

PEARL HARBOR

Honoring the Past, Building for the Future

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NAVY NEWS



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Pearl Harbor commemoration marks 66th anniversary

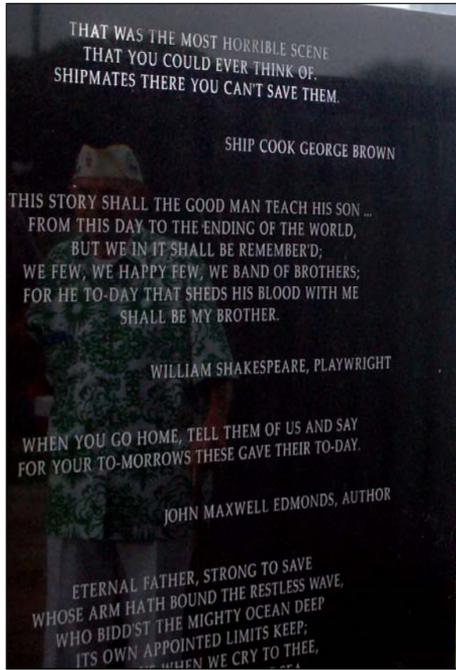
Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

The National Park Service and the U.S. Navy hosted a joint memorial ceremony this morning, commemorating the 66th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

The theme of the program, which was held on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor's Kilo Pier, was "Honoring the past, building for the future." The Kilo Pier venue looks directly out to the USS Arizona Memorial, situated in Pearl Harbor approximately half a mile away.

More than 2,000 distinguished guests and the general public joined military personnel, both active duty and Pearl Harbor survivors, for the annual observance of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

The theme of this year's historic commemoration, "Honoring the past, building for the future," reflects on remembering Pearl Harbor and highlights current efforts to expand educational opportunities for future generations of Americans to learn about the history of the attack on Pearl Harbor. In doing so, we honor the veterans who served in World War II and their comrades who paid the ultimate sacrifice. For military service members who serve today, this ceremony provides a study of lessons learned and an opportunity



U.S. Navy photo by MCC (SW/AW) David Rush

Following an interview with a local television station at the site of the newly built USS Oklahoma Memorial on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor survivor Senior Chief George A. Brown (Navy Ret.) speaks with Eileen Martinez of the National Park Service about the 429 Sailors who perished during the Pearl Harbor attack onboard USS Oklahoma (BB 37).

to express gratitude toward the Pearl Harbor veterans.

Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, was the

keynote speaker for the commemoration, and Dr. Robert K. Sutton, chief historian for the National Park Service, was the featured

speaker. Other speakers included Hawai'i Governor Linda Lingle, Hawai'i Senator Daniel Inouye, and retired Adm. Thomas Fargo, vice

chair of the National Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund.

Highlights of the ceremony included music by the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, morning colors, a Hawaiian blessing, a rifle salute by members of the U.S. Marine Corps, wreath observations, and echo taps and recognition of the men and women who survived the Dec. 7, 1941 attack and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

At 7:55 a.m., the exact moment the Japanese attack began 66 years ago, a moment of silence was observed. The Pearl Harbor-based, Aegis-class guided missile cruiser, USS Lake Erie (CG-70), rendered honors to the USS Arizona. Hawai'i Army National Guard CHH70 Chinook helicopters flew over the memorial in a "missing man" formation, followed by a U.S. Air Force B-2 Spirit. The bomber is one of four B-2s currently deployed to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, from the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

USS Oklahoma Memorial dedication ceremony

The USS Oklahoma Memorial at Pearl Harbor Committee and the National Park Service will dedicate the USS Oklahoma (BB-37) Memorial during a noon ceremony. The memorial is located on Ford

See OKLAHOMA, A-7

Edward "Dutch" Gaulrapp, Pearl Harbor survivor, shares memories of attack

Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

It has taken former Navy Chief Petty Officer Edward "Dutch" Gaulrapp more than 60 years to come back to Pearl Harbor to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack and according to him, it took quite a bit of coaxing.

"I never wanted to come back," he said. But with some prodding from his family, the 85-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor reluctantly made the trip.

"My kids kept saying 'Dad, you have to come back because you ain't gonna live forever,'" he explained, tucking in the pockets on his naval uniform. "They kept telling me, 'You can't just sit on your memories. You have to go back to where they came from and bring them out again.' That is why I am here, for my family."

Gaulrapp said that he has mixed feelings about stepping back onto the base for the first time in over six decades. "There are a lot of old memories - some good, but some really lousy ones, too," he explained. When the first of the Japanese planes hit early the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, a then-18-year-old Gaulrapp was in the middle of a card game at the submarine barracks.

"We heard a loud explosion and looked at each other like 'what the

hell is that' so we all went outside," he said. "At first we thought the Navy was practicing, but when we saw the Arizona go up in flames and they started sinking the ships beside her, we knew we were under attack."

The young seaman, who served as a baker for the USS Pompano (SS-181), a submarine that was away for repair in the states, was then issued a .30 rifle and ordered to shoot for "anything he could hit." "It all just scared the hell out of us," he recalled.

After the attack, Gaulrapp said he and others were sent out to view the wreckage at Battleship Row and look for survivors.

"We got in the patrol boats to pick up the bodies and it was awful looking down in that oily water," he remembered. "There were times when I would reach out for [what I thought was] an arm, and only half of one would come out of the water. I never could wear my whites again after that day. They were too dirty." Luckily, Gaulrapp said that when he returned to baking duty after a couple of days, his chief allowed him to work in his dungaree jeans until he was issued a fresh, new uniform.

Looking for Bud

For all of the memories he has of Pearl Harbor and its aftermath, Gaulrapp said only one to date stirs him up the most - looking for his best friend, Bud, after the attack. His friend, Alvin "Bud" Loring, a machin-



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Pearl Harbor survivor Chief Cook Edward Gaulrapp (Navy Ret.), views the USS Arizona Memorial during a visit to historic Ford Island. Assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based, Perch-class submarine USS Pompano (SS 181), Gaulrapp was in his barracks when the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor began.

ist's mate fireman, was aboard the USS Nevada during the attack. As children, Loring and Gaulrapp had grown up in St. Vincent's Catholic orphanage in Freeport, Ill. and became the best of friends. Eventually, with the permission of one of the priests, they joined the Navy together at the age of 17.

