

Survivors talk about 'day of infamy'

Story and photos by
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Public Affairs Center
Detachment Hawai'i

For most service members stationed at Pearl Harbor, the history behind this famous harbor is second nature. To meet a survivor of that fateful day or to hear one of their heroic stories is an encounter to not only enjoy, but from which to learn. When others outside of Hawai'i learn about the history of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, it's taught from historical films and text books.

For one high school in Sewell, N.J., there were no textbooks for this history lesson. Instead it was a face-to-face encounter from thousands of miles away with two survivors from the Pearl Harbor attack.

More than 500 Washington Township High School students took part in what is officially known as "Witness to History." The program is sponsored by both the National Park Service and the Navy/Marine Learning Network.

Started in February 2003, the Witness to History program provides U.S. and international students and educators with a unique and invaluable distance learning opportunity dedicated to the history of the 1941 Japanese attack and the remainder of World War II that took place in the Pacific.

The program itself is comprised of three unique series related to the events of the attack: the Pearl Harbor Survivor Series, the Interpretive Ranger Series and the Curator Series.

At the helm of the video teleconferences (VTC) is Rhiannon O'Halloran-Waddell, a graduate of Hawai'i Pacific University with a degree in history



Thomas Unger and Robert Kinzler wait for another student to ask a question during their video teleconference with Washington Township High School in Sewell, N.J. The two Pearl Harbor survivors of the Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese attack are part of a group of survivors who are involved with the Witness to History program in Hawai'i. The program provides U.S. and international students and educators with a unique and invaluable distance learning opportunity dedicated to the history of the 1941 Japanese attack and the remainder of World War II, here in the Pacific.

who coordinates the VTCs. "Our programs help students and the mass public never forget the events of the attack," said O'Halloran-Waddell. "Coordinating this program has really opened my eyes to this chapter of American history."

Every meeting is with a different class, school or country. The survivor testimonies remain the same, but told with subtle little differences.

"Sometimes the gentleman will bring out different aspects of a memory that I don't hear on a daily basis. It's that intimate memory that gives you a window into what really happened that day," explained O'Halloran-Waddell.

On this day, the students of Washington Township High School were able to meet via VTC with two survivors who gave two slightly different perspectives of

the attack.

Thomas Unger, a civilian at the time of the attack, is in his fourth year with the program. After the first wave of the attack, Unger and a crew of Red Cross volunteers went to what is now Hickam Air Force Base and aided medics caring for the dead or wounded. Unger is a self-proclaimed history buff and understands why educating today's young people is so important.

"Pearl Harbor is a very significant chapter in U.S. history," said Unger. "It opened people's eyes to the whole world and we in Hawai'i found ourselves to be at the center of a very important historic event."

Another point of view for those learning from afar was presented by Robert Kinzler, an Army private stationed at Schofield Barracks during the attack.

As the first wave of the attack was ending, his unit was ordered to move to a pre-designated battle station at Roosevelt High School in Honolulu. It was on his drive from Schofield Barracks to Honolulu that Kinzler got his first look at the destruction that had occurred at Pearl Harbor.

"The program gives us (survivors) a chance to answer questions and to get our story across to the best of our ability," said Kinzler. "You try not to forget that history repeats itself."

During the VTC, O'Halloran-Waddell takes a few minutes to introduce the speakers for the conference and then gives each survivor about 15 minutes to further introduce themselves and describe the attack from their own point of view. After these heroes recount their experiences, a question and answer session begins. Both the students and the educators are able to ask either survivor, or both, about anything they might have on their minds.

The subjects that most middle and high school students want to know are similar. "Were you scared?", "What went through your mind when the attack first started?", "Did you know who was attacking you?" are only some of the usual questions asked of these Pearl Harbor survivors, whether the school is in New Jersey or a Department of Defense school in Italy.

Every now and then though, there are the more inquisitive questions.

"A student once asked if Albert Einstein was court-martialed for devising the formula, E=MC², because of its use in the atomic bomb," added Kinzler.

"The one question that doesn't get asked all very often though is, 'Why did we get bombed? For some reason, it's not a common question,'" said Unger.

