

The background of the entire poster is a large, stylized American flag. The stars and stripes are visible, with a soft, glowing effect. The top left corner shows the stars, and the rest of the image is dominated by the red and white stripes, which blend into a sunset sky.

# VETERANS DAY

## *Sunset Ceremony*

HONORING THE  
HEROES OF GUADALCANAL:  
REMEMBERING SACRIFICE, CELEBRATING PEACE

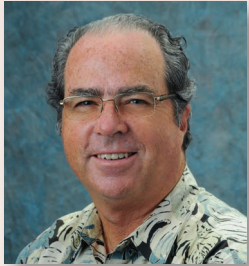


SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023  
BATTLESHIP MISSOURI MEMORIAL • PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII

W E L C O M E

**Michael Carr**

President & CEO  
USS Missouri Memorial Association



Mike Carr serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the USS Missouri Memorial Association. Since joining the Association in 2008, Carr has led the Battleship Missouri Memorial to its most successful years and positioned the iconic historical attraction to expand its reach within Hawai'i and generate increased interest from both westbound and eastbound visitors. The Battleship Missouri Memorial has welcomed over 10-million visitors since opening on January 29, 1999.

A former U.S. Army officer, Carr has been a Hawai'i business executive and active in local community organizations since 1977. In 2022, Carr became a recipient of the Fall Imperial Decoration, Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, Japan's national decoration awarded by the Japanese government. His current community support includes serving as the Immediate Past President of the Historic Naval Ships Association. Carr's previous professional experience includes serving as President of Polynesian Adventure Tours for 15 years and holding management positions with Bank of Hawaii and its affiliates for 14 years.

O P E N I N G   A D D R E S S

**Captain Steve Colón, USN (Ret.)**

USS Missouri Memorial Association  
Board of Directors



Captain Steve Colón, USN (Ret.), Chairman of the USSM Association's Board of Directors, boasts a distinguished career spanning over 30 years. In his civilian capacity, he currently serves as President of Hunt Companies' Development Division in Hawai'i, overseeing the development of properties across the islands.

Focusing on revitalization, Colón played a key role in a unique Public Private Partnership, transaction with the U.S. Navy, successfully redeveloping over \$500 million of Navy assets on Ford Island, earning accolades in 2012.

With 26 years dedicated to the Navy, he retired as a Captain in 2006. Notably, as Operations Officer on the USS Adroit during Operation Desert Storm, his ship escorted the USS Missouri into firing position, earning him the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V."

D I S T I N G U I S H E D   G U E S T   S P E A K E R

**Colonel Matthew Brannen**

Deputy Director for Operations (Acting)  
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)



Colonel Brannen joined the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency in 2021. He was commissioned via the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program, on December 20, 1997 upon graduating from the University of Florida. Colonel Brannen was born in Brooksville, Florida and is married to Karen Fuller Brannen of Athens, Georgia. He has two daughters, Delaney and Lauren.

Colonel Brannen's previous assignments include: Staff Judge Advocate U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command; Commanding Officer, Region 6 (Eastern and Southern Africa), Marine Corps Embassy Security Group; Staff Judge Advocate, Marine Corps Base Hawaii; Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for Operational Law at United States Indo-Pacific Command; Judge Advocate for Regimental Combat Team 6 (RCT 6) in support of International Security Assistance Forces-Afghanistan; Officer-in-Charge of the Depot Law Center, Parris Island, SC; 4th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company; and 1st Battalion, 10th Marines, 2d Marine Division.

In addition to his deployment to Afghanistan, Colonel Brannen deployed to Doha, Qatar from March to April 2003 and to Iraq from September 2003 to May 2004 in support of joint combat operations with CJTF-7 and Multinational Division, Central South.

Colonel Brannen is a graduate of the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Naval Justice School Basic Lawyers Course, USMC Command and Staff (Reserve Seminar Program), Air War College (Distance Education Program), and the College of Naval Warfare where he earned his M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies. He earned his B.A. and J.D. at the University of Florida, and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in National Security Law from Georgetown Law.

His personal decorations include the Bronze Star with Combat Distinguishing Device, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal x 3, Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal x 2, Combat Action Ribbon, and Cruz del Merito Militar con Distintivo Blanco (Cross of Military Merit with White Distinction).



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Representative Jill Tokuda**

Hawai'i's Second Congressional District



Rep. Jill Tokuda represents Hawai'i's Second Congressional District (CD2) which includes suburban and rural parts of O'ahu, the islands of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, Maui, Lana'i, Moloka'i, Ni'ihau, Kaho'olawe, and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Elected in November 2022 to the 118th Congress, she serves on the House Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Beyond her legislative roles, Jill holds significant positions as Vice Chair for Communications for the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Freshman Representative for the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and Region 2 Whip.

