



*(December 8, 2015)*

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

**Alma L. Lee**  
National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing: A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY**  
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Commemoration of the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor  
December 7, 1941 – December 7, 2015

Few dates stand out in our history more than December 7, 1941. On that fateful Sunday, over 2,400 American Servicemembers and civilians lost their lives, and our air and naval forces in the Pacific suffered a devastating blow, forcing the United States into the bloodiest war the world has ever known.

It was, as President Roosevelt predicted, “a date which will live in infamy,” but it was also the beginning of the end for the evil powers threatening the peace and prosperity of the world. For on that day, this great Nation awoke to the worldwide danger and a new generation of Americans—disciplined by the hardships of the Great Depression and inspired by the heritage of their freedom-loving forbearers—rose up to meet and defeat the enemies of freedom on three continents.

Today the Department of Veterans Affairs honors the Veterans of that great conflict—those who gave their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor, those who fought and survived the attack, and those who rallied to the cause of freedom, took the fight to the enemy, and came back home victorious. They still defend this Nation by the example they set for the Veterans of our current conflicts.

To all of the Veterans of the Second War World, we offer our respect and our gratitude. God blessed us to have you as our forbearers. May God continue to bless you and yours and this great Nation of ours.

Robert A. McDonald