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Dec. 7, 2012  
"From Innocence To Valor"  
71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **71st Pearl Harbor Day Events Honor Legacy of Heroics: From "Innocence To Valor"**

*Public is invited to Pearl Harbor commemorative events November 10 - December 9, including the commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the USS Bowfin and the 71<sup>st</sup> Pearl Harbor Day Anniversary Ceremony.*

**(PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII)** -- The National Park Service and the U.S. Navy will host a joint memorial ceremony commemorating the 71st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:45 – 9:30 a.m. at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument (formerly known as the USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center). In addition, a series of special events recognizing the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the USS *Bowfin* and the 71st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, will be open to the public November 10 through December 9.

The theme of the Pearl Harbor December 7th ceremony is "*From Innocence To Valor.*" The ceremony will take place on the back lawn of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, looking directly out to the USS *Arizona* Memorial.

More than 2,000 distinguished guests and the general public are expected to join current and former military personnel, including Pearl Harbor survivors and other WWII veterans, for the annual observance of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

The full theme of this year's historic commemoration, "*Coming of Age - From Innocence To Valor,*" honors those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces on that fateful day as a legacy of heroics. The attack represented more than a change in America's status from peace to war, it was a sudden shift from youthful innocence to a searing awareness of the cost and consequences of war. Heroically, these men and women did not back down. Also not forgotten are the thousands of civilians who witnessed the attack, including the 49 who lost their lives. Young lives and families were changed forever as the nation "came of age" on Dec. 7, 1941 and throughout the war. Through innovation, courage and sacrifice, Americans joined together – stronger, wiser and more committed to preserving democracy, freedom and peace.

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For the first time ever, the National Park Service and Pacific Historic Parks will share the historical significance of December 7<sup>th</sup> with hundreds of school-age children across Hawaii with a simultaneous reading aloud program. Children attending more than 100 elementary and intermediate schools who are enrolled in afterschool care programs managed by the Department of Education, Kama'aina Kids and YMCA of Honolulu will learn about the real life story of an unlikely friendship between the late Pearl Harbor Survivor Richard Fiske and Japanese Fighter Pilot Zenji Abe. The book entitled, "Pearl Harbor Warriors: The Bugler, The Pilot, The Friendship," is a story of peace and forgiveness and how these men, who were once enemies of war, overcame their hatred and fear for one another. In 1991, as a symbol of peace and friendship, Abe gave Fiske \$300 and asked him to lay two roses at the Arizona Memorial each month, one for him and one for Fiske. He also asked Fiske to play the taps on his bugle after he did this. Fiske honored this request every month until he passed away in 2004. Pacific Historic Parks has purchased 175 copies of the book to provide to each participating school.

This year's keynote speaker for the December 7 ceremony is Admiral Cecil D. Haney, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Admiral Haney is a native of Washington, D.C. and a 1978 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. His operational assignments include four submarines, a submarine tender and two submarine groups. In 1998, as Commanding Officer of USS Honolulu (SSN 718), Admiral Haney earned the Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale leadership award, which is presented annually to the Navy's top two COs in the Pacific and Atlantic fleets. His shore duty tours include – among others – Naval Reactors, Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Strategic Command, and Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, where today he leads the world's largest and most powerful fleet.

This year's December 7 ceremony is co-hosted by Paul DePrey, Superintendent, National Park Service, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, and Rear Admiral Frank Ponds, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. Highlights of the ceremony will include music by the Navy's U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, morning colors, a Hawaiian blessing, a rifle salute by members of the U.S. Marine Corps, wreath presentations, echo taps and recognition of the men and women who survived the attack of December 7, 1941 and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Special recognition at the ceremony will also be given to:

Former Navy Chief Ray Emory is a Pearl Harbor Survivor and President Emeritus of the National Chief Petty Officers Association. As reported in the *Los Angeles Times* in 2003, "Emory, 82, was a Navy seaman first class on Dec. 7, 1941, assigned to the light-cruiser Honolulu (CL 48). When the explosions started, he rushed topside and began firing a .50-caliber machine gun at the Japanese planes, taking the fight directly to the new enemy without waiting for orders." He fought in invasions during the war. Today, Ray Emory is a hero to many Survivors and to the families of those killed, being personally involved in identifying remains of "unknowns" and ensuring graves are properly identified at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl.