With family roots deeply embedded in CD2 for four generations, Jill's journey from Hawai'i's public schools to The George Washington University, where she earned a BA in international relations, reflects her commitment to education.

Her public service spans the Hawai'i State Senate, where she chaired multiple key committees, including Ways and Means. During her tenure, Jill played a pivotal role in balancing the state's budget, championing legislation for education and agriculture, and facilitating the protection of vital agricultural lands.

In the private sector, she co-directed CyberHawaii, contributing to workforce development, and served as External Affairs Director of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center. Jill's multifaceted experience extends to board and advisory roles, emphasizing her dedication to community welfare.

As a member of the Hawai'i House Select Committee on COVID-19 Economic and Financial Preparedness during the pandemic, she played a crucial role in managing over \$21 billion in federal relief for the state.

VETERANS DAY SUNSET CEREMONY

PROGRAM

**WELCOME**

Michael Carr, President & CEO  
USS Missouri Memorial Association

**PARADE THE COLORS**

Joint Service Color Guard, U.S. Pacific Command

**NATIONAL ANTHEM & HAWAII PONO'I**

Sounds of Aloha

**INVOCATION**

Captain Marion Logan, Chaplain, HQ Pacific Air Forces

**OPENING ADDRESS**

Captain Steve Colón, USN (Ret.)  
USS Missouri Memorial Association Board of Directors

**DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKER**

Colonel Matthew Brannen  
Deputy Director for Operations (Acting)  
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Representative Jill Tokuda  
Hawai'i's Second Congressional District

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**

U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, Woodwind Quintet

**RIFLE SALUTE**

Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i

**ECHO TAPS**

Buglers, U.S. Pacific Fleet Band

**AMAZING GRACE**

Rick Jackson, The Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawai'i

**BENEDICTION**

Captain Marion Logan, Chaplain, HQ Pacific Air Forces

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Michael Carr, President & CEO, USS Missouri Memorial Association

**ARMED FORCES MEDLEY**

U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, Woodwind Quintet



# HONORING THE HEROES OF GUADALCANAL

## REMEMBERING SACRIFICE, CELEBRATING PEACE

This year marks the 80th anniversary of a pivotal chapter in World War II's illustrious saga, the Battle of Guadalcanal. In the heart of the Pacific, Guadalcanal was a crucial location the U.S. military aimed to secure after the Japanese started utilizing the island's airfield to threaten Allied supply lines.

The battle quickly escalated into a prolonged and brutal struggle for control of the island, involving intense ground combat, naval battles, and aerial engagements. Both sides suffered heavy casualties and endured harsh conditions. The fighting on Guadalcanal was characterized by some of the most ferocious and tenacious battles of the Pacific.



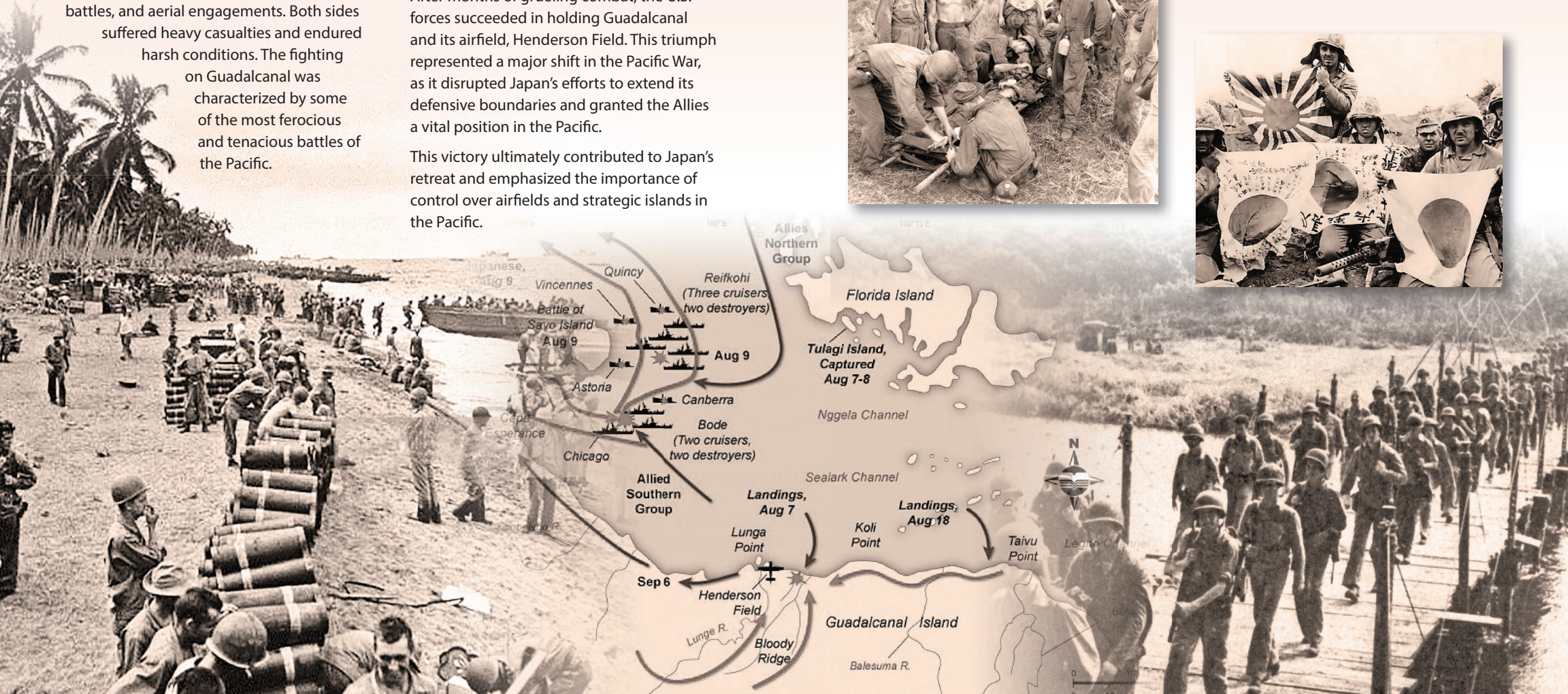
After months of grueling combat, the U.S. forces succeeded in holding Guadalcanal and its airfield, Henderson Field. This triumph represented a major shift in the Pacific War, as it disrupted Japan's efforts to extend its defensive boundaries and granted the Allies a vital position in the Pacific.

