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The Bugle Call



January 2024, Volume 14, Number 1

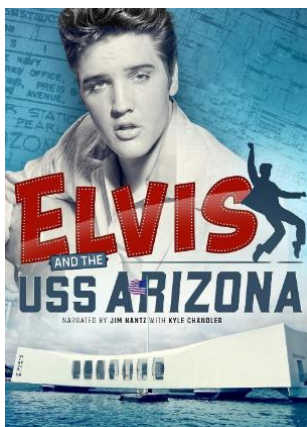
Warminster, Pennsylvania

Ann's Choice Residents and Guests are invited to attend Veterans Group Programs and Events
(Meetings are open to ALL with no charge)

Program in the Keystone Multipurpose Room on January 15 at 10:00am

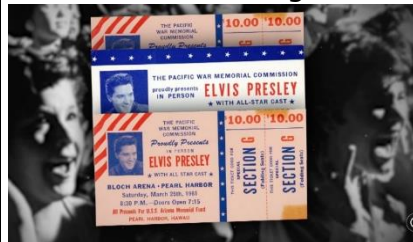
The Ann's Choice Veterans Group will meet in the Multipurpose Room on Monday, January 15 at 10:00 am. Following the regular business meeting there will be a presentation on the efforts of the King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley, to help raise funds for the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor.

In the late 1950's a commission was established to build a memorial for the USS Arizona and her crew which was sunk when Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941.



The initial target was \$ 500,000.

Though fund raising had begun with great success, it stalled and by 1960 less than half of the target had been raised.



Come hear the story about a benefit concert on March 25, 1961

organized by Elvis Presley's manager, Colonel Tom Parker, and how it was instrumental in reigniting the fund raising efforts.

The meetings and programs of the Veterans Group are open to all veterans and to all residents of Ann's Choice, and there is no charge to attend these meetings.

Members of the Veterans Club are encouraged to wear their official shirts.

Meeting Schedule for January 2024 to August 2024

Mon., Jan. 15, 2024 – Business Meeting and Program in Multipurpose Room at 10:00 am

Mon., Feb. 19, 2024 – Program only in Multipurpose Room at 10:00 am

Mon., Mar. 18, 2024 – Program only in Multipurpose Room at 10:00 am

Mon., Apr. 15, 2024 – Business Meeting and Program in Multipurpose Room at 10:00 am

Tues., May 14, 2024 - Military Movie Night in the PAC at 7:00; pre-show at 6:45

Thur., May 30, 2024 – Memorial Day Service in Chapel at 11:00 am

Mon., June 17, 2024 – Business Meeting, Elections and Program in Multipurpose Room at 10:00 am

Tues., July 16, 2024 – Military Movie Night in the PAC at 7:00; pre-show at 6:45

Tues., Aug. 20, 2024 – Military Movie Night in the PAC at 7:00; pre-show at 6:45

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VA Benefits



You may have received an application

for VA benefits recently in a mailing from PA with your license renewal. If you are not already registered for VA benefits, take this opportunity to sign up.

The Veterans Group Service Officer, Jerry Byrnes is available to answer questions you may have about enrollment. He has blank forms and can be reached by e-mail at jgbyrnes54@yahoo.com or by phone at (917) 572-9346.

There is a lot of information about upcoming events for veterans and access to resources on news.va.gov.

“USS Arizona”

The Battle of Music 1941 began on September 13 and competitions were held every two weeks at Bloch Arena on Pearl Harbor Naval Station. The competition featured Navy bands from capital ships home ported in Pearl Harbor and those attached to shore installations in Hawaii. On 6 December 1941, the semi-finals were held with twenty-one-member bands competing to see who would face off against the bands of the USS *Arizona* and the Marine Corps Barracks.

The next day, all the band members from the USS *Arizona* died – they had been passing ammunition.

During and following the end of World War II, *Arizona's* wrecked superstructure was removed and efforts began to erect a memorial at the remaining submerged hull.

Since the ship was moored in relatively shallow water when attacked, much of the superstructure continued to protrude out of the water. On 5 May

1942, the Navy began to disassemble and cut off the protruding parts, beginning with the foremast, then the mainmast on 23 August 1942.

Number 1 and 2 gun turrets were removed from *Arizona* and placed at Army outposts along the Hawaiian coast for defensive support.

The Navy recovered 105 crewmembers' remains from the wreckage. The last of the salvaging evolutions occurred in October 1943. *Arizona* was removed from the commissioned list 1 December 1942. In the end, only the hull and main deck remained at the bottom of the harbor.

