



**Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Freedom Bell Commemoration
Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
Admiral Harry B. Harris Jr.
06 December 2013
As Prepared For Delivery**

Thank you, Jerry, for that introduction, and thank you, Richard Rovsek, for all that you do, and for all that the Spirit of Liberty Foundation does, for our nation and for those serving in our armed forces.

Governor Abercrombie...It's great to see you again. Mayor Caldwell, Medal of Honor Recipient Sergeant Major Kellogg, Pearl Harbor survivors, Mr. Emory and Chief Walling, fellow veterans, ladies and gentlemen.

It's my honor and privilege to be here to speak to you today as we come together to honor our armed forces and those who served, and serve.

Recently I had a chance to read up on this magnificent bell and I learned of its important visit to New York City to commemorate the 12th anniversary of the 9/11 attack. It's hard to imagine that 12 years have passed since we were strategically surprised that day. In the short span of time since then, so much has changed. America was transformed from a nation at peace to a nation at war.

And now the Freedom Bell has traveled the breadth of our nation and across the vast Pacific Ocean to be here, at Pearl Harbor, in time to commemorate the anniversary of another strategic surprise. For it was 72 years ago that the Pacific Fleet was dealt an almost crippling blow, right here in the peaceful waters behind me.

Then, as now, young men and women from across the nation raised their hands to serve in defense of our nation, as our call to arms echoed across America, from the Great Lakes to the Grand Canyon, from the Great Smokies to the majestic Rockies, from the East Coast to the West Coast and beyond, and especially here in Hawaii.

Our nation has always been fortunate to have her brave men and women answer the clarion call to duty: Men like Ray Emory, who was stationed on the light cruiser Honolulu, and Chief Delton Walling, onboard USS Pennsylvania. Both were right here during the Pearl Harbor attack. Men like Sergeant Major Allan Kellogg, who served with the U.S. Marine Corps, and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in Vietnam. Many among us today have served, or are still serving our great nation, and this Freedom Bell honors each of them.

Today, as the United States rebalances to the Indo-Asia-Pacific, the Pacific Fleet strives to maintain freedom for all in the maritime domain. The nations of the world depend on freedom of the seas for the movement of commodities on the oceans, and for the movement of information beneath them. The strength of our Navy, indeed of all of our armed forces, is the surest

guarantee of continued peace and prosperity for our nation and for our allies and partners, especially here in the Pacific.

As the Freedom Bell visits each state in 2014, patriots all across America will have an opportunity to ring it, in tribute to our armed forces past and present.

Thank you.