

Chronological: Commissioning of the U.S.S. Pearl Harbor, San Diego

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers
Speeches, Chronological, Box SP11, Folder 59
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Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



COMMISSIONING OF THE USS PEARL HARBOR
San Diego
Saturday, May 30, 1998

The annals of the Pacific War are filled with chapters of glory and sacrifice; courage and valor; and, stunning victories: the Battle of Coral Sea, the Battle of Midway, the Battle of Leyte Gulf and the Battle of Okinawa. These battles are some of the most important naval battles in the history of our nation. However, I wish to suggest that the most important battle of the Pacific War, was our first battle...the Battle of Pearl Harbor.

On December 7, 1941, the day of infamy, Japanese naval aircraft bombed and strafed our ships in Pearl Harbor for one hour and fifty two minutes. In less than two hours, two battleships, two destroyers and five other major naval vessels were sunk. Three battleships were damaged, together with three cruisers and three other major naval vessels. 2335 men and women in uniform were killed, while 1,143 were wounded. In addition, 63 civilians died and 35 were wounded. It was a devastating and painful battle. It was, however, the battle that united our nation. The men and women of the United States suddenly became a massive and mighty fist; a fist of revenge and retaliation; a fist of commitment and sacrifice; and a fist that led us to victory in Yokohama Bay aboard the great battleship, USS MISSOURI.

Today, we gather to witness the commissioning of one of our Navy's most modern vessels with the most recent and sophisticated equipment and weaponry. She will carry the name of this great and uniting battle, Pearl Harbor. We pray that for the generations to come, citizens will see this ship and recall that there was a time in our history when Americans stood as one -- stood tall and confident that victory was inevitable.

The name Pearl Harbor should evoke many memories. I hope that one of them will be the painful price that we will have to pay if we, once again find ourselves unprepared. Readiness should be foremost in our minds, not only with the best and brightest men and women, but with also the best and most lethal equipment conceivable. I hope that we have learned, although painfully, that the best way to prevent war, is to be prepared for war.

Many of us who gather here this morning will recall that just a few years ago, a goal of a 600 ship Navy was in our grasp, but with the change in circumstances, we now find ourselves with 333 ships. I believe that we have gone down far enough. With the lesser number of ships and greater number of missions, we find that our men and women are called upon and deployed too often and for too long. If we are to maintain the highest level of readiness, our men and women must be given adequate time to fulfill their family and personal obligations. We are slowly beginning to note the development of certain problem areas relating to retention and recruiting. Before it is too late, and before we find ourselves with a "hollow military," we should make it abundantly clear to the President, the Department of Defense and the Congress, that the draw down must stop.

The price of liberty is very expensive. The price of readiness and freedom is very expensive, and we should be prepared to pay if that is necessary.

I join a grateful nation in wishing the officers and the crew of the USS PEARL HARBOR, Godspeed and smooth sailing.

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FACSIMILE

OFFICE OF SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE

TO: VICE ADMIRAL JOHN NYQUIST, RETIRED

FROM: MICHELE KONISHI PHONE: (808) 541-2542

NUMBER OF PAGES FOLLOWING THIS PAGE: 2

DATE: 6/3/98 TIME: _____

COMMENTS: PER YOUR REQUEST, ATTACHED IS A COPY OF

SENATOR INOUE'S SPEECH AT THE COMMISSIONING

OF THE USS PEARL HARBOR.

Author: Sheree Nitta at INOUYE-DC

Date: 6/1/98 2:58 PM

Priority: Normal

TO: Michele Konishi

Subject: Retired Vice Admiral John Nyquist, who heard Senator's

----- Message Contents -----

speech on commissioning of USS Pearl Harbor, would like a copy of it
faxed to 619-646-5581, or if there is a problem with this p/c him at
619-646-5575.

