



Proclamation
Presented
**In Recognition of the
USS Arizona Memorial 50th Anniversary**

WHEREAS, the USS Arizona Memorial recognizes that in May of 1949 the Hawai'i Territorial Legislature established the Pacific War Memorial Commission to explore options to memorialize those tragically lost on December 7, 1949; and

WHEREAS, the USS Arizona Memorial acknowledges that in March of 1950 Admiral Arthur Radford, the Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, ordered the construction of a wooden platform and flag mast on the boat deck of the ravaged USS Arizona marking the beginning of establishing a physical reminder of the gallantry of the sailors entombed; and

WHEREAS, the USS Arizona Memorial recognizes that the combined remembrance efforts of the civilian population and the military were finally realized when President Dwight David Eisenhower signed Public Law 85-344 authorizing the creation of the USS Arizona Memorial on March 15, 1958; and

WHEREAS, the USS Arizona Memorial reminds us that Navy planners stipulated that the design should be in the form of a bridge spanning the ship without touching it; and that a committee of US Navy personnel and Pacific War Memorial Commission Board Members accepted proposals from many architectural firms, eventually awarding the honor to construct the memorial to Mr. Alfred Preis of Johnson, Perkins, and Preis whose design was open and soaring and would span the USS Arizona, intertwining symbolism and architectural integrity; and

WHEREAS, the USS Arizona Memorial reminds us that the Pacific War Memorial Commission, an organization created by Mr. Tucker Gratz in 1949 to spearhead civilian efforts toward the creation of a USS Arizona Memorial, was tasked with raising the \$500,000 required to build the structure; several organizations and individuals helped in the effort to raise the amount including the Territory of Hawai'i, American Veterans National Service Organization (AMVETS), and Elvis Presley; and

WHEREAS, the USS Arizona Memorial acknowledges that while many public and private campaigns continued to raise money for the Memorial's construction, it wasn't until September 6, 1961 that freshman United States Senator Daniel K. Inouye secured the final \$150,000 in federal funding to complete construction; and

WHEREAS, the USS Arizona Memorial was completed on May 25, 1962 and dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30, 1962; and

WHEREAS, the USS Arizona Memorial, visited by more than one million people annually, embodies the tragedy and grief of a Nation within an edifice of dignity and grace, and remains a place where the world comes to remember Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, the USS Arizona Memorial will be celebrating its 50th anniversary during Memorial Day weekend 2012; beginning Friday, May 25, 2012 and concluding on Monday, May 28, 2012 with special events will be held at the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center and on the Arizona Memorial;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, BRIAN SCHATZ, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 27, 2012, as

“USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL DAY”

in Hawai'i and urge the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the significance of the USS Arizona Memorial to the history of WWII and our State.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i this twenty-second day of May, 2012.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i



BRIAN SCHATZ
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i