**December 7th, 1941 – A Day that will live in Infamy!**

Thanks Spike for that introduction. It is truly an honor to be with you here today as we remember the events that took place 80 years ago on a small island in the Pacific. Thankyou also to Mayor Ritter and ….. The men and women who put their selves in harm’s way on that fateful morning 80 years ago today need to be remembered for their acts of heroism and bravery, and hopefully as similar recognition ceremonies take place across America today, we can honor their sacrifice and also remember the importance of this day in the context of that day and how it changed the world.

As I thought about my remarks today, I was determined to highlight the importance of the attack on Pearl Harbor, not just in the day itself, but to put in context the broader sense of importance this day has and the impact it had on World War II and the United States as a whole.

**First, let’s focus on the day itself.**

1. If any of you have had the opportunity to visit Hawaii, and more importantly Pearl Harbor, you know what the climate is, but for those of you have not, let me set the stage. Every day in Hawaii, especially on the south and east side of Oahu is about the same, temperatures in the 70’s, maybe low 80’s, sunny and maybe a chance of a passing shower. Doesn’t matter, winter, spring, summer or fall. And I can imagine that December 7th, 1941 was no different.
2. December 7th was a Sunday, so many of the servicemen and sailors were probably sleeping in from a night of liberty on the town, some maybe just waking up and getting ready to head out to church services, others on the ships at the piers getting ready to relive the watch section at 0800 and observe morning colors. A typical Sunday in paradise, and then it happened.
3. At 7:48 a.m. Hawaiian Time, 353 Imperial Japanese aircraft (including fighters, level and dive bombers, and torpedo bombers) in two waves, launched from six aircraft carriers attacked the US Naval Base at Pearl Harbor. The Japanese aircraft were launched at about 6:10 AM from the Japanese aircraft carriers about 200 miles north of Oahu. Ninety minutes after it began, the attack was over. **2,008 sailors were killed and 710 others wounded; 218 soldiers and airmen (who were part of the Army prior to the independent United States Air Force in 1947) were killed and 364 wounded; 109 Marines were killed and 69 wounded; and 68 civilians were killed and 35 wounded. In total, 2,403 Americans were killed, and 1,143 were wounded.** Eighteen ships were sunk or run aground, including eight battleships (4 sunk). Of the American fatalities, nearly half were due to the explosion of Arizona's forward magazine after it was hit by a modified 16-inch shell used as a bomb. It should also be noted that the vast majority of the U.S. sailors killed at Pearl Harbor were junior enlisted personnel, approximately 18-20 years of age, since they primarily lived on board the ships while senior enlisted and officers lived in base housing or in town.
4. Battleships
   1. Arizona: hit by four armor-piercing bombs, exploded; total loss. 1,177 dead.
   2. Oklahoma: hit by five torpedoes, capsized; total loss. 429 dead.
   3. West Virginia: hit by two bombs, seven torpedoes, sunk; returned to service July 1944. 106 dead.
   4. California: hit by two bombs, two torpedoes, sunk; returned to service January 1944. 100 dead.
   5. Nevada: hit by six bombs, one torpedo, beached; returned to service October 1942. 60 dead.
   6. Pennsylvania (Admiral Husband E. Kimmel's flagship of the United States Pacific Fleet):[131] in drydock with Cassin and Downes, hit by one bomb and debris from USS Cassin; remained in service. 9 dead.
   7. Tennessee: hit by two bombs; returned to service February 1942. 5 dead.
   8. Maryland: hit by two bombs; returned to service February 1942. 4 dead (including floatplane pilot shot down).
5. The fight was brief, since the ships and aircraft were import, they were not in a position to fight off the attack, and it is amazing that any sort of defense could have been mounted in that short time period. Most of the Japanese casualties occurred when the second wave hit.
6. Several Japanese junior officers urged Nagumo to carry out a third strike in order to destroy as much of Pearl Harbor's fuel and torpedo storage, maintenance, and dry dock facilities as possible. Genda, believed that without an invasion, three strikes were necessary to disable the base as much as possible. The captains of the other five carriers in the task force reported they were willing and ready to carry out a third strike. Military historians have suggested the destruction of these shore facilities would have hampered the U.S. Pacific Fleet far more seriously than the loss of its battleships. **If they had been wiped out, "serious [American] operations in the Pacific would have been postponed for more than a year"; according to Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who would become Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet after Admiral Kimmel was relieved, "it would have prolonged the war another two years"** Nagumo, however, decided to withdraw for several reasons:
   1. American anti-aircraft performance had improved considerably during the second strike, and two-thirds of Japan's losses were incurred during the second wave.
   2. He would be risking three-quarters of the Combined Fleet's strength to wipe out the remaining targets (which included the facilities) while suffering higher aircraft losses.
   3. The location of the American carriers remained unknown and the admiral was concerned his force was now within range of American land-based bombers
   4. The task force's fuel situation did not permit him to remain in waters north of Pearl Harbor much longer since he was at the very limit of logistical support. To do so risked running unacceptably low on fuel, perhaps even having to abandon destroyers en route home.
   5. He believed the second strike had essentially satisfied the main objective of his mission—the neutralization of the U.S. Pacific Fleet—and did not wish to risk further losses
   6. At a conference aboard his flagship the following morning, Yamamoto supported Nagumo's withdrawal without launching a third wave. In retrospect, sparing the vital dockyards, maintenance shops, and the oil tank farm meant the U.S. could respond relatively quickly to Japanese activities in the Pacific. Yamamoto later regretted Nagumo's decision to withdraw and categorically stated it had been a great mistake not to order a third strike.
7. Much of the heroic acts of the day centered around the sailors and servicemen’s ability to fight the fires and do damage control to save both their ships, equipment and even more importantly the sailors and servicemen trapped below decks, contained by fire, flooding and prevent additional explosives from igniting. Additionally, the harbor was littered with damaged ship debris, fuel oil which had ignited and bodies, both living a dead.
8. Local hospitals were over run as make shift wards were established, triage was conducted and men and women worked around the clock for weeks to save the injured and months and more to clear the harbor, repairs ships and facilities and prepare them selves for the ensuing war.
9. Significantly important was what was not attacked, base installations such as the power station, dry dock, shipyard, maintenance, and fuel and torpedo storage facilities, as well as the submarine piers and headquarters building (also home of the intelligence section). Additionally, the 2 Pearl based carriers (Lexington and Enterprise) were not in port and were conducting operations at sea and did not participate in the defense, and as result were not damaged. Saratoga was in San Diego.
10. Japanese losses were light: 29 aircraft and five midget submarines lost, and 64 servicemen killed. A third wave attack would have probably resulted in significantly more Japanese casualties
11. These are the facts of the day.

