



Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors, Inc.

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Deidre Kelly, National Vice President
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Deidre,

First of all, thank you for allowing me to serve as the Sixth District Director. It's our honor and duty to ensure what happened on December 7, 1941 and all the good that has been done since then by those who survived is never forgotten.

I'm very happy to report great things are happening in throughout the southeast. To say we've been a little busy would be an understatement. But that's not all! Our members are having lots of fun while remembering our Pearl Harbor Survivors and their families. In fact, membership in our district is up and we've already had a few members pay their national dues for next year!

David Burke , Director – FDR's Little White House in Warm Springs Georgia has asked PHS Dixie Harris to be a special guest speaker at the 2016 Pearl Harbor commemorative ceremony. He also invited the Bob Kerr Chapter in Georgia to staff two tables displaying Pearl Harbor related, slide shows, historical items, pictures, and of course our district website. I'll be taking part in several Q&A sessions throughout the day. Attendance for the event varies from 800 to 1500 each year.



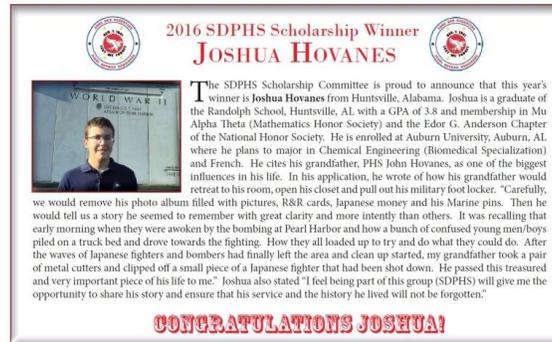
PHS Dixie Harris and Betty Pomeroy

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The Georgia chapter has once again been invited to attend the Annual WWII Heritage Days and CAF Air Show in Peachtree City, Georgia. The event brings together re-enactors, WWII vehicles, vintage aircraft, exhibits, and guest speakers as a living history experience for the whole family. The period air show is second to none.

Toward that goal; during this past year, we've had several scheduled chapter meetings take place throughout our district. We want to ensure all the friendships that have developed between the survivors, families, friends, and our communities continue to grow. Our district website has truly become a critical part of our success. For example, due an inquiry submitted through our website, an entire family in Alabama joined SDPHS. While that may not seem to be all that big of a deal, it just so happens that one of those family members is none other than Joshua Hovanes, our 2016 SDPHS scholarship winner. Keep your eyes on this young man. I see great things in his future.



The annual Pearl Harbor memorial ceremony was held on Sunday – May 29, 2016 around the Pearl Harbor Memorial Monument located near the front entrance of the Marietta National Cemetery. This year's keynote speaker was Marge Helgerson, Director, Georgia National Cemetery. Regrettably, there were fewer Pearl Harbor Survivors in attendance this year. In light of this year being the 75th anniversary of the attack, I guess that's to be expected. Regardless of the circumstances, our mission goes on without fail. We stand ready to support our Pearl Harbor Survivors and their families.



Marge Helgerson, Director, Georgia National Cemetery

Our Links page has become a resource for members and visitors alike. Having a way to point them in the right direction has had a tremendously positive impact. Many thanks to all those working behind the scenes to help make this possible. One of the newest links is to the Department of Veteran Affairs gravesite locator website.

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The locator enables visitors to quickly locate the resting place of any US Veteran who received a military headstone, even in private cemeteries. It even helped a sixth grader earn a good grade on a report by helping locate an ancestor from the Civil War. I'd say SDPHS honored that Veteran too.

News of our district website is spreading. We've had no less than eight TV and news agencies request information on the attack and ask permission to interview our Pearl Harbor Survivors. Now I'm not talking about some unknown reporters from nowheresville, these are serious organizations helping us to get the word out.

For example, Mr. Joe Eddins, Managing Editor at USAF Airman Magazine was looking for survivors and family members to interview for an article running in December to coincide with the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Their main goal was to tell the Army Air Corps' side of the story for today's airmen. They were specifically looking for children who were present on Oahu during the attack, at or near one of the U.S. Army Air Corps installations - Hickam, Wheeler and Bellows. I think we're all going to like the report. I can hardly wait to see it!

We also helped Mr. Matt Nowick, WW2 Veterans Coordinator, Commemorative Air Force - Wings Over Dallas connect with several survivors. His group was so serious about honoring Pearl Harbor Survivors that they provided an all-expense paid trip, including airfare, hotel, transportation, and meals, to every survivor that wanted to take part in the event. The event commemorated the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor and featured, TORA! TORA! TORA!, an award winning re-creation of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. I'm happy to say several survivors from across the country accepted his invitation. You can see the video at their website: <http://wingsoverdallas.org/>



Mr. Dick Cuchetti - Music Director, Edgewater, Florida has invited our SDPHS members and Pearl Harbor Survivors in the area to VIP seating at their Pearl Harbor Remembrance Concert on December 4th. I've been informed by SDPHS member Barry Reyelts, his father - Pearl Harbor Survivor, Duane H Reyelts, USS Oklahoma BB-37, and two of Barry's brothers, Robert, US Marines Retired, Steve, US Marines will be attending.

Darren Spencer, Major - USAF, Retired is a Junior ROTC instructor at Jefferson High School, in Tampa, Florida. As part of their 2016 Pearl Harbor ceremony, they will be hosting none other than our very own Pearl Harbor Survivor Bill Monfort. He will be speaking to their cadets and several other groups at the school about his experiences in the Navy at Pearl Harbor and during WWII. Those cadets are in for a real treat!

Other groups that have interviewed our Pearl Harbor Survivors this past year include, The Marietta Daily Journal - Marietta GA, The Daily News - Jacksonville, FL, The Sun Sentinel - south Florida, MSN International, USA Today, Fox News, The New York Times, COX Media, and The Atlanta Journal.

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I guess you can tell the Sixth District is on the move and growing! We've added several new members and associate members as well. I realize it may sound a bit bias but think we have the best state chairs in the organization. It also looks like Alabama may also soon have a state chair too. We could always use another set of willing hands.

This next year looks to be our best year yet! Good thing I have a great group of hard working people I can count on for support. It may sound a little bias, but I think the Sixth District has the best state chairs and chapter presidents. I'm sure the other district directors feel the same way.

Submitted by.
Al Pomeroy



*We owe a debt that cannot be repaid.
So we bow our heads and pledge to remember.*

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