



Dec. 7, 2010
"A Promise Fulfilled 1941 - 2010"
68th Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration
and
Dedication of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**December 5 – 7, Commemorates 69th Anniversary
of Pearl Harbor Attack and Dedication of New \$56 Million Pearl Harbor Visitor
Center**

***Public is invited to December 7th ceremony and dedication taking place at World War II
Valor in the Pacific National Monument – Pearl Harbor Visitor Center and
commemorative events on December 5 and 6.***

(PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII) -- The National Park Service and the U.S. Navy will host a joint memorial ceremony and dedication commemorating the 69th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 7:40 – 9:30 a.m., which will include the dedication of the new \$56 million Pearl Harbor Visitor Center at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument (formerly known as the USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center). The National Park Service will also host two days of special events, Dec. 5 and 6, leading up to the grand opening and dedication.

The theme of the December 7th ceremony is "*A Promise Fulfilled 1941 - 2010.*" The ceremony returns to the back lawn of the new Visitor Center which looks directly out to the USS *Arizona* Memorial situated in Pearl Harbor. For the past 5 years, the ceremony has been held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's Kilo Pearl while planning and construction of the new Visitor Center took place.

More than 2,500 distinguished guests and the general public are expected to join current and former military personnel, including Pearl Harbor survivors and other WWII veterans, for the annual observance of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and the dedication of the new Visitor Center. Pearl Harbor Survivors Association members from all across the country are holding their annual meeting in Honolulu, Dec. 4 – 8, to coincide with the anniversary and the dedication of the new Pearl Harbor Visitor Center. More than 120 Pearl Harbor Survivors are registered to attend along with more than 300 of their family and friends.

The theme of this year's historic commemoration, "*A Promise Fulfilled 1941 - 2010,*" is dedicated to the Pearl Harbor Survivors. Those who survived the attack formed the organization in 1958 to commemorate that tragic day and call out to the nation to "Keep America Alert and to Remember Pearl Harbor."

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The Pearl Harbor Survivors have played an integral role in volunteering and supporting the National Park Service administration of the USS *Arizona* Memorial since 1980. In 1987, the survivors donated their collection of memorabilia to the National Park Service. Later in 2007, they moved forward to help raise money for the new visitor center and museum, supporting the efforts of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund and the Arizona Memorial Museum Association (now known as Pacific Historic Parks) national fundraising efforts.

With the grand opening of the visitor center complex, the Nation's promise to remember their sacrifice at Pearl Harbor and during World War II will be fulfilled. The ceremony and dedication will honor the veterans and civilian eyewitnesses of that tragic day, but in a larger sense, humbly thank all of those who fundraised, donated, planned, designed, and constructed the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.

Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and the Parks Thomas Strickland will serve as the keynote speaker for the commemoration and dedication. Other guest speakers include National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis; Admiral Patrick M. Walsh, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; retired Navy Admiral Thomas B. Fargo and newly elected Governor Neil Abercrombie.

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

At 7:55 a.m., the exact moment the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began 69 years ago, a moment of silence will be observed. The USS *Chafee* (DDG 90) will render honors to the USS *Arizona*. Military aircraft will fly over the Memorial in a "missing man" formation. A Hawaiian Blessing and Dedication of the new Pearl Harbor Visitor Center will follow. The ceremony will conclude with a "Walk of Honor" by more than 200 Pearl Harbor Survivors and other World War II Veterans through an honor cordon of Armed Service and National Park Service men and women to officially open the new Visitor Center Museum.

Public Access to the Pearl Harbor 69th Anniversary Commemoration

The commemoration is free of charge and the public is invited to attend. Seats for the general public to the commemoration are limited, and available on a first-come, first-served basis. The Visitor Center will open early at 6:30. Seating for the public will begin at 7:15 a.m.

No Public Parking for the Ceremony at the Visitor Center

Ceremony parking for the public will only be available at the Aloha Stadium lower Halawa parking lot. Entry will be at gates 3 and 4. A free shuttle bus service before the Ceremony will run between the Aloha Stadium and the Visitor Center from 6 a.m. – 7:00 a.m. After the Ceremony, the free shuttle will run from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The public is encouraged to arrive early to allow time for parking, taking the shuttle and going through security at the Visitor Center.

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Security

Cameras are permitted; however, due to strict security measures, camera bags, purses, handbags and/or other items that offer concealment are not allowed. Bag storage is available at the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum & Park.

Dress Code

Military dress is summer whites or service equivalent. The civilian dress code for the commemoration is Aloha attire, long pants and collared shirts.

