

50<sup>th</sup> YEAR  
COMMEMORATION  
*of the*  
ENDING OF WWII  
*on*  
ATTU ISLAND, ALASKA

U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
United States  
Coast Guard



Commanding Officer  
USCG LORAN Station  
Attu, AK

P.O. Box 190090  
Kodiak, AK 99619-0090  
Phone: (907) 392-3315

STATION ROSTER OF THOSE PRESENT FOR THE 50TH YEAR COMMEMORATION  
OF THE ENDING OF WWII IN THE ALEUTAIN ISLANDS  
AND MEMORIALS TO THE WAR ON ATTU

CWO4 ERNIE B. EBERWEIN  
ETC GARY C. WHITLEY  
MKC RAYMOND M. CARLYLE  
HS1 KEVIN R. AINSWORTH  
EM1 LAWRENCE R. JOBE  
MK1 DONALD L. COLEMAN  
SS1 WARREN O. BURDEN  
DC1 JOHN T. KIMPSTON  
ET2 ARTURO GARZA  
SK3 JAMES T. KEPHART  
ET3 RICKY E. BROWN  
ET3 JEFFERY, R. MARTIN  
SN JAMES R. COOMBS  
SA TODD R. MORTIMER  
SA SHAWN C. MCMILLAN  
FA JESSIE M. AHL

**50TH ANNIVERSARY  
COMMEMORATION  
OF THE  
BATTLE OF ATTU**



**16 JUNE 1993**



STATE OF ALASKA



*Executive Proclamation*  
*by*  
*Walter J. Hickel, Governor*

One of the tragic events of World War II was the invasion of American soil. Forty three Aleut occupants of Attu were taken prisoner and relocated to Japan. Subsequently, thousands of American soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen risked and lost their lives to reoccupy Attu in their efforts to fight off the invasion and protect American soil.

The perseverance and bravery of the American service men and women, along with our Canadian allies, resulted in an allied victory in the Aleutians. The successful Aleutians Campaign was the beginning of other allied victories in the Pacific.

On this day, we pause to honor and thank those Aleuts, and military men and women, who sacrificed so much, some ultimately, for freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Walter J. Hickel, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, June 16, 1993, as:

***ATTU COMMEMORATION DAY***

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to pay tribute to the Aleuts and the veterans of the Aleutians Campaign.

DATED: June 8, 1993

Done by —



*Walter J. Hickel*

*Walter J. Hickel, Governor*

*who has also authorized the seal  
of the State of Alaska*

*to be affixed to this proclamation.*



WWII VETERANS (L-R) VINCE HEMRICH, HARRY BAKER, GEORGE ROBBINS (FRONT) WITH KLAR, ERIN, AND TEMPE (ROBINSON) WENNERHOLM AND TED AND ELEANOR BOUCHETTE IN THE BACKGROUND.



WWII VETERANS STEVE GONZOL (FRONT) AND MIKE PIECYK (REAR) ENROUTE TO ATTU.

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**50TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF  
THE BATTLE OF ATTU  
COMMEMORATION CEREMONY  
JUNE 16, 1993**

Master of Ceremonies

Presentation of Colors

Invocation

Remarks COL John Pierce (USA)

Wreath and Plaque Dedications

U.S. Air Force	Col Floyd Gori (USAF Ret)
U.S. Navy	CDR Willie Alexander (USN)
U.S. Coast Guard	CWO4 Ernie Eberwein (USCG)
U.S. Marines	CAPT Mike Chavez (USMC)
U.S. Army	BG Kenneth Simpson (USA)
Aleut	Ms Alice Petrivelli
Japanese	Mr Yasuyuki Yamazaki

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Wreath and Plaque Dedications

Fleet Reserve Association	CPO Kevin Baker
11th Air Force Association/ Air Force Association	Mr John Cloe
Veterans and Survivors	Ms Laura Tatsuguchi-Davis
Navy League	Col Floyd Gori
Attu Commemoration Plaque	Mr Gary Hoff

Messages

Alaskan Command	Mr Gary Hoff
Pacific Command	COL John Pierce
Alaska Governor	Mr Bob Baratko
Japanese Government	Mr Yukio Tanabe
Presidential	BCG Kenneth Simpson

Moment of Silence

Benediction

Conclusion of Ceremony

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WWII VETERANS DICK PETERSON AND LOUIS KRAEMER  
ENROUTE TO ATTU.



