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### Past and future service honored on 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor attack

Last Updated : 9/12/2017 12:13:50 PM



Ray Chavez, 104, the oldest living Pearl Harbor survivor, arrives in Honolulu, Dec. 3. More than 100 World War II veterans, including Pearl Harbor survivors, have arrived in Honolulu to participate in Pearl Harbor 75th anniversary remembrance events. (Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Nardel Gervacio)

By Jamie Rogers

Dec. 7, 1941: a date that has lived in infamy since U.S. Armed Forces in Hawaii were devastated by a surprise attack from the Japanese navy. This year, we mark a special anniversary of that day — honoring the survivors, remembering the ultimate sacrifice of those who perished 75 years ago and saluting those who swear to protect our nation today and tomorrow.

An unprecedented commemoration, with the theme “Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future,” will bookend Wednesday’s anniversary with a series of special events in Honolulu. Ceremonial tributes

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scheduled for Dec. 1-11, which are being dedicated to our “Greatest Generation,” have been designed to attract thousands of global visitors and Hawaii residents.

“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,” said Adm. Thomas B. Fargo USN (Ret.), chairman of the Blue Ribbon Leadership Committee, commissioned by Hawaii’s Gov. David Y. Ige.

Veterans, retired and active service military personnel and their families, the general public (local, national, international), invited dignitaries, and national and state political leadership are expected to participate in the Dec. 7 events. A free, live broadcast of the official anniversary programs will be streamed online at [pearlharbor75thanniversary.com/live-stream](http://www.pearlharbor75thanniversary.com/live-stream) (<http://www.pearlharbor75thanniversary.com/live-stream>) beginning at 7:45AM (HST).

The surprise attack against the U.S. Pacific Fleet still resonates with many Americans as one of the most shocking battles in our nation’s history. During the 110-minute attack, Japanese bombers damaged or destroyed eight battleships, three cruisers and several airfields, leading to more than 2,400 casualties among the U.S. Navy, Army, Marines and civilians. Though chaos and terror reigned that Sunday morning, there was no shortage of American heroes during the attack. In fact, the first African-American to be awarded Navy Cross (Doris Miller) and the first Purple Heart to be awarded to a woman for combat (Annie Fox) were earned by their acts of bravery as the terror unfolded.

Though Japanese plan to destroy U.S. Navy carriers and crucial fuel facilities failed, the devastation spurred the United States to declare war on Japan the following day, officially entering the nation into World War II.

Visit the official website for the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor ([pearlharbor75thanniversary.com](http://pearlharbor75thanniversary.com)) (<http://pearlharbor75thanniversary.com>)) for more information about this year’s special commemoration, including stories from survivors, photos from the Naval History and Heritage Command Collections, videos detailing the attacks and much more.

For more information about your military in Hawaii, find us online at [www.HIMilitary.com](http://www.HIMilitary.com) (<http://www.HIMilitary.com>).

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