

Dec 11, 2024

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ROTARY CLUB OF PLAINFIELD

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Pearl Harbor - Dec 7, 1941



This past Saturday our nation, and the world, remembered the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor 83 years ago. With thanks to Rob Citino, PhD at the National WWII Museum, here is an overview of that Date that will Live in Infamy...

"Pearl Harbor was a great gamble for Japan, and especially for the Imperial Japanese Navy. It was also a piece of skilled military planning, the work of Admiral Isoruku Yamamoto. Japan dispatched all six of its precious "fleet carriers" across 3,000 miles of open ocean in total secrecy, with the fleet arriving a few hundred miles north of the Hawaiian islands. The carriers launched their aircraft early on a Sunday morning. US forces were completely unprepared, and in less than ninety minutes, Japanese planes destroyed or damaged 19 US warships and 300 aircraft, and killed over 2,400 US servicemen. Almost half of the dead were crewmen from the battleship USS Arizona, which sank within minutes after a bomb struck its forward magazine, igniting more than a million pounds of ammunition. The ship's remains still lie in the waters of Pearl Harbor, a constant memorial to that terrible morning.

With the US Navy temporarily out of the way, a massive Japanese offensive overran the European and colonial empires in Asia: Hong Kong, Malaya, the Dutch East Indies, and New Guinea. US possessions, too, came under attack: the Philippines, the major US base in Asia; Guam; and Wake Island. The Japanese assault seemed irresistible, and at two places there were mass surrenders. At Singapore on the tip of Malaya, 80,000 British, Indian, and Australian troops went into captivity in February 1942. On the Philippines, attacking Japanese forces outmaneuvered a combined US/Filipino army under General Douglas MacArthur. The defenders retreated into the Bataan Peninsula and finally onto tiny Corregidor Island. MacArthur evacuated the islands (vowing, however, "I shall return"), but his entire force of 75,000 men surrendered in April 1942, the worst military defeat in US history. Their Japanese captors now subjected them to a brutal 65-mile forced march to POW camps in the Philippines. Hence, the infamous Bataan Death March (your editor's father survived this ghastly march, and the next 41 months in Japanese POW camps...). In the course of just five days, at least 5,000 died, and perhaps many more, a grisly sign of what was to come in what the Japanese called the Great Pacific War.

Victory, defeat, shame, "infamy": even today, the memory of these events is contradictory and contested. Different societies tend to "remember" events in their history differently, and that is especially true of traumatic moments. Japan and the United States have been friends and allies for decades, a welcome change from the 1930s and 40s. Nevertheless, the lessons, legacies, and memory of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor will continue to influence contemporary politics, diplomacy, and strategy into the future."

Charlie's \$2 Worth

ON PEARL HARBOR...

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

"I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve." - Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto

"I heard cries, whispered prayers of fear, and cursing in anger; but through it all, I saw no panic." - Vaughn Hamberlin, Survivor

"We can't forget Pearl Harbor, but I'm afraid that we might. At one time we had some young people from some of the schools helping us out with the ceremony, and they didn't even know what Pearl Harbor was. That's so sad."

- Jack Hanna

"Never a day goes by for all these many years when I haven't thought about it. I don't talk about it too much, but when December rolls around I do. It's important the American people don't forget."

- Donald Stratton, WWII veteran

"My father pulled into Pearl Harbor four days after the bombing, and he said, everything was still burning. He said they never told the public how bad it was. It was really bad." - John Lasseter

"The Japanese scored an important victory at Pearl Harbor, but the attack pulled the United States into World War II, and four years later, Japan was in ruins, utterly defeated." - Peter Bergen

Upcoming Speakers/Events

- Dec 11 Board Meeting all Club members welcome
- Dec 18 John-Paul Biehn
- Dec 25 Merry Christmas! no meeting
- Jan 1 Happy New Year! no meeting
- Jan 8 Board meeting all Club members welcome
- Jan 15 Andrew Klinger
- Jan 22 Royce Carter Kyle Prewitt, Plainfield Police Chief
- Jan 29 Danielle Bell
- Feb 5 Dennis Reagle
- Feb 12 Board meeting all Club members welcome
- Feb 19 Donnie Emerson
- Feb 26 Brad DuBois

