

Pearl Harbor - December 7, 1941
Coming of Age - From Innocence to Valor
"Navigator"

HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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Photo illustration | Photos by Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth, Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

71st Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day ceremony honors heroes

MC2 Sean Furey

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Det. Hawaii

Pearl Harbor survivors, World War II veterans, their families and friends from around the nation joined more than 3,000 distinguished guests and visitors for the annual commemoration of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor on that Dec. 7, 1941 morning.

"They were our heroes then, and they are our heroes today. As we pause to reflect on those who live their lives for their country and gave their lives so their country could live, let us rededicate our efforts to ensure that the legacy of their sacrifice was not in vain and will not be forgotten," Ponds said.

A moment of silence was observed at 7:55 a.m., the time marking the moment when the first bombs began

falling that morning in 1941. Fighter jets from the Hawaii Air National Guard F-22 Raptors flew a "missing man" formation over Pearl Harbor following the moment of silence.

The guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112), a newly christened ship named after a Pearl Harbor-based Navy SEAL killed in Afghanistan, participated in the ceremony during a pass-in-review.

Sailors aboard the Los Angeles class submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) also rendered honors along with USS Michael Murphy as they passed by the USS Arizona Memorial.

Approximately 75 Pearl Harbor survivors were able to attend this year's ceremonies, honoring the memories of the 2,390 service members and 49 civilians killed in the surprise attack.

The ceremony also included a Hawaiian blessing, songs played by the U.S. Pacific Fleet band, and a rifle salute from the U.S. Marine Corps.

President Barack Obama issued a presidential proclamation which stated "Today, we pay solemn trib-

ute to America's sons and daughters who made the ultimate sacrifice at Oahu. As we do, let us also reaffirm that their legacy will always burn bright — whether in the memory of those who knew them, the spirit of service that guides our men and women in uniform today, or the heart of the country they kept strong and free."

"The Pearl Harbor survivors and World War II veterans have left a tremendous legacy that has stood for more than seven decades," said Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, who was the keynote speaker for the ceremony.

"Because of the efforts of the "Greatest Generation" during the war and the decades after, we achieved victory and have since maintained our readiness to address the challenges in the Pacific and in the world," he said.

Following the ceremony a brief floral tribute was conducted aboard the USS Arizona Memorial for the Pearl Harbor survivors and distinguished guests in attendance.

Hickam pays tribute to heroes in Dec. 7 remembrance ceremony

Sr Airman
Lauren Main

15th Wing Public Affairs

On Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941 at 7:55 a.m. the largest airborne attack force ever assembled by the Imperial Japanese Navy struck Oahu's military installations and plunged the United States into World War II.

The attack was aimed to cripple the U.S. fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor and prevent American involvement in Japanese military engagements in the Pacific theater.

Generations of Airmen gathered this Dec. 7 to remember sacrifices made and honor the legacy emblazoned upon the heritage of Airmen of the past, present and future.

"The attack on Oahu was a huge military success for the Japanese," said Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander.

"They had achieved surprise, shattering the U.S. Pacific Fleet and crippling the Hawaiian Air Force. Eventually our air forces rebuilt, and the American

spirit proved invincible. But the eventual victory was not without cost. The price paid that day and throughout the remainder of the war was high."

Only two survivors were able to attend the ceremony, representative of an example Roscoe said "men and women, civilian, active duty and guardsmen alike" have learned from.

Col. (ret.) Andrew Kowalski enlisted in the Army in 1934 and arrived at Hickam Field in 1939. On the morning of Dec. 7, Kowalski fell asleep at a friend's house in Hickam housing after staying up late playing poker. At approximately 7:55 a.m., he was awakened by loud explosions and immediately reported for duty at the wing headquarters building where he was the assistant to the commander.

For the next several hours, his job was to answer the phone and maintain the official list of Hickam casualties.

Master Sgt. (Ret.) Kenneth Ford, who lied about his age to enlist in the U.S. Army at age 15, was taking a shower when

the first bomb exploded. Later that afternoon he volunteered to guard Fort Kamehameha beach against possible Japanese invaders. He was armed with only a World War I Springfield rifle and five rounds of ammunition.

Friday's ceremony included a "missing-man formation" flyover by F-22 Raptors from the 19th and 199th Fighter Squadrons. The jets flew over the flag pole at the exact moment the first bomb dropped on Hickam. Wreaths were also placed at the base of the flag pole to honor heroes of the past, and American flags were presented to Kowalski and Ford.

"Today is about the brave men and women who endured the attack and pressed on to fight for our nation," Roscoe said.

"Our lineage as Airmen in the Pacific Air Forces begins with their story. They lived through what has been referred to as 'hell in paradise,' but I am proud to say that the American flag flying at this spot on Dec. 7 was still standing after the attack, and our flag remains today."

Ho'okele will be on hiatus The Dec. 14 edition of Ho'okele will be the last issue for 2012. The first issue of Ho'okele in 2013 will be Jan. 11. During that time, the publisher, Honolulu Star-Advertiser, will publish a joint military issue which will combine news from all of the services—from Ho'okele, Hawaii Army Weekly and Hawaii Marine. Happy holidays to all of our readers! Stay safe. Enjoy the holidays with your families. We'll see you in the new year.



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USS Nevada, USS Utah
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Tribute to heroes of Dec. 7, 1941
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Hickam's heroes: Airmen
return for Dec. 7 remembrance
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MWR to hold festive holiday
seasonal events at JBPHH
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Hickam Field survivor journeys 'home' for last time

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-
Hickam Public Affairs

For the final time, Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) Raymond Lee Perry has returned "home" to Hickam.

Seventy-one years to the day, Dec. 7, 2012, Perry's family culminated a journey which began with the attacks on military installations around Oahu by bringing his remains back to Hickam one last time to attend the Dec. 7, 1941 remembrance ceremony. They said their final goodbyes as they spread his ashes in the waters of the Pearl Harbor Channel near the Hickam Officer's Club.

The Federal Fire Department also performed the "fireman's last call," a toll of the bell 15 times, in honor of Perry. This is believed to be the first time a Hickam Field survivor has had his ashes spread at Hickam.

"It's very good. I don't have words to express this moment," said Elizabeth Perry, wife of the late Perry. "I'm sure he's proud, very proud of the service today. He was very brave during his last journey. He was alert to the last."

Perry first arrived in Hawaii in 1937, then a private first class with the Army's 29th Car Company. Perry was on temporary duty at Fort Armstrong in downtown Honolulu when the first wave of attacks began.

Soldiers at Fort Armstrong scrambled to get away from the anti-aircraft shells that rained from the sky. The contact fuses on the shells exploded when they hit the ground, since some of



Photo illustration

them didn't make contact with any aircraft.

"They were going up and coming back down and exploding in our motorpool," Perry said in a Stars and Stripes interview in December 1991. "I went over to our first sergeant and said, 'I'm volunteering.' He said, 'You don't even know what I want volunteers for.'"

"I said, 'I don't care. I just want to get out of here.'"

