



SOC GRAB BAG

Southern Oregon Chapter ORSSAR

Editor Don Thomas

Volume 2 Issue 5

DECEMBER, 2011

MEETING DECEMBER 8, 2011

Our next monthly meeting will be at Mazatlan Restaurant on December 8th at high noon. That's THURSDAY for this month ONLY. Our speaker can not give her presentation on Wednesday (the 7th) so we moved it to Thursday (the 8th).

Our speaker for this month is Niki Coulter, who is a professor at Rogue Community College--teaches Social Science. She has good knowledge of the American Revolution.

Future Programs:

January 5, 2012 (Wednesday) Rebecca Campbell who teaches History at Crater Lake High School.

FINALLY!!

After trying for 2 ½ years Al Greishaber finally passed the exam at National and is now a duly qualified member of the Southern Oregon Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. I guess it better late than never.

Now we still have four other individuals who have submitted their applications but have not yet passed muster. Hopefully they won't have to wait as long as Al did.

Those who are waiting are Joseph and Jeffrey Smith (brothers) and Charles and Patrick Thomas (father- son relationship).

BRING A GUEST

Everyone is always entitled to bring guest to the luncheon and meeting as well as be able to listen to a guest speaker. Most of you know that our speakers cover a lot of subjects that are interesting and not boring.

The guest does not have to be a candidate for the SAR, but if he is--GOOD. Actually the more people hear about the SAR meetings and speakers, the better it will be for us. Called good PR.

EDITOR'S THOUGHTS

As you know December 7th is the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. I remember that day well as a 10 year old. We were in Cincinnati visiting friends of ours when suddenly the radio announced the bombing of Pearl Harbor. My Dad and Mort (our friend) were incensed by this act. Mort was a 25 year old man at the time, who said that he was going to enlist the next day. He did. At the time he was a postmaster for Cincinnati, and found himself stationed at Camp Pendleton as postmaster. He spent his entire time in the war there.

More recently, my daughter asked me which I thought was worse--Pearl Harbor or 9/11. Well, neither of them were good, to say the least, but I feel that 9/11 was by far more damaging to our country. In 1941 the Japanese attacked primarily military targets, while 9/11 attacked anybody that was in the way, namely our citizens.



PAGE 2

DAY OF INFAMY

Twenty four hours after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, our president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, led our great nation into a war. This war, of course, became known as World War II as by the time it was over in 1945, just about every country on our planet had, in one way or another, been affected. Nothing was left untouched and millions had lost their lives because of it.

The day after the bombing FDR rode in a bulletproof car with three secret agents riding on the running boards on each side of the car. All of them were armed with .38 caliber service revolvers. Four other agents were inside the car with sawed off riot guns. In front of this car was another car dubbed "Big Bertha" because it held a rolling arsenal of fire power. One reporter said "If ever a President rode in a mechanized division it was Roosevelt that day". They were prepared for anything!

Roosevelt delivered his address to the full Congress. After FDR delivered his speech, Congress moved with unprecedented speed to pass the resolution. First the House passed it and then the Senate. VERY shortly the resolution was handed to the president. All this took less than 3 hours.

As FDR began to read his speech, the gallery fell silent. "Yesterday, December 7th. 1941, a date which live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. The United States was at peace with that nation and at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador had given the Secretary of State a message that contained no threat or hint of war of armed attack. The Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expression of hope for continued peace."

Roosevelt short speech rallied the Congress and inspired the nation. Shortly after the final vote, FDR cabled Winston Churchill in London. "Today all of us are in the same boat with you and the people of the Empire, and it is a ship which will not and cannot be sunk."

This article are excerpts taken from an article in the November/December 2011 issue of History Magazine entitled PEARL HARBOR AFTERMATH.