

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

161 new parking spaces open to Pearl Harbor visitors

Pearl Harbor (May 3, 2011) — Signaling the completion of the final phase in the construction of the new Pearl Harbor Visitors Center, 161 additional, freshly paved parking spaces now await visitor use.

The \$56-million visitor center, recently expanded from 3.5 acres to more than 17 acres, provides centralized ticketing for the Pearl Harbor historic sites, which combined represent the most-visited attraction in Hawaii.

The new parking lot is a welcome addition to the sites' several thousands of daily visitors, many of whom choose to drive themselves versus taking a commercial tour, taxi, shuttle or city bus. Throughout the duration of the three-year construction project, visitors encountered limited or restricted parking for private vehicles as work progressed in the area.

Including the new lot, a total of 355 paved parking spaces are now available to Pearl Harbor visitors. Twenty-one of those are accessible parking for disabled individuals. There are also 41 commercial bus stalls.

More than 1.5 million visited the Pearl Harbor historic sites in 2010. Together, the historic sites provide a powerful historical journey unlike any other, a cumulative experience that has grown far beyond that of a single day. These memorials and museums carry forth the legacies of several of our nation's most treasured icons, enduring tributes to the valor and sacrifices of our veterans during a time when the future of our nation and the world truly hung in the balance.

About the Pearl Harbor historic sites:

WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument

USS *Arizona*, USS *Oklahoma* and USS *Utah* Memorials

The USS *Arizona*, USS *Oklahoma* and USS *Utah* Memorials are operated and maintained by the National Park Service as part of the recently designated WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument. The three ships' memorials honor and commemorate all members of the U.S. Armed Forces and civilians who gave their lives to their country during the attack on the island of Oahu and Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Visitors to the USS *Arizona* Memorial take a Navy launch to the memorial. The USS *Oklahoma* Memorial is located on Ford Island next to the Battleship *Missouri* and can be accessed via the *Missouri* shuttle bus. Access to the USS *Utah* Memorial is limited to those with base access. The visitor center is open daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Tickets

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are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. The first tour is offered at 8 a.m. and the last leaves at 3 p.m. For more information, call (808) 422-3300 or visit www.nps.gov/valr.

USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum and Park

Adjacent to the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center, the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum and Park, operated as a private, non-profit organization, is dedicated to the sacrifice of more than 3,500 submarine personnel lost in World War II. This gallant band of brothers, compromising less than 2 percent of the U.S. Navy, sank more than 5.5 million tons of enemy ships, while sustaining losses of 52 submarines that remain on Eternal Patrol. The USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum and Park is open daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Combined general admission to the submarine and museum is \$10 per adult and \$4 per child 4-12. Military, kama‘aina (local resident) and school group pricing is available. For more information, call (808) 423-1341 or visit www.bowfin.org.

Battleship *Missouri* Memorial

America’s last battleship, the USS *Missouri* (BB-63), completed an astounding career spanning five decades and three wars — World War II, Korea and Operation Desert Storm — and is best known as the site of Japan’s WWII surrender, which brought history’s most devastating war to a close. Recently returned from drydocking, the 887-foot, 45,000-ton “Mighty Mo” is open for visitors as the Battleship *Missouri* Memorial, operated as a private, non-profit organization on historic Ford Island in Pearl Harbor. The Battleship *Missouri* Memorial is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission, which includes choice of a guided tour, is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child 4-12. Military, kama‘aina (local resident) and school group pricing is available. For more information or to reserve a tour, call (toll-free) 1-877-MIGHTYMO (1-877-644-4896) or visit www.ussmissouri.org.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor

The Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, a private, non-profit organization, occupies the WWII hangars and control tower on Ford Island that still bear the scars as our nation’s first aviation battlefield. Giving visitors a front-row seat to the Pacific Theater and presenting aircraft and their stories, the museum illustrates how aviation turned the tide of the war. The Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child 4-12. Military, kama‘aina (local resident) and school group pricing is available. For more information, call (808) 441-1000 or visit www.pacificaviationmuseum.org.

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