Despite being assigned to different units, the friends, only a year into their budding naval service careers, had remained a close and all but inseparable pair until that fateful Sunday morning.

"I thought I had lost him," he said remembering his friend. Gaulrapp spent days personally looking for

Loring and was relieved to find him at the hospital a few days later. Loring, however, had suffered severe burns and nerve damage from the attack on over two-thirds of his body. "He was burned like hell, but I was glad he was alive," said Gaulrapp.

Although Gaulrapp was lucky to not sustain any injuries from the attack, his friend's scars left a lasting impression on him. It made the young seaman more eager for the USS Pompano, his submarine, to return to Pearl Harbor so that he and his fleet "could get back to work and take care of things."

A fast learner in the kitchen, Gaulrapp said he was relieved to get back to his old duty as a baker for the Pompano. "The men sure took a liking to my baking," he chuckled. "I think their favorites were my homemade doughnuts, apple pie and cherry cobbler."

In enemy waters

Although the crew consisted of only 100 men, living quarters were tight, forcing Gaulrapp to bunk above a few torpedoes occasionally. Early in the war, he recalled a close call with the enemy.

While patrolling for Japanese vessels at Tokyo Harbor, the Pompano was briefly spotted entering enemy territory. In an attempt to dodge enemy fire, the Pompano quickly

See GAULRAPP, A-11

47th annual Sea Service Awards recognize Hawai'i-based leaders

Story and photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

The Honolulu Council Navy League of the U.S. hosted the 47th annual Sea Service Awards luncheon on Wednesday at the Ford Island Conference Center.

The awards were presented to

46 Hawai'i-based Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps junior officer and senior enlisted personnel to formally recognize their demonstrated excellence in duty and outstanding leadership skills.

Prior to the awards presentation, keynote speaker Vice Adm. (Ret.) Daniel Cooper, under secretary for benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs, acknowledged service members for their accom-

plishments and spoke on the importance of benefits given to U.S. military personnel.

Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SW/DV) Samuel Coatney, assigned to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, and Marine Corps 1st Lt. Daniel Rhodes, assigned to 3rd Marine Regiment based at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe,

See SEA SERVICE, A-6

Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SW/DV) Samuel Coatney, assigned to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, is presented with a plaque after being announced as the overall senior enlisted winner of the Sea Service Awards for the Honolulu council Navy League. The 47th annual Sea Service Awards luncheon was held Wednesday at the Ford Island Conference Center.



Cadets see history through eyes of Pearl Harbor survivors See page A-2



Healing Field at Pearl Harbor honors fallen heroes See page A-3



Junior officers aboard Port Royal engage in at-sea training See page A-6



Navy programs bring holiday cheer to single Sailors for the holidays See page B-1



Lt. j.g. Bobby L. Forest of Naval Submarine Support Command (NSSC) is awarded the Bronze Star on Nov. 28 by Cmdr. Mike Pietiewicz, NSSC commanding officer, for exceptionally meritorious conduct while serving as compound commander, Theater Internment Facility, Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion, Camp Bucca, Iraq from Sept. 1, 2006 to Aug. 24, 2007, during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

NSSC officer awarded Bronze Star

Story and photo by
MCSN Luciano Marano

Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Lt.j.g. Bobby L. Forest of Naval Submarine Support Command (NSSC) was awarded the Bronze Star on Nov. 28 by Cmdr. Mike Pietiewicz, NSSC commanding officer, for his service as compound commander of Theater Internment Facility, Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion, Camp Bucca, Iraq from Sept. 1, 2006 to Aug. 24, 2007.

"Forest is a classic volunteer," said Pietiewicz. "We have a high expectancy of our leaders and he met them."

According to the award

citation, Forest bravely led 195 Sailors, 36 Soldiers and six Iraqi interpreters as they guarded 3,000 detainees throughout three compounds. Due to the professionalism and effectiveness of his team, Forest's compounds were chosen as the housing grounds for the leaders of the 15,000 total detainees held in the Camp Bucca area.

Despite numerous escape attempts, 12 major disturbances and more than 1,700 individual documented aggressive acts by detainees, Forest and his team successfully kept control of their compound without a single injury to coalition forces.

Upon receipt of the award, Forest said he was "proud and even prouder of the time I spent over there."



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 David N. Dexter

Junior Reserve Officer Candidate (JROTC) cadets line the rail as they enter USS Arizona Memorial during a white boat tour of Pearl Harbor on Wednesday. Thirty-three Oklahoma high school Navy and Marine Corps JROTC cadets from high schools in Oklahoma joined Pearl Harbor survivors and their families for the historic tour.

Cadets see history through eyes of Pearl Harbor survivors

MC1 Johnny Michael

Navy Region Hawai'i

Thirty-three Oklahoma high school Navy and Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets from Claremore High School and U.S. Grant High School joined Pearl Harbor survivors and Capt. Taylor Skardon, commanding officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Wednesday for a historic white boat tour of Pearl Harbor.

The unique opportunity served as a personalized history lesson for the students as the survivors and their families gave first and second-hand accounts of events that occurred on Dec. 7, 1941.

"Sometimes it's tough to get involved when you're reading from a history book," said Skardon. "These kids are living history right now."

It was obvious to adults on the tour that the students were affected by the

experience of seeing the historical sites for themselves and hearing the survivor's accounts.

"It was really kicking in, really sinking in, what was happening, what they were a part of," said Paula Spring, whose great uncle, Paul Nash, died while serving on board USS Oklahoma (BB 37) during the Japanese raid.

Lt. Cmdr. (Ret.) Murry Estabrook, leader for Claremore JROTC, and Marine Corps Maj. (Ret.) Dennis Weber, leader for U.S. Grant High School JROTC, coordinated the students' visit with USS Oklahoma survivor Paul Goodyear to make their trip a reality and participate in the dedication of their state's famous namesake ship.

"I really fought for those kids to come out here," said Goodyear, who served as a signalman third class on board Oklahoma during the Dec. 7 attacks.

