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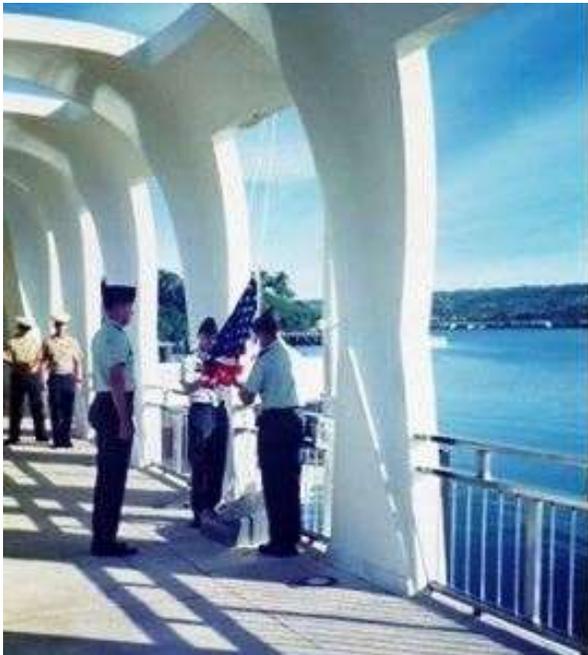
Bell High School AJROTC Memorializes Pearl Harbor



On Wednesday, (Dec. 7), Bell High School had a unique opportunity to Remember Pearl Harbor on the 75th Anniversary of the attack. Many students, faculty and staff members attended the ceremony where the Presidential Proclamation for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day was read. Cadets in the BHS unit of the Army Jr. Reserve Officer Training Corps raised, and then lowered a flag to half-staff. This particular flag flown then is one that actually was flown over the USS Arizona, a Pennsylvania-class battleship. This is the same battleship Arizona that remains in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, since that fateful day, and there is a memorial structure there now in remembrance of it. The flag was lent to BHS for this ceremony by First Sergeant Jon Meinholz, one of the JROTC instructors at BHS. First Sgt. Meinholz was presented with this flag upon his re-enlistment on the Arizona Memorial, in 1986, while he was stationed in Hawaii. This tangible

artifact allowed the students to have a more direct connection with the history and remembrance of this important day. Bell High School's unit of the Army JROTC cadets who executed the ceremony on National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2016 included Wesley Jordan, A.J. Horne Jr., Dylan Reid and Stephen Dragon.

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Photos and Information Provided by United States Army LTC (Ret.) Jim Duthu, senior instructor at Bell High School for the Army Jr. Reserve Officer Training Corps.)

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Below is the Proclamation by the President of the United States of America NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY, 2016 A PROCLAMATION

By President Barack Obama

Seventy-five years ago, Japanese fighter planes attacked the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, destroying much of our Pacific Fleet and killing more than 2,400 Americans. The following day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called on the Congress to declare war and "make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us." In that spirit, Americans came together to pay tribute to the victims, support the survivors, and shed the comforts of civilian life to serve in our military and fight for our Union. Each year on National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we honor those whose lives were forever changed that December morning and resolve to uphold the legacy of all who stepped forward in our time of need.

From the docks of Pearl Harbor to the beaches of Normandy and far around the world, brave patriots served their country and defended the values that have sustained our Nation since its founding. They went to war for liberty and sacrificed more than most of us will ever know; they chased victory and defeated fascism, turning adversaries into allies and writing a new chapter in our history. Through their service and unparalleled devotion, they inspired a generation with their refusal to give in despite overwhelming odds. And as we reflect on the profound debt of gratitude we owe them for the freedoms we cherish, we are reminded of the everlasting responsibilities we have to one another and to our country.

In memory of all who lost their lives on December 7, 1941 -- and those who responded by leaving their homes for the battlefields -- we must ensure the sacrifices they made in the name of liberty and democracy were not made in vain. On this solemn anniversary, there can be no higher tribute to these American patriots than forging a united commitment to honor our troops and veterans, give them the support and care they deserve, and carry on their work of keeping our country strong and free.

The Congress, by Public Law 103-308, as amended, has designated December 7 of each year as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 7, 2016, as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. I encourage all Americans to observe this solemn day of remembrance and to honor our military, past and present, with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I urge all Federal agencies and interested organizations, groups, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff this December 7 in honor of those American patriots who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.

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VFW Post 5625 honors vets on Pearl Harbor Day

Joe Elko (left) salutes and Kary Colson prepares to raise and then lower the American flag to half-staff on Wednesday afternoon (Dec. 7) in memory of the veterans who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. These two men are members of the VFW Post 5625 (of Chiefland) Honor Guard.

Story, Photos and Video

By Jeff M. Hardison © Dec. 8, 2016 at 1:57 p.m.

LEVY COUNTY -- There were 2,403 Americans killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and that is a date that lives in infamy.

It was 75 years ago, from Dec. 7, 2016, when the Japanese Imperial Navy began its attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the attack lasted for more than two hours. The United States of America responded to the attack by joining the war against tyranny.

To expedite the end of World War II, the United States bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki with the first nuclear weapons to be used in battle.

In remembrance of those first America soldiers killed in that horrific sneak attack on America on that Sunday in December of 1941, several Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 562 members conducted a ceremony.

Post Commander Roy Grimes organized the event with help from post members. Cmdr. Grimes operated the bugle to perform taps.

The ceremony began with VFW Honor Guard members Joe Elko and Kary Colson raising the American flag and then lowering it to half-staff.

Everyone in attendance said *The Pledge Of Allegiance*.



Captain of the Firearms Jake Wynn stands in front of the men who are at ease prior to their action. In the row behind Capt. Wynn are (from left) Roe Goldsmith, Bob Fina and Dennis McIntire. They are among the members of the VFW Post 5625 Honor Guard.

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Twelve people read from cards.

Parts of the script noted that the ceremony on that day was to “... honor every man and woman who has proudly worn the uniform of our armed forces and bravely defended American from the many evils of the world.”

Whether serving at home or abroad, this elite group of people ensured that all Americans live free from tyranny and fear.

Taking time out of a day for this remembrance shows people do pay tribute to America’s most selfless citizens – those who are dedicated to something bigger than themselves.

“Our veterans cherish the values on which our nation was founded,” one read recited. “They bravely answered the call to preserve them and their service should make every American feel a deep sense of pride.”

If not for the dedication to duty by veterans of every branch of the service “to liberate other from the dark grip of oppression, hopelessness and fear,” the country would not be as it is today.

The VFW is very active in helping veterans.

After the cards were read, the remaining members of the VFW Post 5625 Honor Guard, under the direction of Capt. Of Firearms Jake Wynn, fired three rounds.

The men pulling the triggers of the shotguns were Roe Goldsmith, Bob Fina and Dennis McIntire.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5625 of Chiefland has relocated the post to a new location just north of town. The former VFW Post 5625 was on U.S. Highway 19 in the city limits of Chiefland.

The new post is just north of the city limits – on 137th Street, just west of U.S. 19. Both the business office and the canteen are fully functional.

Some of the members of the VFW who participated in the ceremony are seen here, at the front of one part of the new post facilities.