Information

For more information about the Pearl Harbor Day 69th Anniversary Commemoration and Dedication Ceremony and special events, call the National Park Service at (808) 422-3300 or visit www.nps.gov/valr/ or www.pacifichistoricparks.org.

Additional Public Grand Opening Events at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center

Leading up to the Pearl Harbor 69th Anniversary Commemoration and Dedication, the public is invited to attend the following grand opening events and activities at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center:

Sun., Dec. 5

8 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Kama‘aina Day

Kama‘aina Day will begin with a historic Flag Raising Ceremony featuring the National Park Service Ceremonial Honor Guard and Pearl Harbor Survivors. Flags from the different branches of service in 1941 will be recreated for a historical presentation. These flags will be flying over the entrance of the new Pearl Harbor Visitors Center. The day will continue with entertainment by local performers Jake Shimabukuru, The Singing Blue Stars of the USS *Hornet*, Royal Hawaiian Band, Drill Team Hawaii, Kamehameha Schools Children’s Chorus, Holy Family Catholic Academy’s Advance Hawaiian Music Ukulele Students and Halau Hula O Napunahaeleapua. Taking place concurrently will be a special Living History Presentation Series featuring Pearl Harbor Survivors, noted historians and authors. A limited block of USS *Arizona* Memorial tour tickets will be reserved for Kama‘aina – available on a first-come, first-served basis with a Hawaii I.D.

Sun., Dec. 5

4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

USS *Arizona* Band Commemoration Concert – Performed by the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band

The U.S. Pacific Fleet Band will perform a special concert in commemoration of the 69th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and as a tribute to the brave band members of US Navy Band Unit Number 22, the last Navy band ever to serve aboard the USS *Arizona*. The concert will feature the original play list from the last performance of the USS *Arizona* Band, which was a week before the attack on Pearl Harbor. All 21 original members of U.S. Navy Band Unit Number 22 lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Bring your picnic dinner and enjoy this very special commemorative concert

Dec. 5 & 6

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Living History Presentations featuring Pearl Harbor Survivors and noted historians and authors.

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Dec. 5 & 6

11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Narrated 1- Hour Historic Pearl Harbor Boat Tours

Seating is limited, advance reservations recommended by calling (808) 487-3327, ext 21

- The free boat tours will be narrated by National Park Service rangers and will take visitors around historic Ford Island. The one-hour tours will give visitors an opportunity to witness many of the notable sites of the 1941 Japanese air raid on Pearl Harbor. All boats will depart the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, and the program is offered separate from the normal park program. There will be no stop at the USS *Arizona* Memorial.

Dec. 5, 6 and 7

Pacific War in Miniature Model Exhibit by the International Plastic Modeler's Society – Battleship Row Chapter-Hawaii

Local modelers on Oahu will provide a Pacific War scale model display of aircraft, ships and dioramas. Over 125 models can be viewed by the public in the Education Building at the Visitors Center.

Mon., Dec. 6

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Armed Service Day

Armed Service day will also begin with a historic Flag Raising Ceremony featuring the National Park Service Ceremonial Honor Guard and members from each of the Armed Services. . Flags from the different branches of service in 1941 will be recreated for a historical presentation. These flags will be flying over the entrance of the new Pearl Harbor Visitors Center. The day will continue with special entertainment by the Navy's U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, The Singing Blue Stars of the USS *Hornet*, and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific Show Band

A limited block of USS *Arizona* Memorial tour tickets will be reserved for Active and Retired Military – available on a first-come, first-served basis with a military I.D.

Dec. 6 & 7

Historic Military Arms and Vehicle Display

Over 10 military vehicles from WWII will be placed on display in the main parking lot of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center. Visitors will be allowed to photograph and discuss with Living History soldiers about how the vehicles were used and the role of the United States Army in Hawaii.

USS *Oklahoma* Memorial Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance

USS *Oklahoma* Memorial on Ford Island

Tue., Dec. 7, 1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Free Admission

The public is invited to attend a special ceremony hosted by the National Park Service in honor of those who served on the USS *Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The USS *Oklahoma* (BB-37) Memorial was officially dedicated on December 7, 2007. The memorial is located on 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. The memorial includes 429 marble columns symbolizing each of the crewmembers who lost their lives on that fateful day. Public wishing to attend the ceremony can catch a free shuttle departing from the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum & Park, which is adjacent to the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, beginning at 12:30 p.m. The shuttle will run every 15 minutes. Those with military identification may drive directly to the USS *Oklahoma* Memorial.

