**Sadako Peace Cranes Project**

1. The Pacific War

Do you know when the Pacific War of your grandparents generation experienced began?

After the Japanese military attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 8, 1941 (December 7, 1941 in the U.S.), the United States declared war on Japan. It marked the beginning of war between the two countries. This Pacific War extended into Southeast Asia. Many lives were brutally taken in Okinawa and in August of 1945, atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The war finally ended on August 15, 1945.

2. Pearl Harbor Attack

The battleship Arizona was docked at Pearl Harbor at the time of the attack by the Japanese military. The gunpowder magazine was hit, causing a massive explosion that instantaneously killed 1177 men aboard the ship. The ship remains submerged underwater as a memorial to those who still rest there. As a result of the attack, twelve ships were sunk, 164 aircraft were destroyed and death casualties have mounted to 2370.

3. Arizona Memorial

After the war, the American government decided to preserve the sunken Battleship Arizona in its original location at Pearl Harbor in respect to those who perished on the ship. It would serve as a monument to a tragic loss. The Arizona Memorial (a white structure) was built over the submerged battleship. It is a place to reflect quietly about those who lost their lives there, to remember the events that occurred there and to ponder about what war and peace means.

A visitors' center showcases the events of the Pacific War. Annually, about 1,500,000 visitors are said to visit Pearl Harbor and the Arizona Memorial.

4. Sadako and Her Thousand Cranes

Among the many exhibits at Pearl Harbor is a display dedicated to Sadako Sasaki of *Sadako and Her Thousand Cranes.* High school students who study about Japan in Hawaii have folded many garlands of thousand cranes. Once a month, students, retired teachers from Punahou High School, and the staff from Japan-America Society of Hawaii who study about Japan go to Pearl Harbor to share about the story of Sadako, the Japanese values she embodied, and the importance of peace. As they share their message, the students and teachers instruct the visitors how to fold origami paper cranes. This activity is called the "Sadako Peace Cranes Project".

5. Sadako and the Thousand Crane Project

The Arizona Memorial Park Service would like to be able to present each of its visitors with a paper crane. We would like to help them! Let's make it a project to write messages of peace on origami paper, fold them into cranes and send them to Pearl Harbor. Let us all spread the message of peace throughout the world!