Perry was "tired of getting shot at," and Hickam was getting pounded by a barrage of bullets and bombs and was in desperate need of transportation for the wounded. Hickam's brand new clinic had only 14 beds and couldn't handle all the dead, dying and wounded.

The hallways, sidewalks and grounds were littered with men, some covered in white sheets with red silhouettes marking their places underneath. Most of the wounded were being taken to Tripler (Army hospital), which was 14 or 15 buildings

across the street from Fort Shafter. Two military policemen on motorcycles escorted their convoy of five trucks to Hickam Field.

"We drove down Hangar Avenue, dodging debris, then pulled in and circled our trucks like we were protecting ourselves from Indians," he said in the interview. "There were a lot of wounded waiting. One guy had one arm blown off at the elbow and his other hand blown off. We were getting about 12 wounded into each truck and then about 8:35 or 8:40 a.m. somebody shouted, 'Here they come again!'"

Parked in the area between hangar 9 and hangar 13, everyone took cover in the closest hangar door well. After the explosions and firing subsided, they went outside and found all their trucks had been completely demolished. Of the 17 men they had picked up, only three were still alive. Earlier, someone had taken a bed sheet, painted a

large red cross on it, and attached it to the top of the center truck, but all it proved to be was a target for the attackers.

"I saw that somebody had made up a big red cross with mercurochrome on a sheet or something," he told the Stars and Stripes reporter. "That just made us a better target. The trucks were destroyed. We then tried to commandeer a flatbed truck to carry a couple more of the guys to the hospital, but the driver said he couldn't leave. One of the guys pulled out his pistol and pointed it at him and said, 'What do you mean you can't go?' (The driver) decided he could take them to the hospital."

Perry, a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, carried on his Air Force career and was most proud of his role in helping develop the pararescue specialist career field. He participated in numerous jumps and rescue missions as far north as Ellesmere

Island, Canada and Thule, Greenland. His daughter, Lani, said her father was a "master parachutist" and always prepared his parachute himself, never relying on someone else for his safety. He retired following a 22-year career of faithful service.

"The Air Force did take good care of the man," Elizabeth said. "Every time people would ask him, 'How long were you in the Air Force?,' he would tell them 22 years, so many days and so many hours. He had it down to the hour, though I can't remember the number of hours."

Following his military career, he worked with Civil Air Transport, based in Taipei, Taiwan, from 1961 to 1965. He worked at the FAA at Wake Island until 1970 and finally retired from civil service in 1989 (at what was then Hickam Air Force Base) where he worked with the fire department as a fire safety inspector.

Chief Master Sgt. (ret.) Joel Shaw, now with the 647th Air Base Group, was a former Pacific Air Forces inspector general team member when he first met Perry during the 1980s. Shaw remembered answering a knock on his door where Perry was making the first of many visits to perform an in-home fire safety briefing.

"He said he was there to do a fire inspection of the houses on the installation," Shaw said. "So he came in and did his check in the house. He was a real friendly guy, and I had no idea that he was a Hickam Field survivor until now. He wasn't the type of individual to come out and say, 'I did this, or I did that.' I would have loved to hear his story when I knew him."

In his passing, just as in his life, his family said he was tough to the end. Because of the care he received at the hospice center, he made sure to shake the hand of the caregiver before he passed.

"He hadn't eaten for a week when he reached out his hand to shake the man's hand," Elizabeth said. "It's very hard. I knew he would go away, but it's still very hard." The Perrys were married for 47 years.

During the ceremony last Friday, Elizabeth hugged the flag presented to her as tears streamed down her cheeks. She said her final goodbye to her husband as his ashes were spread into the waters of Pearl Harbor. "I will see you soon," she said, choking back her sobs.

(Historical information was provided by Jessie Higa, Hickam Field Survivor volunteer liaison.)

Arizona memorial service honors returning Sailor

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

It took six long years for it to happen, but through the diligence of the Navy, National Park Service and one conscientious patriot, the remains of USS Arizona (BB 39) survivor Radarman 1st Class Wallace F. Quillin were returned to join fellow shipmates aboard his former ship on Dec. 7 during interment services at Arizona Memorial, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Quillin became the 37th shipmate to return to the Arizona for interment since 1982, when retired Navy Chief Petty Officer Stanley M. Teslow became the first survivor to return and make the USS Arizona his final resting place.

Capt. Lawrence Scruggs, deputy commander of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, National Park Service Chief Historian Daniel Martinez and Arizona survivor Lou Conter were among the attendees honoring Quillin.

While no surviving family were in attendance at the interment, Nancy Clem, a first cousin who resides in Henderson, Ky., talked about Quillin last year during an interview with hometown journal, "The Gleaner."

Clem, who was only nine years old when the surprise attack took



Capt. Lawrence Scruggs, deputy commander of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, holds the box that contains the remains of USS Arizona (BB 39) survivor Radarman 1st Class Wallace F. Quillin, with Arizona survivor Lou Conter at his side and National Park Service Chief Historian Daniel Martinez close behind. Quillin was interred in the turret of USS Arizona on Dec. 7.

place, said that after Quillin's duty on Arizona, he was assigned to USS Neosho (AO 23), which was also sunk at the battle of Coral Sea – making her cousin a double survivor.

"Frank (Quillin's middle name) was one of the lucky ones who was unhurt," wrote Clem about her cousin. "He did sustain some hearing loss as a result of getting oil in his ears. After the war, he arrived back in the states in California, where he married and settled down."

However, it was in death that Quillin, who was a seaman first classman while onboard the Arizona, really revealed just how

unsinkable he truly was.

According to retired master chief and Pearl Harbor survivor liaison Jim Taylor, Quillin died in 2006 leaving his final wishes to be interred onboard Arizona into the trusted hands of a good friend.

Upon preparing for the journey to the memorial, Quillin's friend also passed away – placing the Arizona shipmate's remains in limbo before finding their way into the hands of All Souls Mortuary Memorial Specialist Charles O'Hara.

Although Quillin's journey could have ended there, O'Hara found his dying request and went on a mission to make it happen.

Searching the web, O'Hara found

Taylor, who immediately contacted the National Park Service and the Navy to get the ball rolling.

"He (O'Hara) sent the remains over to me, and there was no doubt in my mind what was going to happen," Taylor said. "The Navy, for many years, along with the park service, the two of us work as a team to do the interments, ash scattering, but Chuck O'Hara, you're a hero."

With everything falling into place, the interment was scheduled for Dec. 7, but at the very last moment, one more hurdle popped up when Clem, though additional research, was located. Previously, no one was aware that Quillin had any surviving relatives.

"Obviously, it caused great concern that we should not proceed with the interment if there is a living family member," Martinez said. "We got on the Internet and within 10 minutes found the relative (Clem). We got a phone number and called her. Two hours later, she called and said, 'please proceed.'"

Finally, the unsinkable Quillin would get his wish.

Conter, who is one of only 12 Arizona survivors remaining, said that even though he only heard about the interment of his shipmate earlier in the day, it was something that was too important to miss.