The cadets traveled nearly 4,000 miles to attend week-long commemoration events for the 66th anniversary of

the attack on Pearl Harbor and will cap off their visit by performing honor guard duties during the USS Oklahoma Memorial dedication scheduled for Dec. 7.

According to Skardon, having the cadets participate in these events helps ensure the legacy of Pearl Harbor is not forgotten.

"It's up to us and future generations to help everyone remember Pearl Harbor and that's why it's important for young people to hear the stories from these [Pearl Harbor survivors]," said Skardon.

The Pearl Harbor white boat tour was just one of the events on the cadets' itinerary during their visit. If offered them a chance to see where each ship came to rest, hear from the base commanding officer, and experience a once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunity of how it all came to pass from the survivors who were there on that "day of infamy."

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 2007

A proclamation by the President of the United States of America

On Dec. 7, 1941, our nation was viciously attacked at Pearl Harbor, America's Pacific Fleet was battered and broken, and more than 2,400 American lives were lost. On National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, America honors those brave individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our homeland, and we recognize those veterans who with strength and resolve defended our nation and advanced the cause of freedom during World War II.

When it mattered most, an entire generation of Americans stepped forward to protect our freedom and to defend liberty. Their devotion to duty and willingness to serve a cause greater than self helped secure our future and our way of life. Liberty prevailed because of the sacrifice of these courageous patriots, and America and her allies preserved a world where democracy could flourish. Our nation remains forever in the debt of these brave Americans.

From the unprovoked attack at Pearl Harbor grew a steadfast resolve that has made America a defender of freedom around the world, and our mission continues

as our men and women in uniform serve at home and in distant lands. Today, as we defend our nation's founding ideals, we pay special tribute to those who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor, honor our veterans of World War II, and celebrate the liberty that makes America a lasting symbol of hope to the world.

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

Now, therefore, I, George W. Bush, president of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Dec. 7, 2007, as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. I encourage all Americans to observe this solemn occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I urge all federal agencies, interested organizations, groups, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff this Dec. 7 in honor of those who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Hight

Students from the Hawai'i National Guard Youth Challenge Academy and volunteers from the Hawai'i Job Corp pose for a group photo after placing ribbons on flags for the Healing Field Flag Memorial at Pearl Harbor. The memorial at Richardson Field includes 2,408 U.S. flags to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Healing Field at Pearl Harbor honors fallen heroes

MC2 Sarah Murphy

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The Colonial Flag Foundation and local volunteers set up the first Healing Field in Hawai'i, at Richardson Field overlooking the Arizona Memorial, on Wednesday.

The Pearl Harbor Healing Field has 2,804 flags, each standing eight feet tall, to commemorate each service member killed during the

attack on Dec. 7, 1941. A purple ribbon on each flag displays the name of the deceased.

Volunteers from the 1st Class Petty Officer's Association, Air Force, Army, Youth Challenge Academy and Hawai'i Job Corps worked to set up the flags and attach purple ribbons to them.

"It's an honor to be out here and be a part of this," said Master-at-Arms 1st Class Joseph Reyes, a volunteer from the 1st Class

Association. "It's our way of honoring those who have perished, along with their families."

In addition to the U.S. flags for Pearl Harbor casualties, 150 Hawaiian flags represent those Hawai'i-based service members who lost their lives fighting the war on terrorism.

The Healing Field Memorial began as a way to commemorate the lives of those lost on 9/11 and it is now being used across America to raise awareness for many other causes.

The flags on the field will be on display until Dec. 10.

Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SS) Salvador Rico, president of the Naval Station Pearl Harbor 1st Class Association, said the event is meaningful because the people of Hawai'i are showing that they have not forgotten.

"A lot of people kind of forget about the attack," said Cyril B. Wong, a World War II veteran and an American Legion member. "This will help people remember what happened over 60 years ago."



Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives

USS Maryland (BB 46) alongside the capsized USS Oklahoma (BB 37). USS West Virginia (BB 48) is burning in the background.

Pacific Fleet Commander reflects upon Pearl Harbor attack

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Robert F. Willard's newest "Rat-Pac Report" podcast, posted Dec. 5, reflects upon the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor that forced America into World War II.

