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## **Battleship Missouri Fires 16-inch Guns in Celebration of 5-millionth Visitor**

**Pearl Harbor (July 12, 2012)** — The Battleship Missouri Memorial reached a milestone today as it welcomed aboard its five-millionth visitor this morning. Daniel Miller and his family were welcomed to the historic ship by the sounds and dances of Kika Inc. The Missouri's President and COO, Michael A. Carr presented them with a prize package including roundtrip airfare for five to Oahu on Hawaiian Airlines, a five night stay at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa and a family membership to the USS Missouri Memorial Association. Miller also received a rare, engraved piece of teak pulled from the decks of the USS *Missouri*. The celebration concluded by firing confetti out of the *Missouri's* famous 16-inch guns.

“This is a proud day for all of us at the Battleship Missouri Memorial. I would like to congratulate our 5-millionth visitor, Daniel Miller of Livermore, California. It's a mighty achievement that in just over 13 years the Mighty Mo is welcoming her 5-millionth visitor,” said Carr. “Our visitor numbers have been on the rise this year, which is promising for not only the memorial but Hawaii's economy as a whole.”

The USS *Missouri* (BB-63), affectionately known as America's last battleship, secured her spot in history as the site of Japan's unconditional surrender to the Allied Forces on Sept. 2, 1945, ending World War II. The *Missouri* was decommissioned for the final time in 1992 concluding a career that spanned five decades and three engagements, bringing the Battleship era to an end. On Jan. 29, 1999, 55 years to the day after she was launched, the Battleship Missouri Memorial opened to the public.

“Every penny the USS Missouri Memorial Association earns, goes towards our numerous preservation efforts and educational programs,” said Carr. “Through the help of members, donors, grants and of course each of the 5-million visitors that have stepped on board, we have been able to keep the *Missouri* in ship-shape, ensuring she is alive and well for the next 5-million visitors.”

The *Missouri* has never shied away from the spotlight and most recently starred in Universal Studios' Battleship, which premiered this past May.

*The Battleship Missouri Memorial, located a mere ship's length from the USS Arizona Memorial, completes a historical visitor experience that begins with the “day of infamy” that saw the sinking of USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor and ends with Imperial Japan's*

(more)

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*unconditional surrender aboard USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Following an astounding career that spans five decades and three wars, from World War II to the Korean conflict to the Liberation of Kuwait, the “Mighty Mo” was decommissioned and donated to the USS Missouri Memorial Association, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which operates the battleship as a historic attraction and memorial. The association oversees her care and preservation with the support of visitors, memberships, grants and the generosity of donors. The Battleship Missouri Memorial was named one of Hawaii’s top 10 attractions by Pacific Business News and starred in Universal Studios’ Battleship.*

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