"I didn't know about it until Taylor got a hold of me and said, 'I

want you back out here at 3 o'clock today," Conter stated. "I feel obligated to be here to do our duty and let him go back to his duty station. There are still 12 of us to be called to their duty stations, and we'll go when the old man tells us to go. I'm the youngest at 91, so it's not going to be too long."

During the interment memorial, Scruggs gave a sterling speech about what that "day of infamy" would have been like for Quillin and the crew of Arizona.

Before Navy divers descended with the remains, Scruggs offered the final words that would grant Quillin a place among his shipmates for all eternity.

JBPHH Honor and Ceremonies Navy Detachment Rifle Squad honored Quillin with a rifle salute that was followed by Taps played by Musician 1st Class John Wheeler.

"In the tradition of our rich Navy, your life is an inspiration to us in time of war and the challenges that we face today," Scruggs said.

"You have made our Navy team stronger, we stand here prouder, straighter, taller, and I say to you today, Wallace Quillin, we have the watch. Radarman 1st Class Wallace F. Quillin, you have permission to come aboard, boatswain's pipe American hero arriving. God bless you. God bless your country, your family, the Navy, amen."



U.S. Air Force illustration/Tech. Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

Commentary

Season's Greetings from COMPACAF

Gen. "Hawk" Carlisle

Pacific Air Forces
Commander

Gillian and I are happy to be stationed in the Pacific theater once again, celebrating the holiday season alongside the rest of our PACAF family.

While this is a time of celebration, we want to shift our focus from celebrating "with" our families to actually celebrating them.

Quite often, mission requirements force us to make sacrifices throughout our careers. Whether it is missing birthdays and anniversaries, recitals and graduations, or weddings and funerals, we need to take any and every opportunity to thank our families for their constant and unwavering support.

So this holiday season, take time to let them know just how important they are to you, your success and to our success here in PACAF.

Also, remember our PACAF brothers and sisters who won't be spending the holidays with their families due to mission requirements. Keep them not only in your thoughts but reach out to and assist their families where needed.

We extend our deepest gratitude to you and your families for your service and sacrifice. Gillian and I are proud to serve alongside you and look forward to the great things the new year has in store.

Finally, please make smart decisions and stay safe this holiday season. Happy holidays!

Commentary

Meaning, remembrance, hope - December 2012

Rear Adm.
Frank Ponds

Commander, Navy Region
Hawaii and Naval Surface
Group Middle Pacific

Last week's 71st anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day was held on a calm and beautiful morning. The ceremony was filled with respect, dignity and honor. It was a great privilege to be part of the ceremony with our survivors and veterans.

In addition to the pass-in-review, missing man formation, keynote address from Adm. Haney and other special tributes to fallen shipmates, this year's ceremony, "Coming of Age - From Innocence



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

to Valor," added a special dimension.

Kapolei High School students sang our national anthem beautifully. Hale Keiki School's Young Patriots Club sang

Hawaii's state song, "Hawai'i Pono'i" with poise and grace. Hale Keiki Elementary students also participated in the wreath-laying ceremony for each service.

We know these young people will never forget their experience serving in the ceremony Dec. 7. As the next generation, our keiki are our investment in the future.

Mrs. Ponds and I believe the best way to appreciate this time of year is through service to others. And the best way to experience the holiday season is through the eyes of children. Our keiki see the world with innocence, joy, hope and love. In the weeks ahead we

wish for you all the goodness this season has to offer. Cherish the time with loved ones and friends - of all generations. Please make a personal commitment to enjoying a safe and healthy holiday season and new year.

Last week's ceremony reminds us of the sacrifice others made to give us our precious lives and our freedom. Here in Hawaii our military *ohana* has a rich heritage and a vital mission. Together, we need to be safe, secure and ready for 2013.

May the season's best be yours, and may you and your family have a joyous and plentiful new year.

Commentary

Lessons of Dec. 7 remain relevant still

Col. Johnny Roscoe

15th Wing Commander

Today marks the 71st anniversary of the Imperial Japanese Navy's attack on Hickam Field and Pearl Harbor. Though the fires of the ensuing World War have long grown cold, the lessons learned on that harrowing day reach through history and cascade onto the shores of present-day Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

One must only look at the bullet-pocked buildings here at Hickam and the sunken ships in Pearl Harbor to realize that a moment's lapse in readiness can result in a lifetime of pain and regret.

Both Dec. 7, 1941 and Sept. 11, 2001 have taught somber lessons that when war comes to American



Col. Johnny Roscoe

soil, it arrives in a hurry.

Similar to today, the military inhabitants of 1940s Hawaii reveled in the *ohana* spirit and enjoyed the protective cushion provided by thousands of miles of the beautiful Pacific Ocean.

However, this distance is a double-edged sword; it provides defense through

depth, but invites complacency. We man an isolated extension of our great country far from resupply. The enemy may not be staring us directly in the face like in Afghanistan, but make no mistake, they are out there. Our strategic positioning can act either to guard the American mainland or to serve those who would destroy us; we train every day to ensure the former.

This day is a stark reminder that we do not have the option to allow our vigilance to fail for even a moment. Over a million residents of the state of Hawaii rely on your preparedness to secure their well being. Their safety and ours are derived from your innate preparedness developed through long hours of exercises and training.

Today also is distin-

guished by the F-22 pilots of the 19th and 199th Fighter Squadrons officially taking over the Hawaii air defense alert mission from the Montana Air National Guard. This occasion continues a proud tradition of alert aircraft defending the airspace around Hawaii 24/7 since 1956. In fact, the pilots of the 19th are currently the only active duty Air Force squadron partnered with the Air National Guard to take part in the air defense mission.

Whether it's protecting the skies over Oahu, providing additional reaction time against an invasion of the American mainland, or laying the groundwork for follow-on forces to protect our allies throughout the Pacific theater, we must continually strive to be ... powerful Airmen ... always ready!

Commentary

Pearl Harbor united American spirit

U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye

Dec. 7, 1941—out of the ashes and marbled trails of oil in the waters of Pearl Harbor came a resilience, a resolute determination, an unwavering spirit of the American people. This spirit of American united the people of the nation. This spirit

of America has helped generations of our citizens.

I will never forget rushing into the street with my father, on that fateful day, to see the plumes of smoke rising from the harbor. The Hawaii of my childhood was no more. It was at that moment I knew that duty called—I was an

American, and it was time to fight for my country.

The Pearl Harbor story is one of extraordinary heroism and sacrifice. We must keep that memory alive to ensure that with each succeeding generation, we continue to strive for peace and honor the sacrifices made for their freedom.

Diverse Views



"What are your New Year's resolutions and why?"



IT1 (SW) Joshua C. Brown
JBPHH Public Affairs Office

"This year my New Year's resolution is to work on my work and life balance because it is important to seek and have balance in your life."

Senior Airman Leticia Anderson
647th Force Support Squadron



"My New Year's resolution is to finish my associate's degree and start looking into a nursing degree. I want to do this because if I plan on getting out, I will have a backup plan."



