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10-Year-Old Raises \$50K To Honor Heroes of Pearl Harbor Halfway to Ambitious \$100K Goal

HONOLULU – A fundraising campaign launched by a third-grade student has reached its halfway mark.

Harrison Johnson visited Pearl Harbor National Memorial last year with his family. Upon his return to North Carolina, he approached Pacific Historic Parks to start a campaign to raise \$100,000 to support the park that memorializes American service members stationed on Oahu during the December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack.

The Harrison's Heroes campaign has so far raised \$51,909.

Harrison, who's now 10 and attending fourth grade, said he's committed to reaching \$100,000. And he hopes to do it by this coming December 7 when the 82nd Commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor is held.

"I'm asking that veterans and those who support veterans help to donate and make sure we remember the heroes of Pearl Harbor," Harrison said in a post on a newly created Go Fund Me account designed to help him reach his goal. <https://gofund.me/4e53fe2b>

"We applaud this young man's dedication and persistence in raising funds to support our mission to never forget Pearl Harbor and to Remember, Honor and Understand World War II in the Pacific," said Aileen Utterdyke, President and CEO of Pacific Historic Parks.

PHP works with the National Park Service in stewardship of the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, home to one of our nation's most revered war graves, the USS *Arizona* Memorial.

The number of Pearl Harbor survivors has significantly dwindled over the decades. While there are no official counts, the estimates are there are less than 50 Pearl Harbor survivors still alive.

Last year's commemoration ceremonies were attended by five Pearl Harbor survivors, all of them 100 years and older. One of them, Jack Holder, died some ten weeks after



attending. And last month, Ken Potts, one of the final two survivors of the USS *Arizona*, died in Utah at the age of 102. That leaves Lou Conter as the final USS *Arizona* survivor. Conter turns 102 in September.

Harrison has read Conter's book and called it great. In an interview last year published in PHP's Remembrance Magazine Harrison said this:

"People my age think heroes come from comic books and movies, but my heroes are the people who served in the Pearl Harbor attack."

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ABOUT: Headquartered in Waipahu, HI, Pacific Historic Parks is the non-profit cooperative association of the National Park Service and has been raising funds and providing support to NPS operations at Pearl Harbor since 1979, when the organization was known as the Arizona Memorial Museum Association. PHP's mission is to "support the National Park Service through research, preservation, restoration, fund development, education and interpretive programs of World War II in the Pacific and other Pacific historic sites." PHP also supports National Park Service operations at: Kalaupapa National Historical Park on Molokai; the War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam, and the American Memorial Park on Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. Since 2014, Pacific Historic Parks has also partnered with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources to support the Diamond Head State Monument. See www.pacifichistoricparks.org.