The overwhelming response from students is surprise and appreciation. O'Halloran-Waddell receives letters from both students and teachers from schools who have participated in the conferences.

"The feedback I get is that reading it in a text book is totally different than being interactive. The events seem to come alive and it's more meaningful that way," added O'Halloran-Waddell.

"In some of the letters from students, they are surprised sometimes to learn some things that actually happened and others that are exaggerated somewhat," said Kinzler. When a student asked about the historical accuracy of the motion picture "Pearl Harbor," Kinzler responded by saying, "Pearl Harbor (the movie) was romanticized. If you want an accurate account of the attack, watch 'Tora, Tora, Tora.'"

For information concerning the Witness to History program, contact O'Halloran-Waddell at witnesstohistory@hawaii.rr.com, log on to www.arizonamemorial.org and go to the education page. The education page provides information on all the series offered by the Arizona Memorial, as well as biographies about survivors who participate.

(Left) Rhiannon O'Halloran-Waddell, the coordinator of the Witness to History program, listens for questions from students on the other end of the video teleconference with Washington Township High School in Sewell, N.J. Two Pearl Harbor survivors took part in the event.



Commentary

Window on Pearl Harbor

Karen S. Spangler, Editor

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Celebratin' the wearin' o' the green

Karen S. Spangler

Editor

Gosh and begorah! It would seem that somehow in the midst of celebrations of ethnicities and cultures, the Irish folk have been given lesser significance. Think about it – we celebrate such observances as African-American Heritage, Native American culture, Women's History Month, etc. for a whole month. But we have relegated our observance of Irish culture to just one day – St. Patrick's Day which occurs on March 17.

Leapin' leprechauns – that seems such a travesty – so since I come from a strong Irish, albeit Scotch-Irish heritage, I thought that I could at least familiarize you with some very basic information about Irish heritage.

There are a lot of things that people associate with the Irish – leprechauns, shamrocks, the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, corned beef and cabbage and, of course, the traditional gatherings on St. Patrick's Day at pubs and taverns to enjoy some brew – colored green, of course.

But how much do you really know about the Irish and Irish culture? Hmmm...just as I thought...but not to worry, I can share with you some of the basics before you start your own journey to learn about the "wearin' o' the green" and all things Irish.

St. Patrick's Day was so named for the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. St. Patrick was one of Christianity's most widely

known figures and St. Patrick's Day observes the date of his death, March 17, around 460 A.D. St. Patrick's Day has been observed as a religious holiday by the Irish for thousands of years.

However, the famous account that tells of St. Patrick banishing all of the snakes from Ireland is the typical product of Irish storytelling – but not true.

St. Patrick's Day is always celebrated with a traditional Irish parade in many cities – the most famous of these in New York City. As it happens, the first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in the United States, not in Ireland, as Irish soldiers who served in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. It was a proud moment for many Irish when President Truman attended the St. Patrick's Day parade in New York City in 1948.

The story of the Irish in America is a story of strife and struggles and tells of courageous Irish immigrants who came to America to escape starvation – only to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice in their quest to find acceptance in America.

If you have some Irish ancestry, you are one of about 34 million people in the United States and one of about 70 million people worldwide who claim Irish heritage. Irish is the leading ancestry group in three states:

Delaware, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Irish is also among the top five ancestries in every state, but two – Hawai'i and New Mexico.

There are nine places in the United States that share the name of Ireland's capital, Dublin. The two most populous of these Dublins are Dublin, Calif. and Dublin, Ohio.

So how about some of those things that we consider symbolic of the Irish. The shamrock, a three-leaved clover, has long held a place in Irish culture. Also called the "seamroy" by the Celts, the shamrock was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because it symbolized the rebirth of spring. It later became representative for the Irish as they wore the shamrock as a symbol of their pride in their heritage.

Irish music is often associated with St. Patrick's Day and Irish culture. It has been an important part of Irish life since the ancient days of the Celts. Because it stirred emotion and helped to unite the people, music was outlawed by the English. Queen Elizabeth I decreed that all artists and pipers were to be arrested and hanged on the spot.