**COMMISSIONING
OF THE
USS PEARL HARBOR**

**San Diego
Saturday, May 30, 1998**

- **The annals of the Pacific War are filled with chapters of glory and sacrifice; of courage and valor; and, stunning victories: the Battle of Coral Sea, the Battle of Midway, the Battle of Leyte Gulf and the Battle of Okinawa.**

● **These battles are some of the most important naval battles in the history of our nation. However, I wish to suggest that the most important battle of the Pacific War, was our first battle...the Battle of Pearl Harbor.**

- **On December 7, 1941, the day of infamy, Japanese naval aircraft bombed and strafed our ships in Pearl Harbor for one hour and fifty two minutes. In less than two hours, two battleships, two destroyers and five other major naval vessels were sunk.**

● **Three battleships were damaged, together with three cruisers and three other major naval vessels. 2335 men and women in uniform were killed, while 1,143 were wounded. In addition, 63 civilians died and 35 were wounded.**

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- **Readiness should be foremost in our minds, not only with the best and brightest men and women, but with also the best and most lethal equipment conceivable. I hope that we have learned, although painfully, that the best way to prevent war, is to be prepared for war.**

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- **given adequate time to fulfill their family and personal obligations.**

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**I join a grateful nation in wishing the
officers and the crew of the USS PEARL
HARBOR, Godspeed and smooth sailing.**

Author: Patricia Zell at INDIAN-AFFAIRS
Date: 5/27/98 1:50 PM
Priority: Normal
TO: mary lou jardine at INOUYE-HONOLULU
Subject: Request to Speak with Senator

----- Message Contents -----

A young man from the Native American Law Students Association at the University of San Diego has been trying to secure a few minutes with the Senator to ask whether he would address the Native American Law Students from various colleges and universities in the San Diego area sometime in the fall, or when the Senator is coming or going to or from Hawaii or Los Angeles. His name is Lathe Gill and he is currently working for the California Indian Legal Services Corporation. He had heard that the Senator was going to be in San Diego on Saturday, and wondered whether he could meet with the Senator for five minutes to make the request. I was wondering whether you would ask the Senator if he would be willing to meet with Mr. Gill at the airport in San Diego on Saturday while he is waiting for his return flight to Los Angeles. Thanks!

2:00-2:15 Mr. Gill will meet you
at your departure gate.

Sat 30 May

0847 Senator Inouye arrives from L. A. - Flight 5219*
0900 Stand Up Continental Breakfast in progress
Attire: Civilian - Informal (coat and tie), Military - Summer White
1020 Ceremony Pre-Brief for Platform Guests by Mr. Joe Hanna
1045 Depart for Commissioning Ceremony
1100-1200 Commissioning Ceremony
1215 Depart for NAS NI Officer's Club
1220 Post-Commissioning Reception
* (Stand Up with light hors d'oeuvres and beverages)
1445 Senator Inouye returns COMAIR to L. A. - Flight 5284

*LCDR John D. Little will meet Senator at arrival gate.

* Mr. Little will meet you at your departure gate
about 2:00 or 2:15 PM

USS PEARL HARBOR (LSD 52)
COMMISSIONING CEREMONY 1100, 30 MAY 1998
SCRIPT HIGHLIGHTS
As of 0800, 22 May 1998

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLATFORM GUESTS

HONORS TO THE HONORABLE DANIEL K. INOUE
Admiral's March
19 Gun Salute

MARCH ON THE COLORS

NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION

CAPT. J.R. Madden, CHC, USN

WELCOMING TO SAN DIEGO
The Honorable Susan Golding

SPEAKERS

Mr. Mortimer Speaks and Introduce RADM Sargent
RADM Sargent Speaks and Introduces VADM Krekich
VADM Krekich Speaks and Introduces HON Hunter
HON Hunter Speaks and Introduces HON Young
HON Young Speaks and Introduces HON Dalton
HON Dalton Speaks and Introduces HON Inouye