ADAK P-3 AND CHARTER AT ATTU.



ADAK MARINE COLOR GUARD AT ATTU CEREMONIES.



50TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY.



U.S. COAST GUARD MEN THAT LAID WREATHS FOR  
THE SPEAKERS.



JOHN CLOE DEDICATING A WREATH ON BEHALF OF THE  
AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION.

(LEFT) COLONEL (RETIRED)  
FLOYD GORI DEDICATING  
USAF WREATH.



(BELOW) ALICE PETRIVELLI,  
PRESIDENT, ALEUT CORP-  
ORATION, DEDICATING A  
PLAQUE HONORING THE  
ALEUTS RELOCATED FROM  
ATTU.





(LEFT) COMMANDER WILLIE  
ALEXANDER DEDICATING A  
WREATH ON BEHALF OF THE  
U.S. NAVY

(BELOW) ATTU CEREMONY.





CWO4 ERINE EBERWEIN REPRESENTING THE U.S. COAST  
GUARD, DEDICATING A WREATH.



CHIEF KEVIN BAKER REPRESENTING THE FLEET  
RESERVE ASSOCIATION.



MR YASUYUKI YAMAZAKI, SON OF THE JAPANESE  
COMMANDER ON ATTU, DEDICATING A WREATH HONORING  
JAPANESE VETERANS AND SURVIVORS.



VETERAN GEORGE VON PARIS.



VETERANS BILL ORTH AND ED DICKINSON AT  
ATTU CEREMONY.



50TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY.





TAPS BY THE ADAK MARINE BUGLER ENDING THE  
ATTU CEREMONY.



WREATHS AND PLAQUES DEDICATED AT ATTU.



ALEUT PLAQUE DEDICATED AT ATTU. PLAQUE WILL BE PLACED AT THE ALEUT VILLAGE SITE.



PLAQUE DEDICATED BY THE ATTU COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE. FUNDED THROUGH A COMBINATION OF DOD COMMEMORATIVE FUNDS AND PRIVATE FUNDS.



PASSENGERS AT ATTU.



WWII VETERANS MORT SOLOT AND JOE UNDERWOOD



LORAN STATION ATTU HEADQUARTERS.



LOADING THE TRUCK FOR THE RIDE TO ENGINEER HILL.



MASSACRE BAY



MASSACRE VALLEY



MASSACRE VALLEY



MASSACRE BAY



MASSACRE VALLEY



MASSACRE VALLEY WITH JARMIN PASS IN DISTANCE



ENGINEER RIDGE



HENDERSON BRIDGE





VETERAN GEORGE ROBBINS.

