



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY
2300 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2300

May 28, 2026

Mr. Richard Bernard
6905 Romeo Road
Woodbury, MN 55125

Dear Mr. Bernard,

Warm greetings from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) with hopes this letter finds you and your family well.

It is my privilege to invite you to attend the Disinterment Ceremony for the first eight U.S.S. *Arizona* Unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP) in Honolulu, Hawaii, on December 7, 2026. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will be preceded by the Annual December 7th Commemoration at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial at 7:50 a.m. which as you know, is the 85th Anniversary of that "day that will live in infamy."

This Disinterment Ceremony will commence DPAA's U.S.S. *Arizona* Project whose singular purpose is to identify the Sailors and Marines who made the supreme sacrifice on December 7, 1941, and have been buried as Unknowns for eight and a half decades. The ceremony also marks the achievement of OP85's own groundbreaking project to find and obtain DNA samples from families whose loved ones were lost on board U.S.S. *Arizona*. The fact that it is taking place on this 85th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and in the 250th year of the country they defended, is extraordinary.

The DPAA has partnered with the Operation 85 Foundation (OP85), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; and the NMCP to organize and conduct this important event. DPAA will be providing bus transportation from the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel to the Pearl Harbor Commemoration then to the Disinterment Ceremony, which will be followed by transportation to DPAA's forensic laboratory on Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam for a reception and laboratory tour. Return transportation to the Hilton Hawaiian Village will be available at the conclusion of the historic day's events.

To attend the U.S.S. *Arizona* Disinterment Ceremony, you may register online at www.USSArizona.navy/rsvp or by scanning the QR code at the end of this letter. We respectfully ask that you register by November 2, 2026, so we may best prepare for your attendance.

OP85 has arranged a special discounted lodging rate at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel for those who wish to stay there. Please make your reservation by calling 1-808-949-4321 and referencing group code "91G", U.S.S. *Arizona* Operation 85. Reservations may also be made

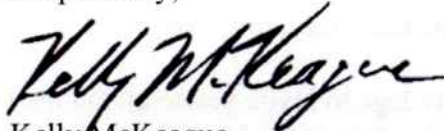
online at www.USSArizona.navy/rsvp or by scanning the same QR code. The deadline to receive the special room rate is October 20, 2026.

If you are unable to attend, the U.S.S. *Arizona* Disinterment Ceremony will be available for live viewing online at <http://www.dpaa.mil> by scrolling down the homepage and selecting the "Live Streams" video frame. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. Hawaii Standard Time and will be archived for future viewing.

If you have any questions, please contact DPAA or OP85 for assistance. The respective points of contact are Mrs. Megan Fedorczyk at megan.h.fedorczyk.civ@mail.mil or (571) 882-0987; and Mr. Kevin Kline at rsvp@op85.org or (703) 829-0720.

We hope you will be able to join us for these meaningful events as we pay tribute to the dutiful service, ultimate sacrifice, and noble legacy of the U.S.S. *Arizona* Sailors and Marines, and more importantly, your loved ones.

Respectfully,


Kelly McKeague
Director



QR CODE to RSVP for U.S.S. *Arizona* Ceremony and Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel Reservations
December 7, 2026