

PACIFIC WAR MEMORIAL COMMISSION

1949-1981

The Pacific War Memorial Commission (PWMC) was established by the 1949 Legislature (Act 288, S.L., approved May 17, 1949) to “create and maintain a living war memorial commemorating the sacrifices of our heroic dead of World War II...” The PWMC superseded its predecessor, the Pacific Memorial Foundation (chartered November 1946 and made official through J.R. 24, S.L. 1949) as the sole agency of the Territory authorized to study and make recommendations as to war memorials. Through Act 288, the governor was authorized to appoint a seven member commission, with one appointed as chairman, each with four-year terms. This commission could

“accept lands or other property or assets transferred to it by the Territory or any county for the accomplishing of its objectives, to adopt a seal; to adopt rules and regulations...to promote and to secure the cooperation of the national agencies known as the American Battle Monuments Commission...”

The legislature in that year also requested the American Battle Monuments Commission to erect a war memorial in Honolulu (J.R. 29, S.L. 1949), and in 1951 they repeated their request adding a sense of urgency with the phrase "at its earliest convenience to erect...an appropriate war memorial..." (S. Con. Res. No. 39, S. Journal p. 445-446).

In 1951 (J.R. 37, S.L. 1951), Act 288 was amended to provide for voluntary financing to “solicit gifts and contributions and to publicize the purposes for which gifts and contributions are being solicited...and to accept all gifts and contributions from governmental agencies and private persons...”

The structure of the commission remained stable until Act 122 in 1969 turned over the administrative functions of the agency to the Department of Defense and finally in 1981 (H.B. 721, Act 135), the PWMC was terminated with its duties transferred to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Although founded in 1949, the actual work of the PWMC did not begin until the governor appointed the seven commissioners around June 1950. The first commissioners were: H. Tucker Gratz (Chairman), Frank E. Midkiff CV-Chairman), Harry G. Albright (Secretary), Mrs. Walter F. Dillingham, Brig. Gen. F.W. Makinney, George T. Miki and D.E. Styne.

The Commission records include minutes, correspondence, newsletters, news clip-pings, etc., detailing the work of the agency. The majority of the records that survived are from the later 1950's to mid-1960's and of these the majority deal with the Arizona Memorial Monument (from its inception, through fund raising and building to its dedication). During its tenure, the Commission accomplished a number of tasks, the major ones being: working with the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to have a war memorial erected at Punchbowl Cemetery (Puowaina) -dedicated in 1966; organizing the building of the Arizona Memorial at Pearl

Harbor-completed in 1962; and encouraging the building of the Arizona Memorial Visitor Center and Museum.

A detailed listing of their records follows.

- Box 1 Minutes. 1-3/4 in. (incomplete, includes some agendas)
1947 (Pacific Memorial Foundation).
1950-Jan. 1964, 1966-1968, 1971, 1973-1974 (sporadic from 1966-1974)
- Background/History. 1/2 in. (includes correspondence, reports, policy statements)
n.d., 1950-1957, 1966.
- Hawaii Government. 1-1/2 in.
Departments. 1951, 1961.
Governor. 1951-1961. (correspondence, reports, proclamations)
Legislature. 1951-1963. (correspondence & reports to)
Legislature. Bills & Resolutions.
- Box 2 Reorganization. 1954.
Budget. 1950-1955, 1958-1963.
- U.S. Government. 1/2 in.
Burns, Delegate John A. 1956-1959.
Congress & Executive. 1952-1962.
Treasury. 1953. (Tax rulings)
- Commission. 3-1/2 in.
Correspondence. Misc. n.d., 1951-1963, 1980. (includes 2 letters from Admiral Nimitz, 30 Jan. 1953 & 11 July 1961).
Correspondence. Ryan Legacy. 1962.
Fund Raising. K.O. Baker. 1953-1954.
Executive Secretary. 1952-1963.
Organizational Chart.
Personnel/Office. 1950-1959.
Honorary Members. 1953-1960.
Honorary Members (Governors. 1950-1958. (alphabetical by State).
Brochures/forms/certificates. (samples)
- Newsletters. 1/2 in.
1956, 1958-1964. (sparse for 1956, 1963-1964)
Vol. 1, Nos. 1-3 (printed newsletters)
- Projects. 21-1/2 in.
Auditorium. 1951-1956.
Boulevard (Pacific Memorial Highway). 1952-1969.
Disabled American Veterans Memorial at Keehi Lagoon. 1960, 1962.
Puowaina (Punchbowl Cemetery, "Garden of the Missing" monument).