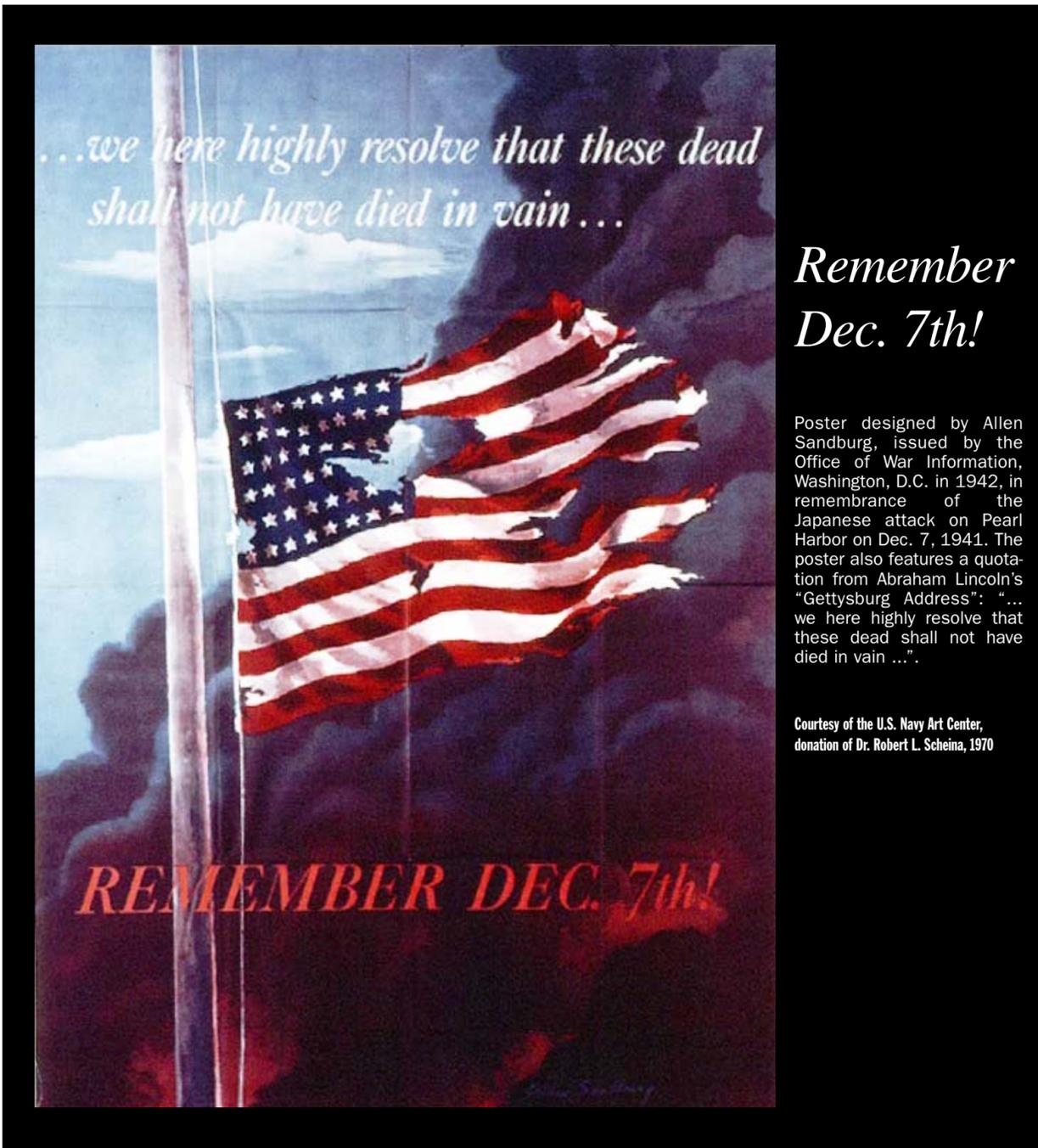
"I think the attack on Pearl Harbor will always be one of the most solemn remembrances for our nation," Willard said. "When you think about our nation's history, there have been very few occurrences that would ever rise to the stature of Pearl Harbor."

"So as I think of Dec. 7. I think about the impact that the attack had on our nation and our Navy and the men and women in the United

States Navy that participated in World War II," Willard said. "I think about the here and now and what Adm. Nimitz and those great leaders from World War II have accomplished - in terms of teeing up for our Navy the lessons learned that we continue to apply today."

The current podcast airs as ceremonies commemorate the 66th anniversary of the attack. Ceremonies will be held around Pearl Harbor at the USS Utah, USS Nevada, USS Arizona and USS Oklahoma memorials.

The newest podcasts are available for download every Wednesday on the Pacific Fleet Web site, www.cpf.navy.mil.



Remember Dec. 7th!

Poster designed by Allen Sandburg, issued by the Office of War Information, Washington, D.C. in 1942, in remembrance of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The poster also features a quotation from Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address": "... we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain ...".

Courtesy of the U.S. Navy Art Center, donation of Dr. Robert L. Scheina, 1970

STORY IDEAS?

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U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Seth Marcusa

Operations Specialist Seaman Joy Cline dons fire fighting equipment during DC Olympics aboard USS Port Royal on Nov. 24.

Sailors compete for DC Olympics title

Ensign Cassidy A. Rasmussen

USS Port Royal (CG 73)
Public Affairs

Sailors on USS Port Royal (CG 73) gathered together to tackle the 2007 Damage Control Olympics on Nov. 24.

Events included pipe-patching, basic first-aid, and dressing out in fire fighting equipment (FFE). Prizes for winning teams ranged from gift certificates to the ship's store to free bingo cards for a Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored event

later that night.

"It was fun. It was kind of a nice break from standing watch," said Operations Specialist Seaman Joy Cline.

The skills demonstrated at the DC Olympics were not just for show. Basic damage control and emergency first-aid are mandatory qualifications for any Sailor reporting for the first time aboard any naval ship.

"Everybody here is a firefighter," said Lt. j.g. Tabitha Booth, the damage control assistant aboard Port Royal. "Anything can happen anywhere – anybody has to be able to be a first-responder."

Russell takes friends and families to Maui

Story and photo by
Ensign Theresa Donnelly

USS Russell (DDG 59)
Public Affairs

Hundreds of USS Russell (DDG 59) family members, friends and supporters set sail for Maui on Nov. 30 for some well deserved rest and relaxation.

After an arduous ship's schedule, which included a highly successful Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV), Unit Level Training Assessment, Engineering (ULTRA E) and performing Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) off the coast of southern California, crew members gave their families and friends a once in a lifetime opportunity to see a U.S. Navy destroyer in action.

The ship had plenty of events to keep family members entertained throughout the 73-mile transit to and from the valley island. After a brief introduction exploring the history of Pearl Harbor and a description on the attacks of Dec. 7, 1941, a HH-65A Coast Guard helicopter hovered in close to Russell's flight deck and performed a search and rescue (SAR) exercise in full view of family and friends.

The Honolulu Hawai'i Sector 13 Coast Guard helicopter wowed the crowd as it performs close in maneuvers, demonstrating its multi-function capabilities to airlift supplies and helping personnel in distress.

"I had never seen anything like that before," said the mother of Culinary Specialist Seamen Russell Scofield.

Promoting Sailors to the next paygrade was top priority as a pinning ceremony gave family members the chance to see their Sailors promoted. There was even a spot promotion, called a



Fire Controlman 1st Class Sean McGinnis, assigned to guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59), gives a ship's tour to Navy League Sea Cadets. More than 60 cadets joined the ship for a friends and family cruise to Maui. The ship invited more than 250 family members, friends and ship supporters to ride the ship and witness a variety of shipboard operations.

"cap," to petty officer third class that was awarded to Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class David Burley, a member of Russell's deck division.

"I got to share a touching moment in my career with someone I really care about," said Operational Specialist 3rd Class Janiper Mendez, who brought along long-time friend Sarah James.

