



The National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

by

Past District Governor Andrew L. Morzello
Rotary Club of White Plains, New York
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On December 8, 1941, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, our Former Governor of New York State and President of the United States, solemnly and resolutely requested the Congress of our country to declare that a state of war existed between the Imperial Empire of Japan and the United States of America. The Japanese Empire, in the words of the President, “heinously attacked our naval base at Pearl Harbor on the preceding day of December 7, 1941” – a day the President declared was a “Day of Infamy.”

Each year, thereafter, on December 7, Pearl Harbor survivors, veterans and peoples all over our world would come together as we do here today to honor and remember the 2,403 service members and U.S civilians who were killed during the Japanese attack on Dec. 7, 1941. Another 1,178 people, Eight U.S. battleships were among the 18 naval ships either damaged or sunk. On our Hawaiian military bases, 188 aircraft were destroyed.

December 7th was, has been, and is today a catalyst that has led to a changed world. This 80th Commemoration reminds us of the story of the multi-pronged attack across the entire Pacific area and in particular the attack on Pearl Harbor.

We commemorate and remember what occurred at Pearl Harbor to ensure that future generations will understand the valor and

legacy of those who perished and those who fought throughout the entire war.

Today, on this 80th commemoration, we realize and appreciate anew the importance of the peace that brought reconciliation – a reconciliation that continues to move forward today in creating a better future for us all.

In the silence of our minds and in the love of our hearts, let us pause for a moment of remembrance, gratitude and appreciation for all the victims of Peal Harbor as we honor them with Taps.

My friends, please stand for our National Anthem sung by US Navy First Class Amy Broadbent.

Thank you !