

Virginians at War

Pearl Harbor

Resource Packet

Contains: Glossary, Timeline, Images, Discussion Questions, Additional Resources

Program Description: Virginians at War: WWII - Pearl Harbor tells the stories of the Virginians who were living at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii during the Japanese sneak attack of December 7, 1941. The story of the day, from waking up to hearing the beginning of the attack around 0800 and the reactions during the two hour raid, is woven together through a variety of personal accounts. Veterans describe the anxiety and chaos during and following the "day that will live in infamy", as well as the desire to survive.

Copyright: Virginia War Memorial Foundation, 2002

Length: 19:33

Streaming link: <https://vimeo.com/367111937>

Featured Speakers:

ST2 George E. Bland, Glen Allen
CPT William M. Carpenter, Stafford
SM1 Julius Gostel Sr., Norfolk
John D. Gunther, Richmond
MSGT James L. Johnson, Richmond
SSGT Benzie W. King, Richmond
TSGT Stephen S. Krawczyk, Manassas
CDR Clark O. Martin, Richmond
TSGT Bill Muehleib, Virginia Beach
T4 Joseph S. Nuckols Sr., Richmond
LCDR Clarence E. Sasse, Norfolk
CWO William G. Temple, Virginia Beach
Jacquelyn B. Turner, Doswell
COL Theodore B. Voorhees, Williamsburg
GMGC Lewis "Mae" West Sr., Norfolk



GLOSSARY

IMPORTANT TERMS

- **Dive Bomber:** a plane that dives directly towards a target, releases a bomb, and then departs.
- **Fuselage:** the main body of a plane.
- **Rising Sun Flag:** the flag of the Imperial Japanese Army; a white flag with a red sun and rays, often painted on the wings of Imperial Japanese planes.
- **Torpedo Bomber:** a plane designed specifically to sink ships through the use of torpedoes.
- **Zero:** Nickname for the Mitsubishi A6M "Zero" plane, operated by the Imperial Japanese Navy. Also called a "Zeke" by Allied forces.

NOTABLE SHIPS

- **USS Arizona:** exploded, 1,177 dead, deemed a total loss and still lies at the bottom of the harbor with over 900 entombed.
- **USS Oklahoma:** capsized, 429 dead, recovered but too damaged to return to service.
- **USS West Virginia:** sunk, 106 dead, recovered and returned to service in 1944.
- **USS California:** sunk, 100 dead, recovered and returned to service in 1944.
- **USS Nevada:** beached, 60 dead, returned to service in 1942.

IMPORTANT PLACES

- **Battleship Row:** formation of eight battleships in Pearl Harbor that bore the brunt of Japanese attack on December 7th, 1941.
- **Hickam Field:** airfield adjacent to Pearl Harbor Naval Base, which was attacked by Imperial Japanese planes to prevent counterattack.
- **Pearl Harbor:** a harbor on the island of Oahu (Honolulu, Hawaii) that functions as a deep-water Naval base for the United States Navy.

