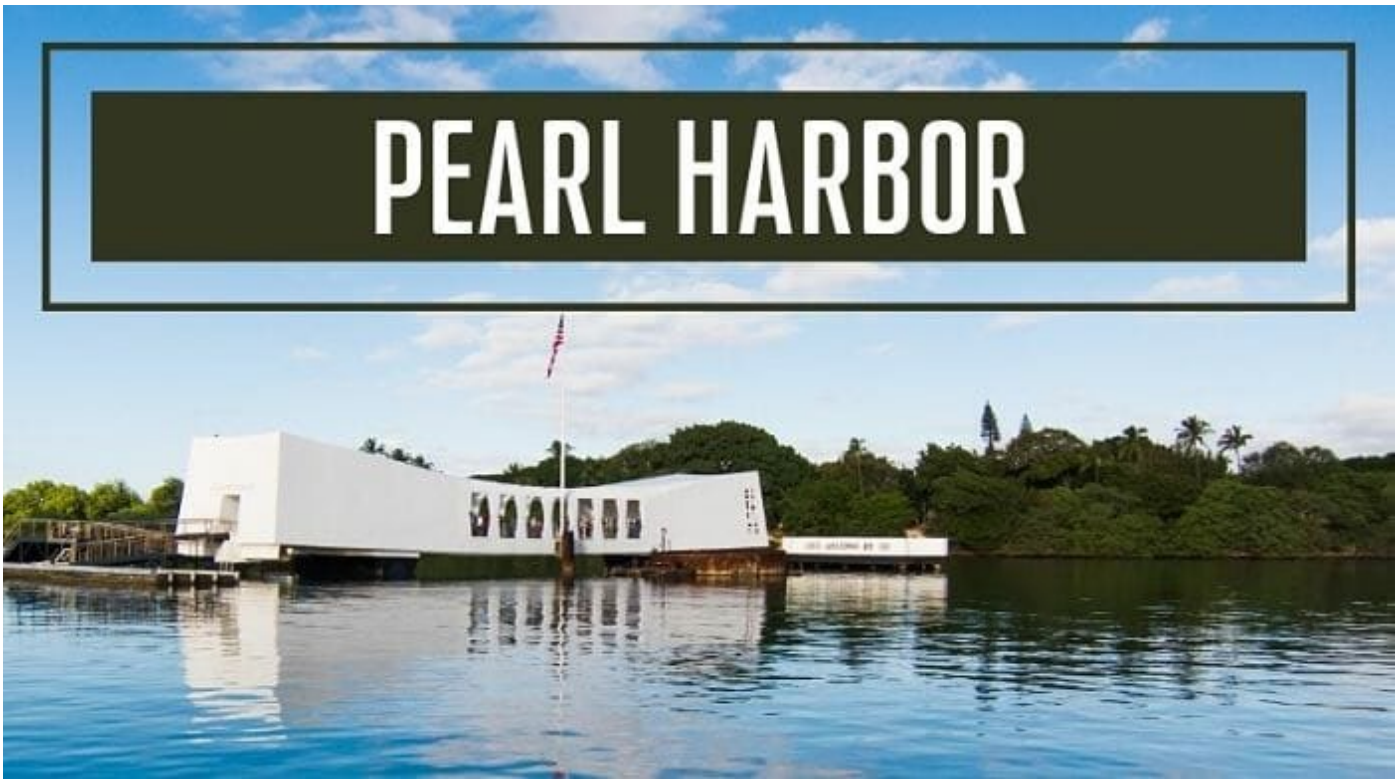
WAKULLA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE NEWSLETTER



December 2022



Just before 8am on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes carried out a devastating attack on the Pearl Harbor American Naval base in Honolulu, Hawaii, on the island of Oahu. The Japanese aircrews managed to achieve complete surprise and for two hours, Japanese fighter, bomber and torpedo planes carried out a shocking assault on the naval base.