The officers of Russell's wardroom were also recognized with three promotions, six Navy Achievement Medals, three Navy Commendation medals, and a special leadership award given by the Surface Navy Association to Lt. j.g. Kathleen Ball.

While transiting to Maui, Russell guests toured a variety of shipboard spaces including the combat information center (CIC), radio, bridge, main engineering spaces and central control

center, immersing themselves into a wide spectrum of Russell operations.

Enlisted surface warfare-qualified E6 and above Sailors conducted the tours and children received signatures in preparation for their very own mini ESWS pin, awarded on the mess deck with a signed certificate.

Once in Maui, guests and family members enjoyed a discounted luau, held at the Royal Lahaina Resort. In spite of a brief rainstorm, guests and family members danced the hula, enjoyed a buffet feast, and saw a breathtaking fire dancing performance.

Not only did family members ride the guided missile destroyer, but members of the Honolulu Rotary Club as well as over 60 Navy League Sea Cadets enjoyed Maui.

The ship buzzed with

activity throughout the journey. On the return trip back to Oahu, Russell fired its massive five-inch/54 gun mount, much to the excitement of family and friends. After the ship's standard safety brief, the ship unleashed 10 salvos, dazzling guests with a unique weapons demonstration.

Topping off Russell's schedule of events, the ship performed a series of rudder swing checks, demonstrating its maneuverability when the ship takes on a hard turn.

"We came all the way from Virginia to ride on the USS Russell," said Hermer Arredondo, father of Sonar Technician 3rd Class Andreas Arredondo. "It was a great experience."

Russell is assigned to the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group and will join the carrier on its upcoming deployment early next year.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Pearl Harbor survivor Chief Cook Edward Gaulrapp (Navy Ret.) uses an aerial floor photo of Pearl Harbor, located at the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island, to pinpoint his location during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack. Assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based, Perch-class submarine USS Pompano (SS 181), Gaulrapp was in his barracks when the attacks began. He and several other Pearl Harbor survivors are in the Pearl Harbor area to observe the 66th anniversary of the attack.



U.S. Navy photo by MCC (SW/AW) David Rush

Following an interview with a local television station at the site of the newly built USS Oklahoma Memorial on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor survivor Senior Chief George A. Brown (Navy Ret.) speaks with Eileen Martinez of the National Park Service about the 429 Sailors who perished during the Pearl Harbor attack onboard USS Oklahoma (BB 37). Brown, who was a ship's cook third class on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, said he narrowly escaped through a hatch which had been blown open following the last torpedo to hit the crippled ship.



(Above) Sailors, Coast Guardsmen and Marines assigned to various commands in the Hawai'i area, stand in ranks during the 47th annual Sea Service Awards luncheon at the Ford Island Conference Center. They were recognized as the 2007 Navy League, Honolulu Council's Sea Service Award honorees for their commands.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron

(Right) Ensign Maria Summe takes measurements with a sextant on the bridge wing of USS Port Royal (CG 73).

U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Seth Marcusa

(Below) Volunteers from the Hawai'i Job Corp place ribbons on the U.S. flags across Richardson Field in preparation for the Healing Field Flag Memorial at Pearl Harbor. The memorial will fly 2,408 U.S. flags to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Hight



USS Oklahoma (BB 37) survivor Charles A. Smith comes aboard USS Arizona Memorial on a brief stop during a white boat tour of Pearl Harbor. Thirty-three Oklahoma high school Navy and Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets from high schools in Oklahoma joined Pearl Harbor survivors and their families for the historic tour.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 David N. Dexter



Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Paddie Perez (left) and Gas Turbine System Technician (electrical) 1st Class Manuel Serrana (right) of USS Reuben James (FFG 57) help paint Hermengilda F. Gloria Memorial Elementary School in the Philippines during the ship's port visit on Nov. 17.

U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Fallon Rossi



Junior officers aboard Port Royal engage in at-sea training



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Seth Marcusa

Lt. j.g. Neil Beckwith, USS Port Royal (CG 73) ship's navigator, trains a group of junior officers regarding how to calculate longitude by measuring the angle of the sun from the horizon at noon.

Ensign Cassidy A. Rasmussen

USS Port Royal (CG) Public Affairs

For a junior surface warfare officer (SWO), there is one goal that shines like no other: the much-coveted gold surface warfare pin. With that glinting piece of metal comes the recognition of having achieved an ultimate standard in knowledge and professionalism – an SWO is an expert ship-handler and warfighter, as well as a proven leader and manager.

Junior officers entering the surface community suddenly find themselves immersed in an environment with strange rules and even stranger language. "I didn't even know what my job title meant," said Ensign Mikela Rodkin, the combat information center offi-

*"I feel like if
I can master this,
I can do
anything."*

-Ensign Maria Summe

cer (CICO) aboard USS Port Royal (CG 73).

Unlike many other communities, surface warfare does not have a "primary" school or a general training class to prepare its pledges to fill their ship-board billets – all training is conducted at-sea, on-the-job. Background military training among new ensigns ranges from four years of formations and uniform inspections at the Naval Academy or in a

Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program to 13 weeks of indoctrination at Officer Candidate School (OCS). Some officers "hit the fleet" thinking they know what to expect, but all immediately discover how little they know.

For some, like Ensign Dave Lawrence, the message they receive upon walking across the brow for the first time is, "Welcome aboard. You are going on deployment."

"It was kind of a surprise," said Lawrence. "I knew we were leaving, but I didn't expect it to be right away."

The learning curve is sharp, but for a junior SWO, the rewards can be immense. "SWOs are like jacks-of-all-trades," said Ensign Maria Summe, Port Royal communications officer. "I feel like if I can master this, I can do anything."

Pearl Harbor Sailor wins top Sea Service Award

Continued from A-1

were announced as this year's overall winners.

"Winning this award is completely unexpected," said Coatney. "When I heard my name called the second time, it took my breath away."

By winning the award, Coatney was acknowledged as a great leader for the Navy's future and hopes he

can teach other Sailors how to be a leader in the Navy.

"I always tell my junior Sailors to do the best they do no matter what it is," said Coatney. "Take pride in what you do and it will help you succeed."

