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BATTLESHIP MISSOURI MEMORIAL HONORS THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USS *MISSOURI*'S LAUNCH AND ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY AS A LIVING EDUCATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM AT PEARL HARBOR

Pearl Harbor, HI – (January 26, 2019) – Today, the Battleship Missouri Memorial honored two of the most significant anniversaries in the storied history of the USS *Missouri*, the last battleship ever built and the site where World War II came to an end.

The 75th anniversary of the USS *Missouri*'s launch into military service and its 20th anniversary as a living educational maritime museum at Pearl Harbor were recognized by dignitaries in a ceremony, followed by the Battleship Missouri Memorial's annual Living History Day, which featured historical exhibits, displays of artifacts and entertainment throughout the day.

Michael Carr, president and CEO of the USS Missouri Memorial Association, caretaker of the Battleship Missouri Memorial, began the ceremony noting the incredible effort that went into constructing the battleship fondly referred to as the Mighty Mo. "Seventy-five years ago, on January 29, 1944, the USS *Missouri* was launched from the New York Naval Shipyard in Brooklyn, New York," said Carr. "Building this gigantic battleship was an amazing achievement that required 175 tons of blueprint paper and required more than 3 million-man days to complete over a three-year period."

Commander George Howell, commanding officer for the submarine USS Missouri (SSN 780), which is homeported in Pearl Harbor, provided the opening address.

"Today, this battleship is a living museum that brings history to life. For the past 20 years, this magnificent warship is our connection to the past," said Commander Howell. "Ninety-nine percent of our fellow countrymen have not served and will not serve. But they care and they want to learn. This living educational maritime museum gives all of us the ability to live these stories, feel what it must have been like to serve onboard, touch the guns, relate to the sacrifice it takes to preserve our freedom."

Hawaii Lieutenant Governor Josh Green and Missouri Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe served as the ceremony's distinguished guest speakers.

Lieutenant Governor Green commented, "The USS Missouri is a marvel, and not just an industrial, or architectural, or military marvel, but a marvel of human condition. It is a testament to our resilience, our reconciliation for new beginnings and new-found purpose. To our resolute dedication to building a better world based on the lessons and sacrifices of the past."

Lieutenant Governor Kehoe presented the USS Missouri Memorial Association with two very special gifts, along with a donation of \$250,000 to support the battleship's continued preservation. "Missouri is known as the Show-Me State, but this great vessel has nothing more

(more)

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to prove to Missourians or to America, said Lieutenant Governor Kehoe. “She has been faithful in war and faithful in peace. May we always be faithful to her legacy and her place in history. She has indeed earned the hard-fought honor that after years of sweat and blood, Missourians, the United States and the world do not need to ask her to ‘show me’ any longer.”

The gifts presented by Kehoe were a piece of marble and a gold-plated bowl with the Missouri State seal etched on to it. Both will be displayed in the wardroom of the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

Vice Admiral Robert Kihune, chairman emeritus of the USS Missouri Memorial Association, was instrumental in the drive to have the Mighty Mo permanently berthed on Battleship Row in Pearl Harbor, bow-to-bow to the sunken USS *Arizona*.

Admiral Kihune recounted the incredible efforts of the first group of Association employees and volunteers to get the Missouri in shipshape condition and ready for tours 20 years ago. “I commend the 11 staff members and the more than 5,000 volunteers who worked tirelessly every day to help make this ship what it is today. Without them we would have never been able to open this ship to the public on January 29, 1999.”

Following the ceremony, the Battleship Missouri Memorial celebrated the anniversaries with Living History Day. The free event featured performances by the U.S. Army 25th Infantry Division Tropic Knights Band, high school jazz bands, exhibits of military vehicles, memorabilia and wartime weaponry, oral history and re-enactment presentations from the World War II era, tours of the battleship and a range of activities provided by various historic Hawaii organizations

The USS *Missouri* was launched on January 29, 1944, and played an integral part in the Allied forces’ success in the Pacific in World War II – which concluded with the formal surrender of Japan on deck of the Mighty Mo.

On January 29, 1999, the Battleship Missouri Memorial opened to the public as a memorial and museum, honoring those who have served aboard. The Battleship Missouri Memorial sits bow-to-bow with the USS *Arizona* – two battleships signifying the beginning and end of World War II.

Please credit the following images to Battleship Missouri Memorial.



Link to photos: <https://app.box.com/s/uft4p9o2foemmhsg65yfcbea4qn1bue>

Caption: The Battleship Missouri Memorial commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the USS *Missouri*'s launching and its 20th Anniversary as a living educational maritime museum.



Link to photos: <https://app.box.com/s/w54fukrozladc0wefjo43t5pauj6sow3>

Caption: Sailors from the submarines USS Missouri (SSN 780) and USS Jefferson City (SSN 759) man the rails of the Mighty Mo as guests arrive for the ceremony.



Link to photos: <https://app.box.com/s/gteW4wp48saps3h2487pz9zibrubkitu>

Caption: Sunrise at the Battleship Missouri Memorial.



Link to photos: <https://app.box.com/s/x4wsb6qr7q8x34r9rwqesa01m5wbuhxi>

Caption: Commander George Howell, commanding officer of the submarine USS Missouri, which is homeported in Pearl Harbor just a short distance from its namesake Battleship.



Link to photos: <https://app.box.com/s/8evdium0ogcmr3s26d5town9hsy5ekmu>

Caption: State of Missouri Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe (right) presenting a gold-plated bowl with the Missouri State seal to Michael Carr, president and CEO of the USS Missouri Memorial Association, caretaker of the Battleship Missouri Memorial.



Link to photos: <https://app.box.com/s/nwyr3awzkrmbjuwpuvyxtiuld0siw5kw>

Caption: (left to right) Carrie Tergin, mayor of Jefferson City, Missouri; Mike Kehoe, State of Missouri Lieutenant Governor; Vice Admiral Robert Kihune, chairman emeritus of the USS Missouri Memorial Association; and State of Hawaii Lieutenant Governor Josh Green.

Battleship Missouri Memorial

Since opening in January 1999, the Battleship Missouri Memorial has attracted more than 8-million visitors from around the world with a fascinating tour experience showcasing the USS *Missouri's* unique place in history. Located a mere ship's length from the USS Arizona Memorial, the Mighty Mo completes a historical visitor experience that begins with the "day of infamy" and sinking of the USS *Arizona* in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and ends with Japan's formal surrender aboard the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945.

The USS *Missouri* had an astounding career over five decades and three wars – World War II, the Korean War, and Desert Storm – after which it was decommissioned and donated to the USS Missouri Memorial Association, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The Association operates the Battleship Missouri Memorial as a historic attraction and oversees her care and preservation with the support of visitors, memberships, grants, and donations.

The Battleship Missouri Memorial is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. General admission, which includes choice of an optional tour, is \$29 per adult and \$13 per child (4-12). Military, kama'aina (local resident) and school group pricing is available. For information or reservations, call (toll-free) 1-877-644-4896 or visit USSMissouri.org.

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