Traditionally, many Irish Americans share a meal of corned beef and cabbage on St. Patrick's Day. While cabbage has long been an Irish food, corned beef only began to be associated with the Irish holiday at the turn of the century. Irish immigrants who lived on the lower east side of New York City substituted corned beef for their traditional dish of Irish bacon to save money. It was something they learned from their Jewish neighbors.

And I really hate to be the one to break this to you, but leprechauns have nothing to do with St. Patrick or the cel-

ebration of St. Patrick's Day. In actuality, Irish leprechauns or "lobaircin" as they are known by in the Irish language, means "small-bodied fellow." The Celts believed in fairies, tiny men and women who could use their magical powers for good and evil. In Celtic folklore, leprechauns were cranky souls who were known for their trickery and they often used such deception to protect their fabled treasures.

But in 1959 with the release of a Walt Disney film, "Darby O'Gill and the Little People," America was introduced to a purely American invention, a cheerful, friendly leprechaun. It became a recognizable symbol of St. Patrick's Day and Ireland, but was a very different leprechaun from the cantankerous little fellow derived from Irish folk tales.

The Irish are also known for many wise – and oft witty – sayings. One of the most famous Irish blessings goes like this:

"May the road rise to meet you,

May the wind be always at your back,

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

The rains fall soft upon your fields,

And until we meet again,

May God hold you,

In the palm of his hand."

Whether or not you are an Irish lad or lassie, may the luck of the Irish be yours on St. Patrick's Day and have a fine Navy day here in paradise.

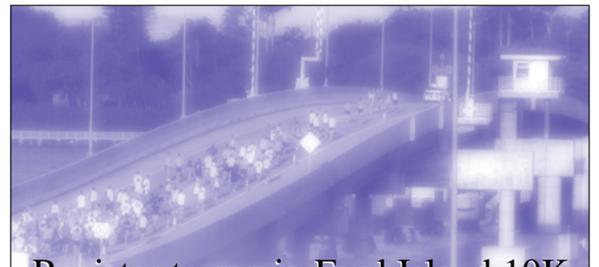
We welcome comments from readers. If you have comments, please send them to: Karen.spangler@navy.mil.

Cat in the Hat turns 50



Photo courtesy of Navy Exchange Marketing

The Navy Exchange (NEX) at Pearl Harbor celebrated a nationwide literary event as Dr. Seuss's character, Cat in the Hat, turned 50. In just 236 words, Dr. Seuss captured the imaginations of children everywhere for the last 50 years. Project 236, a nationwide celebration, shares the success of one of the most beloved Dr. Seuss books. In support of this historic literary event, NEX managers took turns reading their favorite Dr. Seuss story on March 3. Party hats, balloons, giveaways and a costume contest were highlights of the event for those who attended.



Register to run in Ford Island 10K

Register now for the 10th Annual Ford Island Bridge 10K Run on April 7. Participants can run, walk or stroll across the Admiral Clarye bridge onto historic Ford Island. The 10K (6.2 miles) race will begin at 7 a.m.

Registration forms are available online at www.greatlife-hawaii.com and at all military gyms, fitness centers and selected athletic retail stores.

The entry fee is \$17 for all active duty and other military-affiliated and Department of Defense personnel and family members. The regular entry fee for the general public is \$20.

Entry deadline is March 26. For more information, call 473-0784, 473-2494 or 473-2437 or visit www.greatlife-hawaii.com.

Survey researches experiences of military dependents in Hawai'i Public Schools

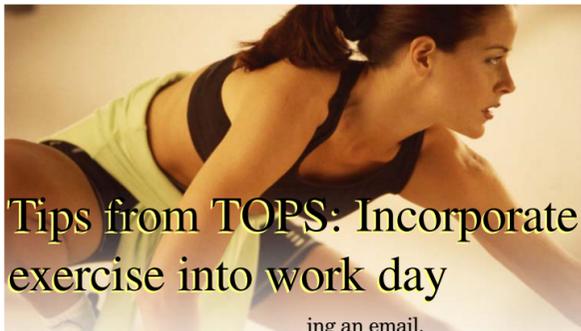
Special to Hawai'i Navy News

Over 3,000 military households on Oahu have been randomly selected to participate in a survey to measure their perception of Hawai'i public schools by the University of Hawai'i. A cover letter and survey was mailed out March 8 to randomly selected families across the state. The data generated from the survey will provide useful information that will assist public schools which support military children and families in Hawai'i.

