

USS ARIZONA

At 7:30 a.m. on Friday morning, our bus left for the *USS Arizona*. We arrived early, leaving us time to shop in the bookstore before we viewed the obligatory film about the ship. I thanked two members of the Arizona crew for their service. When the film was over we joined about 50 tourists on the barge to the *USS Arizona*. It was a beautiful sunny day. As we moved away from the pier, on our right was a World War II submarine.

As we neared the *Arizona* we could see the *USS Missouri*. In one view we could see nautical icons representing both the beginning and the end of World War II. After we boarded the monument, the SAR group moved to the opening looking down into the wreck. I called the group to order, and, with color guardsmen on either side, began my Remarks:

The Sons of the American Revolution is here today to honor the 1177 sailors and marines who are entombed in the USS Arizona. This monument has grown to be the icon representing all 3390 military and civilians killed on Dec. 7, 1941 in the sneak attack by the Japanese Empire. In the words of US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dec. 7, 1941 is a "date that will live in infamy"

This monument is also an important reminder to the United States, that we must at all times remain vigilant; that the best defense is a good offense- a strong military; that we must disperse our military assets, so that they are not so easily destroyed in one conflict; and that we should maintain a strong reserve, so that we can recover quickly from a future attack.

To pay our respects, each SAR member and his spouse will take a flower from the beautiful lei, and toss it on the water. Now, I ask our chaplain, Rev. Taylor to render an appropriate prayer.

After his prayer, I asked all present to join me in a hand salute to our deceased heroes entombed below. Then each of took a flower from a lei and tossed into the water. Barbara Magerkurth had made a three inch high, six feet long, red, white and blue ribbon with "Sons of the American Revolution letters on it. We posed for photos, after which I said " this concludes this ceremony."