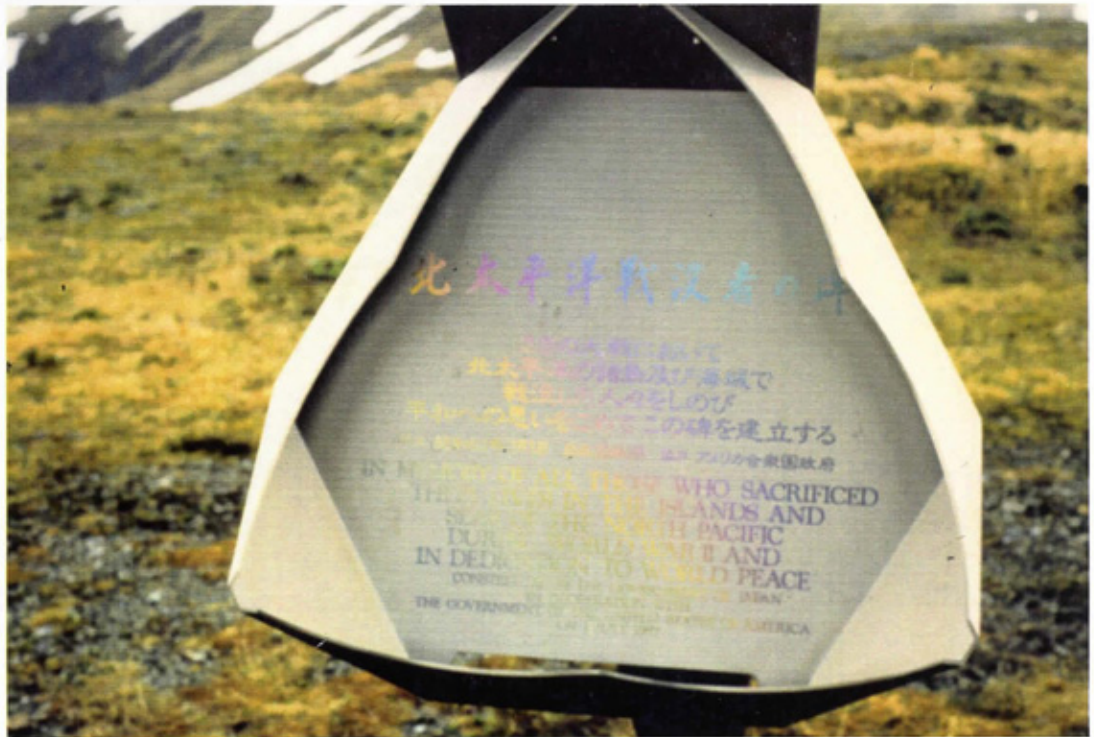


ATTU VISITORS PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY.



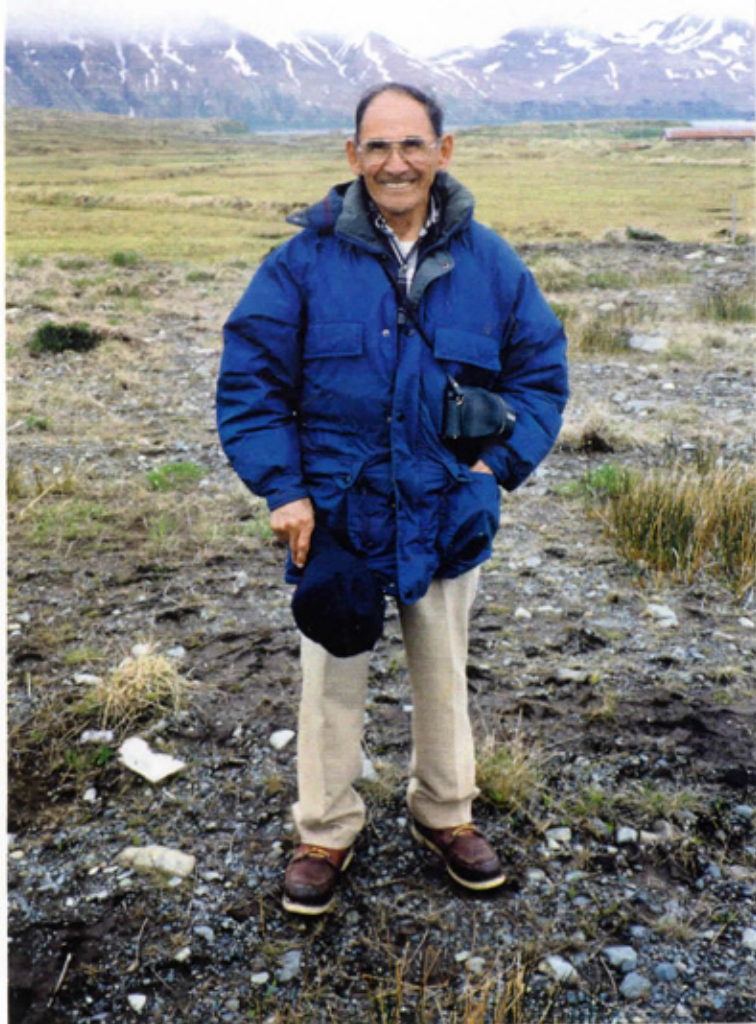
(LEFT) JAPANESE  
MEMORIAL ON ATTU.

(BELOW) JAPANESE  
MEMORIAL.





