

WHO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

December 12, 2014

www.cnicy.navy.mil/hawaii www.hookelenews.com

Volume 5 Issue 49

Hawaii remembers Dec. 7, 1941



Photo illustration

MC2 Diana Quinlan

Navy Public Affairs Support
Element West Detachment
Hawaii

Veterans, service members, families and guests commemorated Pearl Harbor Day with multiple ceremonies at Ford Island and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Dec. 7.

The theme of this year's historic commemorations, "Preserving the Memory," focused on keeping the story of the attacks on Oahu and the beginning of World War II for the United States alive for new generations and the nation.

The day began at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument Pearl Harbor Visitor Center with the 73rd annual commemoration ceremony

dedicated to the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, provided opening remarks and introduced U.S. Air Force Gen. Lori J. Robinson, commander, Pacific Air Forces, who served as a keynote speaker for the event, which overlooked the historic USS Arizona Memorial.

"For the last 73 years here in the Pacific we've remembered Pearl Harbor. We've remained vigilant, and just as the 'Greatest Generation' before us, today's armed forces are more than ready to answer the alarm and, if need be, we're ready to fight tonight and win," said Harris. "We are doing everything we can to keep the alarm from sounding in the first place by enacting America's current strategic rebalance to the

Indo-Asia-Pacific, designed to maintain stability, prosperity and peace throughout the region," Harris said.

He praised Robinson's leadership and professional skills, intellect and mastery, which helped her excel and set the highest standards, achieving numerous records in her military career.

Robinson, who recently took command Oct. 16 of Pacific Air Forces from Gen. "Hawk" Carlisle, expressed her emotions of sharing this historic day with all of the survivors and veterans.

"For me, it is difficult to imagine the events of that Sunday morning 73 years ago. Even as it was a day of sacrifice and loss, it was a day of gallantry and unquestionable heroism," said Robinson in her address.

(Commentary with her remarks

is available on page A-3.)

During the ceremony, a moment of silence was observed at 7:55 a.m., the exact moment the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began 73 years ago. The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) rendered pass-in-review honors to the USS Arizona and all Pearl Harbor survivors present at the ceremony.

The 199th Fighter Squadron, Hawaii Air National Guard, 19th Fighter Squadron, U.S. Air Force, also presented an F-22 Raptors flyover.

The ceremony was co-hosted by Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Paul DePrey, superintendent of the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, National Park Service.

The event also included musical accompaniment provided by the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, the parading of colors, a traditional Hawaiian blessing, and a cannon salute by members of the U.S. Army.

Additionally, veterans of each military branch presented a floral wreath for each service, each accompanied by an active duty service member and a student from Navy Hale Keiki School, in recognition of the men and women who survived the attack and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country on Dec. 7, 1941.

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

USS Paul Hamilton rescues missing boater

Ensign Ashleigh M. Share

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG
60) Public Affairs Officer

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer homeported at Pearl Harbor, rescued a stranded boater who had been missing south of the Hawaiian Islands since Nov. 27.

Paul Hamilton Sailors rendered assistance the morning of Dec. 9 to boater Ron Ingraham after receiving a mayday distress call via radio. Paul Hamilton provided food, water and medical attention as the ship's force attempted to repair the boat's engine and



U.S. Navy photo

Sailors assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) rescue stranded mariner, Ron Ingraham, aboard his vessel Malia Dec. 9.

VHF radio.

The ship received the call from Coast Guard Sector Honolulu while approximately 14 miles from the vessel's last known position and arrived on scene about

half an hour later. Once on scene, watchstanders observed Ingraham, waving his arms over his head, and deployed a seven-meter rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) to assist.

"I thought I was going to die today. You guys are heroes," Ingraham told the boat crew.

While sailing near the island of Molokai, Ingraham was caught in a storm that blew his vessel 200 miles south of the Hawaiian Islands, leaving him stranded without food or water for 12 days. The Coast Guard ceased searching for Ingraham on Dec. 1 after covering approximately 12,000 square miles.

Ingraham embarked Paul Hamilton to shower, eat and receive additional medical care while awaiting a Coast Guard cutter to tow his vessel back to port.

USS Paul Hamilton is one of eight surface warfare



U.S. Navy photo

Cmdr. John Barsano, commanding officer of the guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), welcomes Ron Ingraham aboard with a ball cap of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60).

ships of Commander, Destroyer Squadron 21. The ship maintains warfighting readiness, capable of operat-

ing forward with allies and partners in the western Pacific to deter aggression and preserve peace.



Remaining USS Arizona survivors hold 'final toast' to shipmates
See page A-2



Hickam ceremony honors heroes of Dec. 7 attack
See page A-2



Pearl Harbor Day events photos
See pages A-5,6,7



USS Michael Murphy enhances interoperability with French ship
See page A-12



Tower Lighting will include pictures with Santa tonight
See page B-1



Street Smart Safety briefs to be held today
See page B-3





U.S. Navy Photo by MC2 Johans Chavarro

USS Arizona survivors Donald Stratton, Louis Conter, John Anderson, and Lauren Bruner toast in honor of fallen shipmates during the "final toast" ceremony.

Remaining USS Arizona survivors hold 'final toast' to shipmates

MC2 Diana Quinlan

Navy Public Affairs Support
Element West Detachment
Hawaii

Four of the nine remaining USS Arizona survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack—John Anderson, Lauren Bruner, Louis Conter and Donald Stratton—arrived aboard USS Arizona Memorial for their final reunion this past Dec. 7.

This historic event marked the end of an era for the USS Arizona survivors, all in their 90s, who have announced that this was the final, official gathering of the USS Arizona Reunion Association.

