



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

**NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY: DECEMBER 7, 2024**

WHEREAS, on the morning of December 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan attacked U.S. naval and air forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, more than 2,400 American lives were lost in the attack that Sunday morning, which led Congress to declare a state of war between the United States and the Japanese Empire and ultimately led to America's full entry into World War II; and

WHEREAS, more than 248,000 Floridians served in uniform during World War II, and thousands of others contributed to the war effort by working on the home front; and

WHEREAS, following the attack, Americans were more united than ever in their unbounding determination to win an absolute victory against the oppressive regimes of the Axis powers; and

WHEREAS, as part of the immediate and unifying response by Americans after the attack, 134,000 Americans enlisted in the military in the 30 days following the events at Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, Floridian and Monticello native Ernest "Boots" Thomas Jr. enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942 following the attack on Pearl Harbor and helped raise the first U.S. flag on Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi on the morning of February 23, 1945; and

WHEREAS, the USS Missouri, which participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa and whose quarterdeck was the site of the surrender of the Empire of Japan, now remains in Pearl Harbor as a part of an everlasting museum and memorial for those lost in the attack on December 7, 1941; and

WHEREAS, commemorating the attack on Pearl Harbor instills a greater understanding and appreciation of the selfless sacrifice of the men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II; and

WHEREAS, December 7, 2024, marks the 83rd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, which affords us an opportunity to honor our state's more than 5,000 living World War II veterans; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, by Public Law 103-308, as amended, has designated December 7 of each year as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby direct the flags of the United States and the State of Florida to be flown at half-staff at all local and state buildings, installations, and grounds throughout the State of Florida on Saturday, December 7, 2024. In addition, I encourage all people of our state to observe National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities to remember and honor those who died in defense of our freedom on December 7, 1941, at Pearl Harbor.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, in the year two thousand twenty-four.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State