If your household was selected, your

participation is highly encouraged. The military survey is a project of the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HI DOE) in partnership with the U.S. Pacific Command through the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF). JVEF is comprised of educators and leaders from military commands, government, community, and businesses. The survey was funded by the HI DOE.

If you have any questions about the survey, contact Amanda Quijano or Dr. Kathleen Berg at the University of Hawai'i, College of Education at 956-4729.



Tips from TOPS: Incorporate exercise into work day

Special to Hawai'i Navy News from TOPS

The American Council on Exercise (ACE) recently released results of its study that examined on-the-job physical activity of 10 common occupations. Not surprisingly, the study revealed that the typical office worker needs to get supplemental physical activity built into each day.

The amount of exercise varies with each person. In general, experts recommend that most people's goal should be to walk 10,000 steps per day (the approximate equivalent of walking five miles). In the ACE study, secretaries were observed to walk an average of 4,327 steps per day, not quite half the minimum recommendation. Alternatively, mail carriers topped the list at 18,904 daily steps.

Finding the time to exercise before or after work can present a challenge, so incorporating physical activity into the work day is important. TOPS Club, Inc., an international non-profit, weight-loss support organization, offers the following tips on how 'desk jockeys' can slip some extra steps into their day:

- Walk down the hall and deliver messages or documents to a co-worker instead of send-

ing an email.

- Stand up and gently march in place while talking on the phone.

- Take a few flights of stairs during your break, or go for a walk at lunch.

- At least every half-hour, take a break from sitting. Get up, move around and do some gentle stretching.

TOPS Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) is a non-profit, non-commercial weight-loss support organization with about 10,000 associate chapters throughout the United States and Canada. Nearly 200,000 members worldwide learn about nutrition, food planning, exercise and more in weekly meetings. Weigh-ins, group feedback, support and motivation help members to achieve their goals. TOPS' international headquarters is located in Milwaukee, Wisc. For more information, visit www.tops.org.

(Three chapters of TOPS meet on Oahu. The Aliamanu chapter meets at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Armed Services YMCA at Aliamanu Army housing. The Wheeler Army Airfield chapter meets on Thursday evenings at 5:15 p.m. A third chapter meets at 9 a.m. on Wednesdays at Pohai Nani Retirement Community in Kaneohe. For more information, call 623-1403.)



Skylark Central

Word Search

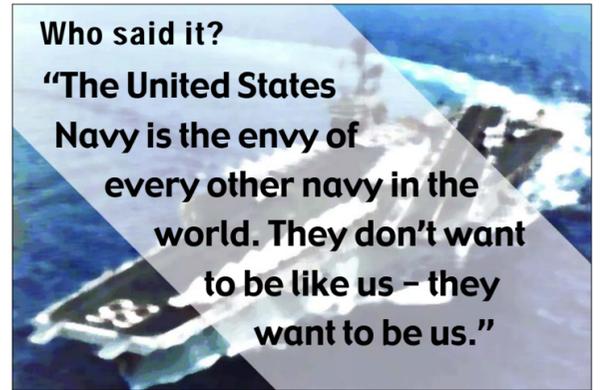
St. Patrick's Day

EMERALD ISLE
DANNY BOY
COBBLER
CELTIC
BEER
SEVENTEENTH
CORN BEEF
CABBAGE
FAMINE
JIG
SAINT PATRICK
FOUR LEAF
DUBLIN
BROGUE
IRISH
LITTLE PEOPLE
GOOD LUCK
CHURCH