Former members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), who during WWII, became the first women ever to get behind the controls of American military aircraft and fly non-combat missions. The ceremony will recognize the tremendous contributions made by all women in uniform, and women civilians who supported the war efforts on the home front through the building of ships, victory gardens and purchasing war bonds.

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At 7:55 a.m., the exact moment the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began 70 years ago, a moment of silence will be observed. A guided-missile destroyer will render honors to the USS *Arizona* and the Hawaii Air National Guard will fly over the Memorial in a “missing man” formation. The ceremony will conclude with a “Walk of Honor” by Pearl Harbor Survivors and other WWII Veterans through an honor cordon of military and National Park Service men and women.

### **Public Access to the Pearl Harbor 71st Anniversary Commemoration**

The commemoration is free of charge and the public is invited to attend. Seats for the general public to the commemoration are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. The Visitor Center will open early at 6:30 a.m. Seating for the public will begin at 7:15 a.m.

### **Limited Public Parking for the Ceremony at the Visitor Center**

Additional parking will be available at Richardson Field. The public is encouraged to arrive early to allow time for parking and going through security at the Visitor Center.

### **Limited USS *Arizona* Memorial Public Tour Schedule**

Public tours to the USS *Arizona* Memorial will be operating on a special schedule on December 7, due to the morning ceremony. The first public tour will begin at 11 a.m. with the last tour beginning at 3 p.m.. Tours begin every 15 minutes and include a 23-minute movie presentation followed by a short boat ride and visit to the Memorial. Tickets are free and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **Security**

Cameras are permitted; however, due to strict security measures, camera bags, purses, handbags and/or other items that offer concealment are not allowed. Complimentary bag storage is available at the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum & Park. The normal storage fee is being waived by the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum & Park for this one day.

### **Dress Code**

Military dress is summer whites or service equivalent. The civilian dress code for the commemoration is aloha business attire, long pants and collared shirts.

### **Information**

For more information about the Pearl Harbor Day 71st Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony and special events, visit [www.pearlharborevents.com](http://www.pearlharborevents.com)

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**Additional 71st Anniversary Pearl Harbor Events, November 10 – December 9**

**After Dark In The Park:**

**Wasps: The Forgotten Wings**

**Saturday, November 10, 2012**

**6:30 p.m.**

**WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument**

**Pearl Harbor Visitor Center – Movie Theaters**

**Free Admission; Limited Seating; Reservations suggested by calling (808) 423-7300, ext 7048**

The National Park Service will examine an often overlooked contribution to WWII—the use of women pilots in WWII. Many people don't know of the 1,074 women who flew for the Army Air Force and became the first women ever to get behind the controls of American military aircraft to fly noncombat missions. Contributions made by the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) were unprecedented at a time when women were not considered equal. Author and historian Vera Williams will discuss her book *WASPs: Women Airforce Service Pilots of WWII* to commemorate Veteran's Day 2012. Williams interviewed over 200 WASPs to shed a light on this subject and to share the heroic and often untold stories and sacrifices these women made in the name of freedom

**Adventures in History:**

**The Search For Lost Submarines**

**Thursday, November 29, 2012**

**6:30 p.m.**

**USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum & Park**

**Free Admission; For information, call (808) 423-1341**

**Military Channel Documentary Premier**

**“15 Minutes of Infamy: The Real Story of Pearl Harbor”**

**Saturday, December 1, 2012**

**6:30 p.m.**

**WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument**

**Pearl Harbor Visitor Center – Movie Theaters**

**Free Admission; Limited Seating; Reservations suggested by calling (808) 423-7300, ext 7048**

A dramatic frame-by-frame look at the first 15 minutes of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the devastating aftermath. The film takes viewers from the shocking arrival of the Japanese aircraft over the harbor at 7:52 a.m. that morning, to 15 minutes later, when a single 500-pound bomb destroyed what would become the iconic symbol of the attack, the USS *Arizona*.