The base was attacked in two waves by a total of 353 Japanese fighters, bombers and torpedo planes. There were 165 U.S. Naval ships involved; 20 were damaged. 12 of those were back in service in less than 1 year. All 8 U.S. Navy battleships

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were damaged; 4 were lost in action. All but one battleship were raised and 6 were returned to service and fought in the war. No Aircraft Carriers were in port at the time of the attack. Japan also launched attacks on U.S. troops in Wake Island, Guam, Malaya, Thailand and Midway that same day. Wake Island, Guam, Malaya, and Thailand would all eventually fall to the Japanese Pearl Harbor Casualties:

- 2,008 Naval officers killed, 710 wounded
- 218 Army personnel killed, 364 wounded
- 109 Marines killed, 69 wounded
- 68 Civilians killed, 35 wounded
- A total of 2,403 Americans were killed, 1,178 wounded

Although the Japanese attack was overwhelming, it was not complete, nor did it achieve what they had hoped. No United States aircraft carriers were present at the time of the attack, and they neglected to damage the shoreside facilities of the naval base, which later went on to play a crucial role in the Allied victory at the end of the war. Additionally, all but three ships damaged in the attack were raised, repaired, and later used in victorious war efforts. Most notably, the outrage caused by the attack fueled the strength of the United States and its citizens to commit to victory in World War II. The U.S. would exact revenge in The Battle of Midway, a decisive naval battle that took place between June 4-7, 1942, six months after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

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Wreaths Across America, the organization, evolved out of one family's efforts to honor veterans. The Worcester family owns a memorial wreath business and has been making wreath donations to Arlington National Cemetery for many years. A photograph featuring some of those wreaths went viral circa 2005.

One of the unintended results of that viral image that featured Worcester donated wreaths covered in snow was that donations began coming in to support the donations of the wreaths.

According to the WAA official site, at first those donations were sent back to the givers "because there was no mechanism in place for the family to accept the donations at that time." Yet the floodgates of donations had been opened and there were thousands of requests to help out.

In 2007, Wreaths Across America had been approved as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. Since then they have raised the awareness of veterans and their sacrifices. They also work to assist other groups in fundraising such as Civil Air Patrol, Scouts, 4-H, local VFW chapters and other groups.

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2012 marked the year when the one millionth wreath was laid at Arlington National Cemetery. In 2016, the 25th anniversary of the first wreaths donated pre-WAA were by the Worcester Family and Worcester Wreath Company.

Christmas 2022

Merry Christmas from the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners and the Wakulla County Veteran Service Office.



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Upcoming Events:

- December 5, 2022, 11am, behind the Old Capital (Tallahassee), Wreaths Across America State Ceremony.
- December 7, 2022, Commanders Meeting, American Legion Post 13, Lake Ella, Tallahassee (every 1st Wednesday of the month).
- December 12, 2022, VFW Meeting (Wakulla County) @ 6:30pm (every 2nd Monday of the month) and Wakulla County VFW Building, 475 Arran Road.
- December 15, 2022, Veterans Meet Up @ 11:00a.m. at the Wakulla County Public Library – (every 3rd Thursday of the Month at 11am).
- Wreaths Across America on December 17, 2022, 12:00pm, Tallahassee National Cemetery.
- December 19, 2022, American Legion Meeting (Wakulla County) @ 6:30 (every 3rd Monday of the Month). Tentatively held at the Wakulla County Library.
- Veteran Talk on Radio Station 93.3, every Monday at 7pm. Tune in to this radio station for veteran informational talks and community events.

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Your Veteran Services Office Can Assist With:

- Disability Compensation
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Special Monthly Compensation
- Burial Assistance
- Upgrade Military Discharge
- DD 214 and more

Winston Terry Murphy, Veteran Services Officer
3093 Crawfordville Hwy.
Crawfordville, FL 32327
(850) 926-1072

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm

WAKULLA
COUNTY