Despite the official announcement, the men still plan to get together, regardless of the location.

"I don't think this is going to be our last [meeting]," said Louis Conter, 93.

"We still have time to go, so I think we'll be back out here no matter whether the rest of the crowd can make it or not."

While at the memorial, the survivors poured a "final toast" to their shipmates, drinking from original champagne glasses from the USS Arizona. They shared a bottle of wine—a gift from President Gerald Ford to the association presented in 1975. According to survivors, this final salute symbolized the brotherhood and sacrifice of the day of the attack on Pearl Harbor 73 years ago.

After the toast, the survivors handed one of the glasses to a team of Navy and National Park Service divers who placed it at the base of the Arizona's gun turret four. Gun turret four serves as the final resting place for survivors of the attack who wish to have their ashes placed at their former battle sta-

tion. Since 1980, 38 Arizona survivors have been reunited with their fellow shipmates on the ship.

"The good Lord saved just a few of us," shared Donald Stratton, 92, who was one of the survivors of a gun director in the forward part of the ship and sustained severe burns during the attack, which required hospitalization lasting for more than a year. "So terrible, terrible day," Stratton remembered.

Conter shared his thoughts on the event and the honor he felt to be by his ship, among his fellow Sailors.

"It was amazing for the four of us," said Conter. "I think we all felt the same, an honor to toast the 1,177 shipmates that we had and who died that day. And the glass, which is now interred there [gun turret four], will give us a chance to have something to drink out of when we're buried there."

Hickam ceremony honors heroes of Dec. 7 attack

Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

The 15th Wing hosted its 73rd Remembrance Ceremony at 7:55 a.m. Dec. 7 in commemoration of the fatal attacks on Hickam Field in 1941.

More than 50 survivors and family members of survivors attended the ceremony, which honors the 189 Airmen 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 honored and humbled to speak to you on such a historic day," said Col. Randy Huiss, 15th Wing commander, while addressing the crowd. "Today marks the anniversary of a day that changed the course of history. On this day, the lives of everyone stationed at Hickam Field changed forever."

During the ceremony, the heroic stories of the men and women who lost their lives during the attack were shared with the attendees.

"The stories are what keeps those who sacrificed alive," Huiss said.

One unique survivor story was represented by the Shepherd family.

Marion Shepherd was assigned to Hickam Field after enlisting in the Army Air Corps and survived both the Dec. 7 attack on the base and the Battle of Midway in 1942. He passed

away at the age of 89 when Tech. Sgt. Andrew Shepherd was nine years old but not before leaving a lasting impression on his grandson who enlisted in the Air Force nearly 10 years later.

Shepherd, who is assigned to the 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, had the unique opportunity of attending this year's ceremony as a family representative and official escort for his father, Thomas Shepherd, who participated in the ceremony for the first time. During the ceremony, Thomas accepted a folded flag in honor and recognition of his father's selfless service.

"The ceremony was really emotional," Thomas said. "It brought a lot of the stories to life. It was very beautiful and moving."

Thomas said he feels proud to have his father honored in a ceremony.

"Attending this ceremony is something that I've wanted to do for a long time," he said. "It's an honor to me also that he and his fellow Airmen are honored like this. I'm very proud."

In addition to honoring survivors like Marion Shepherd, the ceremony also honored Retired Air Force Master Sgt. Kenneth Ford and Retired Air Force Col. Roy Bright, two survivors who were long-time attendees of the ceremony at Hickam, but passed away before this year's ceremony.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez

U.S. Air Force Col. Randy Huiss, 15th Wing commander, presents a U.S. flag to Thomas Shepherd, the son of an Army Air corpsman who survived the attacks on Hickam Field on Dec. 7, 1941. The attack on Hickam Field Remembrance Ceremony was held Dec. 7 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

HO'OKELE Online

<http://www.hookenews.com> or <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii>

Commentary

73rd commemoration of Dec. 7, 1941: 'Preserving the Memory'

Gen. Lori J. Robinson

Commander, Pacific Air Forces



Gen. Lori J. Robinson

(This is an excerpt from a speech given by Gen. Robinson at the 73rd commemoration of Dec. 7, 1941 ceremony.)

The events of Dec. 7, 1941 served as a turning point in our nation's history. Although the attacks occurred so suddenly, so unexpectedly, and in such tragic proportions, our reluctant nation emerged to fight and ultimately win World War II.

For me, it is difficult to imagine the events of that Sunday morning, 73 years ago. Even as it was a day of sacrifice and loss, it was a day of gallantry and unquestionable heroism. Countless brave Americans not only rallied in response to the attacks but fought intrepidly in the many years of war that followed.

Today, we are joined by four of the nine living USS Arizona survivors: Don Stratton, Lauren Bruner, Lou Conter, and John Anderson. The stories of these survivors are nothing short

of amazing.

This afternoon, they are holding a service aboard the USS Arizona Memorial. They will toast their fallen shipmates and other survivors with a glass of wine given to their association by President Ford in 1975. After they toast, they will hand one of the glasses to a team of Navy and National Park Service divers who will place it at the base of the Arizona's gun turret four.

Through these memorial services, new memories are created and preserved, as the remaining glasses will become artifacts maintained



U.S. Navy Photo by MC2 Johans Chavaro

Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) conduct a pass-in-review by the USS Arizona Memorial during the 73rd Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration.

by the National Park Service.

Gun turret four is significant because it is also the final resting spot for survivors of the attack who wish to have their ashes placed at their former battle station. And so, since 1980, 38 Arizona survivors have been reunited with their brothers back on the ship.

