

# "Don Harrison Starks...arriving..."



(Left) Naval Station Ceremonial Honor Guard Rifle Detail stands ready at the USS Arizona Memorial.  
 (Below left) Don Starks' son, Mark, holds his father's ashes during the burial ceremony.  
 (Left center) Honor guard member carries Starks' remains to the Arizona Memorial on a Navy launch.  
 (Left) Divers take Starks' remains to his final resting place inside the hull of the USS Arizona.  
 (Below) Naval station Honor Guard detail member arrives with Starks' remains and perform rifle salute

## ARIZONA: crewmember buried with shipmates

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career and a full life, at 81 years of age, Starks passed away.

His children, Don Jr., Mark and daughter Pat, took a last trip with their father to Pearl Harbor to attend a private ceremony on the USS Arizona Memorial.

After an invocation and prayer from Lt. Cmdr. Bettie Davis and a 21-gun salute by Naval Station Pearl Harbor's regional ceremonial guard firing detail, Starks' ashes were carefully taken by two parks department divers and interred them with his shipmates in Arizona July 13, fulfilling one of his last requests.

"He told us that when the bombs started dropping he wasn't on the ship," his son, Don Harrison Starks Jr., recalled.

"By the time he got back, many of his shipmates were dead; there was nothing he could do. He knew very well that he lived or died by his shipmates and losing them meant a lot.

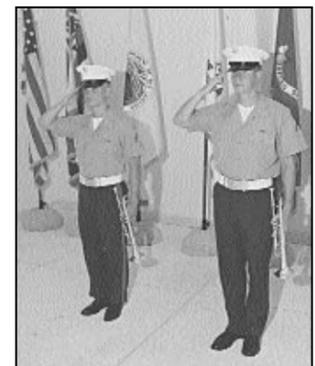
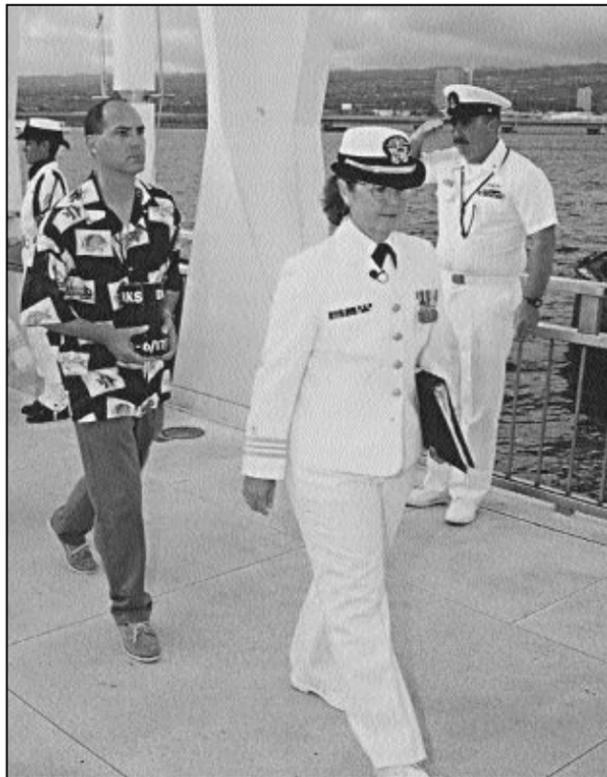
"It was a scary time but an important time of his life," Don Jr. continued. "But, dad never talked about the Arizona. He decided to get buried with his [Arizona] shipmates in the last years of his life."

The Starks family expressed fondness for their father as a Sailor and as a man.

"He was a real good father," Don Jr. said. "He was like a buddy to us, taking us fishing and things like that.

"He also held a real loyalty to the men of the Arizona like every ship he served on."

In the dignified silence of USS Arizona Memorial's shrine room, the



Photos by JO2 Greg Cleghorne

(Above left) Don H. Starks daughter, Pat Chevalier, holds a flag given to her in remembrance of her father's service to a grateful nation. (Above center) Naval Station Honor Guard Rifle Detail performs a 21-gun salute at the conclusion of the ceremony while Don Starks' children, Mark, Pat and Don look on. Lt. Cmdr. Bettie Davis, Naval Station Chaplain, stands in foreground. (Above right) Two Marines performed ceremonial "echo taps" during the burial ceremony, paying their respects to the Starks family with a salute.

*Editor's note: The National Parks Service supports the interment or scattering cremated remains of those who were assigned to the USS Arizona upon verified request. Cremated remains of an Arizona survivor may be interred in the hull of the ship.*

*The cremated remains of someone who served on the Arizona before Dec. 7, 1941 may be scattered on the surface of the water over the ship.*

*To qualify for interment, those who, according to official Navy document, were assigned to Arizona during the attack on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, are eligible for interment in the hull of the ship. This includes those who were away on leave, school, temporary assignments, etc.*