**Why Pearl Harbor**

1. Colonialization of the Western and South Western Pacific had been occurring since the early 1700’s and the expansion of the spice routes and trade, particularly with Great Britain’s vast empire including Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, and the French in Indochina and Spain’s holdings of Islands through the pacific as well as the Dutch.
2. The United States had annexed Hawaii at the start of the Spanish-American War and obtained Guam and the Philippines (among other islands) as a result of the war. Japan had been wary of American territorial and military expansion in the Pacific and Asia since the late 1890s, which they felt were close to or within their sphere of influence.
3. War between Japan and the United States had been a possibility that each nation had been aware of, and planned for, since the 1920s.
4. The two countries were trading partners and tensions did not seriously grow until Japan's invasion of Manchuria in 1931. The United States was particularly unhappy with Japan’s increasingly belligerent attitude toward China. The Japanese government believed that the only way to solve its economic and demographic problems was to expand into its neighbor’s territory and take over its import market. To this end, Japan declared war on China in 1937 (two years prior to the start of World War II in Europe in September of 1939), resulting in the Nanking Massacre and other atrocities.
5. American officials responded to this aggression with a battery of economic sanctions and trade embargoes, which included essential supplies like oil, in the hopes that Japan would rein in its territorial expansion. In 1940, Japan invaded French Indochina, attempting to stymie the flow of supplies reaching China. The United States halted shipments of airplanes, parts, machine tools, and aviation gasoline to Japan, which the latter perceived as an unfriendly act. The United States did not stop oil exports, however, partly because of the prevailing sentiment in Washington that given Japanese dependence on American oil, such an action was likely to be considered an extreme provocation.
6. The U.S. finally ceased oil exports to Japan in July 1941, following the seizure of French Indochina after the Fall of France (as a result of German attacks on France). Japan proceeded with plans to take the oil-rich Dutch East Indies. On August 17, Roosevelt warned Japan that America was prepared to take opposing steps if "neighboring countries" were attacked. The Japanese were faced with a dilemma—either withdraw from China and lose face or seize new sources of raw materials in the resource-rich European colonies of Southeast Asia.
7. Japan and the U.S. engaged in negotiations during 1941, attempting to improve relations. In the course of these negotiations, Japan offered to withdraw from most of China and Indochina after making peace with the Nationalist government. It also proposed to adopt an independent interpretation of the Tripartite Pact and to refrain from trade discrimination, provided all other nations reciprocated. Washington rejected these proposals. The Konoye government collapsed the following month when the Japanese military rejected a withdrawal of all troops from China.
8. Japan's final proposal, delivered on November 20, 1941 offered to withdraw from southern Indochina and to refrain from attacks in Southeast Asia, so long as the United States, United Kingdom, and Netherlands supplied one million U.S. gallons (3.8 million liters) of aviation fuel, lifted their sanctions against Japan, and ceased aid to China. The American counter-proposal of November 26 required Japan completely evacuate China without conditions and conclude non-aggression pacts with Pacific powers. On November 26 in Japan, the day before the note's delivery, the Japanese task force left port for Pearl Harbor.
9. The Japanese intended the attack as a preventive action to keep the United States Pacific Fleet from interfering with its planned military actions in Southeast Asia against overseas territories of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and the United States. Over the course of seven hours there were coordinated Japanese attacks on the U.S.-held Philippines, Guam, and Wake Island and on the British Empire in Malaya, Singapore, and Hong Kong. Additionally, from the Japanese viewpoint, it was seen as a preemptive strike "before the oil gauge ran empty."