Seaman Eric Jones
USS Russell (DDG 59)

"My New Year's resolution is to become petty officer third class and go home to celebrate my mother's 50th birthday with family and friends."

Senior Airman Glenn Smith
647th Force Support Squadron



"Finish my bachelor's degree, drop five percent body fat, and make rank."



AOAN (AW) Lawrence Taylor
JBPHH VP-47

"This year's New Year's resolution is for me to make it to Burning Man and build a Gilligan Island art car to take the plaza. I've enjoyed the art and music at the festival for four years and love to spread peace and joy through art."

Staff Sgt. Jacob Ballard
647th Force Support Squadron



"Graduate from pastry school and continue to pursue my advancement in advanced culinary."

(Contributed by David Underwood Jr. and Quartermaster 1st Class Sean Vis)

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



U.S. Air Force photo

Wreckage from a Japanese Zero sits in a hangar at the former Hickam Field after the attacks of Dec. 7, 1941.

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Pearl Harbor - December 7, Coming of Age -



Pearl Harbor survivor Sam Clower (left) of Sacramento, Calif. and Ab Brum (right), retired United States Army Special Forces, of Kaneohe, Hawaii, converse during the 71st Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.



Pearl Harbor survivor and World War II veteran, Navy Signalman 1st Class Edgar Harrison, present a wreath on behalf of the Air Force during a Dec. 7, 2012, remembrance ceremony. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



Everette Hyland and Bob Kinzler, Pearl Harbor survivors, gathered and shared their experiences during a Dec. 7, 2012, remembrance ceremony. Department of Defense photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



The sun sets over the remaining structure of USS Utah (AG 16) at the USS Utah Memorial on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



Capt. Jeffrey W. James, commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, speaks during the USS Oklahoma Memorial Ceremony. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jon Dashbach



Gilbert Meyer, a survivor of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor while stationed aboard USS Utah (AG-16), speaks to officers during a sunset service at the USS Utah Memorial at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



This photo illustration shows the USS Arizona Memorial in the background as the USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) renders honors during the Dec. 7, 2012 remembrance ceremony. Later in the ceremony, Pearl Harbor survivors, children from Navy Hale Keiki School, representatives from National Park Service, and active duty service members presented memorial wreaths (shown in foreground).

1941 From Innocence to Valor



Members of the Hickam Honor Guard stand statuesque during the 71st Remembrance Ceremony of the Dec. 7, 1941 attacks at Atterbury Circle, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Dec. 7, 2012.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares



Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, honors Elizabeth Chew, widow of Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) Raymond Perry, during the 71st anniversary remembrance ceremony.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares



Musician 3rd Class (SW) Shelby Tucci, assigned to the Pacific Fleet Band, plays "Taps" during a sunset ceremony at the USS Utah Memorial, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



The Hickam Honor Guard fires a three round volley during the 71st anniversary remembrance ceremony.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares



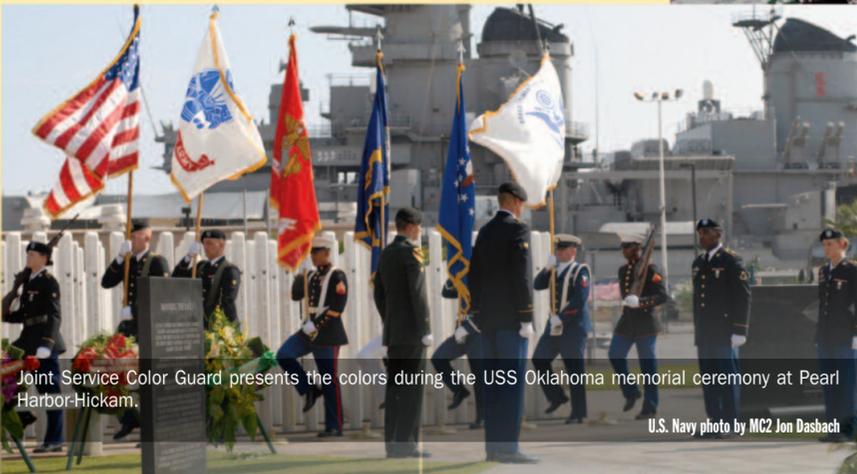
Pearl Harbor survivor Ed Vezey attends the USS Oklahoma memorial ceremony on Ford Island during the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jon Dabach



(Above) Navy divers hold the remains of USS Arizona (BB 39) survivor Radarman 1st Class Wallace F. Quillin before making the final descent into the memorial to put Quillin in his final resting place.

U.S. Navy photo by Randy Dela Cruz



Joint Service Color Guard presents the colors during the USS Oklahoma memorial ceremony at Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jon Dabach



This photo illustration shows the USS Arizona Memorial in the background as the submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) renders honors during the Dec. 7, 2012 remembrance ceremony. Later in the ceremony, Pearl Harbor survivors, children from Navy Hale Keiki School, representatives from National Park Service, and active duty service members presented wreaths (shown in foreground).

Photo illustration | Department of Defense photos by Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

(Right) U.S. Navy World War II veterans and Pearl Harbor survivor Delton Walling salutes as he walks through an honor cordon during the Dec. 7, 2012, remembrance ceremony, marking the 71st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the island of Oahu, at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. (Below) Navy Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, shakes hands with former Navy petty officer and Pearl Harbor survivor Delton Walling

Department of Defense photos by Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

(Center left) A Marine stands guard at a wall of names of fallen Sailors and Marines in the Shrine Room at the Arizona Memorial for the 71st anniversary Pearl Harbor Day commemoration.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



