



PACIFIC CITIZEN

** Special Veterans Issue **

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PEARL HARBOR 75TH

On the eve of its anniversary, the world prepares to commemorate the event that will forever *'live in infamy.'*



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Talk the Importance of History

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Honoring Our Veterans:
The Story of Henry Y. Arao

PHOTOS: PEARL HARBOR 75TH COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

Pearl Harbor 75th Commemoration

HONORING THE PAST AND INSPIRING THE FUTURE

Hawaii and the world prepare to pay tribute to the event that will forever 'live in infamy.'



The USS Missouri and USS Arizona (foreground) Memorial

By **Connie K. Ho,**
Contributor

Dec. 7, 1941, is a date that will “live in infamy.” Much of the world was at war and, that morning, Japanese warplanes assaulted the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor. The next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appeared before a joint session of Congress and declared, “Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.” In December, it will have been 75 years since that fateful attack.

For the past few months, a committee of military, government and business leaders has been working tirelessly to put



Japan surrenders to the United States aboard the USS Missouri on Sept. 2, 1945.

together a commemoration like no other.

The commemoration is centered on Dec. 7, which is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

“The intent behind all the events is to try to find a way . . . to bridge generations and set the groundwork for what is ahead beyond Dec. 7, 2016, because all of this will continue on even though this most likely may be the last major celebration where any of the survivors from the attack on Oahu are with us, and we know that this one is extra special for lots of reasons,” said Anthony Crutchfield, deputy commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, in a press conference.

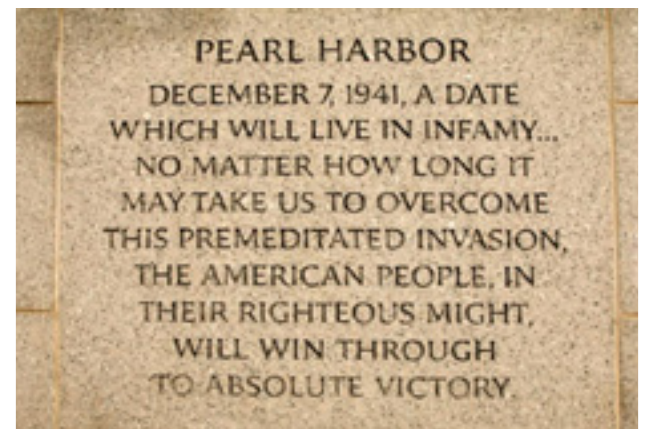
Organizers have honed in on the theme “Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future.” The 11 days of events and ceremonies will pay tribute to survivors, those who lost their lives and the thousands who fought in World War II. Each night will be designated for a different branch of the U.S. Armed Services, with the first night honoring the Army and the last night honoring the Marines. Visitors can also experience events and memorials dedicated to the USS Utah, USS Oklahoma and the USS Arizona.

“As we look to the future, we each have an opportunity and a personal responsibility to invest in and commit to inspiring the leaders of tomorrow, using history to help empower choices that negate fateful outcomes,” said Adm. Thomas Fargo in a statement.

Attendees can enjoy a host of activities such as live music, movie nights, a documentary film premiere and a block party. On Dec. 8, 9 and 10, country music superstars Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood will perform in benefit concerts. On Dec. 11, the Honolulu Marathon will take place.

There are a number of military organizations that are affiliated with the festivities, including the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Veterans, the Fleet Reserve Assn., the U.S. Naval Academy and Alumni Association and Foundation, West Point Association of Graduates, the Air Force Academy Association of Graduates, the Navy League of the United States and the Armed Services YMCA.

“The 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor will focus the world’s attention on Hawaii and provide us this unique opportunity to honor the last of those who experienced the emotional awakening triggered on that ‘date which will live in infamy’ and perpetuate those core values that they



A portion of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s speech is inscribed on the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., to remember Pearl Harbor.

shared,” Fargo said. “The 75th Commemoration embraces our acknowledgement and respect for all men and women who have answered the call of duty for the last seven decades and honors those during WWII who did everything possible to protect our nation and the world. I am privileged to lead the 75th Commemoration of Pearl Harbor Committee.”

Located on the island of Oahu, Pearl Harbor remains an active military base and, as a National Historic Landmark, is home to four historic sites. Visitors to Pearl Harbor can explore the Battleship Missouri Memorial, USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park, the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor and the USS Arizona Memorial. It is the largest natural harbor in the state of Hawaii and is one of the top destinations in Oahu.

Individuals can support the event by purchasing special merchandise online.

“We have received an overwhelming request for memorabilia in honor of this date that ‘will live in infamy,’” said Tony Vericella, 75th Commemoration Pearl Harbor Committee executive director, in a statement. “We are proud to offer a great selection of quality merchandise.”

There have also been a number of companies who have sponsored the initiative. American Airlines, one of the event’s top-tier supporters, will be sponsoring a 75th Pearl Harbor Commemoration Flight.

The exclusive airbus charter from Los Angeles to Honolulu will host approximately 120 Pearl Harbor survivors, World War II veterans and their companions to attend the 75th Pearl Harbor Commemoration. Actor Gary Sinise will also be on the flight; he and the Lt. Dan Band will be performing live on Dec. 5 for a free concert.

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PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE PEARL HARBOR 75TH COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE



Pearl Harbor Survivor Sterling Cale, who was serving as a Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class at the shipyard dispensary on Dec. 7, 1941

"Pearl Harbor survivors and World War II veterans are among our nation's bravest heroes, and we are proud to provide a special honor flight to the 75th Pearl Harbor Commemoration," said David Seymour, senior vp of integrated operations at American Airlines, in a statement. "Our long-standing commitment to veterans and their families is steadfast and is demonstrated by the thousands of hours of volunteer time our employees donate every year to causes like these that are so close to our hearts. We are truly honored to participate in this incredible event where our nation's heroes will be celebrated for their courage and commitment to our country."