Box 2

Projects (continued)

Correspondence. 1954-1964. (many letters to & from the American Battle Monument Commission-agency responsible for erection of monument)

Carillons (Arthur Godfrey broadcast)

Legislative Resolutions.

Territorial Monument. 1952, 1956, 1959, 1966.

U.S.S. Arizona Memorial

Amvets. Correspondence. 1952-1962.

Dedication of Carillons. 1960.

Box 3

Appropriations

Hawaii. Correspondence. 1959-1961.

U.S. Correspondence. 1960-1961.

U.S. Documents. 1961-1962.

U.S. Congressmen's Letters. 1961. (in support of appropriation bill)

U.S. Senator's Letters. 1961. (in support of appropriation bill)

U.S. Washington Trip. 1961 (J.J. Custer's trip in July)

U.S. Governor's Conference. 1961.

U.S. Governor's Conference. (sample letters & packets sent to press)

Bishop Trust.

Correspondence. 1957-1963.

Statements. 1958-1963.

Casualty List.

Box 4

Construction.

Financial. 1959-1962.

Specifications.

Stained Glass (1963) and Temporary Shelter (1968-1969)

Dedication. Memorial (1960-1962) and Visitor Center (1980)

Design.

1957-1964. (includes correspondence re: dedicatory plaque & display case)

1966-1967. (dedication & appreciation plaques as well as information on cleaning plaques)

Legislative. U.S. Congress Bills & Resolutions. 1957-1961.

Military. 1955-1963.

Miscellaneous. 1956-1963.

Navy Club USA. 1951-1961.

Organizations. 1958-1961. (includes Tuttle fundraising campaign)

Policy Statement.

COM 30
Pacific War Memorial Commission

Box 4 Ship's Bell. 1957, 1964-1966.
Survivors & Casualties. 1957-1960. (includes letters from survivors and families of casualties)
Tourism Report. 1959.
Fund Raising.
Correspondence. General. 1950-1961.
Brady, Darrel.
Correspondence. 1958-1961. (includes agreements)
Reports. 1958-1959.
Roark, James
USS Arizona memorial Foundation Correspondence, 1957-1962.
(includes Fleet Reserve Association correspondence)

Box 5 Holst & Male. 1957-1960. (advertising agency)
"This is Your Life." 1958-1961. (Ralph Edwards – TV show)
Chaplin, George
Correspondence. 1960-1962. (letters responding to nation-wide editorial appeal for money appearing Dec. 1961)

Projects

U.S. Arizona Memorial
Fundraising.
Presley, Elvis – Show.
Correspondence. 1960-1962, 1977.
Special Projects. Correspondence. 1956-1962.
Contribution Letters. n.d., 1958-1963.
Correspondence. 1963-1981. (includes information on the Arizona Museum Complex and programs/invitations)
Voice from the Arizona. 1968-1971.
Fleet Reserve Association. Correspondence. 1974-1975, 1977. (includes fundraising for Museum & Shoreside facilities)
Pearl Harbor Memorial Museum. (W. Sessler). 1973. (some clippings from 1974)
Preservation. Wall Shrine USS Arizona. 1967-1969, 1975.
Neighbor Island War Memorials. 1958-1965.
U.H. War Memorials. 1954-1963.
USS Utah. 1962-1963, 1971-1972.

Box 6 Newspaper Clippings. 1-1/2 in.
1950-1981. (majority for Punchbowl (Puowaina) Monument and USS Arizona Memorial & Museum)

Box 6 (continued)

Resolution of American Veterans of World War II and Korea relating to statehood for
Alaska and Hawaii August 30, 1959

Audio tape of May 30, 1962 dedication of USS Arizona Memorial Ceremony (5" reel)

Photograph Album - AMVETE Memorial Carillon of the Pacific Dedication of USS
Arizona 1960

For additional records see also: Governor's files
Stainback, Long, King, Quinn (Under PWMC)
Burns (under Defense Dept.)

For photos see: Government Agencies – PWMC
Memorials – USS Arizona – construction
USS Arizona Memorial & Visitor Center

Box 7 Photographs re: USS Arizona Memorial (unprocessed) [drop-front]

Also, PWMC scrapbooks, plaque mold of USS Arizona Memorial, plans (unprocessed)