When the Arizona sank, she took with her 1,177 Sailors and Marines. Many families paid an enormous price as a result of the attack. Among those who perished were 30 sets of brothers, to include three families who lost all three of their sons.

These men fought together as brothers in arms, and now they rest side by side in their watery grave. Although they gave their last full measure of devotion to our nation, their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

The heroic resolve displayed during the attacks

was not limited to just our military. At Hickam Field, we owe many thanks to the Honolulu Fire Department. After receiving the alarm at 08:05 in the morning, Engine Companies 1, 4 and 6 were dispatched to respond. Without knowing it, the Honolulu Fire Department was going to war. Three firefighters would never return, and six others would be seriously wounded.

It is critical our nation preserves the memory of these events, not only to honor those who sacrificed so much, but to capture the stories and lessons learned. The letters, diaries, photographs and interviews from this time are a national treasure.

And, they are used to educate, commemorate and memorialize the greatest generation and their sacrifice. By honoring our past, we inspire our future and assure the events of this day,

73 years ago, are not forgotten.

Our Pacific Airmen are reminded of the events of Dec. 7, 1941 as they walk into work at the PACAF Headquarters building every day. In 1941, our headquarters building was a 3,000-man barracks, making it a major target for the attack. Among other damage, a 500-pound bomb was dropped in the center of the building, instantly killing 35 men. Today, the walls still bear shrapnel and bullet holes. And, when they walk past these battle-scarred walls, they are reminded of the perseverance, courage and valor of our Pacific Airmen.

In the headquarters lies a memorial called the Courtyard of Heroes. In it sits a display case that houses the flag which flew over Hickam Field during the attack. After a failed bombing attempt on the flag, Japanese Zeros

attempted to cut the flag off the flagpole with a heavy stream of bullets. Although torn and tattered, Old Glory continued to wave in the midst of all of the destruction.

Now, as it did then, it symbolizes the unbreakable American spirit. Today, the flag is encased in a koa wood display. Koa wood is native to the islands, and "koa" is also a Hawaiian word for "warrior." The flag became a warrior in its own right on Dec. 7, 1941, and it is fitting to encase it in the wood of the warrior. As our nation rebalances to the Asia-Pacific region, I assure you the current generation of American warriors stands ready.

May God bless you and all of our military and civil servicemen and women, both past and present, who have bravely answered our nation's call time and time again—and who have never failed us.

Diverse Views



What was the best thing that happened to you in the past year?



Ensign Randon McKain
USS Chosin (CG 65)

"Marrying my wife, because I've got a best friend for life."

2nd Lt. Katie Voirol
PACAF



"The best thing that has happened in the past year was spending Fourth of July with my nephew. It's rare that I get holidays at home and seeing his face light up from the fireworks was amazing."



CTR1 Laura Geigel
NIOC Hawaii

"I spent the last two years in the UK. That was an eye-opening experience for me and it taught me to appreciate what we have in the U.S. My family is from there, so it taught me about my family history. On my way back I got to visit my family in the States."

Senior Airman Darielle Fort
690th Network Support Squadron



"The best thing that happened to me in the past year was reuniting with my wife. We were separated for 18 months due to PCS and deployment. It has been a long time, so having her here to celebrate my Airman Leadership School graduation was a big deal for me."



CTI3 Roxanne Adams
NIOC Hawaii

"I'm in honors and ceremonies and I did a really cool ceremony at a lighthouse. That was awesome."

Staff Sgt. Joshua Atencio
747th Communications Squadron



"Last year I was living off base near Osan Air base, Korea. The best thing that happened to me was being able to experience a new and exciting culture while getting the opportunity to meet many awesome new friends."



EM1 Donald Crowley
USS Asheville (SSN 758)

"I was selected as Sailor of the Year for my command."

Tech. Sgt. Christina Payton
324th Intelligence Squadron



"The best thing that has happened in 2014 was an overdue honeymoon with just my husband and I to Kauai and Maui for a week. The other islands are so beautiful, and we had so many adventures that will last us a lifetime."

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

Hickam hangars bombed during attack



Photograph from the Army Signal Corps Collection in the U.S. National Archives

This photo shows bomb damage to hangars 15-17 and 11-13 at Hickam Field on Oahu at 5 p.m. on Dec. 7, 1941 after the Imperial Japanese attack. In the right foreground is a machine gun emplacement in a bomb crater. A Douglas B-18 bomber is visible inside the badly damaged hangar.

Ho'okele to be on hiatus

Today's edition of Ho'okele will be the last issue for 2014 before its holiday hiatus. The first issue of Ho'okele in 2015 will be Jan. 9.

During the time that Ho'okele is on break, the publisher, Honolulu Star Advertiser, will publish a joint military

issue which will combine news from all of the services—Ho'okele, Hawaii Army Weekly and Hawaii Marine. Delivery will be the same as it is for Ho'okele.

Happy holidays to all of our readers! Stay safe. Enjoy the holidays with your families. We'll see you in the new year.



Director, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs
Agnes Tauyan

Deputy Director, Public Affairs
Bill Doughty

Director, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs
Grace Hew Len

Managing Editor
Karen Spangler

Editor
Don Robbins

Assistant Editor
Brandon Bosworth

Sports Editor
Randy Dela Cruz

Sr. Graphic Artist
Antonio Verceluz

Graphic Artist
Zachary Pigott

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii
Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Chief of Staff
Capt. Mark Manfredi

Commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Capt. Stanley Keeve Jr.

