



Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 7, 2007
“Honoring the Past, Building for the Future”
66th Anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commemoration marks 66th anniversary of Pearl Harbor attack; USS *Oklahoma* Memorial dedication scheduled for Dec. 7

(PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII) -- The National Park Service and the U. S. Navy will host a joint memorial ceremony commemorating the 66th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor's Kilo Pier from 7:40- 9:30 a.m. The theme of the program is “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 will join military personnel, both active 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,” will reflect on remembering Pearl Harbor and highlight current efforts to expand educational opportunities for future generations of Americans to discover the history of the attack on Pearl Harbor. In doing so, we honor the veterans who served in WWII and their comrades who paid the ultimate sacrifice. For military who serve today, this ceremony provides a study of lessons learned and an opportunity to express gratitude towards the Pearl Harbor veterans.

Admiral Robert F. Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, will serve as the keynote speaker for the commemoration, and Dr. Robert K. Sutton, Chief Historian for the National Park Service, will serve as the featured speaker. Other speakers include the Governor of Hawaii Linda Lingle; Senator Daniel Inouye, and retired Admiral Thomas Fargo, Vice Chair of the National Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund.

Highlights of the ceremony will include 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, echo taps and recognition of the men and women who survived that December 7, 1941 and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

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At 7:55 a.m., the exact moment the Japanese attack began 66 years ago, a moment of silence will be observed. The Pearl Harbor-based Aegis-class guided missile cruiser, USS *Lake Erie* (CG-70) will render honors to the USS *Arizona*. Hawaii Air National Guard F-15s will fly 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 on December 7, 2007 at 12 p.m. The location will be Ford Island, near Fox-5 Pier next to the Battleship Missouri Memorial. The Battleship *Oklahoma* was berthed along Ford Island on Dec. 7, 1941, and suffered the second greatest loss of life during the attack. 429 pieces of marble columns have been cut and engraved, symbolizing each of the crewmembers 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 December 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 Admiral Timothy Keating, US Pacific Command, Hawaii Senator Daniel Inouye, Hawaii 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 First Class Paul Goodyear and a twenty-one gun salute will honor all *Oklahoma* crewmen.

Public Access to the Pearl Harbor 66th Anniversary Commemoration and the USS *Oklahoma* Memorial Dedication:

Pearl Harbor 66th Anniversary Commemoration

The commemoration is free of charge and a limited number of seats are open to the general public. Due to strict security measures on Naval Station Pearl Harbor, only invited guests will be allowed access on base in their vehicles. General public wishing to attend the commemoration will be required to board U.S. Navy boats or special buses departing from the USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center which will transport them to Kilo Pier and the commemoration site. Seats for the general public on the U.S. Navy boats and buses at the commemoration are limited, and available on a first come, first serve basis. The first U.S. Navy boat and buses for the general public will depart from the Visitor Center at 6 a.m. and last boat departs at 7 a.m.

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USS Oklahoma Memorial Dedication Ceremony

The dedication ceremony is free of charge and a limited number of seats are open to the general public by advance reservation only. Due to strict security measures on Ford Island, only invited guests will be allowed access to Ford Island in their vehicles. Members of the general public wishing to attend the dedication ceremony will be required to make advance reservations for special bus transportation departing from the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum which is adjacent to the USS *Arizona* Memorial. Bus transportation begins at 10:30. Seats are limited and must be reserved in advance BEFORE 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 4. To reserve transportation from the USS *Bowfin* parking lot to Ford Island, go to <http://www.nps.gov/usar> and click on Pearl Harbor 66th Anniversary Events. For additional reservation assistance, call 422-2771, ext. 111.

Information

For more information on the Pearl Harbor Day 66th Anniversary Commemoration and the USS *Oklahoma* Memorial Dedication, call the National Park Service at (808) 422-2771 or visit their Web site at <http://www.nps.gov/usar>; or contact the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office at 808-473-2888.

Security

Due to strict security measures, personal cameras may be used at the ceremony, but no camera bags, purses, handbags and/or other items that offer concealment are allowed.

Dress Code

Military dress is summer whites or service dress equivalent with ribbons, no medals. The civilian dress code for the commemoration is Aloha attire, longs pants and collared shirts.

Children

Due to the formality and length of the commemoration, it is recommended that children be at least eight years old to attend.

Parking

Parking for the general public is available at the USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center. Attendees should allow a minimum of an extra 15 minutes for parking and to pass through security.

