



North Mankato Post 518 Proudly Honors These



Veterans of the Month

The Flag flying from this site is flown in honor of All Deceased Veterans serving on the island of Oahu during the attack on Pearl Harbor for the month of December by North Mankato American Legion Post 518.

Just before 8am on December 7, 1941, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes attacked the US Naval base at Pearl Harbor. This attack destroyed nearly 20 naval vessels, including 8 large battleships, and nearly 300 aircraft were destroyed or crippled.

Almost 2500 American soldiers, sailors and marines were killed in the attack and another 1000 were wounded. At 8:10 am, an 1800 pound bomb hit the deck of the USS Arizona, causing the forward ammunition magazine to explode and sink with more than 1000 men trapped inside. Every battleship in Pearl Harbor was either sunk or sustained substantial damage. These ships included the battleships: USS Arizona, USS Oklahoma, USS California, USS West Virginia, USS Utah, USS Maryland, USS Pennsylvania, USS Tennessee, and USS Nevada. All but the USS Arizona, USS Utah and USS Oklahoma were eventually repaired and returned to action.

Because American leaders didn't expect an attack near Hawaii, naval facilities at Pearl Harbor were nearly undefended. Almost the whole Pacific fleet was moored in and around Ford Island in the harbor, and hundreds of airplanes were squeezed onto nearby airfields offering an irresistible target to the Japanese.

As bad as the attack was, it failed to cripple the Pacific fleet because the most important vessels, by 1940, were the aircraft carriers which were away from the base at that time. Also, oil storage, repair shops, shipyards and submarine docks were left intact at Pearl Harbor. This allowed the US Navy to rebound quickly from the attack.

The Japanese had pushed the United States into a global conflict that ended with Japan's first occupation by a foreign power.

The Japanese surrender was signed on the deck of the USS Missouri, ending the war. The Missouri is now anchored with its bow about 100 yards from the bow of the USS Arizona. The war started with the USS Arizona's destruction and ended on the deck of the USS Missouri.

Over 1100 men are entombed on the USS Arizona and many others are buried in national cemeteries in Hawaii and elsewhere.

