



WORLD WAR II 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS ALLIANCE



For Immediate Release

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Fallen of Pearl Harbor to be honored with Wall of Honor on 75th anniversary of December 7, 1941 attacks

(Pearl Harbor, HI) For 75 years they have only been names on a list, or engraved on memorials that pay tribute to the more than 2,000 Americans who lost their lives during the attacks on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

This year, thanks to a group of dedicated community historians, the photos of more than a thousand of them have been made into a **Pearl Harbor Wall of Honor** that will be shared with the public during multiple ceremonies marking the 75th anniversary of the "Day of Infamy."

A 100 ft version of the Wall will be on view at Pearl Harbor's Kilo Pier from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on December 7, where Pearl Harbor Survivors and WWII veterans will be attending the official commemoration ceremonies.



"All Pearl Harbor Survivors that are attending are grateful that we're still here," said Carl Clark, a 100-year-old Navy veteran who served on Kaneohe Base during the attacks. "It will be an honor to once again be back where it all started and to remember all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice,"

The Wall will be on display at the **Pearl Harbor Visitors Center** from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and at the opening ceremonies of the **National Pearl Harbor Day Parade** in downtown Honolulu at 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. where it will be unveiled by Herschel "Woody" Williams, one of the last 6 surviving WWII recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Several of the individual photos will be carried by youth in the Parade.

The Hawaii Wall of Honor is being sponsored by Dignity Memorial, A&E Networks, HISTORY, and Walgreens.

“Dignity Memorial is proud to be a sponsor of the Wall of Honor in Hawaii,” said Jay Morford, president of Hawaiian Memorial Life Plan, Ltd. “It is important for us to recognize and honor the men and women of WWII for their courage and unyielding commitment to protect our country. We are grateful for our heroes and we must preserve their legacy so that their selfless sacrifice is not forgotten.”

Replicas of the Pearl Harbor Wall of Honor will be displayed that day at the U.S. Navy Memorial (and the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, and on the USS Midway in San Diego.

A fourth version of the Wall will be on view in Silicon Valley at the Oak Hill Cemetery, California’s oldest public ceremony, to honor the memory of the more than 200 Californians who died on December 7, and the 100 members of the crew of the USS California who were killed when it was sunk during the attack. The Wall is being sponsored by Oak Hill Funeral Home and Memorial Park, which has served veterans and their families since the Civil War.

The attack on Pearl Harbor rocked the foundation of our country, but the civic pride and resiliency, as a nation to overcome this tragedy will always be remembered,” said Rob Wallinger. “As the community’s largest funeral and cemetery provider, we take pride in our commitment to our veterans and their families, and the trust they have put in us. We will never forget.”

“These were the first Gold Stars of WWII,” said Warren Hegg, who led the project, referring to the tradition of families who lost loved ones hanging a gold star in their windows during the war. “By putting a face to their names, we hope we can remind people of the sacrifices of those who serve our country in all eras.

Hegg is part of a consortium of organizations and individuals that have formed the WWII 75th Anniversary Commemorations Alliance, who are working together to encourage public awareness and participation in the various 75th anniversaries of important WWII events that will culminate in an international commemoration of the end of the war in August 2020. (www.Spiritof45.org)

The Pearl Harbor Gold Stars will be the first photos that will be included in a giant National Wall of Honor comprised of photos of the 16 million men and women who served in uniform between 1941 – 1945, that is being created in time for it to be displayed on the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII in 2020.

The project priority is to collect the photos of the estimated 400,000 Americans who lost their lives in WWII, including those who are buried in the offshore cemeteries in Europe, North Africa and the Pacific or are listed as missing in action.

“We hope this first Wall will inspire people to come forward with the photos of the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice during WWII so they can be acknowledged in this very personal way” said Roy Hammat, president and founder of Honor States, a web site that archives information about Gold Stars from WWI to the present day. (www.HonorStates.org)

Photos of the Pearl Harbor Gold Stars will be carried in several parades next year, including the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC and Veterans Day parades in New York, Los Angeles, San Diego and several other cities.

*Detail of Pearl Harbor Wall of Honor with the names of those who died in the December 7, 1941 attacks, the ship or field where they were serving when killed, and their home state.
(Courtesy Roy Hammat, HonorStates.org and Nick Molle, Spirit of '45)*

