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USS *ARIZONA* MEMORIAL SHRINE ROOM WALL REPLACEMENT SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

AMVETS Conducting Nationwide Fundraising Effort to Replace the Marble Structure

HONOLULU (August 11, 2014)—Pacific Historic Parks announced today that construction on the USS *Arizona* Memorial Shrine Room wall is scheduled to begin in September 2014. The project kicks off the second phase of a three-part restoration that began in 2012.

Weather exposure and saltwater spray have taken a toll on the Shrine Room wall, which lists the names of the men who died aboard the USS *Arizona*. The original wall was replaced in 1984, but has since become stained and partially eroded in areas.

“Viewing the Shrine Room wall is one of the most impactful experiences in Pearl Harbor. It is the collective headstone to the USS *Arizona* crew who sacrificed their lives for their country. Keeping the wall in good condition is elemental to what we must do as stewards of the memorial,” said Paul DePrey, Superintendent, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, National Park Service.

Pacific Historic Parks, a non-profit cooperating association of the National Park Service at WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, has been leading the effort to restore the USS *Arizona* Memorial, working with public and private entities to collect the approximately \$750,000 needed to complete the repairs.

AMVETS has pledged to raise the necessary funds to replace the Shrine Room wall. Since the late 1950s, the veterans service organization has raised more than \$450,000 to replace the inscribed marble panels and refurbish the memorial.

“We are honored to once again help restore and preserve the memorial,” said John Mitchell, Jr., National Commander of AMVETS. “It is our duty and solemn vow as keepers of the wall to never forget those who fought and died. The current mission to raise funds was an opportunity to take on our largest-ever National Commander’s Project—USS *Arizona* Forever Fund. Our members really came through and we achieved our goal of \$343,000.”

The Shrine Room wall will be replaced with 138 Olympian White marble panels mined from a quarry in Vermont. Construction is expected to last for two months; the wall will be rededicated on Veterans Day 2014. Boat tours to the USS *Arizona* Memorial will continue throughout the project.

“We are proud to work with the National Park Service, AMVETS and Hawk Contracting Group to ensure that the USS *Arizona* Memorial is protected and preserved for future generations. The engravers are currently inscribing the marble and we are excited to see the results,” said Gene Caliwig, President and CEO, Pacific Historic Parks.

PHP awarded a contract to Hawk Contracting Group to replace the wall in March 2014. The company, which is currently overseeing the engraving of the marble, previously completed work on the USS *Arizona* Memorial during phase one of the restoration, which concluded in November 2012.

Phase one projects included replacing the skylights, railings and doors; repainting the interior and exterior of the monument; installing LED light fixtures; and repairing concrete irregularities. During phase three, the memorial’s terrazzo flooring will be replaced.

For more information about the restoration of the USS *Arizona* Memorial and to donate, visit www.pacifichistoricparks.org.

About Pacific Historic Parks

Founded in 1979, Pacific Historic Parks is a non-profit cooperating association that supports and funds educational and interpretive programs for WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument at Pearl Harbor; Diamond Head State Monument on the island of Oahu; Kalaupapa National Historical Park on the island of Molokai; American Memorial Park on Saipan; and War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam. For more information, visit www.pacifichistoricparks.org.

About World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument

One of nearly 400 units in the National Park Service, World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument preserves and interprets the stories of the Pacific War, including the events at Pearl Harbor, the internment of Japanese Americans, the battles in the Aleutians, and the occupation of Japan. This year, over 1.7 million individuals will visit the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, making it the largest visitor destination in Hawaii. Learn more at www.nps.gov/valr.

About AMVETS

A leader since 1944 in preserving the freedoms secured by America’s armed forces, AMVETS provides support for veterans and the active military in procuring their earned entitlements, as well as community service and legislative reform that enhances the quality of life for this nation’s citizens and veterans alike. AMVETS is one of the largest congressionally chartered veterans’ service organizations in the United States, and includes members from each branch of the military, including the National Guard and Reserves. For more information visit www.amvets.org.

About Hawk Contracting Group

Established in 2007, Hawk Contracting Group LLC (HCG) is a CVE Certified, Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) with offices in Honolulu, Hawaii and Montrose, Colorado. HCG performs multi-disciplined Federal Construction projects of various scopes and sizes. The extensive federal contracting experience of HCG key personnel, in particular the company principals, encompasses not only experience on Federal Projects in Colorado, Wyoming and Hawaii, but also the performance of Federal construction projects in the Pacific Region including; Kwajalein, Diego Garcia, Guam, Johnston Atoll and Mauna Kea on the Big Island.

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