(ABOVE) ALEUT CONTINGENT:  
(L-R) BARBARA RILEY, HELEN  
FORD, ELIZABETH KUDRIN,  
PAT PETRIVELLI, ALICE  
PETRIVELLI AND LORRETA  
RILEY.



(LEFT) BUCK DELKETTIE,  
WWII VETERAN, ALASKAN  
SCOUT, WAS THE GUEST  
SPEAKER AT THE ADAK  
BANQUET.



UNKER ON ENGINEER RIDGE.



ALEUT CONTINGENT AND SANDI McDANIEL VISITING  
ENGINEER HILL.



ATTU COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE.



JANICE REEVE OGLE, LORETTA RILEY AND  
BARBARA RILEY.



BG KEN SIMPSON, 7TH ID, DELIVERING  
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 20, 1993

I am honored to send greetings to all those gathered to observe the 50th anniversary of the battle for Attu Island.

In June of 1942, Japanese forces seized the Aleutian islands of Kiska and Attu. Less than a year later, U.S. forces recaptured Attu after a difficult three-week campaign against entrenched Japanese troops. Three months later, Kiska was re-taken. These were the only battles fought on North American soil during World War II.

Americans are proud to honor the nearly 550 U.S. service members who died and the more than 1,100 who were wounded in battle. We also honor the native Aleuts who were forced by the war to leave their sacred homeland. The memorial you dedicate today will stand forever in solemn tribute to the sacrifice, courage, and devotion of all those who fought and suffered on Attu.

Best wishes for a successful and memorable commemoration.

Bill Clinton



MR YUKIO TANABE, DELIVERING A MESSAGE FROM  
THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.



MRS GUIDO, FROM ADAK, INTERPRETER FOR MR TANABE.



## A Message for the Memorial Ceremony for Those Who Died in the Battle on Attu Island

I hereby solemnly offer these words for the memorial ceremony for those who died in the battle on Attu Island.

More than 3,000 precious American and Japanese lives were lost in the fighting on this island during World War II. I pray from the bottom of my heart that these people may rest in peace.

Today, nearly a half century since the war has ended, when I think about the people who died in that hard battle for the sake of their country, and while worrying about the future of their families, my heart becomes filled with intense grief.

Although the United States and Japan have developed friendly relations, having reached this stage I cannot forget about the noble victims who were wounded and lost their lives in World War II. In order to create a peaceful society of plenty, we must keep in our deepest hearts the valuable lesson learned from the sad experience of the past, and tell the next generation of the horrors of war and the preciousness of peace. I sincerely pray that this ceremony will be an opportunity to do this.

In conclusion to these words of memorial, in addition to again mourning from the bottom of my heart the people

who died in the war, I sincerely pray for the future peace  
of all of the bereaved.

June 16, 1993

Yuya Niwa  
Minister of Health and Welfare



ATTU VIEW ON THE RUNWAY ON A TYPICAL DAY.



LAURA TATSUGUCHI-DAVIS DELIVERING A MESSAGE  
HONORING AMERICAN AND JAPANESE VETERANS  
AND SURVIVORS. DR STEVE KOHN IS LAYING THE WREATH.

Beginning May 11, 1943, a terrible & agonizing battle raged for 18 days where we now stand. The formidable foes were the American & Japanese armies. By the time the battle ended, 2,600 men had been killed or wounded.

My father, a physician, died here at Attu on May 29th, the last day of the battle. I was only three months old & we had never had a chance to meet, which grieved me throughout my childhood & even as an adult, and then, through the process of reading his diary which survived the war, from researching his family history, I began to find the missing pieces of life's puzzle.

My father's father grew up in Hiroshima & traveled to America at the age of 16 to study dentistry. He returned to Japan & married my grandmother, a college teaching assistant who could speak & write English as fluently as my grandfather did! When their 6 children were older, they sent all 3 sons to American universities.

My father attended college & medical school in California. His specialty was tuberculosis, at that time an often fatal disease. He met & married my mother, a Japanese student studying in California & together they traveled all over the United States on their honeymoon.

They returned to Japan in 1939, he to begin his medical practice as his father had done before him. The battle he hoped to fight was against illness & disease. Instead, he was drafted into the Army where his "battlefront" became makeshift surgeries carried out in

dim caves without electricity or food, on an isolated and windswept island. His patients were gravely wounded soldiers for whom there was little he could do.