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**REMAINDER OF NEWS RELEASE IS THE
MEDIA COVERAGE EVENT CALENDAR AND INSTRUCTIONS.**

FOR GUIDANCE AND PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY - NOT FOR BROADCAST

Media Access to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Ford Island: Contact the Navy Region Hawaii Media Officer MCC Bart Bauer by December 3, at office 808-473-3788 or cell 808-590-8363, to notify of all coverage plans and arrange for base access and escorts. Media Events on Ford Island include:

- Dec. 6, 5 p.m., Sunset USS *Utah* Memorial Service and Interment.
- Dec. 7, 8 a.m., Ewa Marine Corps Air Station Ceremony at the Ewa Marine Corps Marker at the Barbers Point Golf Course Clubhouse, hosted by Navy League.
- Dec. 7, 7:55 a.m., Remembrance at Atterbury Memorial Park on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, sponsored by U.S. Air Force 15th Wing
- Dec. 7, 1:30 p.m., USS *Oklahoma* Memorial Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance on Ford Island.
- (Note: Dec. 7, 1:30 p.m., groundbreaking ceremony for new NOAA Regional Pacific Center - coincidental event.)
- Dec. 8, 11 a.m. USS *Nevada* Memorial Remembrance at Hospital Point.

Dec. 4, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., American Flag Placement on all Pearl Harbor Casualty Gravesites by the National Park Service and the Girls Scouts at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl

Dec. 5 & 6, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., Kama‘aina Day and Armed Service Day at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center

Call Lisa Ontai at 375-9352 to notify in advance of media coverage and to arrange for access.

Dec. 7, 69th Anniversary Pearl Harbor Commemoration and Dedication Ceremony

6 a.m. – 6:30 a.m. Check in at front entrance of Pearl Harbor Visitor Center. Also please note ceremony dress code attire request of Aloha attire, longs pants and collared shirts.

Dec. 7, After Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremony & Dedication Coverage -- media will have the option to continue their coverage on board the USS *Arizona* Memorial

On the USS *Arizona* Memorial. Still photo and B-roll only – no interviews. Media may board the 9:30 a.m. Navy boat leaving Kilo Pier to the USS *Arizona* Memorial immediately following the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony; then return to Kilo Pier at approximately 11:50 a.m. The following ceremonies will take place on the Memorial:

9:45 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Floral tribute and wreath observations by Pearl Harbor Ceremony speakers and Pearl Harbor Survivors on USS *Arizona* Memorial

10:30 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

Japan Religious Committee for World Federation, military chaplains, and other participants for the Ecumenical Prayer Service on USS *Arizona* Memorial

11:10 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Floral tribute and wreath observations by more than 40 organizations in honor of Pearl Harbor Day.

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Dec. 7, 7:55 a.m., Remembrance at Atterbury Memorial Park on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, sponsored by U.S. Air Force 15th Wing

Contact the Navy Region Hawaii Media Officer MCC Bart Bauer at office 808-473-3788 or cell 808-590-8363, for more information.

Dec. 7, 7:55 a.m., Ewa Marine Corps Air Station Ceremony at the Ewa Marine Corps Marker at the Barbers Point Golf Course Clubhouse, hosted by Navy League

Media members can RSVP via e-mail at jason.smith.1@hickam.af.mil or by calling 808-449-1531.

Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m.: New Museum officially opens to the public.

Pearl Harbor Survivors and their families will be given priority access as some of the first official visitors to the new Museum. Kalaheo High School students who assisted with the editing of museum oral histories are also scheduled to tour the new museum at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Pearl Harbor Survivors Association Brunch at the Visitor Center - Research and Education Center

Over 200 Pearl Harbor Survivors and more than 300 of their family and friends expected to attend.

Dec. 7, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., USS *Oklahoma* Memorial Pearl Harbor Remembrance

Contact the Navy Region Hawaii Media Officer MCC Bart Bauer by December 3, at office 808-473-3788 or cell 808-590-8363, for base access and escorts.

Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Survivor Association National Convention Banquet, Hilton Hawaiian Village

4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Cocktail Reception for PHSA President and Leadership with the National Park Service and Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund

5 p.m.: Dinner Banquet for the PHSA – Tapa Ballroom

Dec. 8, 11 a.m. – noon, USS *Nevada* Memorial Pearl Harbor Remembrance

Contact the Navy Region Hawaii Media Officer MCC Bart Bauer by December 3, at office 808-473-3788 or cell 808-590-8363, for base access and escorts.

For more information and media access, contact Lisa Ontai at cell 808-375-9352 or ontai@pixi.com; Eileen Martinez, National Park Service, cell 808-220-3916 or eileen_martinez@nps.gov; or Chief Bart Bauer, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office at office 808-473-3788 or cell 808-590-8363, bart.bauer@navy.mil