In 1944, Wilber L. Bowers, an *Arizona* University alumnus, discovered one of *Arizona's* bells corroding in the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Washington. The bell, like many other pieces of scrapped vessels, was waiting to be melted down so it could be reused for wartime efforts. Bowers was able to retrieve the bell and have it sent to the University of Arizona in 1946, where it currently resides in the bell tower as an honor to those who had fallen. The other bell that was on *Arizona* remains at the memorial site.



USS *Arizona* sinking and burning during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941

Throughout the rest of World War II, *Arizona* remained untouched and unnoticed.

Robert Ripley, of Ripley's Believe It or Not! fame, visited Pearl Harbor in 1942. Six years later, in 1948, he did a radio broadcast from Pearl Harbor. Following that broadcast, with the help of his longtime friend Doug Storer, he got in contact with the Department of the Navy. He wrote letters to Rear Admiral J.J. Manning of the Bureau of Yards and Docks regarding his desire for a permanent memorial.

While Ripley's original idea for a memorial was disregarded due to the cost, the Navy continued with the idea of creating a memorial. The Pacific War Memorial Commission was created in 1949 to build a permanent memorial in Hawaii.

Admiral Arthur W. Radford, commander of the Pacific Fleet, attached a flag pole to the main mast of the *Arizona* in 1950, and began a tradition of hoisting and lowering the flag.

In that same year a temporary memorial was built above the remaining portion of the deckhouse. Radford requested funds for a national memorial in 1951 and 1952, but was denied because of budget constraints during the Korean War.

The Navy placed the first permanent memorial, a 10-foot basalt stone and plaque, over the mid-ship deckhouse on 7 December 1955. President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved the creation of a National Memorial in 1958. Enabling legislation required the memorial, budgeted at \$500,000, be privately financed; however, \$200,000 of the memorial cost was government subsidized.

During planning stages, the memorial's purpose was the subject of competing visions. Some were eager to keep it a tribute to the sailors of the *Arizona*, while others expected a dedication to all who died in the Pacific theater. In the end, the legislation authorizing and funding the memorial (HR 44, 1961) declared that the *Arizona* would "be maintained in honor and commemoration of the members of the



A letter from Rear Admiral J.J. Manning to Robert Ripley regarding the need for a permanent Pearl Harbor memorial

Armed Forces of the United States who gave their lives to their country during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.”

Underwater Archaeology

In 1983, the National Park Service’s Submerged Cultural Resources Unit, now the Submerged Resources Center (SRC), conducted a ten-day diving operation, taking photographs and measurements of *Arizona*. Teamed with the park staff and the Navy’s Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One, SRC was able to gather a comprehensive amount of information that

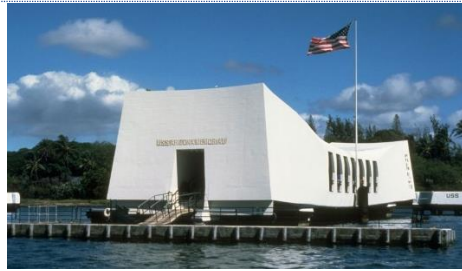
was not known prior to this. Thousands of measurements of the twisted metal were taken, attempting to get an accurate

reconstruction of the ship. One of the first things researchers

found was that at the point of the explosion that caused the ship to sink, the gunnels were several feet wider apart than in the construction plans. This suggested that the ship had expanded at the explosion site and was confirmed by getting additional measurements by hand and infrared theodolite. When the vessel was pieced together from the data collected, the scaled drawing was longer than the actual ship. During this phase of research, divers also found that the explosion from the magazine caused major structural damage, which collapsed bulkheads and sealed the exits, trapping the men within.

In 1986 a biofouling and corrosion study was initiated by NPS to investigate the excessive corrosion that was taking place upon the outer surface of the ship’s hull. During 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 the SRC conducted multiple research dives and inquiries that revolved around the corrosion and deterioration prevention of the historic vessel. Another important issue that was documented during this period was the amount of the leaking oil from the ship. *Arizona* contains several hundred thousand gallons of Bunker C fuel oil that has been slowly leaking since its sinking in 1941. Close monitoring of the situation began in this period, and research was initiated on how to address the issue.

In 2003, the National Park Service received an official grant from the Legacy Resources Management Program to be directed towards the



USS *Arizona* Memorial at Pearl Harbor

development of a long-term management plan for *Arizona*. The insights gained from this study were designed to prevent environmental hazards from oil release, as well as to establish long-term preservation protocols. Since *Arizona*’s sinking, the corrosion of the hull has varied from 1.1 to 6.0 mils per year (1 mil = one thousandth of an inch).