**The Japanese attack had several major aims:**

1. Destroy important American fleet units, thereby preventing the Pacific Fleet from interfering with the Japanese conquest of the Dutch East Indies and Malaya and enabling Japan to conquer Southeast Asia without interference.
2. Buy time for Japan to consolidate its position and increase its naval strength.
3. Deliver a blow to America's ability to mobilize its forces in the Pacific.
4. Undermine American morale such that the U.S. government would drop its demands contrary to Japanese interests and would seek a compromise peace with Japan.
5. The attack took place before any formal declaration of war was made by Japan, but this was not Admiral Yamamoto's intention. He originally stipulated that the attack should not commence until thirty minutes after Japan had informed the United States that peace negotiations were at an end.

**President Roosevelt’s address: President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress on December 8, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. “Yesterday, December 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.” He went on to say, “No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.”** On December 8, Congress approved Roosevelt’s declaration of war on Japan. Three days later, Japan’s allies Germany and Italy declared war against the United States. For the second time, Congress reciprocated, declaring war on the European powers. More than two years after the start of World War II, the United States had entered the conflict. – **The Yanks are coming!**

**Because the attack happened without a declaration of war and without explicit warning, the attack on Pearl Harbor was later judged in the Tokyo Trials to be a war crime.**

**The Japanese Naval High Command’s viewpoints of the attack after the fact were:**

**1. Admiral Hara Tadaichi (carrier group commander for 2 of the carriers at Pearl Harbor) summed up the Japanese result by saying, "We won a great tactical victory at Pearl Harbor and thereby lost the war."**

**2. Admiral Yamamoto, “I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve.” This quote can be heard in the films Tora! Tora! Tora! and Pearl Harbor. However, there is some doubt whether it should be attributed to Yamamoto. His other quotes may be even stronger and certainly hold the same sentiment. “If we are ordered to do it,” Yamamoto had answered, “then I can guarantee to put up a tough fight for the first six months, but I have absolutely no confidence as to what would happen if it went on for two or three years.” Yamamoto stated this in 1940 to the then prime minister, Fumimaro Konoye. This was long before the Pearl Harbor attack. Again, in September 1941 he made a similar prediction: “For a while we’ll have everything our own way, stretching out in every direction like an octopus spreading its tentacles. But it’ll last for a year and a half at the most.”**

**Strategic implications**

1. Fortunately for the United States, the American aircraft carriers were untouched; otherwise, the Pacific Fleet's ability to conduct offensive operations would have been crippled for a year or more (given no diversions from the Atlantic Fleet). As it was, the elimination of the battleships left the U.S. Navy with no choice but to rely on its aircraft carriers and submarines—the very weapons with which the U.S. Navy halted and eventually reversed the Japanese advance.
2. The Japanese neglected Pearl Harbor's navy repair yards, oil tank farms, submarine base, and old headquarters building. The survival of the repair shops and fuel depots allowed Pearl Harbor to maintain logistical support to the U.S. Navy's operations, such as the Doolittle Raid and the Battles of Coral Sea and Midway. It was submarines that immobilized the Imperial Japanese Navy's heavy ships and brought Japan's economy to a virtual standstill by crippling the importation of oil and raw materials: Lastly, the basement of the Old Administration Building was the home of the cryptanalytic unit which contributed significantly to the Midway ambush and the Submarine Force's success.