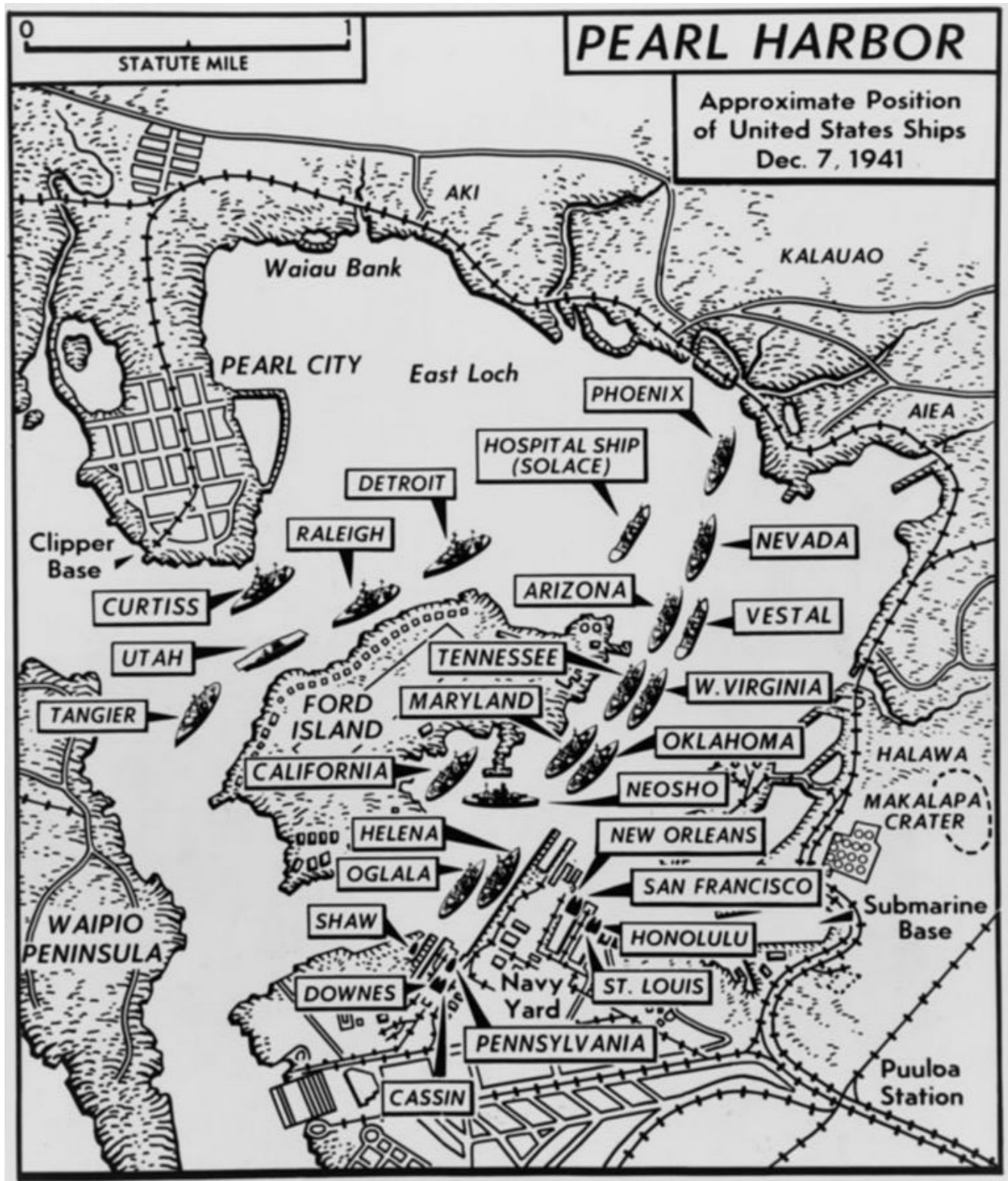
MEDALS

- **Medal of Honor:** the highest U.S. military decoration given for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty."
- **Navy Cross:** the second-highest military decoration in the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, awarded for extraordinary heroism.
- **Pearl Harbor Commemorative Medal:** a medal presented on the 50th Anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack to members of the Armed Forces who were present and participated in combat operations at Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941.

