



DEDICATION CEREMONY UNVEILS NEW PEACE EXHIBIT AT THE PEARL HARBOR VISITOR CENTER, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, ON INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

Sadako Crane Exhibit shares the story of Sadako Sasaki, a young girl who folded more than 1,300 origami cranes in hopes of recovering from leukemia, a disease she contracted ten years after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. The exhibit features one of Sadako's original cranes, which became a symbol of world peace after she passed away in 1955.

PEARL HARBOR, HI -- Since 1980, the National Park Service has shared the story of the Pearl Harbor attack and its aftermath with millions of visitors from around the world. The story of America's entry into World War II, the ultimate sacrifice made by thousands of servicemen who died that day, and the eventual reconciliation with Japan has been expanded to include the story of a remarkable young girl from Hiroshima, Japan, named Sadako Sasaki.

The Sadako Crane Exhibit will be unveiled at a special ceremony, Saturday, September 21, at 9 am, at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center. The event is free and open to the public. A formal program; Hawaiian and Shinto prayer blessings; taiko drum performance; origami crane and wreath presentations; and special appearances by government dignitaries, members of Sadako Sasaki's family, and a survivor from the USS *Arizona* will be part of the one-hour program. Free origami and miniature book making will be offered, following the ceremony until 2 pm. Special commemorative Sadako crane jewelry and the popular children's book, "Sadako And The Thousand Cranes" will also be available for purchase at the bookstore.

About Sadako Sasaki

Sasaki was two years old when the atomic bomb was dropped. She was diagnosed with leukemia at the age of 11 as a result of her exposure to the atomic radiation. In February 1954, Sasaki entered the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital for treatment. While there, she learned of the Japanese legend of the paper crane. Legend has it if a sick person folds a thousand cranes, their wish will be granted. Sasaki folded more than 1,300 cranes in hopes of getting well. She also wished healing and peace would embrace the world. On October 25, 1955, Sasaki passed away at the age of 12, and had 1,000 of her cranes buried with her. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum received 140 of her cranes, with others given to Sasaki's classmates. Her brother, Masahiro Sasaki, saved six of her paper cranes with the purpose that they be shared

and exhibited throughout the world. One of these cranes was donated to the 911 Memorial Museum in New York, another to the Peace Museum Vienna in Austria and the third is now displayed as part of the permanent exhibit at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.

The new exhibit includes a presentation on the Occupation of Japan, the San Francisco Peace Treaty ending the Pacific War, and the outcomes from the conflict. A specially designed panel shares Sasaki's story, the significance of the origami crane and her hope for world peace including the words she wrote before she died, "I will write peace on your wings and you will fly all over the world."

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