



Our Memorials In remembrance of fallen shipmates

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As we celebrate the premiere of the of the Disney epic "Pearl Harbor" it seems fitting to remember the countless lives lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

The Navy has designated three memorials on Naval Station Pearl Harbor that reflect, remind and remember just a portion of the more than 2,000 service members who lost their lives on that fateful Sunday morning.

1 UTAH

On Dec. 23, 1909, battleship No. 31 was christened USS Utah. The dreadnought slid down into the sea to begin its career as one of the U.S. Navy's most powerful warships.

Utah was moved to California in 1932 and spent the next nine years performing a vital service to the fleet by adding realism to the training of naval aviators for the first big aircraft carriers, Saratoga, Lexington and Enterprise.

She served as a high speed maneuvering target for submarines as well as surface ship gunnery, closely approaching battle conditions.

After completing an advanced anti-aircraft gunnery cruise, Utah returned to Pearl Harbor in early December 1941. It was her final voyage, because at 8:12 a.m. Dec. 7, 1941, life ended for USS Utah and 58 of her crew.

She took two torpedo hits from Nakajima B5N2 Kate torpedo bombers within five minutes of the beginning of the attack, listing so rapidly that her senior officer on board ordered "All hands on deck and abandon ship over starboard side." In 12 short minutes, the former battleship rolled over and was keel up, a total loss.

On Memorial Day 1972, a more permanent Utah Memorial was dedicated with Frank E. Moss as the guest speaker.

Today, the Utah Memorial is an elegant, white 70-foot concrete walkway stretched out from Ford Island, extending into the

waters in front of Utah's partially exposed hull. A polished brass plaque commemorating the ship and crew stands watch at the base of a flagpole.

2 NEVADA

USS Nevada Memorial stands as a continuing reminder of the day that changed Pearl Harbor and America forever.

The memorial, which is located along the shoreline near Hospital Point on Pearl Harbor, was dedicated on Dec. 7, 1983 commemorating the heroism and sacrifice of the men who lost their lives 42 years earlier.

Nevada, the only battleship to get underway on Dec. 7, was berthed directly behind the USS Arizona (BB 39) in Battleship Row when the attack began.

Severely damaged by a torpedo hit and a serious fire from a bomb hit on her forecabin, Nevada got up steam, cast off the lines and worked the ship out of a very constrained position bracketed by the flaming wreck of the Arizona ahead and a dredging line just astern.

Once underway, the Nevada became the prime target for Japanese aircraft. She suffered numerous bomb hits and near misses and much strafing. Numerous fires were burning in the ship. In serious trouble, Nevada was, intentionally, run aground on the Navy Yard side of the channel, just south of Ford Island.

As her crew fought her many fires, the ship twisted around until she was facing back up the harbor. By the following day, she had settled to the bottom, fortunately

in fairly shallow water. There it remained for over two months, the subject of one of the first of Pearl Harbor's many demanding salvage projects. Of USS Nevada's crew of nearly 1,500, 50 officers and men were killed in action during the Pearl Harbor raid.

Nevada Point symbolizes all of the gallant men, whose names are inscribed on the plaque, and as a tribute to a particularly gallant crew who, when duty called, responded with unquestioned courage. She returned to Pearl Harbor and was decommissioned in 1946.

3 ARIZONA

USS Arizona, a 31,400 ton Pennsylvania class battleship built at the New York Navy Yard, Brooklyn, N. Y., was commissioned in October 1916. After a long and stellar career in the Atlantic Fleet, Arizona was transferred to the Pacific Fleet in 1931.

Arizona was moored in Pearl Harbor's "Battleship Row" on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, when Japanese carrier aircraft attacked. The attack began shortly before 8 a.m. At approximately 8:10 a.m., a 1,760 pound armor-piercing bomb hit the USS Arizona and exploded in the forward ammunition magazine, tearing the entire forward portion of the ship to pieces.

Less than nine minutes later, Arizona sunk 40 feet to the bottom of the harbor, taking most of her entire crew with her. USS Arizona is the final resting place for the ship's 1,177 crewmembers who were killed during the attack.

Though many other ships were damaged and countless other Sailors, Marines and civilians were killed or injured during the attack, the loss of life sustained on Arizona became the focal point for a nation that was previously divided over the issue of involvement in the war.

In 1949, the first steps were taken to establish a memorial to those who died

during the attack. Initially, in 1950 then Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet, Adm. Arthur Radford ordered that a flag be flown and a plaque be placed over the sunken hull of the ship.

In 1958 President Dwight D. Eisenhower, approved the creation of a memorial for Arizona. Construction began immediately and was completed in 1961 and dedicated on Memorial Day 1962.

The 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.

The memorial spans the mid-ship of the ship and consists of three sections: the entry and assembly rooms, a central area for ceremonies and viewing of the ship, and the shrine room, where the names and ranks of the Sailors and Marines who were killed with their ship are engraved on a marble wall.

The memorial itself - white, with a long, narrow design that crests on both ends and a significant sag in the center - appears to float upon the surface of the water. But no portion of the memorial itself touches the remains of the ship below the surface of the water.

In the main gathering area, there is a viewing well that peers down under the surface of the water and gives a visual idea of the remains of the stricken ship.

In the shrine room appear the names of the crew members who lost their lives onboard Arizona that fateful morning. A huge marble wall symbolically shows the immensity of the loss of life when the ship was lost.

There are a few small steps leading up the wall where leis, flowers and wreaths are usually placed in remembrance. To the left appear another set of names of Arizona survivors who have chosen to be interred with their fallen shipmates.