



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Battle of Midway National Memorial

Sand Island

IMMF MEMORIAL (center)

front - Dedicated to the preservation of the memory of Midway where the most decisive naval battle in military history was fought.

(Battle Map)

June 4 1942 The day when the American spirit reached unparalleled heights and in so doing saved democracy for the western world

back - "They had no right to win. Yet they did, and in doing so they changed the course of a war. More than that, they added a new name-Midway - to that small list that inspires men by example, like Marathon, the Armada, the Marne. Even against the greatest odds, there is something in the human spirit-a magic blend of skill, faith and valor- that can lift men from certain defeat to incredible victory."

Walter Lord

IMMF MEMORIAL (left)

front - United States Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas
Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Commander in Chief
Task Force-17 Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher Tactical
Commander of U.S. Task Force
Unit names of Carrier, Cruisers, Destroyers

back - Unit names of 7th Army Air Force, Midway Local
Defenses (USMC), Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron 1,
District Patrol Craft, Codebreakers at Pearl Harbor, Pearl
Harbor Navy Yard

IMMF MEMORIAL (right)

front - Task Force-16 Rear Admiral Raymond A. Spruance
Unit names of Carriers, Cruisers, Destroyers

back - Unit names of Oiler Group, Midway Patrol Group-
Submarines, Yorktown Salvage, Shore-based Aircraft and
Ships, Marine Aircraft Group-22



NAVY MEMORIAL / GOONEY MEMORIAL

BATTLE OF MIDWAY

(behind mural left)

June 4-7, 1942

To Honor those who served on Midway Island during World War II and to those who gave their last full measure in defense of Midway Island, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army Air Force

Nov. 11, 1992 Presented by the Sixth Defense Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps and Defenders of Midway Island

BATTLE OF MIDWAY

(behind mural center)

4-6 June 1942

This plaque is dedicated to the everlasting glory of those who gave their lives for their country in the Battle of Midway. This significant triumph indeed turned the tide toward victory in the Pacific PRNSY

Dedicated 4 June 1962

MIDWAY ISLAND WORLD WAR II DEFENDERS

(behind mural right)

Has been designated a National Historic Landmark

This site possesses national significance in commemorating the history of the United States of America

1987 National Park Service
United States Department of the Interior

IN MEMORIAM

(next to Gooney monument)

Erected and dedicated to the memory of all who have given their lives in the defense of our nation

By Midway Islands Post No 150
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States 1941



JAPANESE MEMORIAL / PEACE MARK

This monument was built in June 1999, as a tribute to aviators and sailors of both countries who lost their lives in the Battle of Midway in 1942.

The purposes...

- For the memories of all our lost soldiers in the Battle of Midway, for the United States and Japan. And for their family members.
- By placing this stone, we convey to our future generations, the fact of this historical event.
- By placing this stone, visitors will be able to pray for the souls of American and Japanese men who fought and died in the region as well as to realize the value of peace and wildlife.
- This stone will be a symbol of peace for mankind and for the nature of our planet.

The stone (30 cm square and 30 cm high, weighs 50kg, made from black granite) was handcrafted and engraved in Japan. The calligraphic inscription is a copy of the work of Mr. Mitsumasa An'no, a well known Japanese watercolor painter. The inscription reads “Umiyo Nemure”, which means “Rest, the Deep Blue”. “Umi” is one word (a noun), consists of two Japanese characters of Kanji. But not common to see them together and rather difficult to read the word even for the Japanese. “Nemure” is one word (a verb), meaning to rest or sleep.

The inscription originated from a title of a book written by Ms. Hisae Sawachi, a Japanese documentary writer, who has done extensive research on the truth of Battle of Midway, which was politically hidden by the old Japanese government for a long time. That time, the old Japanese government and military believed that publishing the truth of the battle would jeopardize their dignity as well as security of Japan. This documentary book consists of three series, published by Bungeishunju Co., in 1987, about the life and death in the battle of Midway of US, Japan and the family members.

1998 May - The stone was engraved and completed in Tokyo, Japan.

1998 June - The stone was brought to the island from Japan and displayed onboard the S.S. Midway for Japanese memorial group during the memorial ceremony on the sea.

