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## **“MIGHTY MO” CELEBRATES DOUBLE LAUNCH ANNIVERSARIES TODAY**

*70 Years Since the USS Missouri First Entered the Water;  
15 Years Since the Battleship Missouri Memorial Opened in Pearl Harbor*

**Pearl Harbor, HI – (January 29, 2014)** – Today, the USS *Missouri* celebrates a pair of noteworthy anniversaries representing its launch both as a battleship ready for combat (70 years), and as a memorial ready to showcase its greatness in service (15 years).

It was 70 years ago on January 29, 1944, when Margaret Truman, sponsor of the USS *Missouri* and daughter of future President Harry Truman, christened the last battleship ever built by America. A crowd of Navy leaders, government officials and workers at the Brooklyn Navy Yard watched the gigantic “Mighty Mo” slide into the East River and begin a military career spanning three wars over five decades.

Exactly 55 years later, January 29, 1999, the Battleship Missouri Memorial opened its gangplank in historic Pearl Harbor to showcase the history-making achievements of the retired battleship and honor the Armed Forces members responsible for ensuring America’s freedom.

“January 29 represents a new beginning for the USS *Missouri*, first in its service to America starting 70 years ago and today as a distinguished memorial honoring the commitment made to protect America’s freedom,” said Michael A. Carr, President and COO of the Battleship Missouri Memorial. “In the 15 years since the Battleship Missouri Memorial opened, we are continually making improvements to a historical tour experience that carries special significance here in the midst of Pearl Harbor.”

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 during World War II before serving as the memorable site where General Douglas MacArthur, Admiral Chester Nimitz and the Allied Forces accepted Imperial Japan’s surrender to end the war and restore peace on September 2, 1945. The *Missouri*’s famed “Surrender Deck” is now a must-see monument for visitors to the battleship.

During the Korean War, the USS *Missouri* provided bombardment and gunfire support for U.N. forces in two tours of duty between September 1950 and March 1953.

After being decommissioned for three decades the USS *Missouri* was reactivated and modernized for duty during the mid-1980s, culminating with its service in Operation Desert Storm starting on January 17, 1991. Over the next two months, the Missouri fired hundreds of rounds from its big guns and Tomahawk cruise missiles at Iraqi targets.

Today, as the Battleship Missouri Memorial, the Mighty Mo is berthed at Pier Foxtrot 5 on Ford Island, 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. Visitors tour the main and upper decks and throughout the inside of the retired battleship to see historical exhibits and get a first-hand glimpse as to how the *Missouri*’s crewmembers lived and worked while at sea.

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*Pier Foxtrot-5, Ford Island, Pearl Harbor*

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***Mighty Mo’s Launch Anniversary Celebrated at Living History Day on Ford Island, Feb. 1***

A day of festivities celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of the USS *Missouri* will be the centerpiece of “Living History Day on Ford Island” on Saturday, February 1.

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

Also being unveiled onboard the ship is a new exhibit in tribute to the USS *Missouri*’s launch 70 years ago and its subsequent rebirth as the Battleship Missouri Memorial 55 years later. The new exhibit will feature photos of the *Missouri* under construction, as well as never-before-seen film of the actual launching taken by a Brooklyn Navy Yard worker.

Admission to the Battleship Missouri Memorial on February 1 is free to Hawaii residents, as well as to members of the military, and members of the Battleship Missouri Memorial and Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor.

**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 \$25 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](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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