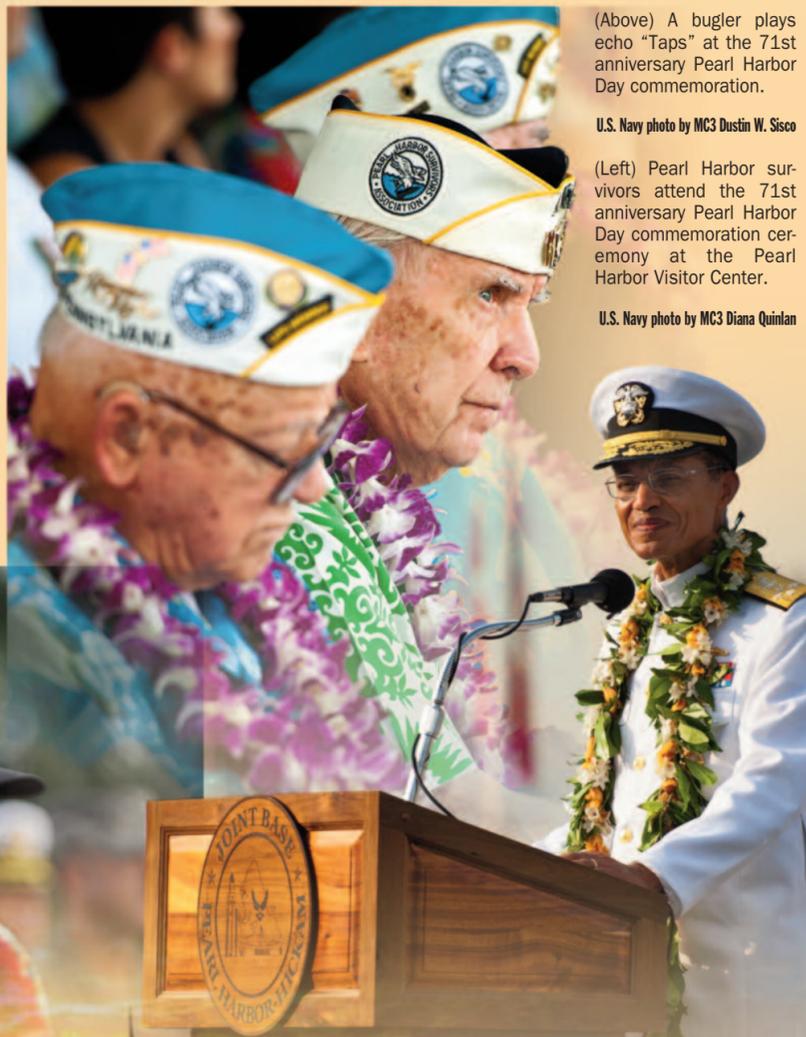
AARON	F2c	A. L. BLANTON	SF3c
V. ABERCROMBIE	S1c	R. F. BLIEFFERT	S1c
F. ADAMS	S1c	I. L. BLOCK	PHM2c
D. ADKISON	S1c	W. B. BLOUNT	S1c
A. AGUIRRE	S2c	R. E. BOGGESS	SF2c
S. N. AGUON	MATT1c	S. BOHLENDER	GM2c
J. AHERN	F1c	G. R. BOLLING	S1c
J. ALBERO	BMKR1c	W. K. BOLLING	F3c
W. ALBR	S1c	B. E. BONEBRAKE	F2c
A. ALEX	S2c	W. J. BONFIGLIO	EM1c
L. ALLE	SF3c	R. S. BOOTH, Jr.	ENS
C. ALL	EM1c	A. L. BOOZE	BM1c
L. ALLEN	SK2c	R. BORGER	CMM
E. ALLEY	CM1c	J. J. BOROVICH	S1c
K. AL		K. L. BOSLEY	EM3c
T. AL		W. R. BOVIALL	AMM2c
		H. A. BOWMAN	S2c
		C. A. BOYD	CM3c
		D. J. BOYDSTUN	S2c
		L. BOYDSTUN	S2c
		M. BRABZSON	MUS2c
		D. BRADLEY	S2c
		G. BRAKKE	F3c
		J. L. BRIDGES	S1c
		P. H. BRIDGES	S1c
		R. M. BRIDIE	F1c
		E. J. BRIGNOLE	S2c
		C. E. BRITAN	S2c
		J. C. BROADHEAD	F2c
		W. P. BROCK	S1c
		G. E. BROMLEY	SM3c
		D. BROMLEY	S1c
		R. N. BROOKS	ENS
		L. R. BROOME	SM3c
		A. O. BROONER	S1c

(Above) A bugler plays echo "Taps" at the 71st anniversary Pearl Harbor Day commemoration.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Dustin W. Sisco

(Left) Pearl Harbor survivors attend the 71st anniversary Pearl Harbor Day commemoration ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



(Above) Two Hickam Field survivors, Master Sgt. (ret.) Kenneth Ford and Col. (ret.) Andrew Kowalski, stand for the invocation Dec. 7 during the 71st anniversary ceremony.

U.S. Air Force photo by Sr Airman Lauren Main

(Above) Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander U.S. Pacific Fleet, addresses the audience during the 71st anniversary Pearl Harbor Day commemoration ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



Photo illustration

U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr. Al Unger

USS Nevada survivor is honored at wayside exhibit unveiling

Story and photo by
Don Robbins

Assistant Editor

Woody Derby, a crew member on the USS Nevada (BB 36) during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, vividly recounted details of the attack while he participated in the unveiling of a new wayside exhibit for the Nevada held Dec. 6.

The exhibit, located next to the Nevada Memorial at Hospital Point, includes an engraved plaque with an historical account explaining the actions of the battleship Nevada and its crew. A total of 57 service members lost their lives during the Pearl Harbor attack and the ship suffered severe damage. In addition, more than 100 crew members were injured.

Nevada was the only battleship to get underway when Pearl Harbor was attacked. The ship was salvaged and brought back into service during World War II.

Derby described what happened on the day of the attack.

"We were hit by one torpedo and two bombs. The ship got underway. The commanding officer and the exec were both still ashore. The reserve lieutenant commander was the boss man and he



Woody Derby, a former crew member on the USS Nevada (BB 36), helped unveil a new wayside exhibit for the Nevada on Dec. 6 at Hospital Point.

did a good job," Derby, age 94, recalled.

"We came down the channel, and a second wave of planes came out, and we were struck by six bombs," he said.

Derby worked as a storekeeper in the Nevada's supply room when the ship was attacked. He recalled hearing the sounds of bombing and water flooding into the battleship.

"I was five decks down on the port side as we came up the channel. They torpedoed us on the port side, and we

got flooded out in about 15 minutes. The welds and rivets wrecked, and water came dashing into the magazine. You know what, I didn't even get scared. I just got my feet wet," Derby said.

The day after the attack, Derby helped get all of the crew's pay records out of the ship so the crew could be paid on time.

"I was on the Nevada for seven years and two months. I went from seaman second to chief petty officer [during his Navy career]. I stayed in the Navy for 20 years," Derby

said. Nevada earned seven battle stars during his time of service, he said.

Derby said that shortly after it was commissioned, Nevada became known throughout the Navy as "the cheer-up ship" because whenever someone would complain about their job, the captain would say, "Cheer up, it's going to get better."

Derby, whose full name is Woodrow Wilson Derby, joined the Navy on Dec. 7, 1938 after living in Des Moines, Iowa. "I was a farm lad. There was nothing to do

on the farm and it was the end of the Great Depression. No money was floating around," he remembered. Derby and his wife, Christine, have been married for 66 years.

U.S. Navy Capt. Mark Manfredi lives in the nearby housing area and attended the unveiling of the new wayside exhibit for the Nevada.

Manfredi said the unveiling of the new wayside exhibit is dedicated to the Nevada's actions on Dec. 7, 1941 and seeing Derby at the unveiling made a huge impression on him.

"Meeting with former Sailors who lived it, the 'Greatest Generation,' is very inspiring," Manfredi added.

A plaque at the exhibit explains, "Though her commanding officer was not present that morning, Nevada managed to pull away from her berth and make her way down the channel and attempt a run for the open sea. As the second wave of Japanese aircraft arrived on the scene, the courageous ship came under heavy fire and was forced to beach herself about 50 yards from the location of the memorial today."

