



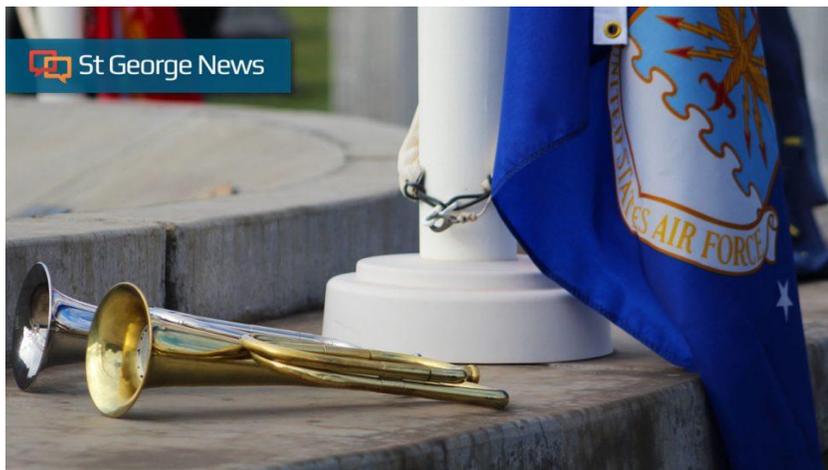
# POST 90 GAZETTE

Edited by Amy Ostler

## SPECIAL EDITION

Veterans, others commemorate anniversary of Pearl Harbor, which gave rise to the 'Greatest Generation'

Written by Andrew Pinckney December 7, 2018



### WREATHS — across — AMERICA

Wreaths Across America  
December 15, 2018

**Tonaquint Cemetery** - 8<sup>th</sup> annual event  
1777 S Dixie Drive  
Ceremony starts promptly at 10 AM

**St. George Cemetery** - 1<sup>st</sup> annual event  
650 E. Tabernacle  
Parade procession from Tonaquint cemetery - starting at approximately 11 AM

**Shivwits Cemetery** - 6<sup>th</sup> annual event  
Private Ceremony to start at 1 PM

**ST. GEORGE** — It was a chilly morning Friday but dozens of hearts were filled with warmth and honor at the annual ceremony commemorating the attack on Pearl Harbor 77 years ago and many said it was the largest turnout in years.

See story and full photos at:

<https://www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2018/12/07/ajp-veterans-others-commemorate-anniversary-of-pearl-harbor-which-gave-rise-to-the-greatest-generation/#.XA1XfXRKiM8>





Dozens of veterans and members of the community gather at Tonaquint Cemetery to commemorate the day Pearl Harbor was attacked, St. George, Utah, Dec 7, 2018 | Photo by Andrew Pinckney, St. George News

At precisely 10:48 a.m. the exact moment planes from the Empire of Japan attacked the U.S. naval fleet at 7:48 local time in Hawaii, a large crowd gathered at Tonaquint Cemetery to honor veterans and the brave souls who lost their lives that fateful day on Dec. 7, 1941. It was a turning point in the history of our nation that President Franklin D. Roosevelt characterized as “a date which will live in infamy.”

This year’s ceremony was a silent commemoration and was especially poignant following the loss of John Endicott, Southern Utah’s last known survivor of the attack who died in March.

Veterans from around Washington County surrounded the flagpoles at the Veterans Memorial as honored guests from each branch of service joined for a wreath presentation.

Flanked by American flags presented by the Patriot Guard riders, the community prepared for a prayer, a moment of silence and raising the flags.

For American Legion bugler Ed Jones, it’s something important for him to do every year.

Jones first joined the Legion in 1974, but left the organization for many years until returning four years ago after moving to the area. One day he told his wife he was going to rejoin and play bugle again and has enjoyed every moment since, averaging around 130 events a year.



“Somebody’s going to do it for me someday so I might as well do it for somebody else,” Jones said.

He played “To the colors” as the flags were raised and “Taps” as the American flag was lowered to half-staff.

“It’s an honor to do it,” he said.

In a press release before the event, Marti Bigbie, commander of the American Legion Lester Keate Post 90, who has presided over the ceremony for the past

three years said it is imperative for Americans to remember the events of that day and how the American response to the attack changed the course of world history.

It was a sentiment echoed by Bill Fortune, public relations officer for Utah Dixie Detachment 1270 Marine Corps League who was just three months old at the time of the attack.

Fortune told St. George News he has been lucky enough to have served with a few of the survivors from Pearl Harbor throughout his years of service with the Marines and said it was a great honor to meet them.

Fortune's family has a tradition serving in the military dating back almost 200 years and now he has a granddaughter that joined the Marines and will begin serving at Parris Island in 2019. Beaming with pride, he said it is important to keep the younger generations informed and educated about events like this because it is part of all our heritage.

### They didn't know they were the greatest generation until they stepped up

"This was the beginning of the great generation. This is where they started," Fortune said. "They didn't know they were the greatest generation until they stepped up."