DBBEDANNYBOYHCFJIG
LUPAMBROGUETAAACRE
FEBOAEASGENEETEHA
BEPLTCRTNEEGRHRUIL
NLTRIOOAEAAUHOIRNF
SNATENFTLBKGLLECBA
HALRCCNGBDUEIIOHOM
OEIRNEHAOAICTCFOWI
CFINVECARLTKSTAFNDN
GTAETDYBUCDILAVNHE
EOSISPOSONFAEEAEHF
CNOERGARTECLPLADRI
FOVDNYMTEORLEGEFTN
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MARCHPROTESTANTOEM

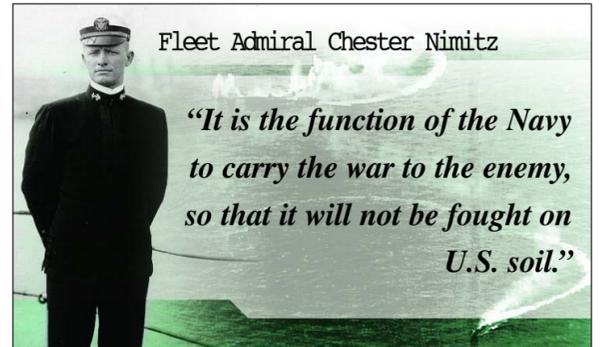
Bonus: Are you lucky enough to find the four leaf clover in the background image?

Who said it?
"The United States Navy is the envy of every other navy in the world. They don't want to be like us - they want to be us."



Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz

"It is the function of the Navy to carry the war to the enemy, so that it will not be fought on U.S. soil."



Word Search Solution

MILITARY RANKS

- ADMIRAL
- CORPORAL
- PRIVATE
- AIRMAN
- ENSIGN
- RECRUIT
- CAPTAIN
- GENERAL
- SEAMAN
- COLONEL
- LIEUTENANT
- SERGEANT
- COMMANDER
- MAJOR
- WARRANT OFFICER
- COMMODORE
- PETTY OFFICER

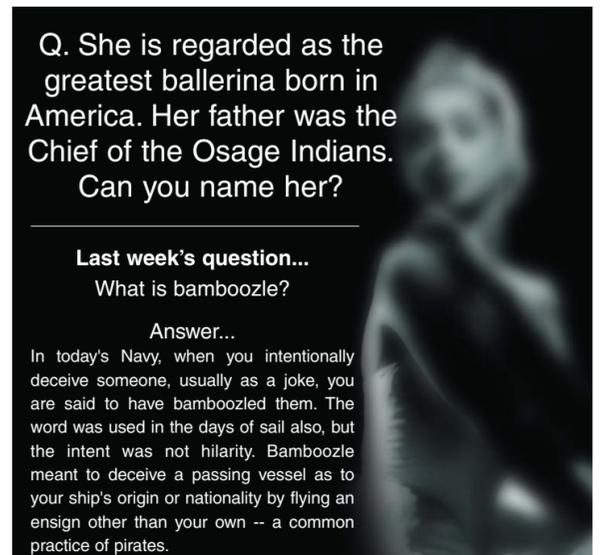
RECIFFOYTTEP
EGIACOCSETTM
CRRUOOCINPAF
ILORRALACJVVW
FOCDPOEFOFIR
FRATOGMRNSRW
OCAGRMMRAEPR
TIREADMIRALI
NRSNLLEOEMGN
AEDEETAMNCAAE
RECRUITCSNLE
RTNANETUEILE
AILLMOARAPGT
WALTRAIRMAN

Q. She is regarded as the greatest ballerina born in America. Her father was the Chief of the Osage Indians. Can you name her?

Last week's question...
What is bamboozle?

Answer...

In today's Navy, when you intentionally deceive someone, usually as a joke, you are said to have bamboozled them. The word was used in the days of sail also, but the intent was not hilarity. Bamboozle meant to deceive a passing vessel as to your ship's origin or nationality by flying an ensign other than your own -- a common practice of pirates.



Navy Region Hawai'i Manawa Nanea

Morale Welfare & Recreation



H POOR BOY BARBECUE AND JOUST COMPETITION

Navy Region Hawai'i Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host a poor boy barbecue and joust competition March 21 at Liberty in Paradise. The free event begins with food at 5 p.m., followed by the jousting competition. It's open to Single Sailors only. FMI: 473-4279.