The plaque also explains, "As a testament to the incredible and tireless work of shipyard personnel following the attack, Nevada was salvaged

and brought back to active service in 1943 and was on station providing gunfire support during the Normandy Invasion of June 1944. She later returned to the Pacific where she assisted in the invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa and attacks on the Japanese home islands."

Though many Nevada crew members exhibited heroism on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, Joseph Hill and Donald K. Ross were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their actions on that day.

According to the new wayside exhibit, Ross kept the dynamo rooms operating until he was overpowered by smoke, steam, heat and exhaustion.

Meanwhile, Hill led the ship's line handling detail in casting off from the quays alongside Ford Island so that Nevada could get underway. He was killed by enemy bombs while attempting to drop anchor at the end of the battleship's brief sortie.

"As you stand here at Hospital Point, it is very peaceful and quiet, but you can see the Nevada Memorial a few feet away and then the Arizona Memorial in the distance, and that visual makes it a great place to reflect on what happened on Dec. 7," said Jim Neuman, Navy Region Hawaii historian.

USS Utah ceremony marks anniversary of Dec. 7 attack

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

A twilight ceremony marking the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor was held at the USS Utah Memorial on Dec. 6.

The USS Utah was sunk during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. Of the ship's crew, an estimated six officers and 52 enlisted men were killed. The memorial was officially authorized by the 91st Congress in October 1970 and dedicated on Memorial Day 1972.

Among those in attendance for the ceremony were Capt. Larry Scruggs, deputy commander, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard; Robert Burk, National Park Service; and Pearl Harbor survivors, Delton Walling and Gil Meyer. Meyer served aboard Utah and is a member of the USS Utah Survivors Association.

Chaplain Lt. Terry Bewley performed the invocation.

Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivor liaison, was the emcee.

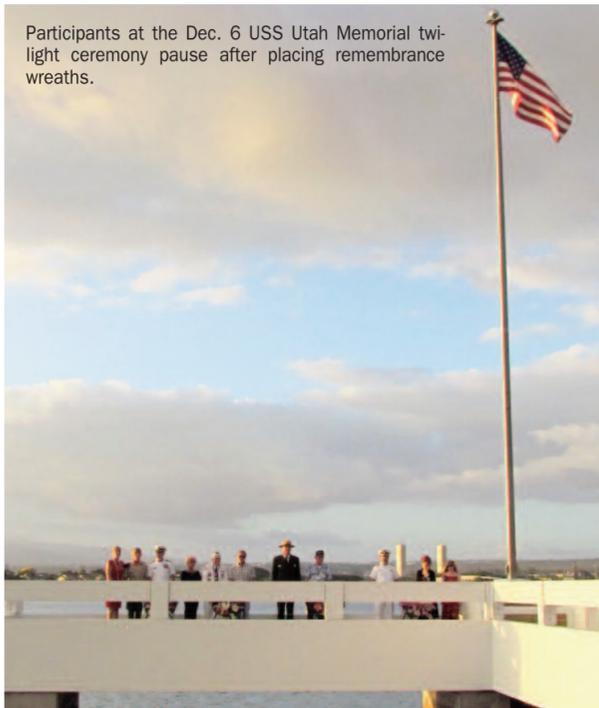
"This ceremony is all about the USS Utah and all about the men who served together as crew members during the Dec. 7 attack," he said. "They were all heroes to our country, and all served to protect the freedom we all enjoy today."

Also speaking at the ceremony was Zane Grzeszczak, an Eagle Scout who helped initiate a project to renovate the memorial. (See sidebar.)

The most solemn moment of the ceremony was perhaps the presenting of remembrance wreaths.

Mary and Nina Kreigh present-

Participants at the Dec. 6 USS Utah Memorial twilight ceremony pause after placing remembrance wreaths.



ed a wreath for Baby Nancy, Mary's twin sister. Mary's father, Chief Yeoman Albert T. D. Wagner, served aboard Utah and had the ashes of one of his twin daughters, Nancy Lynne, in his locker. He was waiting for a chaplain to come aboard and for Utah to go out on maneuvers so her ashes could be scattered at sea. The urn containing the ashes of the tiny baby girl went down with the ship.

Delton Walling and his friend, Joan Bohl, presented wreaths rep-

resenting the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors. Gil Myer presented a wreath for the USS Utah Survivors Association.

The ceremony concluded with a benediction by Chaplain Bewley and the playing of "Taps."

"For many years, the USS Utah was known as the forgotten ship," said Taylor. "Thanks to the National Park Service, the United States Navy, and Zane Grzeszczak and his friends, the USS Utah is no longer the forgotten ship."



Capt. Stephen Grzeszczak (center) and his son, Zane, chat with USS Utah survivor Gilbert Meyer.

Eagle Scout helps renovate USS Utah Memorial

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

The USS Utah Memorial received a facelift, thanks to the efforts of Eagle Scout Zane Grzeszczak, a 15-year-old sophomore at Pearl City High School.

Zane and his fellow scouts from Troop 180, along with help from local construction and paint companies, installed a new concrete handicap-accessible ramp and hand rail system at the memorial, as well as added a new coat of paint to the deck. The area around the memorial was landscaped with old plants being removed and replaced with new plants and mulch.

During the Dec. 6 twilight ceremony at the USS Utah Memorial, Zane spoke about his experiences.

"Working on this memorial meant to me much more than just another Eagle Scout project," he said. "It made me feel proud and responsible knowing I was contributing to something much larger than myself."

"I've always wanted to give back to our veterans, and this was the perfect way to do so. One day I hope to join the Navy and

serve our great country like the brave men who are entombed in the ship and like the heroes who survived Dec. 7, 1941," Zane said.

He explained the renovation project, which took nearly a year to complete. Improvements to the memorial included making it compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by installing a new concrete handicap ramp with a steel handrail and adding a handicap parking space to the parking lot. The deck and sidewalk were scraped to bare concrete and painted with epoxy paint, a new steel gate was installed, and the landscaping was improved.

"While in the midst of my project, I learned valuable skills like leadership and commitment," Zane said. "My project took over 460 volunteer hours of planning and construction work and cost over \$16,000 of donated materials, supplies and cash donations."

"Looking back on the experience, I would not change a thing. Everyone who helped me along the way were simply amazing. From the construction team to the architect, my family and my troop, everything went along smoothly and as planned," Zane said.

Hickam's heroes: Airmen return for Dec. 7 remembrance

Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Public Affairs

Airmen, civilians, families and friends gathered around the flagpole at Atterbury Circle at Hickam this Dec. 7 to salute and remember the ones who gave their lives on Dec. 7, 1941. Several men were honored for their role in surviving the attacks and fighting for their country.

Among the guests, and oldest at 98 years old, Col. (ret.) Andrew Kowalski of Honolulu is a native of Pittsburgh. He enlisted in the Army in 1934, some 78 years ago. He arrived at Hickam Field in 1939 and quickly rose through the enlisted ranks.

