



# MERCHANT NAVY COMMEMORATIVE THEME PROJECT (MNCTP)



## NEWS RELEASE

TODAY MARKS THE  
80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK  
ON PEARL HARBOR

DECEMBER 7, 2021

**OTTAWA, Today –**

Mr. Stéphane Ouellette,  
President and Chief Executive  
Officer, Merchant Navy  
Commemorative Theme Project  
(MNCTP), remembered the  
more than 2,400 Americans that  
were killed, and over 1,200  
injured, during the attack on  
Pearl Harbor.

On December 7, 1941, over 300  
Japanese airplanes attacked the  
naval base near Honolulu,  
Hawaii. This delivered a major  
blow to the nation's Pacific

Fleet, annihilated more than 300 planes, and destroyed or seriously damaged nearly 20 ships. Although the Japanese Empire focused on the destruction of the Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor, the attack encompassed the entire island with assaults on Army and Marine aviation bases as well as civilian facilities. This dreadful event changed the course of history, and catapulted the United States of America into World War II.



**Pearl Harbor attack:** A U.S. battleship sinking during the Pearl Harbor attack (Courtesy National Archives, Washington, D.C.)

### Quotes

*"Yesterday, 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. 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. With confidence in our armed forces with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph so help us God."*

– President Franklin D. Roosevelt

*"Never a day goes by for all these many years when I haven't thought about it. I don't talk about it too much, but when December rolls around I do. It's important the American people don't forget."*

– Mr. Donald Stratton, WWII Veteran and Pearl Harbor Survivor, in an interview with People Magazine, December 7, 2014

*“Remembering our fallen heroes and the price they paid for our freedom is the first step in learning and understanding the ideals, values, and principles for which our veterans fought and died. Indeed, the purity of intent, that must remain sacrosanct, dictates the integrity and strength of the binding force of a nation’s social cohesion, and forms the very bedrock on which our democratic institutions are built.”*

– Stéphane Ouellette, President and CEO, MNCTP

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