Those who survived were not merely veterans of battle; but were survivors who foreshadowed the grit and character that embodied U.S. service members of the greatest generation. Service and sacrifice were demonstrated over the next 44 months of war as the fate of the free world hung in the balance.

Bravery was in abundance the morning of Dec. 7, 1944: 15 Medals of Honor were later awarded, as were 51 Navy Crosses and 53 Silver Star medals. Americans managed to destroy 29 enemy aircraft, damaged 29 others and sank or beached five mini-sub's that day.

Though only lasting a few minutes, the ceremony capped by the reverence of rifle fire was like a reunion of old friends that gave many the welcome opportunity to the shake the hands people they consider cherished heroes and thank them for their service.

"We're not heroes, but we rub shoulders with them." Fortune said.

"The incredible resilience and valor for those who fought at Pearl Harbor is a legacy that benefited not just the Veterans Service Organizations, but the entire free world," Bigbie said.

## Pearl Harbor Commemorate Tonaquint Cemetery December 7, 2018 10:48 AM

Pearl Harbor Wreath placed by:

Seated to sides of the Pearl Harbor Monument

**Marines** William Head - Vietnam  
**Army** Ridge Bemis - WWII  
**Navy** Robert Thurman - WWII  
**Air Force** Don Parker - Gulf War

**Paul Anderson - Army**  
**WWII**  
**Russ Robertson - Army**  
**WWII**  
**Kenneth Peck - Army**  
**Vietnam**

**Robert Stevens - Navy**  
**WWII**  
**Tom O'Brien - Army**  
**Ranger Korea**  
**Ron Lewis - Navy Vietnam**

## Flag Team Members

Commander Pat Listi - Viet Nam Marines  
Stephen Hanry - USMC Chaplain  
Jerry Harris - Vietnam, Purple Heart  
Mack Sutton - Vietnam, Purple Heart  
Jo An Rofulowitz  
Billion Johnson - USMC Sniper  
Tom Covu - Coast Guard  
Henry Franz - Merchant Marines  
Vietnam, Purple Heart

## Ritual Team Members

Commander Foster Johnson - Army Korea  
Davin Gaines - Army Desert Storm, Vietnam  
Bodie Bodenhamer - USMC Vietnam  
Ed Jones - Army Vietnam  
Donal Raymond - Army Vietnam  
Ron Krucke - Navy Korea  
John Love - Navy Vietnam  
Don Oburn - Army Korea  
Ron Smith - Air Force Korea  
Calvin Jensen - Army Vietnam  
Jim Flohr - Air Force Vietnam  
Terry Dunne - Army Vietnam  
James G Webb - Navy Vietnam  
CJ Iacona - Navy Vietnam  
Harvey Hefley - Navy Korea, Vietnam  
Marti Bigbie - Air Force Vietnam

## Patriotic Riders

Corine Wyman  
Shawn Jones  
Jennifer Field  
Vernon Denoran  
Dan Kelly  
Johnny Rauzi  
Boris Derugan  
John Kerry  
Ron  
Ken Sabo  
Linda High-Spivey  
Kent Hardmar

## Guests

Ed Baca  
David Cordero  
Jimmy Hughes  
Michelle Randall

## I AM A VETERAN

By Andrea Christensen Brett

You may not know me the first time we meet  
I'm just another you see on the street  
But I am the reason you walk and breathe free  
I am the reason for your Liberty

### I AM A VETERAN

I work in the local factory all day  
I own the restaurant just down the way  
I sell you insurance, I start your IV  
I've got the best looking grandkids you ever see

I'm your grocer, your banker  
Your child's schoolteacher  
I'm your plumber, your barber  
Your family's preacher  
But there's part of me you don't know very well  
Just listen a moment, I've a story to tell

### I AM A VETERAN

I joined the service while still in my teens  
I traded my prom dress for camouflage greens  
I'm the first in my family to do something like this  
I followed my father, like he followed his

Defying my fears and hiding my doubt  
I married my sweetheart before I shipped out  
I missed Christmas, then Easter  
The birth of my Son  
But I knew I was doing what had to be done

I served on the battlefield, I served on the base  
I bound up the wounded  
And begged for God's grace  
I gave orders to fire, I followed commands  
I marched into conflict in far distant lands

In the jungle, the desert, on mountains and shores  
In bunkers, in tents, on dank earthen floors  
While I fought on the ground, in the air, on the sea  
My family and friends were home praying for me

For the land of the free and home of the brave  
I faced my demons in foxholes and caves  
Then one dreaded day, without drummer or fife  
I lost an arm, my buddy lost his life

I came home and moved on  
But forever was changed  
The perils of war in my memory remained  
I don't really say much, I don't feel I can  
But I left home a child and came home a man

There are thousands like me  
Thousands more who are gone  
But their legacy lives as time marches on  
White crosses in rows  
And names carved in queue  
Remind us of what these brave souls had to do

I'm part of a fellowship, a strong mighty band  
Of each man and each woman  
Who has served this great land  
And when Old Glory waves  
I stand proud, I stand tall  
I helped keep her flying over you, over all  
**I AM A VETERAN**