Deputy Commander
Col. David Kirkendall

Chief Staff Officer
Capt. Douglas Holderman

Ho'okele is a free unofficial paper published every Friday by The Honolulu Star Advertiser 500 Ala Moana Boulevard Suite 7-500 Honolulu Hawaii 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: editor@hookelenews.com World Wide Web address: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/> or www.hookelenews.com.

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication primarily for members of the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps military services and their families in Hawaii. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U. S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps and do not imply endorse-

ment thereof. The civilian publisher, The Honolulu Star Advertiser, is responsible for commercial advertising, which may be purchased by calling (808) 521-9111.

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products and services advertised by the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii or The Honolulu Star Advertiser.

Everything advertised in this paper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

A confirmed violation of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source. Ho'okele is delivered weekly to Navy & Air Force housing units and Navy and Air Force installations throughout Oahu.

Window on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



Joint Base
Pearl Harbor-Hickam
karen.spangler@navy.mil

Pearl Harbor Day: Let us not forget

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor, Ho'okele

As I drove to Pearl Harbor this past Sunday morning, I tried to imagine what it must have been like on Dec. 7, 1941. That day was also a peaceful Sunday morning, palm trees waving gently in the breeze, a brilliant sun shining down from blue skies, island residents enjoying a myriad of activities.

Looking at the calm, blue waters of the harbor, I found it difficult to imagine the tragedy and destruction those many years ago as Japanese Zeroes swooped down from the skies to attack the Pacific fleet in the harbor. I couldn't imagine what it was like 73 years ago—mighty Navy ships heavily damaged and sinking, the oil-slicked waters of the harbor a flaming inferno, death and destruction everywhere.

Those who were there—who survived—remember that day vividly. And throughout the year, it's a regular event here at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam—Pearl Harbor survivors who return to pay their respects to their fallen shipmates. It's a visit filled with memories as they see the names engraved on the wall in the Shrine Room



U.S. Navy archive photo
Aerial photo of Ford Island looking east during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

of the memorial.

As they stand at the well on the memorial and look down into the depths of the Pacific Ocean, they view the outline of the battleship USS Arizona below the water's surface. Remembering, their tears mingle with the droplets of oil which still seep from the sunken battleship.

There are other points of interest on their journey—such as the hull of the sunken USS Utah off Ford Island and the adjacent USS Utah Memorial which honors those who still lie entombed. Also on Ford Island, a 10-foot high Hawaiian bluestone rock that was donated by the Navy Club—

and was the first memorial dedicated to those who lost their lives during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor—is situated on a grassy vantage point overlooking the Arizona Memorial.

But some Pearl Harbor survivors return for another reason—to join their shipmates.

The cremains of shipmates who wish to be interred in the hull of the sunken USS Arizona or USS Utah are carried to the wreckage by divers. A ceremony accompanying each interment renders honors with all of the military elements—a rifle salute, a lone bugler's melancholy playing of Taps, and a

flag which is folded in the veteran's memory.

Cecil Calavan was one such survivor who chose the remains of the USS Utah as his final resting place. In a sunset ceremony this recent Dec. 6, he was placed in eternal rest aboard the ship. Cecil, who was a young 17-year-old seaman second class at the time of the attack, was one of the heroes of that day as he lived through an experience that changed his life.

He continued to love his former ship, the USS Utah, and later served as the president of the USS Utah Survivors' Association until his death Aug. 14 of this year.

Although interment of cre-

mains in the USS Arizona and USS Utah is limited to survivors of those ships, other Pearl Harbor survivors can choose to have their ashes scattered in the harbor in the waters of the blue Pacific. And many of them do.

Those interments and ash-scattering ceremonies take place year round, but it is especially symbolic that some choose Dec. 7, the anniversary of the 1941 attack, as the time to return to their shipmates.

During ceremonies held this recent Dec. 7, Navy Chief Petty Officer Robert C. Knight and Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Harry E. Smith were honored and returned to be with their shipmates as their ashes were scattered near the USS Utah Memorial.

At the time of the attack, Smith was aboard the destroyer USS Talbot. Knight, who was assigned to an aviation squadron at Kaneohe Bay on that day, was at Pearl Harbor waiting for his aircraft to be repaired.

Of the original 554 survivors of the USS Arizona, there are now only nine known survivors who are still living. Over the years, the numbers of those survivors of the "Greatest Generation" have drastically dwindled.

But even though they are now in their 90s, they still

make the pilgrimage to Pearl Harbor. It was a poignant scene as they returned for this year's commemoration—some confined to wheelchairs, others standing, humble, silent, heads bowed, as the solemn ceremony unfolded in this sacred place.

The Pearl Harbor survivors have carried the painful memories of the catastrophic event at Pearl Harbor for more than 73 years. They humbly express their gratitude that their lives were spared, along with sadness for the loss of their shipmates.

And as their numbers continue to dwindle, their voices fading to mere whispers, they still remember what happened at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. They are thankful to be among those who survived, while remembering and paying respects to their fellow Sailors and Marines who were lost.

For many of these heroes of another generation, their last tribute takes place at Pearl Harbor—in their final resting place with former shipmates.

It is up to each one of us to remember and honor their selfless sacrifices and to be thankful.

Let us never forget Pearl Harbor and all of those who gave so much.



U.S. Navy photo
A recent aerial photo of Ford Island.