On the morning of Dec. 7, Kowalski then a master sergeant, fell asleep at a friend's house in Hickam housing after staying up late playing poker. At approximately 7:55 a.m., he was awakened by loud explosions and immediately reported for duty at the wing headquarters building where he was the assistant to the commander.

"When I heard the explosions, I bee-lined it to the headquarters building," Kowalski said.

For the next several hours, his job was to answer the phone and maintain the official list of Hickam casualties.

"I had to man the commander's telephone to receive the names of all the casualties as they were being called in," he said. "I handled the casualties list when we set up a



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Lauren Main
Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, presents flags to Kenneth Ford and Col. (Ret.) Andrew Kowalski, Hickam Field Survivors, during a remembrance ceremony Dec. 7 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

command post in the Aliamanu Crater. Those lists were then transferred to the morgue in preparation for burials."

Another of the Hickam Field survivors who returned to Hawaii and made it his home is Master Sgt. (Ret.) Kenneth Ford of Honolulu. In 1940, the Kentucky native lied about his age and enlisted in the Army at age 15.

"It's the best thing that ever hap-

pened to me because it saved my life," Ford said. "If I hadn't gone into the military, I would have probably been killed or led a life of crime."

On Dec. 6, 1941, while enroute to Dutch Harbor, Alaska, he had a layover at Hickam Field and spent the night in the consolidated barracks. Early Sunday morning, he was taking a shower when the first bomb exploded. While running out

of the bathroom, the nearest place to seek cover was under an office desk.

"Machine gun bullets came through the windows of the shower room I was in while the Japanese was strafing the parade grounds," he said. "That's why I hid under a desk; it was a big thick desk. When I finally looked up, I could see the Zeros attacking the flightline and blowing up hangars."

He then ran outside, still in his underwear where he saw smoke rising into the sky all over the area. Dead and wounded lay on the grounds. Later that afternoon he was issued a WWI Springfield rifle and five rounds of ammo to man the beach at Fort Kamehameha against possible Japanese invaders.

"The first sergeant said to me, 'After you shoot five, use the bayonet,'" Ford, who was 16 years old at the time of the attacks, said. "So, I waited on the beach for three days for them to land, and they never landed."

Months later, he arrived in Alaska, but found himself again at war with enemy Japanese forces, surviving yet again. When he was transferred to Europe to fight the Germans, he was captured and sent to a prisoner of war camp in Italy. After spending 14 months in captivity, his unit was saved by Japanese-American Soldiers of the 442nd Regiment Combat Team, made up of Soldiers from Hawaii.

He continued his military career and is also a combat veteran who fought in both Korea and active combat fighting during the Tet Offensive in Vietnam.

"Anyone who says they weren't scared is probably the biggest liar in the world," Ford said. "Everybody's got a breaking point. Today, more than 70 years later, I still have nightmares. It stays with you, and you never really get over it."

(Jessie Higa contributed historical information to this story.)

(Please visit www.15wing.af.mil to read complete story.)

Wish comes true for teen: Meets Pearl Harbor Survivor at Pearl Harbor Day

QMI Sean Vis

Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs

Everyone has a special dream. For Austin Elder, his wish was to attend the Pearl Harbor Dec. 7 ceremonies and meet a Pearl Harbor survivor. When the Make-A-Wish Foundation received his request, they knew it was a special one.

Austin has always been interested in World War II. "For as long as I can remember, I have been interested in that generation. They are one of the few generations that came together to fight for their country. I have a lot of respect for them and, at 16 years old, I felt I would have a better appreciation for what they did by meeting some



of the survivors and witnessing the ceremony," Austin explained.

Austin's journey began Dec. 2 when he flew to Hawaii. He flew in with his mom Kellee Ranallo, her friend Joseph Hanson, his father Todd Elder and his step-mom Joy Elder. They were met by Intelligence Specialist 1st Class (IS1) Tyler Baker. He was their Navy escort while on the island.

Prior to the ceremony and other events that he participated in, he was able to enjoy the spirit of *aloha*. Austin went snorkeling, surfing and visited the island of Kauai.

The first event that Austin participated at Pearl Harbor was the boat tour to the Arizona Memorial. It was here

that he met some of the survivors. One of them, Delton Walling, really stood out to Austin. "Delton Walling was an amazing person to meet. He was open about everything that happened. I can't believe he had to cut his own finger off just to join," Austin shared.

Delton felt the same way about Austin. "It was a wonderful experience spending time with Austin. He is an exceptional young man."

One of the perks of the visit was being able to sit with the survivors during the ceremony. When asked about the ceremony, Austin said, "It was amazing, the feeling to be around those guys with everything that happened

to them that day in 1941. Words cannot put it into detail. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity. When they die, their stories will go with them."

Austin has been in remission from leukemia for the last year and a half. He knows that he has a full life ahead of him, but said, "This was a life-changing event. I was overwhelmed with how nice everyone was and everything I got to do."

"I really want to thank Tyler (IS1 Baker) for everything he did for us. He was amazing. Next time I come to Hawaii, I will remember how crazy this trip was, but I think I would prefer to just snorkel, relax and spend time at the beach."

Arizona's last band – gone but not forgotten

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

It was Dec. 6, 1941.

Strains of dance music filled Bloch Arena at Pearl Harbor as some of the Navy's best bands competed in the semi-finals at the Battle of Music – hoping to win the grand prize band trophy. The members of the band from the USS Arizona were there although they weren't one of the bands competing that evening. The Arizona's band had already competed and placed second in the semi-finals a few weeks earlier on Nov. 22, 1941. In this evening's round of semi-finals, the band from USS Pennsylvania had won top honors.

Couples jitterbugged to some of the favorite tunes of the time. "Jingle Bells," "Undecided," and "Jumping at the Woodside" were the selections for the jitterbug contest which was won by Pat Thompson, only 10 years old then, and her dance partner - a Sailor from the USS Pennsylvania. It was a gala evening that was to be repeated on Dec. 20 when the Pennsylvania and Arizona bands were scheduled to battle it out for first place.

The Sailors from the bands returned to their ships after an exciting evening of fun, music and competition to get some sleep. Shortly before 7:55 a.m. the next morning on Dec. 7, 1941, the first wave of Japanese aircraft blackened the airspace over their targets - the Navy's Pacific Fleet at anchor on the calm waters of Pearl Harbor.

Death rained from the normally tranquil blue skies as Japanese zeroes swooped and dived over the ships, dropping bombs and torpedoes on the

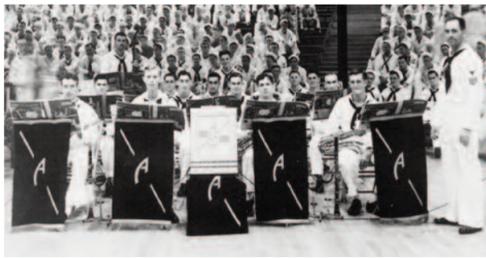


Photo courtesy of www.ussarizona.org

USS Arizona's Last Band, Pacific Fleet Band #22

unsuspecting fleet. As the attack ensued, general quarters was sounded and Sailors raced to their posts to fight the enemy.