1999 May - An Iron Wood tree was cut to be a foundation of the stone. Ten Naupakas were planted around the stone to protect the stone and to grow with the stone.

1999 Jun 3 - In the presence of another Japanese memorial group, two reverends from Hawai'i, Rev. Gensho Hara of Lahaina Jodo Mission and Rev. Junyu Kudo of Kapa'a Jodo Mission performed an erection ceremony.

1999 July 10 - M.S. Asuka, a Japanese cruise ship visited the island. During the visit, they performed a Peace Ceremony with 300 passengers and the residents of Midway.

2000 Aug. 29 - Japan Maritime Self-defense Force, two training ships made their first visit to the island. During the visit, 570 of JMSDF personnel played US and Japanese national anthems. “Midway bouquet” was also presented to the stone.



EASTERN ISLAND - HENDERSON FIELD MONUMENT

Rededication of the Airstrip on Eastern Island as Henderson Field (side 1)

This plaque rededicates the airstrip on Eastern as Henderson Field in honor of the memory of Major Lofton R. Henderson, USMC, who against all odds demonstrated conspicuous courage and unyielding devotion to duty, in the Battle of Midway, June 4, 1942. Flying from an airstrip on Eastern Island in a SBD-2 dive-bomber and squadron commander of Marine Scout Bombing Group 241. He led his men heroically in a bombing attack on the Japanese Carrier Hiryu. Without fighter support his plane was immediately engaged and destroyed by Japanese Zero fighters. Major Henderson's leadership and action contributed to an astonishing victory for the U.S. He made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He gave his life. This airstrip proudly bears his name. Born 5/24/1903 . . . died 6/4/1942 Honored by the International Midway Memorial Foundation. 31 August 1995

Dedicated to the Officers and Men of Marine Aircraft Group 22, VMSB-241 AND VMF-221 Commanding Officer: Lt. Colonel Ira L. Kimes, USMC (side 2)

This Plaque is dedicated to those men of MAG-22 who in the early morning hours of 4 June 1942 were ordered into the air and vectored out to their respective targets. VMSB-241 composed of 26 SBD-2s under the command of Major Lofton R. Henderson, USMC later attacked the carrier Hiryu and 11 SB2Us commanded by Major Benjamin W. Norris, USMC, some of whose planes later attacked the battleship Haruna, rendezvoused 20 miles east of Midway before heading northwest to attack the Japanese carrier force. VMF-221, composed of 20 F2A-3s and 4 F4F-3s and commanded by Major Floyd B. Parks, USMC joined 2 F4F-3s still flying combat patrol. At 0630 VMF-221 engaged the Japanese carrier planes 30 miles northwest of Midway. Outnumbered and outclassed by the Japanese zeroes, only 8 U.S. fighters returned to Midway and of those only 2 remained operational. Among those lost in the air battles were Majors Parks and Henderson. The Japanese had lost just 6 planes. But Midway remained free and in the hands of the U.S. Navy and marines. To these men America is forever grateful. Honored by the International Midway Memorial Foundation. 2 July 1999

Dedicated to the Officers and Men of Sixth Defense Battalion (Reinforced), USMC (side 2)

This Plaque is dedicated to the courageous men of the sixth defense battalion (reinforced) who were bracing themselves to face a Japanese Armada including a landing force of 5000 men in early June 1942. Unaware they were supported by an American Task Force 240 miles to the northeast, Colonel Shannon ordered the sixth defense battalion on full alert. Augmented by 3 inch AA Group (Batteries D, E and F) and two separate Batteries (K and L) from the third defense battalion as well as companies C and D of the second raider battalion, and the twenty-second and the twenty-third Provisional Marine companies, the Marines waited for the Japanese to arrive. On 4 June 1942 at 0631, the first wave of Japanese planes attacked Midway Atoll and inflicted significant damage in varying degrees to the military installations on both islands. At 0700 the attack was over. The defenders of midway, held fast and prepared for what ever was to come, as they had no way of knowing whether the Japanese would be back . . . or not. Honored by the International Midway Memorial Foundation. 2 July 1999

