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'MIGHTY MO' COMMEMORATES END OF WORLD WAR II ANNIVERSARY

WELCOMES ADMIRAL NIMITZ STATUE TO PEARL HARBOR

Pearl Harbor, HI – (September 2, 2013) – On September 2, 1945, peace was restored to the world as World War II came to an end with Japan's surrender on the decks of the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

Today, the Battleship Missouri Memorial hosted a special End of World War II Commemoration Ceremony to mark the 68th anniversary of that historic occasion, the sacrifice that made it possible, and recognize how a new era of collaboration between former rivals was ushered in that day.

"The ceremony onboard the *Missouri* 68 years ago was as much about ending the war as starting a new and lasting spirit of friendship between Japan and the U.S. that continues today," said Michael A. Carr, President and COO of the Battleship Missouri Memorial. "When you listen to the timeless message of General Douglas MacArthur from the ceremony and read the reaction from the Japanese delegation following it, the roots for our enduring friendship began that day."

Today's event was also highlighted by the unveiling and dedication of a new 9-foot bronze and granite statue of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN, who directed the War in the Pacific, by the Naval Order of the United States. The statue will be permanently installed in Pearl Harbor at Pier Foxtrot 5, the pier where the *Missouri* is berthed.

Carr noted, "We are deeply honored to have this magnificent statue honoring Admiral Chester Nimitz, one of America's most distinguished military leaders, as part of the Battleship Missouri Memorial visitor experience. Guests who come and walk the decks of the *Missouri* will now have a greater appreciation about the enormously important role that Admiral Nimitz had in ending the war and restoring peace."

Admiral Cecil D. Haney, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, presented the keynote address for today's End of World War II ceremony.

Also speaking at the ceremony was Captain Michael Lilly, USN (Ret.), board member of the USS Missouri Memorial Association; Chester Nimitz Lay, grandson of Admiral Nimitz; Jeff Harding, a historian who spoke about Admiral Nimitz's accomplishments; and Collin Sitz, a Radford High School freshman who won the Battleship Missouri Memorial's September 2nd Essay Contest.

In addition, a special recorded message for today's ceremony was delivered from the USS *Nimitz* aircraft carrier, which is currently on deployment, by Rear Admiral Michael S. White, Strike Group Commander; Captain Jeff S. Ruth, Commanding Officer of the USS *Nimitz*; and select crewmembers.

Dedication Ceremony – Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz Statue

The Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz Statue Dedication Ceremony was conducted after the End of World War II ceremony by the Naval Order of the United States. Speaking about the statue and Admiral Nimitz's

military accomplishments were Rear Admiral Douglas Moore, USN (Ret.), Commander General of the Naval Order; Captain Vance Morrison, USN (Ret.), President of the Naval Order Foundation; Gordon England, former Deputy Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security; Admiral Thomas Fargo, USN (Ret.), former U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander; and Rip Caswell, sculptor of the Admiral Nimitz Statue.

Statue – Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN

The 9-foot bronze statue and black granite pedestal of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN, will be permanently installed on the shore side of Pier Foxtrot 5 on Ford Island where the battleship USS *Missouri* is berthed.

The statue depicts Admiral Nimitz as he appeared in battle in February 1944. His uniform is the wash khaki short sleeve shirt with no medals or campaign ribbons and just his rank insignia. The only embellishment is the belt buckle with twin dolphins indicating that he was submarine qualified. Leaning against the statue base is a horseshoe, which was the Admiral's favorite past time.

The statue's pedestal is absolute black granite, which is the same granite on the Vietnam Memorial and from the same supplier. The Admiral's quotation in gold leaf is a tribute to all those who died during the war in the Pacific. The quotation reads:

*“They fought together as brothers in arms
They died together and now they sleep side by side
To them we have a solemn obligation
The obligation to ensure that their sacrifice will help
To make this a better and safer world in which to live.”*

Background – Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN

Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, USN, eventually commanded the largest ocean area and most ships of any single commander in the history of the world. He served as the strategic commander for the entire Pacific Ocean area for almost the entire war, and was the strategic decision maker for the important aircraft carrier actions including the Battle of Coral Sea, the Battle of Midway, the Battle of the Eastern Solomons, and the Battle of the Philippine Sea. A total of 1,200 ships were involved in the Battle of the Philippine Sea.

Admiral Nimitz directed the War in the Pacific and historians have concluded that he never made a single strategic error executing his strategy of the war. He was a true wartime admiral never content to remain desk bound at his headquarters in Pearl Harbor, traveling multiple times to the mainland to confer with President Roosevelt and CNO Admiral King, and repeatedly transiting vast distances to the latest battle zone to inspect the progress of his strategy and to rally the troops. His visits to Guadalcanal, Tarawa and the Marshall Islands, as those battles were still ongoing, are legendary.

Admiral Nimitz is arguably the most important American Naval Officer of the 20th century. His leadership acumen as a strategist, sense of the intricacies and requirements of logistics, organizational skill, military requirements, foresight, ability to accept and act on ambiguous intelligence and the profound facility for evaluating his subordinates with the willingness to make changes in his command structure where warranted. These qualities combined to establish Admiral Nimitz as the prototype of the World War II military leader and effective wartime decision maker.

Battleship Missouri Memorial

The Battleship Missouri Memorial is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during summer months). 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.

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 all images to [Hi Shotz Photography](#) on behalf of the USS Missouri Memorial Association



Link: <http://i.imgur.com/9YBHIS5.jpg>

Caption: Michael Carr, President of the USS Missouri Memorial Association, spoke about how peace was restored to the world on the Battleship *Missouri* 68 years ago, this very same day.



Link: <http://i.imgur.com/fCnKLmQ.jpg>

Caption: The 9-foot bronze statue of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, who directed the war in the Pacific, was dedicated today at the Battleship Missouri Memorial and will be displayed on Pier Foxtrot 5, where the *Missouri* is berthed.



Link: <http://i.imgur.com/ejtc23E.jpg>

Caption: The 21-gun salute was part of the tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

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