Preserving the Memory December 7, 2014



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan
U.S. Air Force Gen. Lori J. Robinson, commander, Pacific Air Forces, addresses the audience during the 73rd Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day commemoration ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan
Sailors assigned to Mobile Diving Salvage Unit (MDSU) One prepare to place a drinking glass at the base of USS Arizona's gun turret four during the final USS Arizona Reunion Association ceremony at the USS Arizona Memorial.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan
(Left) Gilbert Meyer, a survivor of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor while stationed aboard USS Utah (AG-16), attends the 73rd Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day commemoration ceremony.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter
Pearl Harbor survivors, service members, veterans and civilians visit the USS Arizona Memorial.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan
Louis Conter, USS Arizona survivor, walks through an honor cordon and salutes.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights



Sailors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) man the rails as the ship returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



Families and friends greet the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) and its crew of more than 280 Sailors.



Families and friends wait pierside as the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) returns home.



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) returns Dec. 5.

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Tierra Fulgham

Preserving the Memory December 7, 2014



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan
A joint service color guard parades the colors during the 73rd Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day commemoration ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez
Honorary guests of the Attack on Hickam Field Remembrance Ceremony conclude receiving U.S. flags at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Dec. 7.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez
Lauren Bruner, USS Arizona survivor, visits the USS Arizona Memorial.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan
Everett Hyland, Pearl Harbor survivor, attends the 73rd Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day commemoration ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.



Photo courtesy of Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor
(From left) Daniel Martinez, chief historian, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument; Paul DePrey, superintendent, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument; George Nottingham, WWII veteran and U.S. Army Air Corps B-29 pilot; Dr. Hiroya Sugano, director general of the Zero Fighter Admirers Club; Shiro Wakita, WWII veteran and Imperial Japanese navy pilot; and Ken DeHoff, executive director, Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor with a Blackened Canteen Ceremony aboard the USS Arizona Memorial Dec. 7.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan
A Sailor, assigned to the Pacific Fleet Band, performs Taps.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Katherine Hofman
The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) conducts a pass-in-review by the USS Arizona Memorial.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Katherine Hofman
(Right) Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Bankston, PACAF, 15th Wing, 535th Air Lift Squadron, and his daughters honor fallen Sailors at the USS Oklahoma Memorial by placing orchids at the base of marble columns following the National Park Service annual USS Oklahoma Memorial ceremony.

Photo courtesy of Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor
(Left) Still showing what appears to be the impression of the pilot's hand, this blackened canteen was recovered from the wreckage of a B-29 crash site near Shizuoka, Japan. Whiskey is poured from the canteen into the waters of Pearl Harbor as a symbol of peace, honor and reconciliation.



Survivors of Dec. 7, 1941 tour Pearl Harbor

Story and photos by
Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

Survivors of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Hawaii returned to Pearl Harbor for a white boat tour on Dec. 4. The survivors, along with their friends and families, learned about the history of the harbor as well as its current role as an active U.S. naval base. Several active duty service members also were on the tour.

The tour was hosted by Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Jim Neuman, Navy Region Hawaii historian, provided the narration.

"The harbor tours are always special. They provide an opportunity to teach the public and our military personnel about the history of Pearl Harbor and Hickam," said Neuman.

"The Navy has been at Pearl Harbor for over 100 years. It is also important to point out and explain many of the operational aspects of the base today, what are we doing right now. The base is just as important today as it was 73 years ago in 1941."

The tour boat departed from the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center and headed toward the entrance to Pearl Harbor. Along the way, Neuman pointed out and discussed areas of interest such as the wreckage of the USS Utah near Ford Island, the deactivated Navy ships moored in Middle Loch, Hospital Point, the Battleship Missouri



(Above) Pearl Harbor survivors reflect at the memorial wall at the USS Arizona Memorial.

(Right) GM3 Lillian Collins, JBPHH Public Affairs, comforts Pearl Harbor survivor Larry Parry, who has just tossed flower petals into the memorial well at the USS Arizona Memorial. This was Parry's first trip to Pearl Harbor since World War II.



Memorial and other sites. Along the way, survivors asked questions and talked about their own experiences.

"The tours with the Pearl Harbor survivors and other World War II

vets are especially meaningful because it is an opportunity to hear from the men who were here when the attack took place," said Neuman.

"It is great to see the survivors interacting with the younger service members today because they become an inspiration for the next generation. Most of the survivors that are still coming were only 18 or 19 years old in 1941. I think our younger folks gain a lot of perspective and insight from talking to the older guys who experienced a lot of growing up at that time," Neuman said.

The tour concluded with a stop at the USS Arizona Memorial. Even the most gregarious and talkative members of the tour group became quiet and reflective. Some of the survivors shed tears.

Before departing the memorial, guests took time to drop flower petals into the memorial well in honor of those who lost their lives during the attack. The boat then returned to shore.

As they disembarked, the survivors were in good spirits, happily chatting with young service members and expressing how much they enjoyed the tour.

"It was great," said retired Chief Michael "Mickey" Ganitch, who was serving aboard the USS Pennsylvania on Dec. 7, 1941. "It brought back memories, some good, and some not so good."

 **HO'OKELE** Online
PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

<http://www.hookelenews.com> or <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii>

Former USS Utah survivor interred during sunset ceremony

Story and photos by
MC2 Brian Wilbur
U.S. Pacific Fleet Public
Affairs

Karen S. Spangler
Managing Editor, Ho'okele

More than 200 friends, family members and service members attended a sunset ceremony and interment on Dec. 6 at the USS Utah Memorial at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to remember those who served on the Florida-class battleship.

The interment also honored the life of Seaman 2nd Class Cecil Calavan, a crew member who served aboard the USS Utah during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

"I'm sure Cecil would not have wanted to be called a hero. He would say he was just doing his job, just doing what he was trained to do," said James Taylor, Navy Region Hawaii Pearl Harbor survivor liaison. "Every man and woman who served during that terrible war were, and still are, heroes."

