BATTLESHIP MISSOURI MEMORIAL
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

ABOUT THE "MIGHTY MO"

USS Missouri (BB-63)

Class:	Iowa-class battleship
Length:	887 feet 3 inches
Height:	216 feet 6 inches from keel to mast
Beam:	108 feet 2 inches
Weight:	58,000 tons (full load); 45,000 tons (unloaded)
Speed:	In excess of 30 knots (35 mph)

Note: Use "USS" only when referring to active-service ship. Use "Missouri," "Battleship Missouri" when referring to decommissioned ship.

Dawn of the USS Missouri

- Four Iowa-class battleships were built during World War II, designed for speed and firepower.
- The USS *Missouri*'s keel was laid on Jan. 6, 1941, at the New York Naval Shipyard, Brooklyn, NY.
- Her armament included the main battery of nine 16-inch/50-caliber guns and a secondary battery of twenty 5-inch/38-caliber guns.
- The *Missouri* was launched on Jan. 29, 1944 and commissioned on June 11, 1944.
- She was assigned to the Pacific Third Fleet and steamed into Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1944.

USS *Missouri's* Service

- **Western Pacific**: The USS *Missouri* was part of the naval force that carried out bombing raids over Japan and provided firepower in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.
- **End of the War:** The *Missouri* secured its place in history as the site of Japan's formal surrender to the Allied Forces on Sept. 2, 1945, ending World War II. The ceremony for the signing of the Instrument of Surrender was conducted by Supreme Allied Commander, General Douglas A. MacArthur.
- **Korea**: The Mighty Mo's main battery firepower became a legend in Korea, with her nine 16 inch-barrel guns hurling 1,900-pound shells as heavy as Volkswagens over 23 nautical miles in support of U.S. and NATO land forces.
- **Decommissioning**: On February 26, 1955, the *Missouri* was decommissioned and mothballed at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.
- **Recommissioning**: The USS *Missouri* was recommissioned on May 10, 1986 after undergoing an extensive modernization and refurbishment.

- **Persian Gulf War:** Mighty Mo was deployed to the Persian Gulf from January through March 1991, where it fired its 16-inch guns and launched Tomahawk missiles against Iraqi positions during Operation Desert Storm.
- **Last mission:** The *Missouri's* final operational mission occurred on Dec. 7, 1991, when the battleship led a contingent of ships into Pearl Harbor as part of the commemoration to mark the 50th anniversary of the attack that thrust the U.S. into World War II.
- **Second decommissioning:** On March 31, 1992, the *Missouri* was decommissioned for the second time. In 1995, it was removed from the Navy's ship registry, clearing the way for the battleship to be donated by the Navy for preservation as a memorial museum.
- **Her legacy:** In August 1996, the Navy selected the non-profit USS Missouri Memorial Association as caretaker for the battleship and Pearl Harbor as its permanent home. On May 4, 1998, the Navy made it official, transferring the Mighty Mo's care to the Association.

Fast Facts

- Designing the *Missouri* took 175 tons of blueprint paper. The ship was built in three years and required over 3 million man-days to complete the job.
- For comparison's sake, the Missouri is 279 feet longer and 11 feet wider than the USS Arizona. The Mighty Mo is also 5 feet longer and 16 feet wider than the RMS Titanic.
- Just how big is the Missouri? If you could stand the ship on end, it would be 332 feet taller than the Washington Monument.
- The nine 16-inch guns are the Mighty Mo's trademark feature. Each gun barrel is 68 feet long, weighs an incredible 134 tons, and can fire a 2,700-pound projectile 23 nautical miles in 90 seconds — with pinpoint accuracy.
- The Missouri was the last U.S. battleship ever built. She was also the most formidable. In addition to her massive firepower capabilities, she possesses thick steel armor protecting the ship's vital areas, including an armor belt (13.5 inches), the gun turrets (19.5 inches in front; 9.5 inches on the sides), and the conning tower (17.3 inches).

Visiting the Battleship Missouri Memorial

Today, the Battleship Missouri Memorial sits bow-to-bow with the sunken USS Arizona in the hallowed waters of Pearl Harbor. It is open Tuesdays - Saturdays from 8 a.m.to 4 p.m. Mighty Mo Passes are $44.99 for adults and $24.99 for children (4-12). For visitor information or to reserve a tour, call (808) 455-1600 or visit ussmissouri.org.