From 2003 to 2004, improved techniques were employed to gain insight into forces affecting the wreck, which include environmental as well as human processes. Researchers used remotely operated vehicles to conduct various tests, including: measuring corrosion potential of metal surfaces, assessing microbial impacts, and collecting oil samples. Annual studies on the wreck beginning in 2004 help to inform further management considerations on the structural integrity of the ship in order to minimize environmental impacts.

Geological studies are important for understanding the movement of the seafloor that may impact hull stability in the long term. Core samples from around the wreck have been taken to provide accurate stratigraphic information and measure the stability of the sediments the ship rests upon.

In 2009, site formation studies were conducted using finite element analysis (FEA) to create a program that would allow scientists to calculate the future structural strength and integrity of the ship. The FEA program uses experimental variables based on known processes and observable data to model the mechanical properties of the ship, dividing the surface into small shapes that reflect the deformations and deflections over time on specific parts of the vessel.

In 2013, research began on collecting interior and exterior photo documentation, mapping, and 3D modeling utilizing digital HD video and photography. The data collected was used to create visual media designed for people that are not able to go visit the memorial or dive underwater and experience the ways research is done from a submerged perspective. A virtual reality environment based on 3D reconstructions allows visitors to feel, touch, and see history in a unique perspective.

Archaeological research allows us to apply scientific techniques to interpret the Navy’s stories and experiences in a way that educates the public and honors our veterans. The Navy’s sunken military

“Arizona” continued on page 4

“Arizona” continued from page 3

craft represent a non-renewable, fragile, and untapped repository for science, technology, and history. Arizona is one of the most monitored wrecks in the Navy’s collection. Studies of Arizona have created detailed data sets of the environmental interactions between the harbor and the large steel battleship. These have provided an invaluable research tool to further archaeological, conservation, and technological advances in several fields. Archaeology also lets us see how and why the physical ship itself changed over time to reflect its operational environment. Starting out as a ship designed to perform in the Atlantic, its gradual transformation to a Pacific battleship, and today a memorial of submerged heritage. While it is not common to think of just how much vessels change over time and how they reflect the ideas, strategies, and people during and after its service, archaeological studies make these processes more apparent.

Sources include articles on Wikipedia, the WWII Foundation website, and the Naval History and Heritage Command on navy.mil

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Membership Open

At the Veterans Group meeting in June 2022 the membership approved changes to the By-Laws to expand eligibility to all residents for membership in the Veterans Group. Veterans may apply to be a Member, and non-Veterans may apply to be an Associate Supporting Member. Lifetime membership fees are \$50 and \$35 respectively and the membership fee includes an official Veterans Group shirt.

All members 1) receive a copy this monthly newsletter, The Bugle Call, 2) will not be asked for a donation at Military Movie Night if wearing their Veterans Group shirt, and 3) may participate in any of the service projects of the Veterans Group. Note: Associate Supporting Members are not eligible to be elected to the Board of Directors.

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Celebrate Our New Member

A big welcome to the following new members who have joined the Veterans Group:

- John Szykowski (1954 to 1956, U. S> Army, Germany)

Why Do You Need the Veterans Group?

The Veterans Group provides several services to veterans and fellow residents of Ann’s Choice. These include –

- Color Guard for presenting the U. S. flag at Veterans Group programs and at some Ann’s Choice programs.
• Annual Memorial Day remembrance service in the Chapel for veterans.
• Annual program on Veterans Day.
• Deploying and retrieving memorial flags in front of the clubhouses.
• Deploying and retrieving small flags around the campus.
• Valet service for mobility devices
• Free transportation to the Horsham VA clinic.
• Military movie nights in the PAC.
• Having this newsletter to read.

It takes volunteers to make these things happen.

Even if you don't use some of these services now, there may come a time in the future when you need to take advantage of them.

Our concern is that due to the declining number of veterans or the lack of awareness of the need for volunteers, we may not be



able to provide needed services in the future.

If you are a veteran or an interested resident and would like to help, please contact one of the officers and volunteers listed in the left-most column on page 1.

AV Opportunities



There is an opportunity to help with the Veterans Group during the meetings and programs in the Multipurpose

Room and for Military Movie Nights in the PAC by volunteering to help with AV services.

Contact Keith Lawrence at (215) 444-0116 for more information about this service opportunity.