**The home front and WWII entry:**

1. World War II is generally considered to have begun on 1 September 1939, when Nazi Germany, under Adolf Hitler, invaded Poland. The United Kingdom and France subsequently declared war on Germany on 3 September. From late 1939 to early 1941, in a series of campaigns and treaties, Germany conquered or controlled much of continental Europe, and formed the Axis alliance with Italy and Japan. France was invaded by Germany and fell in mid-1940, the war continued primarily between the European Axis powers and the British Empire, with war in the Balkans, the aerial Battle of Britain, the Blitz of the UK, and the Battle of the Atlantic.
2. On 22 June 1941, Germany led the European Axis powers in an invasion of Russia, opening the Eastern Front, the largest land theatre of war in history. Throughout all of the two-year period (1939 – 1941) the United States had essentially maintained neutrality with the exception of providing supplies via the Lend-Lease policy, under which the United States supplied the United Kingdom (and British Commonwealth), Free France, the Republic of China, and later Rusia and other Allied nations with food, oil, and materiel between 1941 and 1945.
3. During the months preceding the attack on Pearl Harbor, the war in Europe had essentially boiled down to a contest between the Axis Powers of Germany and Italy, and against them Great Britain, Russia and free France and other minor countries. On the face of it, especially in the long term and even with Lend-Lease aid from the United States, it is difficult to see how Britain could have continued the war without the entry of the United States into the conflict on its side. Presumably, Winston Churchill would have had to sue for peace, or endure a German invasion of the British Isles once the Nazis had consolidated their military strength in Europe. This all changed on December 7th, 1941.
4. Homefront: During the spring of 1942, a rationing program was established that set limits on the amount of gas, food and clothing consumers could purchase. Individuals and communities conducted drives for the collection of scrap metal, aluminum cans and rubber, all of which were recycled and used to produce armaments. Individuals purchased U.S. war bonds to help pay for the high cost of armed conflict. From the outset of the war, it was clear that enormous quantities of airplanes, tanks, warships, rifles and other armaments would be essential to beating America’s aggressors. U.S. workers played a vital role in the production of such war-related materials. Many of these workers were women. Indeed, with tens of thousands of American men joining the armed forces and heading into training and into battle, women began securing jobs as welders, electricians and riveters in defense plants. Until that time, such positions had been strictly for men only. A woman who toiled in the defense industry came to be known as a “Rosie the Riveter.” During the war years, the decrease in the availability of men in the work force also led to an upsurge in the number of women holding non-war-related factory jobs. **By the mid-1940s, the percentage of women in the American work force had expanded from 25 percent to 36 percent**. The United States mobilized for war, the social demographics were changing and as a result of America’s entry into the war, we had established ourselves on the World Stage as a world power.

Clearly, December 7th, 1941 is a day that needs to be remembered for many reasons. First and foremost, for the significant loss of life and sacrifice that was made by those who fought there, and the enduring hardships experienced by the families and a nation in the aftermath. But as I hope I have illustrated; the remembrance of Pearl Harbor is significant because of the impact it had on world events of the time. It is unknown what the outcome of WWII would have been without Pearl Harbor:

1. Would the United States have ever entered the war, and if so, when?
2. Would Britain have eventually capitulated and sued for peace? If so and Russia prevailed over Germany, could the European continent be dominated by a communist regime?
3. Would Soviet Russia have fallen and Germany have dominated Europe?
4. Would the empire of Japan expand their colonization of the pacific and Asian continent?
5. If the war would have endured for a longer period of time, who would have developed the atomic bomb and how would it have been used.
6. Germany had already been developing V-2 rockets (V-1 were already being used on Britain) and had developed the jet engine for aircraft. If the United States entry in the war were delayed, could these developments have been used more effectively by the Germans and their allies?
7. Those questions remain unanswered and remain as thought experiments.

Pearl Harbor also transformed the United States economy and social economic landscape as well as women entered the workforce, we recovered from the great depression and emerged on the World Stage as a global super power and leader of the free world.

As a result of Pearl Harbor, many lives were changed. The youth of the nation once more were off to War, many of whom would not return, or if they did, suffered from their injuries, both physical and mental. On a personal note, I think of my own connection. My father was born in 1925. His father died in 1926 (hit by a car on the Weissport bridge). My grandmother had 3 children, lived through the depression and in 1944 my father was drafted. Upon being drafted, he enlisted in the Marines and in 1945 he found himself with the 4th Marines landing on a small volcanic rock in the Western Pacific known as Iwo Jima where he was injured. As a result of his injuries and his marine service, he found himself at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. While there he met a young woman, my mother, and the rest is history.

I spent 3 years stationed in Pearl Harbor. While there, my wife and I had the privilege to take the short boat ride to the Arizona memorial. As you look down on the sunken battleship below the harbor’s surface and realize that men still remain there entombed from December 7th, 1941, a lump enters your throat and a tear forms in your eye. These men were not aware of what that Sunday morning would bring upon them, but they fought bravely, answered the call, and on this day, 80 years later, and any other day, we shall not forget what they did there and the impact their sacrifice had on the United States and the world.

In the wake of the attack, 15 Medals of Honor, 51 Navy Crosses, 53 Silver Stars, four Navy and Marine Corps Medals, one Distinguished Flying Cross, four Distinguished Service Crosses, one Distinguished Service Medal, and three Bronze Star Medals were awarded to the American servicemen who distinguished themselves in combat at Pearl Harbor.