Taylor explained that Calavan joined the Navy at the age of 17 and was a young seaman second class on the day that the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Calavan and a friend were getting ready to leave the ship to go on liberty when he heard the scream of an airplane and an incredible explosion.

"He looked up and saw a plane go over the stern only about 20 feet above the ship. Then he saw the torpedo coming toward him,



Family and friends lower the ashes of Pearl Harbor survivor Seaman 2nd Class Cecil Calavan to divers to be placed on the USS Utah (AG 16) Memorial on Ford Island during a sunset ceremony.

and an explosion knocked him off his feet. He saw another plane heading toward the ship and said nothing could be more terrifying than seeing a torpedo coming straight at you," Taylor explained.

Another Sailor told Calavan that the ship was under attack and he should swim ashore to save himself. As the ship rolled over, Calavan and other shipmates

slid down the bottom of the ship. They made it ashore, ending up in a ditch with other Sailors from the ship, Taylor said.

On that morning, two Japanese torpedoes slammed into the port side of the ship's hull, causing massive flooding. The ship sank shortly after. Of the 519 Sailors aboard during the



Pamela Calavan Becerra, daughter of Pearl Harbor survivor Seaman 2nd Class Cecil Calavan speaks during the burial honors ceremony at the USS Utah Memorial.

attack, 58 perished. An attempt to salvage the wreckage was unsuccessful and the battleship was abandoned.

After the attack, Calavan was assigned to the USS Detroit and then the USS San Francisco, where he was injured during a battle. He received a Purple Heart in 1944 and served the remainder of his enlistment stateside.

He married Beverle Lewis in 1944. After leaving the Navy, Calavan worked in various positions, including as a police officer in California and for the U.S. Ranger Service in Sierra National Forest. He also earned his pilot's license.

Calavan retired from Ampex Corporation after 32 years. He is survived by

seven children, 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

"Cecil continued to love his ship and, as years passed, saw the Utah become part of the National Valor of the Pacific Monument when President Bush signed a bill into law. He was the glue that held the USS Utah Survivors Association together during hard times and served as its president until he died Aug. 14 of this year," Taylor said.

Among the guests attending last Saturday's ceremony were Calavan's daughter, Pamela Calavan Becerra, her niece Kelley, Calavan's great-granddaughter Kristen, and longtime best friend, Wyoma Vale.

"Our family has been here

several times and now when we come back, not only are we going to be here honoring the USS Utah and her crew, we're going to be visiting my father," said Becerra. "I am very proud of everything this memorial represents," she said.

The ceremony included a rifle salute, playing of Taps, and a flag-folding and presentation to the family.

Taylor shared Calavan's wish.

"I know Cecil would have wanted to return here and rejoin his fellow shipmates who were lost that fateful day when the Japanese Fleet attacked Pearl Harbor. In a few minutes, it will happen. Cecil will be with his shipmates who still remain inside the ship," Taylor said.

STORY IDEAS?

Contact the Ho'okele editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

Phone: (808) 473-2890/2895

Email: editor@hookelenews.com

HO'OKELE

Pearl Harbor survivor Smith is reunited with former shipmates

Story and photos by
MC2 Tiarra Fulgham
*Navy Public Affairs Support
 Element West Detachment
 Hawaii*

Karen S. Spangler
Managing Editor, Ho'okele

The ashes of Pearl Harbor survivor Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Harry E. Smith were scattered in the waters surrounding the USS Utah Memorial during a ceremony held Dec. 7 on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

According to Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivor liaison for Navy Region Hawaii, Smith had expressed his desire to be reunited with his former shipmates.

"I remember receiving an email in January of 2012 when Harry was alive. This service had been mentioned earlier over the holidays, and the idea was well received by Harry and the entire family. I responded by saying, 'No problem—we'll get it done,'" Taylor said.

He detailed Smith's experiences on Dec. 7, 1941, explaining that Smith was asleep aboard the destroyer USS Ralph Talbot (DD 390) when he was awakened by the sound of the ship's general quarters.

"Most of the crew initially ignored the order, probably figuring it was just another exercise. It didn't take long to figure out it was the real thing when the guns started firing," Taylor said.

After observing the Utah rolling to her side and Sailors sliding off the bottom of the ship, Smith went down to the fire room and assisted crew members in lighting off the boilers.

"Harry said the Talbot's skipper [commanding officer] saved the ship and crew when departing the harbor by maneuvering back and forth as the planes were attacking," Taylor shared.

"This made the bombs that were dropped fall harmlessly in the water in front and behind the ship. All the time, the ship's guns were firing at enemy aircraft."

The Talbot was credited with shooting down two planes that day and shared honors with another ship for shooting down another.

"Harry said it was because of the skipper's watchful eye from



the bridge that the ship and many lives were saved," Taylor said.

One of Smith's sons, Martin Smith, spoke about his father's military service and the meaning of Sunday's ceremony.

"My dad was very proud of his military service in the Navy. My heart is full, and my soul is satisfied that the Navy could help us make this dream come true for my father," he said.

After the war, Harry Smith settled down with his family in Colorado. "Not only did he survive Pearl Harbor; he survived raising nine children," Martin Smith said.

"My dad always gave me someone to emulate. He taught me about the word honor—honor your country and honor your family. He was my hero and I am proud to be his son. Today on Dec. 7, 2014, my heart is full and my soul is satisfied," he said.

Harry Smith received full military honors including flag presentations, playing of "Taps," and a rifle salute from members of the

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Honors and Ceremonial Guard accompanied by a bugler from the Pacific Fleet Band.

"Needless to say, without the public affairs office and Jim Taylor with his volunteer work that he does, this would not have happened for us, and we are very grateful that it worked as well as it did. To see the Blackhawk helicopters fly over with the flag was that much more special to us," Martin Smith said.