This victory ultimately contributed to Japan's retreat and emphasized the importance of control over airfields and strategic islands in the Pacific.

The Battle of Guadalcanal stands as a testament to the extraordinary courage and determination of the Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen who fought there. These were ordinary individuals thrust into an extraordinary situation, where the line between heroism and everyday life blurred.

They embodied the human spirit's ability to triumph over adversity and displayed true bravery and determination to pursue a better, more peaceful world.

Through their sacrifice and valor, the foundations of lasting peace were laid. Guadalcanal, once a battleground, now stands as a symbol of hope and reconciliation, and remains an enduring symbol of sacrifice, resilience, and the high cost of victory during World War II.





# U S S M I S S O U R I M E M O R I A L A S S O C I A T I O N

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Senator Daniel K. Inouye

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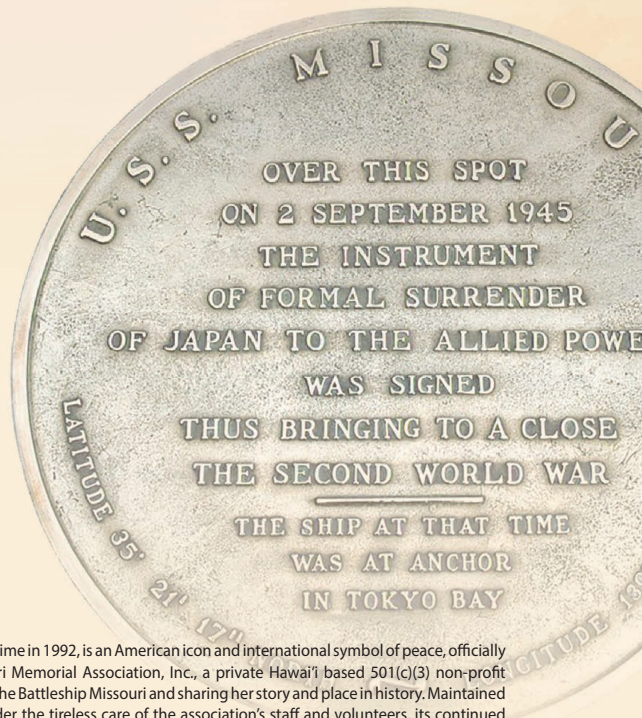
## DIRECTOR EMERITUS

CAPT Michael Lilly, USN (Ret.)  
Patrick M. McFadden



**BATTLESHIP  
MISSOURI  
MEMORIAL**  
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

USS MISSOURI MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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PH: (808) 455-1600 • [www.ussmissouri.org](http://www.ussmissouri.org)



The USS *Missouri* (BB-63), decommissioned for the final time in 1992, is an American icon and international symbol of peace, officially donated in 1998 by the U.S. Navy to the USS Missouri Memorial Association, Inc., a private Hawai'i based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is dedicated to preserving the Battleship Missouri and sharing her story and place in history. Maintained and operated as the Battleship Missouri Memorial under the tireless care of the association's staff and volunteers, its continued success as a historic attraction is made possible by the support of visitors, memberships, grants and the generosity of donors.