Club Meeting Attendance

Plainfield (3417)

Monthly Attendance Detail

Oct 1, 2024 through Oct 31, 2024

300			00031,			
Member Name	Oct 2 2024	Oct 9 2024	Oct 16 2024	Oct 23 2024	Oct 30 2024	%
Ament, Susan Beth	Y		Y	Υ	Y	80
Baer, Janet S	Y	Υ		Υ	Y	80
Baer, John M	Υ	Υ	Y	Υ	Y	100
Bell, Danielle Renee					Y	20
Bennett, Joseph D	Y	Υ	Y	Υ	М	100
Biehn, John-Paul E				Υ		0
Burks, Diane Arnold	Y		Y		Y	60
Carter, Royce	Y	Υ	Y	М		80
Culp, Brian N	Y	Υ	Y	Υ	Υ	100
DuBois, Brad						0
Emerson, Donnie						0
Graham, John	Υ		Y	Υ	Υ	80
Hank, Max C				Υ	Y	40
Kinnamon, Daniel L			Y	Υ	Y	60
Klinger, Andrew						0
Olinger, Scott	Υ		Y		Y	60
Pies, Daniel Adam			Y		Y	40
Poray, Reann					Y	20
Rash, Ryan Allen				Υ	Y	40
Reagle, Dennis J. Jr.						0
Sichting, Sherry D	М	Υ	Y	Υ	Y	100
Turner, Dean F Jr.				Y	Y	40



UPCOMING SPEAKER ASSIGNMENTS

Please carefully examine the schedule below and let Max Hank know who you have obtained as a speaker for your date.

Nov 20 Dec 4 Dec 18 Jan 15 Jan 22 Jan 29 Feb 5 Feb 19 Feb 26 Mar 5 Mar 19 Mar 26 Apr 2 Apr 16 Apr 23 Apr 30 May 7	Danielle Bell Dennis Reagle Ryan Rash Brad DuBois Sherry Sichting Donnie Emerson Diane Burks Max Hank Scott Olinger Daniel Kinnamon Susan Ament Reann Poray	Jun 18 Jun 25 Jul 2 Jul 16 Jul 23 Jul 30 Aug 6 Aug 20 Aug 27 Sep 3 Sep 17 Sep 24 Oct 1 Oct 15 Oct 22 Oct 29 Nov 5 Nov 19	John-Paul Biehn Rocky Turner Jan Baer Andrew Klinger Royce Carter Danielle Bell Dennis Reagle Ryan Rash Brad DuBois Sherry Sichting Donnie Emerson Diane Burks Max Hank Scott Olinger Daniel Kinnamon Brian Culp Reann Poray
	Reann Poray		•
May 28 Jun 4	John Graham	Dec 17 Jan 7	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! DECEMBER

Liza Payton - Dec 2
Susan Ament - Dec 20
Reann Poray - Dec 26

Little Free Library Maintenance Schedule

Dec 11-17 - John & Jan Baer

Dec 18-24 - Royce Carter Dec 25-31 - Joe Bennett Jan 1-7 - Brian Culp

Jan 8-14 - Max Hank

Jan 15-21 - Susan Ament Jan 22-28 - Royce Carter

Jan 29-Feb 4 - Max Hank Feb 5-18 - Brian Culp

Please check supply, refill as needed. Report any damage to Joe Bennett. Books are available at the Library.



Committees and Chairs

Bulletin: Max Hank Finance: Joe Bennett Foundation: John Baer

Fundraising:

Golf Outing: John Baer, Brad Dubois Crew Car Wash: Sherry Sichting

Membership: Brian Culp

Orientation: John Baer & Diane Burks

Programs: Brian Culp **PR & Website:** John Baer

Quaker Day Parade & Picnic: TBD **Service Committees:** Royce Carter

Literacy/LFL: Joe Bennett Teacher of the Year: Max Hank

Youth: Diane Burks

Interact and RYLA: Diane Burks

Scholarships: Max Hank

Straight-A Salute: Sherry Sichting

The Imagination & Idea Labs: Diane Burks



OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY AND DO

- 1. Is IT THE TRUTH?
- 2. Is IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?
- 3. WILL IT BUILD GOODWILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- 4. WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?

(5. Is IT FUN?)