Taylor noted that Harry Smith and other survivors of the Dec. 7 attack would probably not want to be called heroes, noting they would say they were simply just doing the jobs they were trained to do.

"Their bravery and commitment to service set a timeless example of heroism for current and future generations," Taylor said.

"He and the others who served in that horrific war created the mold our servicemen and women live by today. They set the example. They were, and still are, heroes."



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Katherine Hofman

Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Marine Aircraft Group 24 Rifle Detail renders a rifle salute during the National Park Service annual USS Oklahoma Memorial ceremony.

USS Oklahoma ceremony honors heroes of Dec. 7, 1941 attack

MC2 Diana Quinlan

*Navy Public Affairs Support
 Element West Detachment
 Hawaii*

The National Park Service hosted the annual USS Oklahoma Memorial ceremony Dec. 7 at the memorial located on Ford Island next to the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

Pearl Harbor survivors, veterans, service members, families and guests attended the ceremony at which Capt. Stanley Keeve Jr., commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, was the guest speaker.

"We will never forget the crew of the USS Oklahoma," said Keeve. "We will strive to educate this generation and the generations to come about what happened here, what their shipmates died for, and the legacy they left behind."

Navy Chaplain Cmdr. George Mendes provided the invocation, the joint base color guard presented the colors to the musical accompaniment of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band Quintet, and a U.S. Marine Corps rifle detail provided a rifle salute.

Veterans attending the ceremony took a moment to walk among the names of those who perished in the attack, etched on the marble columns of the USS Oklahoma Memorial, laying flowers or wrapping Hawaiian lei on the monument.

"I frequently get asked, 'Why do you keep coming back every year?' and I had a hard time coming up with an answer," said Ed Vezey, USS Oklahoma survivor.

"But perhaps part of it is a word

that became very important—shipmate. I think shipmates enjoy a very unique and emotional mindset that doesn't exist in any other service," Vezey continued as he looked upon the memorial.

"The reality is you fall in love with the ship that you live on, and it has to do really with the people. People are so important, and it is hard to convey the feeling that when you go to sea and the land disappears behind you, it's you and your ship and your shipmates," he explained.

"There is a bond that forms, which is unique; it's a tremendous factor. These are my shipmates. I come back because I am still here and they are a part of me. I am not complete when I am not with my shipmates," Vezey said.

USS Oklahoma Memorial is constructed of 429 three-dimensional white marble columns, engraved with the names of each crew member who perished during the attack.

The white marble columns are arranged in a "V" shape, designed to resemble Sailors manning the rails. Surrounding the columns are black marble slabs etched with notable quotes from Oklahoma survivors.

"As I stand here today, looking at this solemn monument to those Sailors and Marines who lost their lives aboard that great battleship, I am moved to pause for a moment and consider the names written there," shared Keeve.

"I see in every one of them more than simply a name carved in marble, but instead a reminder of a life lived, a sacrifice made, and a lesson learned for those who will listen," Keeve said.

Pearl Harbor survivor Robert Knight makes 'final journey' to Pearl Harbor

Story and photos by
MC2 Tiarra Fulgham
Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West
Detachment Hawaii

Karen S. Spangler
Managing Editor, Ho'okele

The ashes of Robert C. Knight, a Pearl Harbor survivor and former Navy chief petty officer, were scattered at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island during a ceremony held Dec. 7.

The ceremony included a rifle salute, playing of Taps, and a flag-folding and presentation to the family.

It was Knight's wish to return to Hawaii for his "final voyage" to be reunited with his shipmates who were killed during the attack.

Knight passed away Aug. 1, 2013. His son Harry and his wife Marsha, and his daughter Carol and her husband Duane, made the trip to Hawaii for the ceremony honoring their father.

In the days leading up to the attack on Pearl Harbor, Knight was assigned to a patrol bomber (PBY) aircraft squadron stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. He was having maintenance done on his aircraft at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor in preparation for an aviation exercise that was scheduled to take place in Kaneohe the following week.

Slated to fly the plane back to Kaneohe the morning of Dec. 7, Knight was just finishing his breakfast at Ford Island when the attack



on Pearl Harbor began.

Knight's son, Harry Knight Jr., who attended the ceremony this past Sunday, recalled the stories his dad told him about his experiences in the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"He said he'd woke up to all the commotion of the bombs dropping on Sunday morning, and when he went out he said the first thing he saw was an airplane roaring overhead at a very low altitude with a big red meatball on the wing, and he immediately knew what was going on," said Harry Jr.

Harry Jr. also described the scene his father had

recalled of the senior advisors using crowbars to pry open the doors of the PBY to take their machine guns. "They used old T-shirts and dungarees to hold the weapons on their shoulders while shooters fired at the Japanese, and when the barrels got too hot they would switch off holding them," Harry Jr. explained.

Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivor liaison for Navy Region Hawaii, detailed Knight's heroism that day. "Men were running in all directions. He ran to his airplane. The aircraft entry hatch was locked and he didn't have a key. Someone

pryed it open, and they were able to get the machine guns out.

"Since the aircraft was an obvious target, he moved away from it and took position near some construction material so he could avoid the strafing aircraft. After the attack was over, he helped with fighting fires and searching for wounded," Taylor described.

Knight's squadron was later sent to the Hebrides Islands in the South Pacific. In 1943, he was sent to advanced aviation mate school in Chicago. According to Taylor, it was in Chicago that Knight met and married his

wife of 60 years.

