

Veterans Salvage the Day For Pearl Harbor Tourists

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HONOLULU, Dec. 31—Despite the federal government shutdown and an unrepaired sign that states, "Arizona Memorial Closed," tourists are still getting expert commentary about the World War II memorial at Pearl Harbor.

A handful of survivors of the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack that brought the United States into World War II have been going to the memorial every day to recount their stories on a grassy field overlooking the harbor.

"It's our way of helping to preserve the history of this place," said Bob Kinzler, president of the Aloha Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors.

The National Park Service closed the memorial Dec. 16, halting ferries out to the sunken battleship Arizona, because of the second government shutdown in less than a month. But that has not stopped the tourists.

"On the first day, there were eight tour buses out there in the parking lot and it's been like that ever since," veteran Everett Hyland said.

Penny Spencer, a teacher from Springfield, Ore., said the shutdown foiled her plans to shoot some video of the memorial to show her students.

But the veterans' stories salvaged the experience for her.

"I'll still have something to take back to the kids," Spencer said.

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