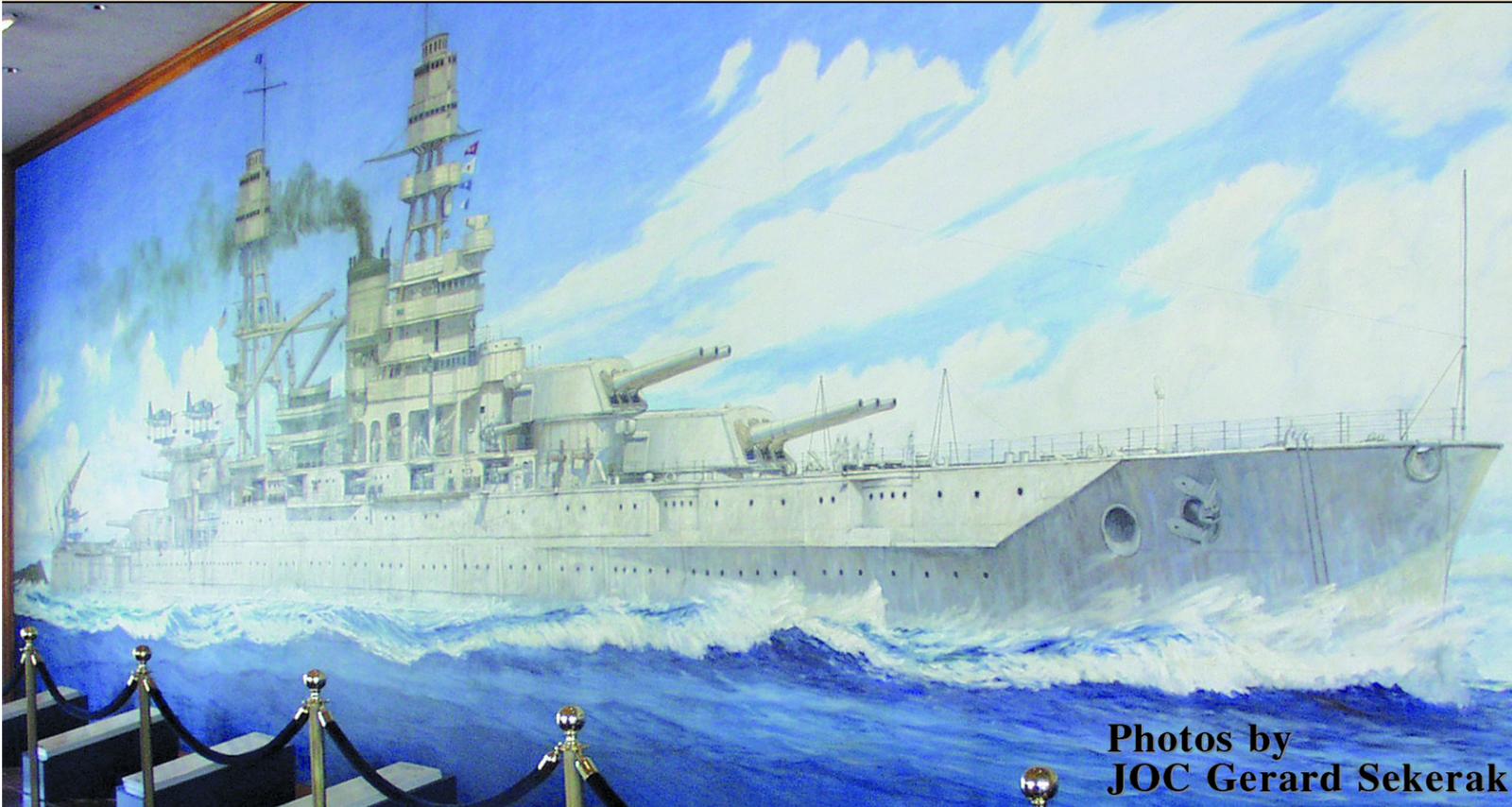


Liberty Call

USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL

VISITOR CENTER



Photos by
JOC Gerard Sekerak

The visitor center features a 16-foot by 50-foot oil painting of the USS Arizona by John Charles Roach behind the information desk. Directly below the painting are six tablets containing the names of the USS Arizona sailors and Marines who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The required first stop for everyone intending to visit the Memorial

Compiled by JOC Gerard Sekerak
Hawaii Navy News Editor

The USS Arizona Memorial stands as a silent monument to the ship's 1,177 crewmembers who lost their lives in the surprise attack December 7, 1941. In remembrance of those men, the memorial was built over the ship - resting in 40 feet of water - at the bottom of Pearl Harbor in what was formerly called 'Battleship Row.' The monument was dedicated in 1962 and became a National Park area in 1980. Since then, millions have visited the memorial. Approximately 1.5 million people visit the memorial annually, of which 30 percent are international visitors.