Subsequently, he was assigned in Hawaii and was advanced to chief petty officer, attaining that rank in less than four years. "He was obviously an outstanding Sailor to make it so fast," said Taylor.

Knight was also assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga (CV 14), followed by a tour on the USS Hancock (CV/CVA 19).

Knight finished his naval

career at Naval Air Station, Vero Beach, Fla. where he received his discharge in 1945.

"Chief Knight died an American hero. I feel quite certain he would not have wanted to be called a hero. He would probably say he was just doing his job—doing what he was trained to do," Taylor said.

"I differ with that. Robert and every man and woman who served during that terrible war were, and still are, heroes. Our "Greatest Generation" created the mold our servicemen and women live by today. They set the example."

The family expressed appreciation for the honors given to their father.

"I cannot begin to put words to it. It means so much to us as family to see his last request honored and respected so much," said Harry Jr. "He always said the real heroes are still out here on the bottom of this harbor. We are just survivors.

"As he got older, he got so emotional about Pearl and the Navy, and this was truly his dying wish to have his ashes scattered over the waters. As far as what the Navy has done, the honor that has been given to my family and to my father, I don't have the words," said Harry Jr.

Pearl Harbor survivor recounts life-changing experience during CNIC visit

Story and photo by
MC1 John Belanger

Navy Installations Command
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The 19-year-old Airman jumped from his bunk when he heard a thunderous explosion outside his third floor barracks window, Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941. When he looked out the window, he saw a plane with a big red ball flying low to the ground strafing Hickam airfield.

Retired Air Force Chief Warrant Officer Jay C. Groff Jr., a 92-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor, recounted his story about the attack on Pearl Harbor to the staff at Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) headquarters in Washington, D.C. during a remembrance ceremony Dec. 3.

“That was the first time I was scared,” said Groff. “I could see the bombs coming down through the ceiling.” Groff explained that the thick reinforced concrete walls in the barracks sheltered him from the blast and probably saved his life.

Through the explosions and



Retired Air Force Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jay C. Groff Jr., a 92-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor, recounts his experiences in Pearl Harbor to the staff of Commander, Navy Installations Command in Washington D.C.

gunfire, Groff hastily made his way to an armament building to help a technical sergeant set up machine guns in a baseball field while Japanese Zeroes strafed them.

“We set up probably 10 guns between home plate and third base,” Groff recalled. “I was in my skivvies. I didn’t bother to put clothes on and until this day I couldn’t tell you if I was wearing shoes.”

Groff left the baseball field to join with fellow Airmen at his boathouse duty station and manned a machine gun on its roof. They were only there a short while when an unarmed American B-17 bomber, being shot at by a Japanese Zero, tried to land on the runway just beyond the boathouse. Groff was so close he could see someone leaning out of the B-17 and the puffs of smoke coming from the Zero’s guns as the bomber crash-landed.

“The Zero’s rounds hit a flare box in the B-17 and by the time it finished rolling, the plane had burned in half,” said Groff.

Groff made it through the events of that terrible day but realized he had just witnessed what could have been the most

important day of the 20th century. The world had changed for the United States and for him.

“That morning I realized that there was somebody out there trying to kill me,” said Groff. “That changed my outlook on life.”

Groff enlisted in the Army Air Corps after graduating from high school in May 1940. After arriving at his first duty station at Hickam Field, Groff was assigned to the crash boat section on the base. Prior to the use of helicopters, the Army Air Corps used fast watercraft similar to Navy patrol torpedo boats to pick up pilots who crash-landed in the water. The ceremony concluded with Groff reading a poem entitled, “To You Our Fallen” written by Sgt. W. Joe Brimm, Dec. 7, 1941, and a heartfelt thank you from Capt. Douglas F. Cochrane, chief of staff, CNIC. “Thank you for your service and thank you for an example today of a life extraordinarily well lived,” Cochrane said.

For more information on the Pearl Harbor attack, visit <http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq66-1.htm>.

USS Michael Murphy enhances interoperability with French ship

CT2 Ryan Harris

USS Michael Murphy
(DDG 112) Public Affairs

SOUTH CHINA SEA (NNS) — Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, conducted a passing exercise (PASSEX) Nov. 28 with the French frigate FS Vendemiaire (F734) while operating in the South China Sea.

The allied ships conducted weapons and maneuvering exercises, as well as training for the visit, board, search and seizure team, during the PASSEX event.

“It’s always a pleasure conducting exercises with

foreign navies because the unique nature of naval service transcends national borders in so many ways,” said Cmdr. Todd Hutchison, Michael Murphy’s commanding officer.

“Having worked with the French before, I know them to be very capable and professional mariners, and the captain and crew of FS Vendemiaire confirmed that reputation for me yet again. The crew enjoyed the interaction and learning associated with each of the different exercises, and I hope we have the opportunity to sail the same water with them again,” Hutchison said.

In addition to the naval exercises, the French and United States ships



U.S. Navy photo

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112), right, and the French navy frigate FS Vendemiaire (F734) conduct a passing exercise while operating in the South China Sea.

swapped personnel for a cultural exchange.

Lt. j.g. Benjamin Olivas,

training officer aboard Michael Murphy, visited the French frigate. He had an

opportunity to dine with the Vendemiaire’s captain and executive officer and learn

about the naval heritages and tradition of the French fleet.

“The Sailors on board FS Vendemiaire were incredibly gracious hosts, and I feel privileged to have learned much about their naval traditions during my stay,” said Olivas.

“My visit was a profound learning experience that illustrated how our partnership with the French navy leads to effective maritime security and cooperation on the high seas. I hope we continue this partnership in the years to come.”

Michael Murphy is on its maiden deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility, supporting security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.