Jack Flanagan, president of the Honolulu council Navy League, expressed the importance of recognizing service members' with exceptional

leadership skills and how they will play a critical role in the future of the military.

"The chains of command who picked the Sailors believe that these Sailors are leaders in their command," said Flanagan. "It's important for the winners to be acknowledged because these types of people will be leading the military in the coming years."

Oklahoma Memorial will be dedicated on Ford island

Continued from A-1

Island, near Fox-5 Pier next to the Battleship Missouri Memorial. The Battleship Oklahoma was berthed along Ford Island on Dec. 7, 1941 and suffered the second greatest loss of life during the attack. The memorial is comprised of 429 pieces of marble columns that have been cut and engraved, symbolizing each of the crew members who lost their lives on that fateful day.

USS Oklahoma survivors, members of the USS Oklahoma Memorial Committee and hundreds of others have come together to make this memorial a reality. Working on the project since 2001, the memorial was officially signed into law by President Bush as a national memorial in 2006. A ground breaking ceremony was held last Dec. 7 to begin the initial steps to create the site. The National Park Service will administer

its caretaking.

The ceremony will include a traditional Hawaiian blessing followed by remarks from Adm. Timothy Keating, U.S. Pacific Command; Hawai'i Senator Daniel Inouye, Hawai'i Governor Linda Lingle; Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry; Rep. Neil Abercrombie; Rep. Mary Fallin; Rep. Tom Cole; Assistant Secretary of the Interior Lyle Laverly; granddaughter of an

Oklahoma crewmember, Lisa Ridge; and Oklahoma survivor, Edward Vezey. Music will be performed by the Marine Forces Pacific Band and members of two Oklahoma Navy and Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Cadet units will present the colors.

Following the speakers, a ceremonial flag will be hoisted by survivor Signalman 1st Class Paul Goodyear and a 21-gun salute will honor all Oklahoma crewmen.



Holiday safety: Another case of 'get-home-itis'

Lt. Cmdr. William R. McCombs

Naval Safety Center Public Affairs

I once heard that 80 percent of the population consider themselves above-average drivers. I belonged in that group until one Thanksgiving when I was driving home alone. It was a long drive for one day - 14 hours - and the holiday traffic was heavy, but I had made the trip a dozen times before. I didn't think it would be a big deal.

The day before leaving, I had done some operational risk management to ensure the trip went smoothly. I had decided to leave early in the morning to get ahead of the traffic and to give me more hours of daylight driving. I also checked the weather and although showers were predicted, it was the best weather we'd had in several days.

I got a good night's sleep and, armed with plenty of food and drink to keep me energetic and comfortable, was ready to go. The morning launch went smoothly - I got my hugs and said my goodbyes, then hit the road. Once on the interstate, I quickly reached cruising speed. I was pressing hard, but still pacing myself for the marathon drive.

By afternoon, I was reaching the halfway point and everything was going smoothly. I had survived a couple of back-ups from wrecks and one snow shower, but nothing bad. I made a short stop at a rest area, put in a fresh magazine of CDs, and was raring to go.

I pulled onto what I thought was an onramp and accelerated. My dual-overhead cams were kicking when I noticed a yield sign that I needed to honor. Then, to my horror, I saw that my onramp made a hard, left turn and merged into another onramp for tractor-trailers. To make matters worse, the onramp I was joining banked the opposite way, creating a lip over which I was about to drop. Did I mention the road also was wet?

I recognized my dilemma, but knew there wasn't much I could do to fix it. I kept my foot off the brakes to keep from skidding and held on, hoping I might make it. "Hoping," however, wasn't good enough. My car practically leaped over the lip and immediately spun to the left. I countered with opposite rudder, which spun me around the other way. I braced for the impact and waited for the air bags to explode. In my mind, I pictured my car totaled and an ambulance hauling me off to a hospital.

Surprisingly, though, my car spun 270 degrees and slid off in a ditch. Gravel flew all around as I crunched to a stop, facing back where I had come from. I was shaken, but not hurt - miraculously, neither was my car.

I learned a few points from this experience. Although I always worry about other drivers killing me, I'm confident that I'm a safe driver. In this instance, no other drivers were within a quarter-mile so I had no one else to blame. I was driving far too fast in bad con-

ditions and in unfamiliar territory - factors that only reinforced my need to be more cautious.

I also was suffering from get-home-itis. I had a 14-hour drive in bad weather, with heavy holiday traffic. The next time, I'll plan a two-day trip or fly.

Perhaps my biggest lesson from this experience was that I need to implement my own controls when I'm off duty.

Russell's VBSS teams maintain vigorous training during COMPTUEX



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Theresa Donnelly

Gas Turbine System Technician Mechanical 2nd Class Matt Squazza, a member of USS Russell's (DDG 59) visit, board, search and seizure team, climbs down the ship's pilot's ladder to prepare for a boarding exercise during Composite Training Unit Exercise.

FC1 (SW) Daniel J. Valenzuela

USS Russell (DDG 59) Public Affairs

USS Russell (DDG 59) recently completed several visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) exercises during Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX).

The ship was tasked with conducting approach operations, compliant and non-compliant boardings.

The first couple of days of COMPTUEX were spent conducting integrated training with Mobile Security Squadron Two, helicopter visit, board, search and seizure (HVBSS).

The Sailors, stationed at Little Creek, Va., are trained to board vessels by fast-roping down from a SH-60 helicopter. Having them embarked gave Russell's team an insightful look into how the Navy is branching out in this fast evolving warfare area. It also gave both teams a chance to see each other operate, integrate and provide different training styles and techniques, resulting

in a growth of knowledge for all of the team members.

This integration also allowed something perhaps more important than training to occur. It gave both teams a chance to set the standard operating procedures for the integration of both teams.

The COMPTUEX and upcoming deployment will be the first operational period for the HVBSS team. These exercises allow Russell and HVBSS Team One to develop the play book for all future deployments.

The two teams offered advice and techniques gained from the different schools each had attended and swapped "sea stories" gained from experiences gathered during each Sailor's career.

"I liked the advanced medical training given by the HVBSS team," said Gunner's Mate 3rd Class (SW) Kevin Weiss, vertical launching system technician on Russell and member of the non-compliant VBSS team.

