



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **USS *Arizona* Relic Now on Display at Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum**

***Rare rusted and oil-stained bulkhead of the legendary USS Arizona takes center stage as Museum reopens***

**HONOLULU** — Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum today announced the unveiling of its newest permanent exhibit, *A Piercing Blow: The Aerial Attack on the USS Arizona*.

The relic at the center of the exhibit, towering at nearly twelve feet tall, is a charred section of the ship's main deck framing on the port side of the ship. Rusted and oil-stained, the surviving salvage features the portholes and framing portion of the galley's vegetable locker.

The Museum has purposefully juxtaposed the USS *Arizona* exhibit near the two attacking Japanese aircraft it has on display – the Nakajima B5N "Kate" bomber and the Mitsubishi A6M "Zero" – poetically telling the story of the aerial attack on Pearl Harbor that launched America into World War II.

"The attack on Pearl Harbor has lived on in television, film and our national memory for years," said Elissa Lines, Executive Director, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum. "However, the placement of this section of the USS *Arizona*, with the attacking aircraft visible through the portals, provides a very emotional connection to what happened on that fateful day nearly 80 years ago, all while you are standing inside a hangar that withstood the attack on this American Battlefield."

Known as "a date which will live in infamy," December 7, 1941, marked the attack on Pearl Harbor, where 2,403 military and civilians lost their lives. Approximately 1,177 of those lost were killed when a bomb dealt a final blow to the USS *Arizona*, plunging down five decks into the black powder magazine, igniting the ammunition and powder stores of the forward turrets. The explosion burst forth with tremendous impact, sinking the mighty warship in just moments.

Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum worked with the United States Navy to bring this relic to Pearl Harbor for display in perpetuity, and with Hawaii Tourism Authority to build the exhibit. *A Piercing Blow: The Aerial Attack on the USS Arizona* is proudly on display to visitors as the Museum reopens after it's a months-long closure due to COVID-19.

United States Navy historian James "Jim" Neuman was instrumental in orchestrating the acquisition of this important artifact into the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum collection; he has assisted museums around the country in displaying meaningful pieces of the ship in an effort to preserve its history.

[Click here](#) for images; [click here](#) for video of the blessing. Courtesy: Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum.

To purchase a Pearl Harbor Family Kamaaina Pass to visit the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites with a never-before-offered kamaaina and military discount, please visit:

<https://tickets.pearlharborhistoricsites.org/WebStore/shop/ViewItems.aspx?CG=sumpass&C=sumpass1>

The 2020 year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the End of World War II. For more information about commemoration activities, please visit: [www.75thwwiicommemoration.org](http://www.75thwwiicommemoration.org).

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### **About Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum**

Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum is located on Historic Ford Island, where bombs fell during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Walk the Pearl Harbor battlefield where the attack began, enter the bullet-scarred hangars, and see the control tower and aircraft of the battle, including a Japanese Zero and the B-17 Swamp Ghost. Hear the stories of World War II heroes and their response to the attack that changed our nation and world. Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum's mission is to steward American's first aviation battlefield of World War II. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that depends on membership, volunteers, and donations for support. To join, volunteer or support, visit [www.PearlHarborAviationMuseum.org](http://www.PearlHarborAviationMuseum.org).

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