PRINCIPAL SPEAKER

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye

PLACING SHIP IN COMMISSION

The Honorable John Dalton

BREAKING OF COMMISSIONING PENNANT

ASSUMING COMMAND

CDR Bird to VDM Krekich

SETTING OF THE FIRST WATCH

GMCM Black Passes Longglass to HTC Harkeness

MANNING THE SHIP AND BRINGING HER ALIVE

Mrs. Beverly Young

REPORTING FOR DUTY

CDR Jim Bird to VADM Krekich, USN

BREAKING THE FLAG OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REMARKS

CDR James Bird, USN

BENEDICTION

CAPT. J.R. MADDEN, CHC, USN

DEPARTURE OF PLATFORM GUESTS

PROJECTED PEARL HARBOR (LSD 52)
PLATFORM GUESTS
(As of 0800, 22 May 1998)

THE HONORABLE DANIEL K. INOUYE
SENATOR STATE OF HAWAII
PRINCIPAL SPEAKER

MRS. BEVERLY YOUNG
SHIP'S SPONSOR

THE HONORABLE C.W. BILL YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN 10TH DISTRICT
STATE OF FLORIDA

THE HONORABLE DUNCAN HUNTER
CONGRESSMAN 52ND DISTRICT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

THE HONORABLE JOHN DALTON
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

THE HONORABLE SUSAN GOLDING
MAYOR OF SAN DIEGO

VICE ADMIRAL ALEXANDER J. KREKICH, USN
COMMANDER NAVAL SURFACE FORCE, U.S. PACIFIC FLEET

REAR ADMIRAL VERONICA Z. FROMAN, USN
COMMANDER NAVAL BASE
SAN DIEGO

REAR ADMIRAL DAVID P. SARGENT, JR., USN
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CARRIERS, LITTORAL WARFARE AND
AUXILIARY SHIPS

CAPT. THOMAS GORSKI, USN
PROGRAM MANAGER AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE PEO CARRIERS,
PMS 377

CAPT. DAVID VOGEL
SUPERVISOR OF SHIPBUILDING
CONVERSION AND REPAIR
NEW ORLEANS

GCM DEIBERT D. BLACK, USN (RET)
LONG GLASS PASSER

MR. EDMUND C. MORTIMER
CORPORATE VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS
AVONDALE SHIPBUILDING

MR. BEN BEGLEY
PRESIDENT OF THE PEARL HARBOR ASSOCIATION

MR. JOHN IBE
COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

COMMANDER JAMES. J. BIRD, USN
COMMANDING OFFICER

CAPT. J.R. MADDEN, CHC, USN
STAFF, COMMANDER NAVAL BASE
SAN DIEGO

LCDR LOWELL D. CROW, USN
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MRCM JAMES RUSSELL, USN
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

PEARL HARBOR (LSD 52)
COMMISSIONING EVENTS

COMMANDING OFFICER'S RECEPTION

Date/Time: Friday, May 29, 1998, 7:00-9:00 PM
Place: U.S. Grant Hotel
326 Broadway
Scope: Stand up reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres.
Presentations and remembrances commence at 8 PM.
Dress: Military: Summer White or Service equivalent
Civilian: Informal attire (coat and tie)

PLATFORM BRIEFING

Date/Time: Saturday, May 30, 1998, 9:00 AM
Place: North Island Naval Air Station Island Club
Stand-up continental breakfast. Distinguished guests will be escorted to a VIP Bus Convoy which will take them to the Commissioning site and directed to a special seating section. Platform guests will be briefed on the ceremony and transported to the commissioning site. At the conclusion of the ceremony shuttle buses will transport you back to the museum for a post reception.
Dress: Military Participants: Full Dress White
Military: Summer White
Civilian: Informal attire (coat and tie)

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Date/Time: Saturday, May 30, 1998, 11:00 AM
Place: North Island Naval Air Station
Dress: Same as Platform Briefing

POST-COMMISSIONING RECEPTION

Date/Time: Saturday, May 30, 1998, 12:00 PM
Place: North Island Naval Air Station Island Club
Scope: Stand up reception with light hors d'oeuvres and beverages.