Upon the return of the HVBSS team back to the USS Abraham Lincoln (DVB 72), Russell was tasked to continue

maritime interdiction operations using the ship's highly trained VBSS team.

The approach ops became more and more difficult for the team to gather information from the master and crew which were sent to the carrier's intelligence community for dissemination and use in future boardings.

"It's great to get out of the school house and put the guys into the [rigid hull inflatable boat] RHIB," said Chief Master-at-Arms Daniel Brooks. "There is no substitute for hands on training of this caliber. It gives the teams a hint of things to come."

Each boarding allowed the team members an opportunity to gain valuable training using scenarios that may happen during the ships upcoming deployment.

In fact, several VBSS team members from the guided missile destroyer USS James E. Williams (DDG 95) recently put their training to the test against real-life pirates off the coast of Somalia.

On Oct. 30, the bridge of the Korean cargo vessel Dai Hong

Dan was taken over by pirates. The crew managed to maintain control of the steering and engineering spaces and eventually re-captured the bridge leaving one pirate dead and six captured. They requested assistance from the James E. Williams and the ship responded by sending over three medical corpsman and a VBSS security team.

This recent event, among other criminal-like activities on the high seas, makes the training on board the Russell all the more crucial. Many of the team members realize that their training has led them to this imperative and significant mission.

"In light of recent events, it's comforting to know that our training is getting us ready for real world situations," said Gunner's Mate 1st Class Timothy Rischawy, Russell's five-inch/54 caliber mount captain and VBSS training team member.

Russell is currently assigned to the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group and will join the carrier on her upcoming deployment early next year.

Tow or be towed: Port Royal executes dangerous towing exercise with precision and professionalism

Ensign Cassidy A. Rasmussen

USS Port Royal (CG 73) Public Affairs

For Sailors in the surface Navy, having another vessel pointed straight toward the ship and only a few hundred yards away is generally considered not to be a good situation.

On Nov. 21, USS Port Royal (CG 73) and USS Ingraham (FFG 61) approached each other in "close quarters" to engage in a towing exercise (TOWEX) during their transit into the 7th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR).

"It was stressful, but a lot of planning went into it and we executed it safely. We did a good job," said Lt. j.g. Andy Bachelor, the first lieutenant of Port Royal.

Port Royal maneuvered through heavy winds and a sudden squall to take position ahead of Ingraham's bow. Gunner's mates on Port Royal aimed a "shot-line" at the other ship which line handlers used to haul the heavy towing line onto Ingraham's deck.

The TOWEX is a bi-annual certification, meaning that many of the junior deck personnel who carried out



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Seth Marcusa
USS Port Royal (CG 73) Sailors watch USS Ingraham (FFG 61) from the fantail during a towing exercise on Nov. 21.

the exercise had no towing experience. Regardless, both ships executed the event safely and professionally.

"It was a great learning experience," remarked Bachelor. "I'm glad I had a chance to participate in this."

'Tis time for CEL surveys for housing residents

Forest City Military Communities

Residents of Forest City Military Communities are encouraged to play an active role in the management of their homes - and in the management of our environment. Three lucky residents will be randomly selected to win a free, fun and fuel efficient GTX moped upon completion of their CEL survey. The deadline for CEL to receive completed surveys is Dec. 14.

Each year, Forest City Residential Management conducts the CEL survey to evaluate the level of satisfaction in Forest City communities. Information gleaned from the survey will assist in reviewing Forest City policies and procedures. Forest City measures the results from residents' responses on the performance of community management and maintenance services to identify areas of strength and also to recognize areas that can be strengthened.

This year's theme is "The Road to Success." On Forest City's road to success, residents are in the driver's seat.

In early November, residents were mailed a package that contained a survey touching eight housing topics, a comment card so the service member can freely communicate praise or concern with housing policies, a GTX moped drawing entry form, and informational materials to update residents on Forest City happenings.

Completed surveys are tabulated by CEL & Associates in Los Angeles, Calif. to keep individual survey responses confidential and anonymous. A postage-paid, self addressed envelope to CEL was also enclosed in the survey package. CEL will provide a consolidated report to Forest City upon closing of the survey to reveal patterns and trends in resident satisfaction both on a neighborhood basis and community-wide.

Forest City invites all residents to contribute feedback on the condition of Navy family housing, and thanks those who have done so already. Participation in the CEL Survey is crucial to impacting the quality of Navy communities, and it's also not a bad way to win a free moped.



Construction activities around Pearl Harbor

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawai'i recently awarded a project to repair Bravo docks 12-14 to Hawaiian Dredging for \$12.6 million. The scope of work includes replacement of the timber piles, repair of concrete spalls on the top deck, the under deck and all structural support piles, repair of mooring devices and restriping the top deck. Construction will begin Jan. 8, 2008.

The following road closures and power outages have been announced:

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center:

- Vincennes Avenue will

be down to two lanes of traffic and parallel parking near buildings 474 and 475 will be unavailable due to the replacement of a water line from Dec. 11-April 9, 2008.

Naval Station Pearl Harbor:

- Parking stalls in Club Pearl's parking lot will be closed for soil boring for a military construction project through Dec. 28.

Pearl Harbor Shipyard:

- Repaving work at parking lot "C" will be accomplished through Feb. 2, 2008.

Submarine base area:

- All parking stalls along Oakley Road in the submarine base are between buildings 666 and 654 will be closed for the placement of a temporary chiller through Jan. 3, 2008.

STORY IDEAS?

Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements:

Phone: (808) 473-2888

Email: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com

Hawaii Navy News

Reuben James visits Philippines in time for hard work, festivities

Ensign Fallon Rossi

USS Reuben James (FG 57) Public Affairs

The port visit of Pearl Harbor-based USS Reuben James (FG 57) to Dumaguete City, Philippines could not have been timed more perfectly. The ship's arrival coincided with the Sandurot Festival, held annually to celebrate the four major foreign influences on Philippine history.