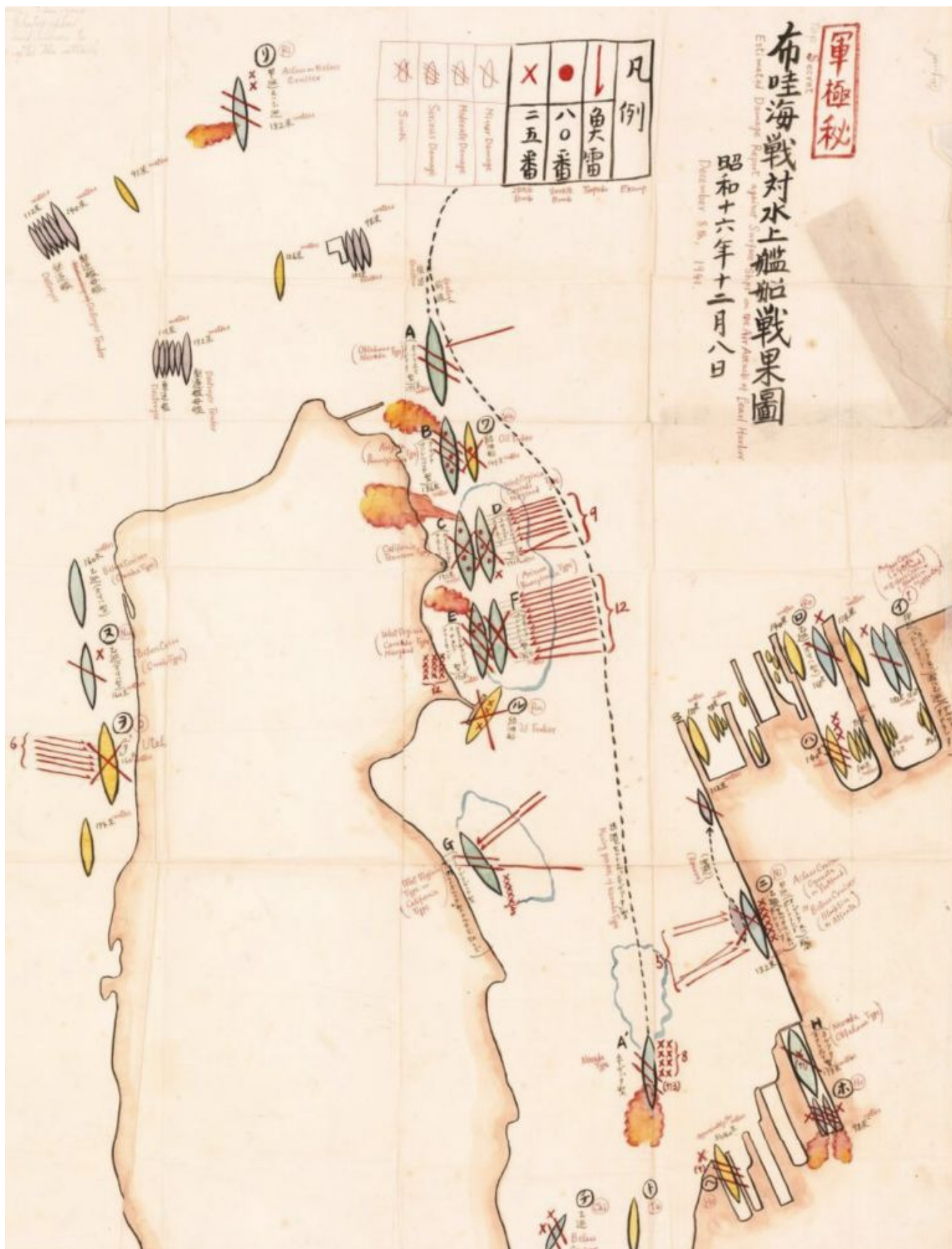


PEARL HARBOR TIMELINE

- **July 1939:** U.S. ends the 1911 Treaty of Commerce and Navigation with Japan and begins to restrict trade with the Japanese Empire
- **November 27, 1941:** Admiral Kimmel, in command at Pearl Harbor, receives warnings of war
- **December 7, 1941:**
 - 6:10 AM** – First wave of Japanese planes depart from their carrier ships
 - 6:45 AM** – USS *Ward* fires at a Japanese submarine and sends word to Navy headquarters
 - 7:02 AM** – Unidentified aircraft are spotted by a radar station on Oahu, but are presumed to be U.S. aircraft by an Army lieutenant and ignored
 - 7:30 AM** – A message that Japanese ambassadors have asked for an interview with the Secretary of State is received and decoded in Washington D.C.
 - 7:40 AM** – First Japanese bombers appear over Pearl Harbor
 - 7:55 AM** – The attack on Pearl Harbor begins
 - 8:10 AM** – USS *Arizona* is struck and explodes
 - 8:50 AM** – Japanese forces make a second pass over Pearl Harbor, inflicting additional damage
 - 10:00 AM** – Japanese forces depart Pearl Harbor
- **December 8, 1941:** President Franklin D. Roosevelt addresses Congress with “This Day Will Live in Infamy” speech; Congress declares war against Japan



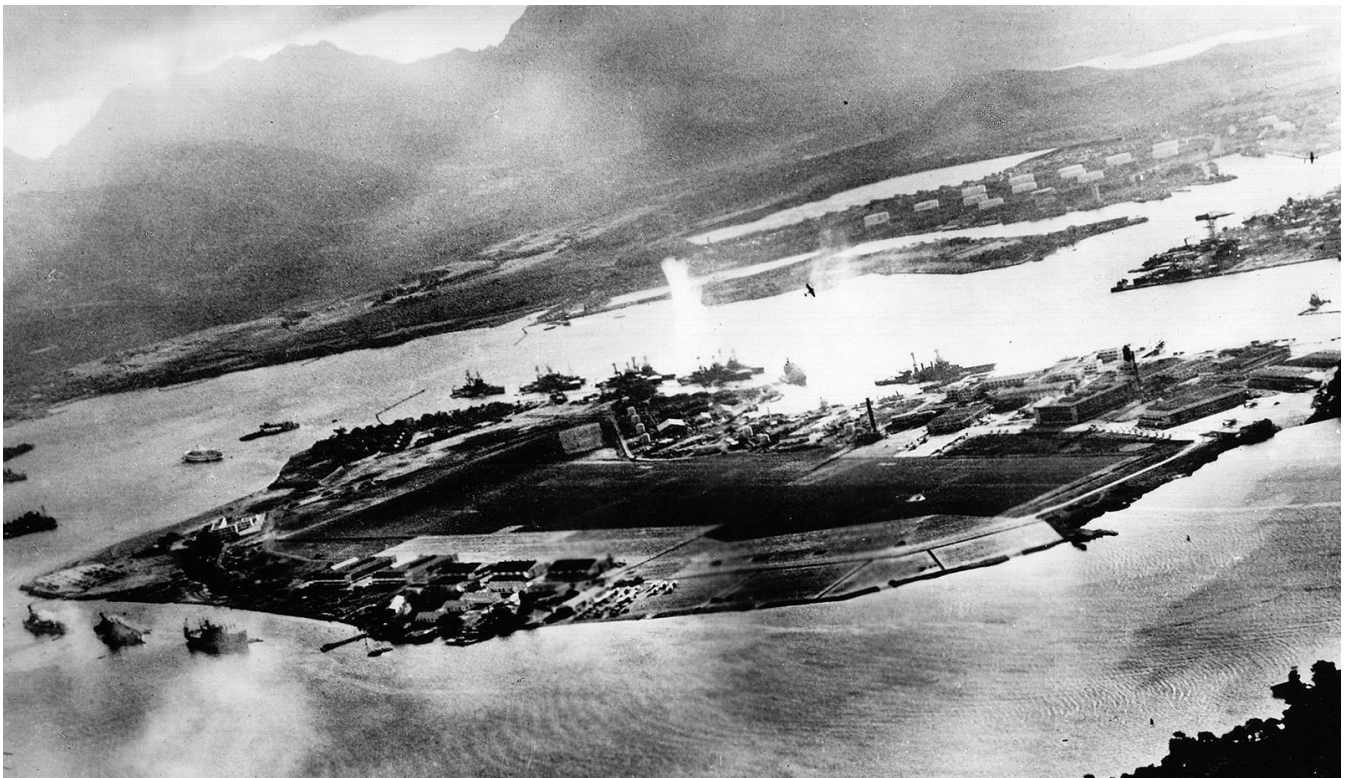
(Encyclopedia Britannica)



