee who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, both at Guadalcanal and in the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines "Dog Company" during the Korean War. Sen. Chafee went on to serve as Secretary of the Navy, governor and senator of the state of Rhode Island.

Battle continues against coconut rhinoceros beetle

Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

For the past year, a team has been working to eradicate the invasive coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) from the island of Oahu. This team is comprised of personnel from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Oahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC), University of Hawaii (UH) and other organizations.

The CRB team has been performing the surveys, extermination and public awareness work to minimize the spread and eventually eliminate the beetle on Oahu.

HDOA is the lead agency in this effort, but the Navy and Air Force have played a major part, particularly as the beetle was first discovered on JBPHH. Work performed by personnel on JBPHH includes constructing traps and disposing of material that is infested or potentially infested by CRB.

Rob Curtiss, incident commander for the CRB team, said this is still just the beginning in work against the CRB. "So far

things are going well. We still have a long way to go, but we have made some



great progress. In addition, the relationships that have been established between agencies will continue to be the best thing to come of this entire program," he said.

Curtiss explained that the focus of this effort is eradication of the beetle. The team would only change to a posture of limiting the beetle's spread if funding of the program were discontinued or if the beetle managed to become widespread.

Since the initial discovery in December 2013, more than 2,600 adult and larval beetles have been captured on Oahu. CRB larvae have been discovered in a variety of mulch piles composed of materials such as tree trimmings, grass cuttings and wood chippings. Virtually all plant waste that is left uncovered has the potential to become a nest for the CRB.

Several ideas were first

considered to mitigate the problem of CRB infestation. A variety of insecticides have been tested; however, they were found to be ineffective when applied to CRB adults and larvae in legal quantities. Further tests are currently being conducted using different insecticides before application on mulch and trees around the island.

An initial measure that was devised to limit the growth of the CRB population was to grind the mulch being used as nesting material in a tub grinder. While this was not an efficient means of destroying the eggs, it would kill later immature stages and a significant number of adults, giving the program additional time to develop more effective

treatments.

Mulch was double-ground and covered to impede adults from laying more eggs.

Composting was introduced as another method of managing infested plant waste. Forty-cubic-yard roll-off containers were simply configured as in-vessel composting reactors. The temperatures within the containers reach as high as 170 degrees within 70 to 80 hours. Laboratory research indicated that at a temperature of 140 degrees for one hour, 100 percent of both larval and adult CRB were exterminated.

In addition to composting, air curtain burners are currently being used to incinerate green waste. Several burners have been purchased by the Navy, USDA and HDOA to

rapidly dispose of plant material that is or could become a CRB nest. Incineration is a very effective method as one air curtain burner can dispose of up to four tons of green waste an hour while producing minimal ash and smoke.

To provide financial support for the CRB eradication effort, funding has been allocated from several agencies. The USDA has provided \$2.8 million, HDOA has given \$1.5 million, HISC has contributed \$425,000, and the Navy has allotted \$2.19 million for the project.

The CRB has a hard black shell with a horn on its head. Adult beetles are nocturnal and can grow to more than two inches in length. The beetle feeds preferentially on coconut palm trees, but will also feed on oil palms, other

palm species, banana, sugarcane, papaya, sisal and pineapple. The CRB can often kill a palm tree when feeding on it, which makes it a very destructive species for Pacific islands.

To prevent additional CRB infestations, residents are encouraged to dispose of all green waste in receptacles made of a hard material. Plastic tarps are not sufficient to keep beetles out of potential nests.

Residents can report any sighting of the beetle to the state pest hotline at 643-PEST (643-7378).

Information such as physical address and a description of where it was found are needed. Pictures of possible CRB may be sent to the following e-mail address: stoprhino@gmail.com.

Remains of WWII Airmen returned

U.S. Department of Defense

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced Dec. 1 that the remains of servicemen, missing in action from World War II, have been accounted for and are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

Army Air Forces 1st Lts. William D. Bernier of Augusta, Mont.; Bryant E. Poulsen of Salt Lake City, Utah and Herbert V. Young Jr. of Clarkdale, Ariz.; Tech Sgts. Charles L. Johnston of Pittsburgh and Hugh F. Moore of Elkton, Md.; Staff Sgts. John E. Copeland of Dearing, Kan. and Charles J. Jones of Athens, Ga.; and Sgt. Charles A. Gardner of San Francisco, have been accounted for and will be buried with full military honors. Gardner will be buried Dec. 4 in Arlington National Cemetery.

On April 10, 1944, Gardner, along with 11 other B-24D Liberator crew members, took off from Texter Strip, Nazdab Air Field, New Guinea, on a mission to attack an anti-aircraft site at Hansa Bay. The aircraft was shot down by enemy anti-aircraft fire over the Madang Province, New Guinea. Four of the crewmen were able to parachute from the aircraft but were reported to have died in captivity.

Following World War II, the Army Graves Registration Service (AGRS) conducted investigations and recovered the remains of three of the missing airmen. In May 1949, AGRS concluded the remaining nine crew members were unrecoverable.

In 2001, a U.S.-led team located wreckage of a B-24D that bore the tail number of this aircraft. After several surveys, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) teams excavated the site and recovered human remains and non-biological material evidence.

To identify Gardner's remains, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, including, mitochondrial DNA, which matched Gardner's maternal niece and nephew.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO website at www.dtic.mil/dpmo.