

FFWPU USA: 82 Years Later - Remembering the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor

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Photo courtesy of AP

This December 7 - known as National Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance - marks the 82nd anniversary since the deadly attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. We remember and honor the thousands of lives lost, all who were injured, and the many families and loved ones affected by this tragic event.

On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy launched a surprise military attack against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, precipitating the entry of the U.S. into World War II. The Japanese sank or damaged all eight U.S. battleships, three cruisers, and three destroyers. Some 188 U.S. aircraft were destroyed, 2,403 Americans were killed, and 1,178 others were wounded. The following day, on December 8, the United States declared war on Japan. In a speech, then President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed Dec. 7, 1941 as "a date which will live in infamy."

During the war, True Father was enrolled in Waseda Koutou Kougakko, a technical engineering school affiliated with Waseda University in Japan, while active in the Korean student underground independence movement. True Father later began his public ministry with the defeat of Japan and independence of Korea in 1945. To date, the Unification movement's international Marriage Blessing has brought peace and reconciliation among millions of couples from diverse backgrounds worldwide, including many Japanese-American and Japanese-Korean unions,

You can learn more about the Pearl Harbor attack and read President Roosevelt's full "Day of Infamy" speech [here](#).

FDR's Infamy Speech

President Franklin Roosevelt, December 8, 1941.

Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives:

Yesterday, December 7th, 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.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. And while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday, the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night, the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

And this morning, the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.

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.

I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger.

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

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire.

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