For the first time ever, film taken by Japanese attackers and by Dr. Eric Haakenson who was on the hospital ship USS *Solace*, anchored ¼ mile from the *Arizona*, are examined frame by frame to show the sequence of events that took place. Intertwined are interviews with Pearl Harbor survivors aboard the historic battleships, recalling their personal horror of that day of infamy. The film also includes an underwater, guided tour revealing the USS *Arizona* in a way never seen before. The one-hour film provides a forensic dissection of the event within an event that galvanized the world and led, the next day, to the American declaration of war.

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### **70th Anniversary USS *Bowfin***

#### **Discounted Admission, December 2-8, 2012**

On December 7, 1942, one year after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the USS *Bowfin* was launched into World War II (WWII), forever changing the role submarines played in time of war, from patroller to instruments of war. Nicknamed the “Pearl Harbor Avenger,” the USS *Bowfin* conducted nine war patrols during its WWII career. During WWII, submarines represented only two percent of the U.S. fleet; yet they were responsible for the destruction of 30 percent of the Japanese Navy including eight aircraft carriers, one battleship and eleven cruisers. More importantly, the Submarine Force sank 2,400 Japanese merchant ships, totaling 4.9 million tons. Although the submarine service was the smallest military unit, they made the greatest sacrifice in terms of loss of life -- one in five of the nearly 18,000 submariners who went into battle never returned to port. Located next to the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, this two and a half acre park includes a 10,000 square foot museum, Waterfront Memorial, outdoor exhibits, and the USS *Bowfin*, considered one of the best preserved and most visited submarine from the WWII era.

#### **After Dark In The Park:**

#### **Discussion with Pearl Harbor Survivors and Witnesses**

**Wednesday, December 5, 2012**

**6:30 p.m.**

#### **WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument**

#### **Pearl Harbor Visitor Center – Movie Theaters**

**Free Admission; Limited Seating; Reservations suggested by calling (808) 423-7300, ext 7048**

#### **Narrated 1-Hour Historic Pearl Harbor Boat Tours**

**Wednesday, December 5, 8 and 9, 2012**

**2 p.m.**

**And**

**Thursday, December 6, 2012**

**10 p.m. and 2 p.m.**

#### **WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument**

#### **Pearl Harbor Visitor Center**

**Free Admission; Limited Seating; Reservations suggested by calling (808) 954-8721**

Free boat tour narrated by National Park Service rangers take visitors around historic Ford Island. The one-hour tour provides visitors an opportunity to witness many of the notable sites of the 1941 Japanese air raid on Pearl Harbor. All boats will depart the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center and the program is offered separate from the normal park program. Includes stop at the USS *Arizona* Memorial.

#### **USS Utah Sunset Ceremony**

**Thursday, December 6, 2012**

**5-6 p.m.**

#### **USS *Utah* Memorial, Ford Island**

#### **Free Admission**

Pearl Harbor Survivors, military personnel and their families and friends are invited to attend a sunset ceremony honoring those lost aboard the USS *Utah* at the USS *Utah* Memorial on Ford Island. Base access is required.

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**USS *Oklahoma* Memorial Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance**

**USS *Oklahoma* Memorial on Ford Island**

**Friday, December 7, 2012, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Free Admission; Free Shuttle to Ford Island Departs every 15 minutes from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. from the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum & Park Shuttle Stop**

Hosted by the National Park Service in honor of those who served on the USS *Oklahoma* during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The USS *Oklahoma* (BB-37) Memorial was officially dedicated on December 7, 2007. The memorial is located on Ford Island, near Fox-5 Pier next to the Battleship *Missouri* Memorial. The Battleship *Oklahoma* was berthed along Ford Island on Dec. 7, 1941, and suffered the second greatest loss of life during the attack. The memorial includes 429 marble columns symbolizing each of the crewmembers who lost their lives on that fateful day. Public wishing to attend the ceremony can catch a free shuttle departing every 15 minutes from the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum & Park, which is adjacent to the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

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