NEWS RELEASE

Pearl Harbor survivor’s ashes interred at USS Arizona Memorial

5/26/2017

On the morning of December 7, 1941, 20-year-old Navy deck crewman Raymond Haerry had taken fellow sailors from the USS Arizona to shore at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. After he returned, he was eating breakfast when the Japanese attacked.

As Raymond would retell it, he could see enemy planes strafing the deck as he made it to his battle station on the anti-aircraft gun battery. Within minutes, the largest of the bombs rocked the USS Arizona. The explosion blew him o the ship and into the water, but he survived. He made his way to nearby Ford Island, where he found a machine gun and began firing at planes until the attack subsided. The attack on Pearl Harbor launched America’s entry into World War II and forever changed the course of modern history.

Raymond would go on to serve on other ships during WWII and the Korean War and then teach at the o cer candidate school in Newport, Rhode Island, until he retired from the Navy in 1964. He died September 27, 2016, in West Warwick, Rhode Island, at the age of 94.

In April, American Airlines assisted Raymond’s family in bringing his remains back to the USS Arizona. As bagpipes played, they left Newark Liberty International Airport with Port Authority and TSA honor guards. When they arrived at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, a Navy color guard and chaplain welcomed them as an Air Force trumpeter played taps. And then it was on to Honolulu, Hawaii.

Of the 1,512 sailors and Marines

assigned to the USS Arizona, 1,177 died in the attack.

Fulfilling his wish to return to the shipmates who lost their lives in the attack, Raymond's granddaughter, Jessica Marino, handed over his ashes to be interred into the submerged ship at Pearl Harbor, an honor accorded to members of the ship's final crew. The entire trip was filmed for a documentary — "Journey Home to the USS Arizona" narrated by Matthew Broderick — that the World War II Foundation is producing. American is proud to be a sponsor of the film, which premieres Dec. 3, 2017, on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor and will air on an estimated 120 PBS stations around the country.

Of the 1,512 sailors and Marines assigned to the USS Arizona, 1,177 died in the attack. With Raymond's passing, there are only five surviving crewmembers who were on the ship that day.

It was an honor for the American Airlines team to assist in bringing Mr. Raymond Haerry to Pearl Harbor to join his fellow shipmates in a hallowed memorial to the great sacrifices that he and his fellow service members made for a grateful nation.

Photos courtesy of World War II Foundation