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BATTLESHIP MISSOURI MEMORIAL WELCOMES JAPANESE VISITORS WITH CUSTOMIZED TOURS AND EXPERIENCES

Pearl Harbor, HI – In an effort to further promote education and awareness about the USS *Missouri* and her place in history, the Battleship Missouri Memorial is now offering tours and services that cater to Japanese-speaking guests.

Located on Pier Foxtrot-5 in the waters of historic Pearl Harbor, the USS *Missouri* sits bow-to-bow with the sunken USS *Arizona*, which symbolizes the beginning and end of World War II. The majestic battleship is a living museum that visitors can explore and get a glimpse into her wartime experience with World War II, the Korean War and the Liberation of Kuwait.

“The Battleship Missouri Memorial is a popular attraction for visitors from all over the world, especially with our friends from Japan,” said Mike Carr, President and CEO of the Battleship Missouri Memorial. “Because of the pivotal role the USS *Missouri* played in bringing peace between the United States and Japan, we felt it was important to develop tours for our Japanese-speaking guests to ensure they have a fulfilling experience during their visit.”

In October 2015, the USS Missouri Memorial Association and the Kure Maritime Museum (Yamato Museum), located in Kure, Hiroshima, Japan, entered into a sister museum partnership to continue strengthening the relationship between the two countries and promote international peace through cultural and educational exchanges. The partnership focuses on preserving and promoting the history of these battleships and the crews who served aboard them in the 20th century, as well as creating educational opportunities for youth in both countries to further increase awareness of the lessons of war.

In August 2020, the USS Missouri Memorial Association and the Chiran Peace Museum also partnered together as sister museums across the Pacific. Furthering the focus on peace through cultural understanding and historical perspective. The relationship also highlights the Kamikaze exhibit on board the Mighty Mo titled Divine Wind: Kamikaze and the Battle for the Pacific which sheds renewed focus on the honorable actions of Captain Callaghan and crew of the USS *Missouri* who ordered a military burial at sea for the young pilot, amidst the attack in April 1945. Among the artifacts are farewell letters and poems from pilots to family members and loved ones, personal photographs and information, historical images, and uniform items.

In addition to having Japanese-speaking tour guides available throughout the ship, the Battleship Missouri Memorial also has two tours available for Japanese-speaking guests:

- **Japanese School Group Tour (30 mins) Tuesday-Saturday from 8:00am to 4:00pm**
This 30-minute tour gives students a brief overview of the ship’s construction and history. The School Group Tour visits popular historical points of interest, including the pier, the bow, the Kamikaze deck, and Surrender Deck, where World War II officially came to an end.
- **Japanese Online Educational Tour (60min) Tuesday-Saturday from 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

Pier Foxtrot-5, Ford Island, Pearl Harbor

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Students can welcome the Mighty Mo into their classroom virtually with this online educational experience. The virtual tour covers the *Missouri's* historical milestones and compassionate stories of the ship and her crew.

General admission tickets are \$29.99 per adult and \$13.99 per child (4-12). School group pricing is available. For reservations, please call the Battleship Missouri at (808) 455-1600 or visit ussmissouri.org. For all groups, please contact reservations at least 48 hours in advance.

Battleship Missouri Memorial

Since opening in January 1999, the Battleship Missouri Memorial has attracted more than 9-million visitors from around the world with a fascinating tour experience showcasing the USS *Missouri's* unique place in history. Located a mere ship's length from the USS Arizona Memorial, the Mighty Mo completes a historical visitor experience that begins with the "day of infamy" and sinking of the USS *Arizona* in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and ends with Japan's formal surrender aboard the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945.

The USS *Missouri* had an astounding career over five decades and three wars – World War II, the Korean War, and Desert Storm – after which it was decommissioned and donated to the USS Missouri Memorial Association, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The Association operates the Battleship Missouri Memorial as a historic attraction and oversees her care and preservation with the support of visitors, memberships, grants, and donations.

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