The monument straddles the sunken hull of the battleship USS Arizona and is regularly host to servicemembers who enlist above her, veterans who pay their respects and survivors who return every year to lay a wreath and remember their shipmates.

However, before going to the memorial, visitors must first make one required stop - at the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center. The visitor center and memorial, located on Naval Station Pearl Harbor, are operated and maintained by the National Park Service under a use agreement with the U.S. Navy.

The visitor center, which was completed in 1980, using a combination of government funds and private contributions raised by Branch 46 of the Fleet Reserve Association, is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., but programs end at 3 p.m.

Program tickets are free and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

The visitor center program is called an 'interpretive' program, for which visitors are given a brief talk by a National Park Service ranger or a Pearl Harbor survivor, followed by a 20-minute documentary film on the Pearl Harbor attack.

Immediately after the film, visitors depart the theater for the boat landing, where they board a Navy shuttle boat and begin their trip to the USS Arizona Memorial. All visitors disembark on the memorial and return to the visitor's center a short time later on another shuttle boat.

The USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center complex and the boat trip to the memorial are completely handicap accessible. Scripts of the movie shown in the visitor center are available in large print, and park brochures are available in Braille.

Visitors are free to browse through the bookstore operated by the Arizona Memorial Association and explore the museum, which includes displays, artifacts and photos relating to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Other facilities in the center include a small snack area, central courtyard, restrooms and administrative areas.

The visitor center also features a 16-foot by 50-foot oil painting of the USS Arizona by John Charles Roach behind the information desk.

A walking path on the lawn behind the visitor center provides an excellent view of Ford Island and Battleship Row with brief informational displays along the way. At one end of the path is a remembrance exhibit, which includes the names of those killed as a result of the Dec. 7th attack and a circular table-top display of the key areas attacked on Oahu.

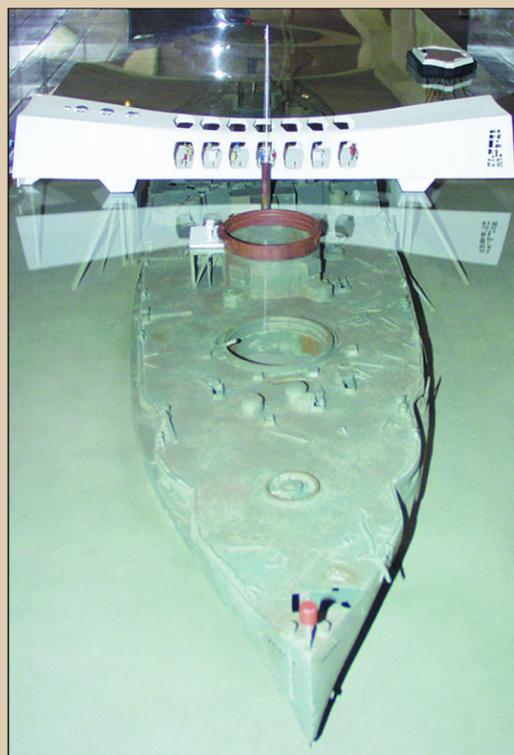
The entire program, including the boat trip to the memorial, takes about one hour and 15 minutes.

The USS Arizona Memorial museum and wayside exhibits also offer an excellent opportunity to learn more about the Pearl Harbor attack. For more information about the visitor center memorial call (808) 422-2771.



(Above) The bell from the USS Arizona dated 1916 hangs on display next to the visitor center's information desk.

(Below) A model of the USS Arizona Memorial sits on display in the visitor center museum.



The remembrance exhibit sits at one end of the walking path behind the visitor center. The exhibit includes the names of those killed as a result of the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 and a circular marble table-top display of the key areas attacked on Oahu.