The members of the USS Arizona Band were assigned as ammo handlers in the ship's forward ammunition magazine. At approximately 8:10 a.m., the Arizona was hit by a 1,760-pound, armor-piercing shell. It slammed through her deck, igniting her forward ammunition magazine. The musicians from the Arizona's band and most of the crew of the Arizona, totaling 1,177 men, never stood a chance.

In less than nine minutes, the mighty Arizona - crippled and dying - sank to the bottom of Pearl Harbor where she still lies.

The 21 members of Arizona's last band, United States Navy Band Number 22, were:

Bandmaster MUS1c Frederick Kinney, MUS2c Alexander Joseph Nadel, MUS2c Wayne Lynn Bandy, MUS2c Oran Merrill Brabbzson, MUS2c Neal Jason Radford, MUS2c Jack Leo Scruggs, MUS2c Ernest Hubert Whitson Jr., MUS2c Curtis Junior Haas, MUS2c Frank Norman Floege, MUS2c Gerald Clinton Cox, MUS2c Charles William White, MUS2c William Starks Morehouse, MUS2c Clyde Richard Williams, MUS2c Ralph Warren Burdette, MUS2c Robert Kar Shaw, MUS2c Bernard Thomas Hughes, MUS2c William

Moore McCary, MUS2c Wendell Ray Hurley, MUS2c James Harvey Sanderson, MUS2c Harry Gregory Chernucha and MUS2c Emmett Isaac Lynch.

Later, with the loss of all of the members of Arizona's band, the other bands who had vied for first place in the Battle of Music competition voted unanimously to concede first place to the Arizona Band. According to historical reports, many of the musicians remarked that Arizona's band was the best band anyway.

The Arizona Band Trophy, on display at the Arizona Memorial Museum, shows the figure of Liberty holding a torch. Liberty stands on a bronze cup which is inscribed, "Grand Prize, Battle of Music, United States Navy 1941." Two eagles with outstretched wings are at the base of the cup.

A bronze plate on the cup's base is inscribed with the following: "1941 Winning Orchestra 1941. USS Arizona. Sic Itur Ad Astra. F.W. Kinney, Bandmaster."

The sweet sounds of Arizona's band would never be heard again. But although they were silenced forever, they are not forgotten.

The words on the posthumously-awarded trophy may say it best: Sic Itur Ad Astra or "Such is the way to the stars, or to immortality."



Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, sings "The 12 Days of Christmas" with students at Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School.

Christmas comes early for Pearl Harbor Kai keiki

Story and photos by QM1 Sean Vis

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Christmas came early Dec. 10 for students at the Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School when Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and his wife Carol; Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH); and Col. Dann Carlson, deputy commander for JBPHH visited. Ponds read "The Christmas Story" to Keilyn Nakamoto's sixth grade class. He quickly developed a rapport with the students and not only read to them, but interacted with them, as well. He asked questions about the story or unfamiliar words and taught them at the same time.

After reading the story, he led them through a rousing rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," as the admiral's hands danced through the air like a maestro and the keiki sang along.

When the singing was over, Ponds spent a few moments talking to the children about respect for others and for themselves. "You all are phenomenal. Don't let anybody tell you different. There is nothing that you can't do. If you can imagine it, you can do it," he told them.

"So, don't be bound by any limitations. Imagine it and then go do it. If somebody says that you can't, then take



Col. Dann Carlson, deputy commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, reads to students in Cheri Soria's class at Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary.

that on as a challenge and show them that you can. I believe in each and every one of you," the admiral said.

He also took the time to discuss bullying and doing what is right. "You can see trouble coming from a mile away. Just walk away from it. Don't let it catch up with you."

He reminded them to obey their parents. "They just want what is best for you. And all the things that they are telling you to do that you don't think is right, when you become parents one day, you are going to say the same things," Ponds told the children.

He received quite a response when he told the children that if they saw him at the NEX, the commissary, the gym or around the base, they should just approach him and say, "Hey, we spent the day together reading and having fun. And then let's have a conversation."

Sailors, Airmen re-enlist Dec. 7 on Mighty Mo

As a part of the Pearl Harbor Dec. 7 ceremonies, more than 50 military personnel from all branches of service participated in a Joint re-enlistment Ceremony under the infamous gun turret #1 of the Battleship Missouri Dec. 7. Lt. Gen. Stanley T. Kresge, vice commander, Pacific Air Forces at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam administered the oath. The ceremony concluded with a performance of the national anthem by the 25th ID Army Band.

U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Jerome Tayborn



199th, 19th Fighter Squadrons team up to retake ACA mission

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

15th Wing Public Affairs

F-22 Raptor pilots from the 19th and 199th Fighter Squadrons (FS) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam brought home a familiar mission Dec. 6 when they retook the responsibility of guarding Hawaii's skies through the aerospace control alert (ACA) mission.

On Aug. 6, 2010, the Montana Air National Guard's 186th Fighter Squadron from the 120th Fighter Wing based in Great Falls gave the Hawaii Air National Guard's 199th FS a "breather" as they transitioned from the F-15 Eagle to the F-22 Raptor. Since then, the 199th FS has worked to posture itself to retake the mission, with the help of a total force integration part-



An F-22 Raptor taxis to the "alert pad" Dec. 6 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

nership with the recently stood-up 19th FS owned and operated by active duty Airmen of the 15th Wing.

To fulfill the ACA mission, the squadrons will have pilots, maintainers and weapons crews on call 24/7 and ready to respond at a

moment's notice against threats to the Hawaiian Islands.

The squadrons and the aircraft they operate are considered "initially operationally capable," meaning they are fully qualified and manned to fulfill alert

requirements as well as Pacific Command objectives to deploy anywhere worldwide with a limited number of assets.

Lt. Col. Mark Ladtkow, 199th FS commander, said the down time during the transition from the F-15 to

the F-22 has been "bittersweet."

"It's our mission ... we work and live here in Hawaii, so to not be able to perform your state mission, homeland defense, is a little bit saddening. But it was sweet because (after switching to the F-22) we can now stand up our capability with the F-22 and regain that homeland defense mission," Ladtkow said.

Lt. Col. Robert Jackson, 19th FS commander, said choosing 1200 Zulu on Dec. 7 as the time in which to retake the ACA mission was no coincidence.

"As an American, I know that date, 7 December, is important not only for Hawaii but for the United States. It'll be a proud day as Americans and as members of the military in Hawaii to take back over that responsibility for top cover for the

state of Hawaii."

As with many units within the 154th and 15th Wings, the two fighter squadrons have employed a (TFI) total force integration structure to get to where they are today. As such, the two commanders credit many accomplishments to their units' ability to work together seamlessly.

"We've had a number of significant milestones,"

Ladtkow said. "We've had the successful delivery of all 18 of our aircraft. We've been able to show throughout multiple exercises the ability to generate and mobilize the aircraft and its associated equipment, as well as operate from a temporary duty location and then be able to return with all those personnel ... we have the best total force integration organization in the United States Air Force."