How ironic that my father was killed in combat against his beloved America while in loyal service to his Japanese homeland. His bunk-mate recalled how my father would tell wonderful tales about California ice cream & New York skyscrapers.

My mother, an older sister, & I moved many times after the war. Like so many other children, we were without a father, yet our mother put great importance on education & careers in the medical profession.

Like my father, I too have a great love for America & Japan. Today, I place this wreath in honor of all the American & Japanese fathers, sons, husbands, & friends who died & were buried in this soil. On behalf of all their loved ones who were left behind, but have never forgotten, and finally, in memory of my father, Dr. Paul Nobuo Tatsuguchi, who died, as he lived, in the act of healing.

The battle to regain Attu Island was a great American World War II victory. In 1942 and 1943, while much of America focused on the war in the South Pacific, the only battles on North American soil were fought in the Aleutians. More than 15,000 United States troops bravely battled, in bad weather and treacherous terrain, to remove the Japanese invaders from American territory.

The Alaskan campaign was not "The Forgotten War," and we will never forget those who fought, especially those 549 US service members who gave their lives and the 1,148 who were wounded. Nor will we forget those native Aleuts who were forced to leave their sacred soil, many of whom never returned.

On behalf of the men and women of the United States Pacific Command, I salute and thank the veterans who sacrificed so much so that others may be free.

Sincerely,

Admiral C. R. Larson, US Navy  
Commander-in-Chief  
US Pacific Command

Today, we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle for Attu and remember the thousands of Americans who sacrificed to regain our precious freedom. The victory at Attu marked the first retaking of American soil. Although often termed the "Forgotten War", the battle of Attu, in terms of numbers engaged, ranked as one of the most costly assaults in the Pacific, second only to Iwo Jima. For every 100 of the enemy on the island, 71 Americans were killed or wounded. Attu was the third amphibious operation of the war, and the first assault by the Army against an island. Lessons learned from the Battle for Attu were used to secure victory in future battles in the Pacific as well as Europe. The men and women of the Alaskan Command salute the Attu Veterans and their families.

We also remember the Aleuts, Alaskan native citizens who suffered the effects of war, lost their homes, and were held captive in a foreign land. Indeed, we have not forgotten the many who died while confined.

Best wishes for a successful and memorable commemoration of the Battle for Attu.

Signed: Joseph W. Ralston, Lieutenant General, USAF,  
Commander, Alaskan Command

ROBERT C BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA, CHAIRMAN

DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII  
ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA  
J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, LOUISIANA  
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT  
JIM SASSER, TENNESSEE  
DENNIS DECONCINI, ARIZONA  
DALE BUMPERS, ARKANSAS  
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG, NEW JERSEY  
TOM HARKIN, IOWA  
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND  
HARRY REID, NEVADA  
J. ROBERT KERREY, NEBRASKA  
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CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA

JAMES H. ENGLISH, STAFF DIRECTOR  
J. KEITH KENNEDY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025

June 16, 1993

ATTU Commemoration Committee  
5800 G Street, Suite 301  
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-2170

To Whom It May Concern:

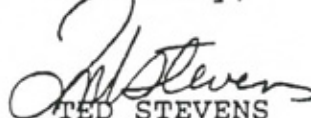
I want to extend my best wishes to you and everyone who has gathered today to commemorate the events here in Alaska fifty years ago. As a veteran of the war in the Pacific, I share with you a special appreciation of the rigors and sacrifices of those who fought in this campaign.

The integration of the Alaska command, and all military forces in Alaska, with the U.S. Pacific command is a living legacy of the accomplishments of those who fought to regain the only portions of the United States to be occupied by enemy forces during the Second World War. Alaskan forces again serve as the cornerstone of the nation's military posture in the Pacific, and the achievements and valor of those who served in the Aleutian campaign are preserved in these modern units.

I am proud that you have chosen to come to Alaska and to Attu to remember these events, and the "1000 Mile War" fought across this remote chain of islands stands as a singular event in our nation's military history.

With best wishes,

Cordially,

  
TED STEVENS





