

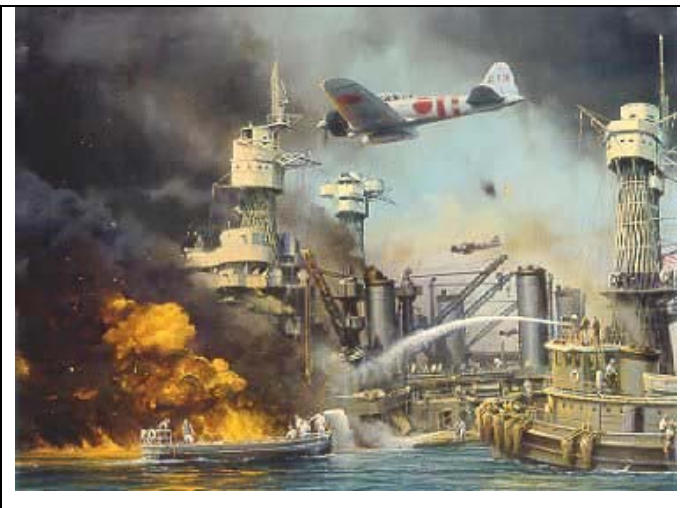


Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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Remembering Pearl Harbor

While Looking to the Future



On December 7, 1941, around 6 a.m., 183 fighters, bombers and torpedo planes leave six Japanese aircraft carriers waiting in the Pacific Ocean. Shortly before 7 a.m., the 14th Naval Headquarters at Pearl Harbor Naval Station receives a report that the U.S.S. Ward had “attacked, fired upon, and dropped depth charges upon submarine operating in defensive sea area.” Within a few minutes, around 50 planes are spotted heading for Hawaii. Less than an hour later, the Japanese attack is in full swing as dive bombers attack planes on the ground to prevent retaliation and torpedoes strike ships throughout the area.

At 7:55 a.m., an un-coded message goes out to every ship and base from the Command Center. It says, "Air raid on Pearl Harbor...This is not drill." The U.S.S. Arizona is completely destroyed, and the U.S.S. Oklahoma is capsized. The attack sinks three other ships and damages many additional vessels. More than 180 aircraft are destroyed. By 10:30 a.m., the Japanese attackers return to their carriers and the hospitals are filled with the wounded. The death toll eventually reaches 2,930.

After two tense years spent watching the war overseas, "the day that will live in infamy" thrust the United States into World War II. After four years of rough fighting, in the morning of September 2, 1945, Japan formally surrendered. The ceremonies, less than half an hour long, took place on board the battleship USS Missouri, anchored with other United States' and British ships in Tokyo Bay.

This December 7th marks the 67th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor—the event that forever changed international boundaries and foreign relations. Today, Japan is a close friend of the United States and a key ally in Asia. Missouri is the base for more than 50 Japanese-owned firms that employ more than 5,500 employees. In Southeast Missouri, BioKyowa, Inc. in Cape Girardeau and TG Missouri in Perryville employ approximately 1,360 Missouri workers.

Days of remembrance exist to remind us all of the sacrifices that were made on our behalf. Pearl Harbor Day is a day for us to reflect on the service of our veterans, but it is as equally important to look to the future and the promise of a better, brighter tomorrow because that is why the sacrifice was made.



USS Arizona Memorial, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; State Capitol Building; Room 323; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or e-mail me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

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