

RESOLUTION No. 23-1213-01
A RESOLUTION HONORING PEARL HARBOR DAY
AND REMEMBERING U.S.S. UTAH,
THE FORGOTTEN SHIP of WWII

WHEREAS, on May 29, 1903 the Secretary of the Navy, William H Moody, announced in Salt Lake City that a new battleship would be named after the State of Utah; and

WHEREAS, after WWI, the U.S.S Utah was converted to a target ship and set sail for Hawaii for one last time on September 14, 1941; and

WHEREAS, as the Japanese launched their brutal attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S.S Utah became the first vessel struck at 8:01 A.M. HST by an aerial torpedo that slammed into the port side as the crew raised the flag on the fantail. This attack on Pearl Harbor left 2,403 Americans dead. As legacies of that tragic day, the hulls of two battleships - the U.S.S Arizona and the U.S.S Utah - remain in the waters of Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, as the U.S.S Utah was sinking, Chief Water Tender, Peter Tomich, instead of escaping, headed down to his station where he ordered his crew to get out. Knowing that unless the boilers were secured, they would rupture and explode, he ignored his own evacuation order and moved from valve to valve, setting the gauges and releasing steam to stabilize and secure the boilers, thus preventing the ship from turning into a massive inferno from which no one would escape; and

WHEREAS, a total of 30 officers and 431 men survived the attack, in part because of Peter Tomich's heroic efforts. Yet 58 lost their lives and 54 sailors and a baby named Nancy remain entombed in the U.S.S Utah to this day; and

WHEREAS, The attack that President Roosevelt called, "a day that will live in infamy" did not translate into an infamous legacy for the U.S.S Utah and the 58 lives lost onboard. Rather much the opposite, the U.S.S Utah was dubbed by history "The forgotten Ship" with little recognition from the home front and the Navy, leading to obscurity and stories untold; and

WHEREAS, Now 82 years removed, the time has come to, right the "SHIP", to forgive history and reset the legacy and memory, bringing honor and respect to those that served and died on the U.S.S Utah once and for all, as well as the state for which she was named; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rockville Town Council and Mayor declare an Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day to be held on the 7th day of December each year.

This resolution shall be effective on the date it is adopted.

PASSED AND APPROVED, on this 13th day of 2023.

Town of Rockville

Pam Leach, Mayor

Attest:

Vicki S. Bell
Town Clerk

COUNCIL MEMBERS OF ROCKVILLE TOWN, UTAH:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Michael Evenson | <input type="checkbox"/> Aye | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Dan McGuire | <input type="checkbox"/> Aye | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Megan Honer-Orton | <input type="checkbox"/> Aye | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Jeff Ballard | <input type="checkbox"/> Aye | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Pam Leach | <input type="checkbox"/> Aye | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |