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'Mighty Mo' Honors Veterans at Sunset Ceremony

Annual ceremony paid special tribute to women in the military

Pearl Harbor (Nov. 11, 2012) —The Battleship Missouri Memorial capped off Veterans Day with its annual Sunset Ceremony. As the final Veterans Day ceremony in the country, this free event paid tribute to both veterans and active duty military with a special homage paid to women who serve.

This year featured inspiring speeches by Susan E. Cowan, the first woman in U.S. naval history to become executive officer of a ship of war; Vera S. Williams, author of "WACs; History of the Women's Army Corps 1942-1978" and "WASPs; Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II"; Sergeant First Class Joy Couch, Iraq and Afghanistan veteran and Bronze Star recipient; and Brigadier General Martha N. Wong who currently serves as the mobility assistant to the director for logistics engineering and security assistance, J-4 United States Pacific Command and was the former President, Vice President and Legislative Representative for the Hawaii National Guard Association and delegate to the National Guard Association of the United States.

The event also featured stirring performances by the La Pietra Select Choir and the Pacific Fleet Band, Old Glory Presentation, Rifle Volley Salute, Echo Taps and Amazing Grace.

"It is an honor to be able to welcome so many veterans and active duty military onboard the Battleship Missouri and personally thank them for their service and sacrifices that allow us to enjoy the freedoms that we do today," said Michael A. Carr, President and COO of the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

Veterans Day is an annual U.S. Federal holiday honoring military veterans. It is observed on Nov. 11, the anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended World War I. Major hostilities of WWI were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

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 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 is one of Hawaii's top 10 attractions according to Pacific Business News and starred in Universal Studios' Battleship.

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Media Images (please credit image to Jaclyn Hawse)



Link to high resolution: <http://i.imgur.com/vJPF5.jpg>



Link to high resolution: <http://i.imgur.com/O3qj6.jpg>

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