

PACIFIC HISTORIC PARKS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Pearl Harbor Visitor Center Breaks Attendances Record

HONOLULU, HI – The National Park Service is proud to announce that 2011 was a record year for the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. Attendance to the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center increased from 1,372,724 visitors in 2010, to 1,694,896 visitors in 2011, a 23% increase.

The new Pearl Harbor Visitor Center opened in Dec of 2010 and now offers two new museums, theaters, audio tour, bookstore and wayside exhibits. The Visitor Center has also expanded from 3 to 17 acres. The Navy has also built new shuttle boats and offer free tours every 15 minutes to the USS *Arizona* Memorial from 8am to 3pm.

The USS *Arizona* Memorial is the final resting place for 1,177 sailors and marines. The majority of these were entombed in the ship when an armor piercing bomb cut through its decks and hit the *Arizona's* armory that caused a horrific explosion. In addition, there are more than 30 survivors also entombed in the Battleship *Arizona*, who have chosen to return to their ship after their death in order to be placed at rest with their ship mates.

About Pacific Historic Parks

Formed in 1979, Pacific Historic Parks (PHP) is a non-profit cooperating association with the National Park Service whose mission is to support, assist and fund educational and interpretive programs for the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument at Pearl Harbor; American Memorial Park on Saipan; War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam; and Kalaupapa National Historical Park on the island of Molokai.

Today, funding is generated through PHP's online retail sales and park site bookstores, audio tour programs, public membership support and fundraising campaigns. Recently, PHP successfully led a \$56 million capital campaign to rebuild the new USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center. The center was renamed the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center and was dedicated on December 7, 2010. For more information, visit www.pacifichistoricparks.org or call (808) 954-8777.

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