H YOUTH BOATERS' SPRING BREAK

Registration will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 26-30 at Rainbow Bay Marina for a youth boaters' spring break event. Children ages 10 and over are eligible. The cost is \$10 per child; participants must bring their own lunches. Early sign-up is recommended. FMI: 473-0279.

H HAWAI'I ALL MILITARY BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The Hawai'i All Military Bowling Tournament will be held March 27-30 at Naval Station Bowling Center at Pearl Harbor. Bowling teams from the Navy, Army, Air Force and Marine Corps will strike it up each day of the tournament from 10 a.m. Eligible patrons can watch for free. FMI: 473-2651.

H LIBERTY 9-HOLE TWILIGHT GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR SINGLE SAILORS

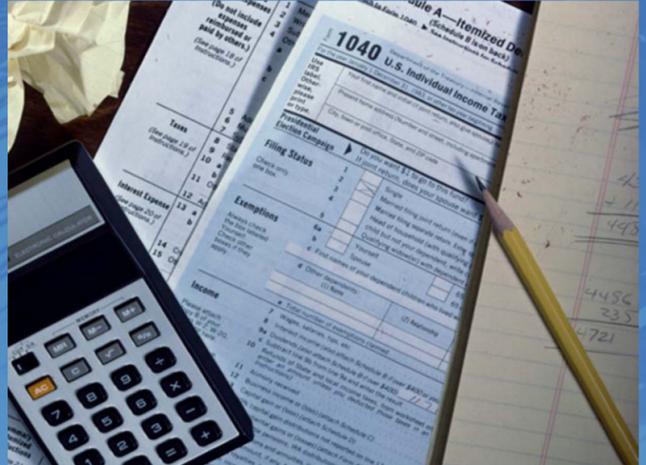
Sign up for the first ever Liberty 9-Hole Twilight Golf Tournament which will be held on March 28 beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Navy-Marine Golf Course. The cost is \$5 per person. Space is limited to the first 36 players and is open to single Sailors only. Deadline to register is March 26. FMI: 473-4279.

For more information on Navy Region Hawai'i MWR events, visit www.greatlifeohawaii.com

Community Calendar

N March

Now — Tax preparation service is offered at the NEX Mall at Pearl Harbor. Services include e-filing, federal and state income tax preparation. No appointment is necessary. Hours of operation are from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday. FMI: 422-1082.



17 — The 27th Annual Irish Sprint and Stride, a 10 K and 2K race-walk, will begin at 7 a.m. at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center at Halawa Landing between the USS Arizona and USS Bowfin Memorials. Check-in for the race/run begins at 6 a.m. Registration will be accepted on the day of the race. A post race awards ceremony will take place between 8-9 a.m. FMI: 228-5210.

20— Navy Exchange Pearl Harbor will host a military blood drive 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the rotunda of NEX. FMI: 423-3274

22— Navy Region Hawai'i Diversity Council will present a Women's History Month program from 10-10:30 a.m. at Sharkey Theater. Jackie Dirosa, Atlantic Fleet master chief, will be the guest speaker. The theme will be "Generations of Women Moving History Forward."

Sharkey Showtimes



The Messengers (PG 13)

A family moves into a run-down sunflower farm. As the farm begins to revive after years of disrepair, the family begins to notice uncomfortable and alarming changes in their father's behavior.

TODAY

7:00 PM The Hitcher (R)

SATURDAY

3:00 PM Free advanced screening to the first 450 authorized patrons (PG)

7:00 PM Dreamgirls PG 13

SUNDAY

2:30 PM The Messengers (PG 13)

4:45 PM Stomp The Yard (PG 13)

7:00 PM Catch and Release (PG 13)

THURSDAY

7:00 PM Dreamgirls (PG 13)

SHARKEY THEATER Pearl Harbor Naval Base (473-0726)

MEMORIAL THEATER Hickam Air Force Base (449-2239)

SGT. SMITH THEATER Schofield Barracks (624-2585)