Commemoration Details

"Fighting Two Wars: A Tribute to AJA Veterans" will be held at the Hawaii Convention Center on Dec. 5. Veterans of four military units comprised primarily of Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) will be honored, including the 100th Infantry Battalion, Military Intelligence Service, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion. The event will include a luncheon and remarks by Hawaii Gov. David Ige and former Gov. George Ariyoshi. A limited number of tickets are available to individuals and outside organizations at pearlharbor75thanniversary.com.

ARAO >> continued from page 7

Arao also attended the A Company reunions in Las Vegas. The guys loved to reminisce about their wartime experiences—about breaking ranks to steal cabbage from this angry Italian farmer. They got salt and made tsukemono in their helmets. When the pay master paid for the stolen cabbage, peace was restored.

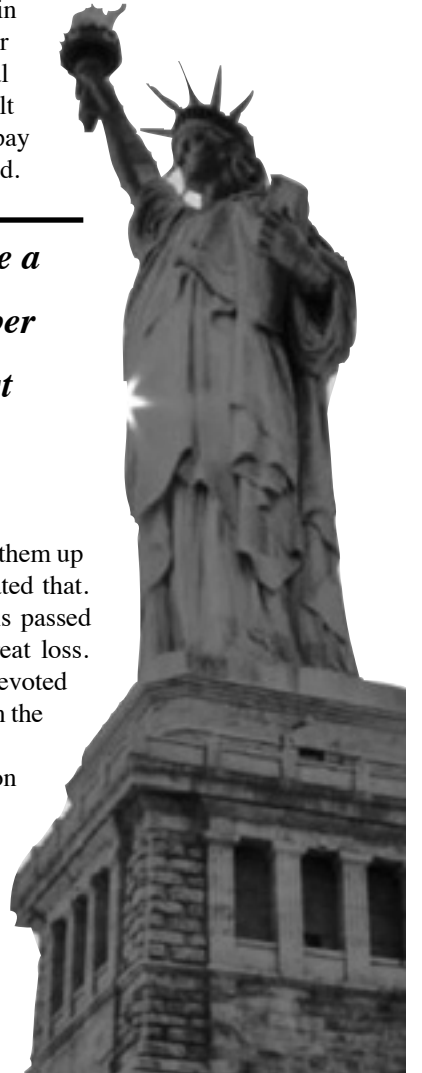
When his 442nd veteran roommate passed away, he didn't have anyone to go with. Arao also misplaced his medals. With the help of the Veterans Administration of Santa Cruz County, many of his medals were replaced. His medal record is included with his 201 file, his service record.

'Henry, you are a charter member of the Greatest Generation.'

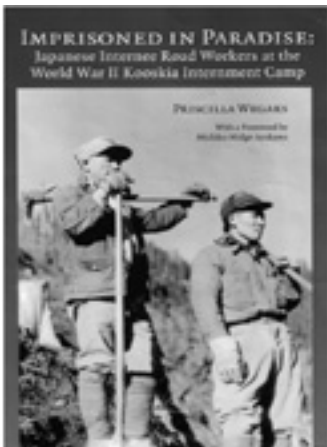
The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL decided to case them up so that he couldn't lose them anymore. He appreciated that. The entire chapter certainly appreciated him. Phyllis passed away in October of 2005. It was a shock and a great loss. Through the love of Reba, Mike and Shirley, their devoted care fulfilled their father's wish of living out his life in the comfort of his home as he wanted. Thank you.

Henry Y. Arao passed away at the age of 87 on Nov. 20, 2007.

Whenever I'm at the Statue of Liberty or see a photo of it, I think of Sgt. Henry Y. Arao and of all the guys and gals who didn't return. "Henry, you are a charter member of the Greatest Generation. You served your country, your family and your Nikkei community well. You served the cause of Liberty. 'At ease,' Henry, now's the time to be 'at ease.'"



Holiday Gift Suggestions

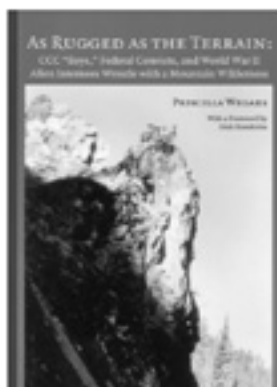


Imprisoned in Paradise: Japanese Internee Road Workers at the World War II Kooskia Internment Camp
by Priscilla Wegars (AACC, 2010)

Imprisoned in Paradise uncovers the history of a unique detention and road building facility located on Highway 12 adjacent to Idaho's wild and scenic Lochsa River. From 1943 to 1945 the Kooskia Internment Camp held an all-male crew of some 265 so-called "enemy aliens" of Japanese ancestry. Most were from the U.S., but some were kidnapped from Panama and Peru. 323 pages • \$19.95

As Rugged as the Terrain: CCC "Boys," Federal Convicts, and World War II Alien Internees Wrestle with a Mountain Wilderness
by Priscilla Wegars (Caxton/AACC, 2013)

As Rugged as the Terrain digs deeply, and brilliantly, into the fascinating history of Idaho's Civilian Conservation Corps recruits (1933); federal prisoners (1935-1943); and Japanese, Italian, and German internees (1943-1945) at their isolated, mountainous, work camps. 393 pages • \$21.95



For more information, visit <http://webpages.uidaho.edu/aacc/kooskia.htm>
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