Directions to USS Arizona Memorial Visitors Center

Car

From the Honolulu/Waikiki area, take Ala Moana Blvd. /Nimitz Highway or H-1 Freeway West. While on H-1, look for the USS *Arizona*/Stadium exit, #15A. The USS *Arizona* Memorial is located off of State Highway 99 (Kamehameha Highway) about a 45-minute drive west of Waikiki.

Public Transportation

Honolulu public transit buses stop regularly at the Visitor Center and can be boarded in Waikiki. The #20 and #42 buses will take you to the USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center.

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Media Instructions:

**FOR GUIDANCE AND PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY
NOT FOR BROADCAST**

- 1. Complete and fax/email applications for Joint Media Credentials by Dec. 4.** Contact the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office in advance at 808-473-3788 or 473-2888 or stop by the USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center to secure a Joint Media Credential Application.
- 2. Pick up Joint Media Credential Badges on either Dec. 6, 10 a.m. or Dec 7, 6 a.m.** at the former Ferry Landing building, located in the back of the USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center parking lot, between the visitor center and the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum.
- 3. On Dec 6, at 10 a.m.,** media may attend a site inspection of the Pearl Harbor Ceremony Kilo Pier and USS *Oklahoma* Memorial Ford Island sites. Meet at the Media Information Center in the former Ferry Landing Building located in back of the USS *Arizona* Memorial visitor center parking lot, between the visitor center and the USS *Bowfin* to be escorted
- 4. On Dec. 7, at 6 a.m., check in at the Media Information Center** in the former Ferry Landing Building located in back of the USS *Arizona* Memorial visitor center parking lot, between the visitor center and the USS *Bowfin* for transport and escort to the Commemoration site. Please be prompt and have your Media Pass available.
- 5. Media covering the ceremony will also have the option to continue their coverage as follows directly following the completion of the ceremony:**

On the USS *Arizona* Memorial

9:35 – 10:00 a.m.

Japan Religious Committee for World Federation – Prayer for Peace on USS *Arizona* Memorial

10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Floral Tribute and Wreath Observations by Ceremony Speakers, Pearl Harbor Survivors and 35+ Organizations on USS *Arizona* Memorial

10:45 – 11 a.m.

White House Commission on Remembrance kick-off of the countdown to the National Moment of Remembrance (3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day).

This marks the official launch of the special “Old Glory’s Journey of Remembrance” follow the flag program. An American flag will be flown in 25 different locations, around the US between December 7, 2007 and May 26, 2008. All locations represent major conflicts in all regions of the U.S. These are identified by memorials and national cemeteries or battlefields in which American lives have been lost. The first flag raising location will be at the USS *Arizona* Memorial on December 7 – right after the floral tribute and wreath observance on the Memorial, concluding on Memorial Day, 2008 with the flag flying over the US Capitol.

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Media covering the Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony may also continue their coverage onboard the USS *Arizona* Memorial directly following the completion of the ceremony with a photo or b-roll opportunity (still photo and b-roll only-no interviews) of the Japan Religious Committee for World Federation prayer for peace. Directly following the prayer, there will be an informal floral observance by Speakers, Pearl Harbor Survivors and 35+ organizations with wreaths to present. The official “Old Glory” Journey of Remembrance” flag raising will also take place at this time. Media may board the 9:35 a.m. boat leaving Kilo Pier right after the ceremony. And return to Kilo Pier with the group at approximately 11:15 a.m.

On Ford Island

NOON – 1:30 p.m.
USS Oklahoma Memorial Dedication Ceremony
Ford Island (Adjacent to USS *Missouri* Memorial)

Media is also invited to proceed on to the NOON – 1:30 p.m. USS *Oklahoma* Memorial Dedication Ceremony on Ford Island. Transportation and media escorts will be provided either from Kilo Pier or, if a second news team is being sent, from the Media Information Center at the Ferry Landing Building in back of the USS *Arizona* Memorial parking lot (between the USS *Arizona* Memorial administration building and the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum). After the ceremony, media and invited guests are invited to a reception held at the Pacific Aviation Museum.

6. For more information and media access, contact Lisa Ontai of the National Park Service/Arizona Memorial Museum Association at 808-375-9352 or ontai@pixi.com; Eileen Martinez, National Park Service, 808-422-2771 x124 or eileen_martinez@nps.gov ; or Chief David Rush of the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office at 808-590-8363, 808-473-2888 or david.rush@navy.mil.