



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**70TH ANNIVERSARY OF USS MISSOURI'S LAUNCH TO BE CELEBRATED AT LIVING HISTORY DAY ON FORD ISLAND, FEBRUARY 1**

***Free Admission for Hawaii Residents to the Battleship Missouri Memorial***

**Pearl Harbor, HI – (December 16, 2013)** – A day of festivities celebrating the 70th anniversary of the launch of America's last and most famous battleship, the USS *Missouri*, will be the centerpiece of "Living History Day on Ford Island" on Saturday, February 1, 2014.

Guests to the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Living History Day will enjoy a variety of historical exhibits and activities that will be as fun and entertaining, as they are educational, including:

- Displays of military vehicles, memorabilia and weaponry;
- Bands playing patriotic music;
- Oral history presentations;
- People in period dress from the World War II era, and;
- Actors portraying famous figures of World War II, such as General Douglas MacArthur and Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Admission will be free to Hawaii residents and members of the Battleship Missouri Memorial and Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor on February 1.

"Historic Ford Island, as seen through the Battleship Missouri Memorial, is significant to anyone who appreciates the legacy of sacrifice and freedom that Pearl Harbor represents to our Armed Forces and the American people," said Michael A. Carr, President and COO of the Battleship Missouri Memorial. "Living History Day on Ford Island will be a wonderful experience for guests to remember, honor and learn about what makes this such a special place in our nation's history."

It was on January 29, 1944, the height of combat in World War II, when Margaret Truman, daughter of President Harry Truman, christened the USS *Missouri* as the great battleship was launched from the Brooklyn Navy Yard and sent to protect America's freedom in the Pacific Theatre.

Today, as the Battleship Missouri Memorial, the "Mighty Mo" is berthed at Pier Foxtrot 5 on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, standing bow-to-bow to the sunken USS *Arizona* and creating a stirring bond between America's two battleships signifying the beginning and end of World War II.

Construction of the USS *Missouri* began on January 6, 1941, 11 months before the December 7, 1941 attack at Pearl Harbor and other military installations in Hawaii and the Pacific by Imperial Japan that thrust America into World War II, and three years before the gigantic battleship was launched. Stretching three football fields long and standing 20 stories tall from keel to mast, the USS *Missouri* was instrumental to victory in major battles of the Pacific, before serving as the memorable site where General MacArthur, Admiral Nimitz and the Allied Forces accepted Imperial Japan's surrender to end World War II and restore peace on September 2, 1945. The *Missouri's* famed "Surrender Deck" is now a must-see monument for visitors to the battleship.

The Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is also being showcased on Living History Day on Ford Island and will offer guests a series of special events, attractions, and presentation to enjoy at its two hangars.

Ford Island or Moku'ume'ume, its Hawaiian name meaning "isle of attraction," is located in the middle of Pearl Harbor and consists of about 500 acres of land. Named for Dr. Seth Porter Ford (1817-1866), a Hawaii physician, Ford Island was purchased by the Army during World War I and transferred to the Navy in the mid-1930s. The tiny island is best known for being at the center of "Battleship Row" during the attack on Pearl Harbor, as it was ringed by battleships and other vessels of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

### **Battleship Missouri Memorial**

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 \$22 per adult and \$11 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](http://USSMissouri.org).

*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" and the sinking of the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor and ends with Imperial Japan's surrender aboard the 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.*

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### **Please credit images to the Battleship Missouri Memorial**



**Link to image:** <http://i.imgur.com/fibR5UV.jpg>

**Caption:** The keel laying ceremony held is for the USS *Missouri* at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, January 6, 1941. Rear Admiral Clark Woodward, Commandant of the Navy Yard, (second from right) drives the first rivet.



Link to image: <http://i.imgur.com/909IQIT.jpg>

**Caption:** The USS *Missouri* is prepared for launching at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, January 29, 1944.



Link to image: <http://i.imgur.com/ZT3eWjG.jpg>

**Caption:** Miss Margaret Truman, the USS *Missouri*'s Sponsor, prepares to christen the battleship, during launching ceremonies at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, January 29, 1944. Looking on are (left to right): Rear Admiral Monroe R. Kelly, Brooklyn Navy Yard Commandant; Rear Admiral Sherman S. Kennedy, USN, and U.S. Senator Harry S. Truman of Missouri.



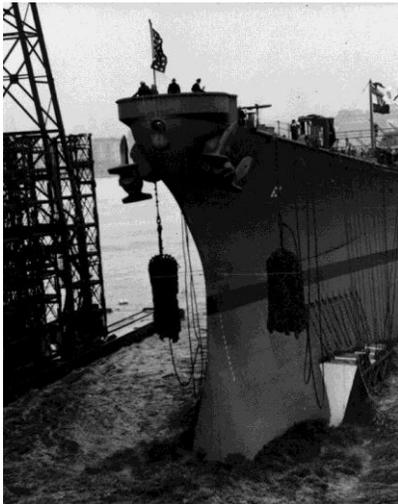
Link to image: <http://i.imgur.com/VkPAMzG.jpg>

**Caption:** The USS *Missouri* slides down the ways during her launching at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, January 29, 1944.



Link to image: <http://i.imgur.com/oDKCuh5.jpg>

**Caption:** The USS *Missouri* approaches the end of the building ways as she is launched, January 29 1944, at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.



Link to image: <http://i.imgur.com/ahHhr3I.jpg>

**Caption:** The USS *Missouri* enters the water for the first time, during her launching at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, January 29, 1944.



Link to image: <http://i.imgur.com/BRN8v4I.jpg>

**Caption:** The retired USS *Missouri* today is berthed at Pier Foxtrot 5 on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor and welcomes visitors daily as the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

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