(Library of Congress)



(National Archives)



(National Archives)



PEARL HARBOR:

By the Numbers

"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....Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory."

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his speech delivered to Congress Dec. 8, 1941

15

Number of
U.S. Navy
Medal of
Honor
Recipients



51

Number of
Navy Cross
Recipients



* Note: L.L. Jackson C. Pharris' Navy Cross was later upgraded to a Medal of Honor June 25, 1948

3

Number of
Total-Loss
U.S. Navy
Ships



USS Arizona (BB 39)



USS Oklahoma (BB 37)



USS Utah (AG 16)

2,008

Number of U.S. Navy
Personnel Killed in Action

218

Number of U.S. Army
Personnel Killed in Action

109

Number of U.S. Marines
Killed in Action

68

Number of Civilian
Casualties

18

Number of
U.S. Navy
Ships
Repaired
and
Returned
to Service

Ships Sunk, Raised, and Repaired:

- USS California (BB 44)
- USS West Virginia (BB 48)
- USS Oglala (CM 4)
- USS Sotomaya (YT 9)
- Floating Drydock YFD 2

Ships Damaged and Repaired/Rebuilt:

- USS Maryland (BB 46)
- USS Nevada (BB 36)
- USS Tennessee (BB 43)
- USS Pennsylvania (BB 38)
- USS Cassin (DD 372)
- USS Downes (DD 375)
- USS Shaw (DD 373)
- USS Helm (DD 388)
- USS Helena (CL 50)
- USS Honolulu (CL 48)
- USS Raleigh (CL 7)
- USS Curtiss (AV 4)
- USS Vestal (AR 4)

1

Number of U.S.
Navy Ships
Sunk, Raised,
Repaired...and
Present at Tokyo
Bay During
Japan's Formal
Surrender
Sept. 2, 1945



USS West Virginia (BB 48)

Approaching drydock at Pearl Harbor Navy Yard
June 8, 1942, just over six months after she was sunk in
the Japanese air raid on Pearl Harbor.

Watch it on YouTube



Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZt1aznZu0I>
(case sensitive) for an overview of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Source: Naval History and Heritage Command Infographic
by Annalisa C. Underwood
NIHIC Communication and Outreach Division
www.history.navy.mil

Infographic of Pearl Harbor awards and casualties (Naval History and Heritage Command)



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did FDR wish to keep America out of World War II? Which early American figure was inspiration for isolationist policy?
2. Why did the day and time of the attack catch servicemen off guard?
3. How did servicemen respond during the attack? What measures were taken to defend the harbor?
4. Why did the commander of the Japanese fleet that attacked Pearl Harbor warn his prime minister that attacking the United States was not a wise decision?
5. How many ships and planes were damaged or destroyed from the attack? How many Americans were killed or wounded? How does this compare to the sinking of the Lusitania during WWI?
6. How did Americans on the home front react to Pearl Harbor? What other events in American history were similarly unifying, and why?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To learn more about the experiences of Virginians in World War II, view *Virginians at War: Battle of Midway* and other films at vawarmemorial.org. Looking to do more research? Check out the links below.

- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Pearl-Harbor-attack>
- <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/world-war-ii/1941/pearl-harbor.html>
- <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/p/pearl-harbor-why-how.html>
- <https://www.nps.gov/valr/learn/historyculture/index.htm>