Bright costumes and lively music brought Chinese, Spanish, Muslim and American customs to life and illuminated the convergence of cultures and traditions in Dumaguete over time. Several officers and crew members were invited by Agustin Pedrices, the mayor of Dumaguete, to participate in the festival as representatives of American culture.

Cmdr. Rich Haidvogel, Port Royal commanding officer, addressed the crowd at the opening ceremony of the festival. "Our visit demonstrates the strength of our long-standing relationship with the Philippines. We're very glad to be here to celebrate this day with you," said Haidvogel.

Sensitive to the importance of community relations in the Republic of the Philippines and eager to promote peace and build international friendships, many crew members also participated in volunteer projects while in port.

Twenty volunteers from the crew rode 45 kilometers on a bus ride to



U.S. Navy photo by SKI Shad Wakefield

Ensign Sarah Smith and Fireman Mike Baker of USS Reuben James (FFG 57) mix cement to be poured in the foundation of four new homes at the Gawad Kalinga Habitat for Humanity site in Bais City, Philippines during the ship's port visit.

the city of Bais, the location of the Gawad Kalinga Habitat for Humanity site. For two and half years, Gawad Kalinga has been building homes for the poor in Bais.

Mayor Hector Villanueva, in a welcome speech made to volunteers, said he hoped to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor by empowering his people to support themselves. He encouraged prospective owners of the

new homes to participate in the building process. The volunteers worked along with the poor, mixing concrete and laying foundations on four new houses. As thanks for the Port Royal crew's hard work, the mayor provided a seafood buffet at the end of the day.

Another group of volunteers traveled to Hermengilda F. Gloria Memorial Elementary School and High School to deliver Project

Handclasp items and give the two schools a fresh coat of paint. This time, they were greeted by the many smiling faces of children who were excited to receive their special visitors.

The crew members who volunteered enjoyed the opportunity to better the community. Store Keeper 1st Class Shad Wakefield, who is an avid volunteer, said, "When we can step away from our training and give back to the communities by offering our support and assistance to the local areas, it makes all of the long hours we spend away from our families worthwhile."

Four days later, Reuben James visited Tacloban City, Philippines where the crew was again welcomed with open arms by the locals. At the welcome ceremony on the pier, Mayor Alfred Romualdez said, "The Americans are no strangers to Tacloban. There is a strong family relationship between us and we believe in the same fight for freedom." Haidvogel, Port Royal commanding officer, echoed the Mayor's comments, adding, "Visiting the Philippines gives our younger generation the opportunity to build on our long-standing friendship," he said.

Later that evening, the officers were invited to a special dinner party hosted by the Lion's Club. The event was marked by food, conversation, music and dancing. The people of Tacloban invited the entire crew to a dinner dance the following night.

Over 70 Sailors attended the dance at the city's convention center. Both Romualdez and Haidvogel presented toasts to the friendship between the U.S. and the Philippines.

Visiting Tacloban City brought more opportunities for the Reuben James to do goodwill projects. Volunteers again participated in Habitat for Humanity at the nearby Gawad Kalinga site. "Our goodwill efforts of today seem to place in the shadows the warfighting efforts of the past. We were building homes alongside the poor people who would soon own our finished products. It was so gratifying to know that our hard work will be remembered for the rest of their lives," commented Ensign Sarah Smith. Volunteers also visited the San Fernando Central School. Upon arrival, the group was hailed with music performed by the school children. The volunteers painted three classrooms and distributed Project Handclasp items.

Both port visits allowed the crew of Reuben James to unite with the local people of Dumaguete and Tacloban and celebrate the friendship and diplomatic ties between the U.S. and the Philippines. Food, dancing, laughter and music brought everyone together and illuminated the most important commonality between the countries: Humanity.

USS Reuben James has been operating as part of the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

Pearl Harbor Survivor Gaulrapp, had '100 brothers' in Navy

Continued from A-1

ducked but plunged too far, accidentally wedging herself in the bottom of Tokyo Harbor.

"We got stuck in the mud and were down there for 78 hours. We were low on gas and all of us nearly ran out of air," Gaulrapp described. Right when the skipper was about to "throw us to the dogs," he said, an engineering officer persuaded him otherwise. "He said, 'I know a way you can come out of this smelling like roses.' And we did!"

With her battery nearly

exhausted, the Pompano, through a series of maneuvers, was able to free herself and finally surface. When she did, she spotted several Japanese sampans and freighters and eventually brought them down with gunfire.

"I still remember Tokyo Rose saying, 'We'll get you yet,'" Gaulrapp said, recalling his heroic tour with the Pompano. "But they didn't because I am still here today," he added with a laugh.

A full and successful naval career

During World War II,

Gaulrapp made eight war patrols on several U.S. Navy vessels such as the USS Pompano, USS Haddock and the USS Runner. Throughout his 20-year naval career, he garnered more than 10 medals, including the Asian Pacific Medal (bronze star), National Defense Service medal (double bronze star) and the World War II Victory Medal, and earned a spot on the World War II Monument in Washington, D.C.

When Gaulrapp eventually retired, he continued his involvement with naval

reunions and activities, as well as enjoyed an occasional visit from a former shipmate.

His daughter Lois Deininger, who was born on a naval base in Connecticut, said that the bedrock of their family has always been centered on her father's naval service. She noted that although her father never had any parents, he always had the Navy. "A lot of people ask him what it was like to be an orphan," she said. "And he would always say, 'How can you be an orphan on a ship with 100 men?' He may not

have had a mom and dad, but he had 100 brothers."

Deininger, her family and close family friends, accompanied Gaulrapp on his trip to Pearl Harbor so that he can pay his respects before he dies. Although the trip is emotional, she regards it as a "blessing."

"As a daughter, the thing I appreciate most about my father is although he had a hard life, he never had a bad thing to say about it, not one bad thing about the orphanage or about the service," she said. "My father is proud of

having been part of the military. The Navy has been his soul mate throughout his life."

As Deininger stood with her father at Ford Island, near the Arizona Memorial, she gently held his hand and together they quietly observed the splendid landmark glowing in the distance touched by the vibrant Hawaiian sun. After a long pause, his eyes welled up and he turned back to his family and friends waiting near the car. His words were few, but they were clear: "I think I am glad we made the trip."