

Commander – Rod Said
1st Vice Commander – Ron Kruse
2nd Vice Commander – Tom Lucas
Adjutant – Ken Olberding
Finance Officer – Jerry Even
Service Officer – Greg Wagner



Membership Chairman – Linus Kuboushek
Chaplain – Keith Amunson
Sgt. At Arms – Bob Mensen
Historian – Roger Osterhaus
House Chairman – Tom Lammers,
Dave Giestkemper
Judge Advocate – Tom Jenk

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Post 137 ★ Dyersville, Iowa

August 2013

*WE SHALL NEVER FORGET THOSE WHO SERVED BEFORE US
NOR FAIL TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO SERVE AFTER US*

Fellow Legionnaires & Auxiliary!

Skip Hefel recently attended his annual Navy training at the US Pacific Command at Camp H M Smith, Pearl Harbor. He was so kind to offer to Dyersville American Legion Post 137 his time to research our local heroes that are buried at the Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific. He offered to find the Headstones and any other information from the National Cemetery.

Again thanks to Skip for the great pictures and your time to honor our local fellow veterans

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Sincerely,

Rod Said

Post Commander Post 137

Skip Hefel wrote to:

To the Dyersville Legion Commander and Post Officers

He explained that he is at Pearl Harbor doing annual training at US Pacific Command, Camp H M Smith with the United States Navy. He planned on stopping at the Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific Ocean. Skip asked the Post to send him the names of the local heroes that are buried in Hawaii. Skip said that he would find the names of the local heroes and take pictures of the headstones and other information that is of interest to the Post. The following pages are Skip's research for the ***Dyersville American Legion Post 137. All pictures were summited by Skip Hefel.***



**USS Arizona (BB-39)
Memorial at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii**

In March 1950, Admiral Arthur W. Radford, the Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet, originated the practice of displaying the National Ensign over the sunken remains of USS Arizona. The ship's midships structure, which remained above water level, came to be used as a platform for memorial services, and she was the object of passing honors rendered as Navy ships passed by.

During the later 1950s, efforts began to erect a suitable memorial over her hulk to commemorate the sacrifices of her more than 1100 dead crewmen, the other U.S. Servicemen killed in the Pearl Harbor attack and the personnel lost in the Pacific Theatre during the Second World War. Some of the Arizona's remaining midships superstructure was removed, and pilings were driven beyond the sides of her hull to support the Memorial, which spans but does not touch the sunken ship.

Dedicated in May 1962, the white open-air shrine contains the names of all the men lost with Arizona and has sufficient space for 250 people to attend services within it. One of Hawaii's most-visited historic sites, it is reached by boat from the USS Arizona Memorial exhibit area on the opposite side of the Pearl Harbor channel.

Source: <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-a/bb39-v.htm>



Ford Island Control Tower

The two story building and its third story lookout bay is the air traffic control tower that existed on December 7, 1941 during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The taller, red and white striped tower is actually a submarine lookout tower that was built about a year after the attack.

The towers are located on the Luke Field, an airstrip built on Ford Island in 1919. Ford Island was bought by the United States Army during World War I and it was transferred to the Navy in 1923. The naval station was decommissioned in 1962 and today Ford Island is primarily used for military housing. Ford Island was declared a United States National Historic Landmark in 1964 and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. The island was accessed by ferry until 1998 when the Admiralty Clarey Bridge was built.

Source: <http://www.hawaiiforvisitors.com/oahu/attractions/ford-island-tower.htm>



HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Few national cemeteries can compete with the dramatic natural setting of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. The “Punchbowl” was formed some 75,000 to 100,000 years ago during the Honolulu period of secondary volcanic activity. A crater resulted from the ejection of hot lava through cracks in the old coral reefs which, at the time, extended to the foot of the Koolau Mountain Range.

Although there are various translations of the Punchbowl’s Hawaiian name, “Puowaina,” the most common is “Hill of Sacrifice.” This translation closely relates to the history of the crater. The first known use was as an altar where Hawaiians offered human sacrifices to pagan gods and the killed violators of the many taboos. Later, during the reign of Kamehameha the Great, a battery of two cannons was mounted at the rim of the crater to salute distinguished arrivals and signify important occasions. Early in the 1880s, leasehold land on the slopes of the Punchbowl opened for settlement and in the 1930s, the crater was used as a rifle range for the Hawaii National Guard. Toward the end of World War II, tunnels were dug through the rim of the crater for the placement of shore batteries to guard Honolulu Harbor and the south edge of Pearl Harbor.

During the late 1890s, a committee recommended that the Punchbowl become the site for a new cemetery to accommodate the growing population of Honolulu. The idea was rejected for fear of

polluting the water supply and the emotional aversion to creating a city of the dead above a city of the living.

Fifty years later, Congress authorized a small appropriation to establish a national cemetery in Honolulu with two provisions: that the location be acceptable to the War Department, and that the site would be donated rather than purchased. In 1943, the governor of Hawaii offered the Punchbowl for this purpose. The \$50,000 appropriation proved insufficient, however, and the project was deferred until after World War II. By 1947, Congress and veteran organizations placed a great deal of pressure on the military to find a permanent burial site in Hawaii for the remains of thousands of World War II servicemen on the island of Guam awaiting permanent burial. Subsequently, the Army again began planning the Punchbowl cemetery; in February 1948 Congress approved funding and construction began.

Prior to the opening of the cemetery for the recently deceased, the remains of soldiers from locations around the Pacific Theater—including Wake Island and Japanese POW camps—were transported to Hawaii for final interment. The first interment was made Jan. 4, 1949. The cemetery opened to the public on July 19, 1949, with services for five war dead: an unknown serviceman, two Marines, an Army lieutenant and one civilian—noted war correspondent Ernie Pyle. Initially, the graves at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific were marked with white wooden crosses and Stars of David—like the American cemeteries abroad—in preparation for the dedication ceremony on the fourth anniversary of V-J Day. Eventually, over 13,000 soldiers and sailors who died during World War II would be laid to rest in the Punchbowl.

Despite the Army's extensive efforts to inform the public that the star- and cross-shaped grave markers were only temporary, an outcry arose in 1951 when permanent flat granite markers replaced them. A letter from the Quartermaster General to Senator Paul Douglas in December 1952, explained that while individual markers are inscribed according to the appropriate religious faith:

Crosses do not mark the graves of the dead of our country in other national cemeteries. No cross marks the burial of our revered Unknown Soldier. From Arlington to Golden Gate, from Puerto Rico to Hawaii, the Government's markers in national cemeteries for all our hero—dead are of the traditional designs some are upright and some are flat. None is in the form of a religious emblem.

The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific was the first such cemetery to install Bicentennial Medal of Honor headstones, the medal insignia being defined in gold leaf. On May 11, 1976, a total of 23 of these were placed on the graves of medal recipients, all but one of whom were killed in action. The Punchbowl has become one of the area's most popular tourist destinations. More than five million visitors come to the cemetery each year to pay their respects to the dead and to enjoy the panoramic

view from the Punchbowl. One of the most breathtaking views of the Island of Oahu can be found while standing at the highest point on the crater's rim.

In August 2001, about 70 generic unknown markers for the graves of men known to have died during the attack on Pearl Harbor were replaced with markers that included "USS Arizona" after it was determined they perished on this vessel. In addition, new information that identified grave locations of 175 men whose graves were previously marked as unknown resulted in the installation of new markers in October 2002. The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

Source: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/nmcp.asp>



Punch Bowl looking east



Punch Bowl looking west



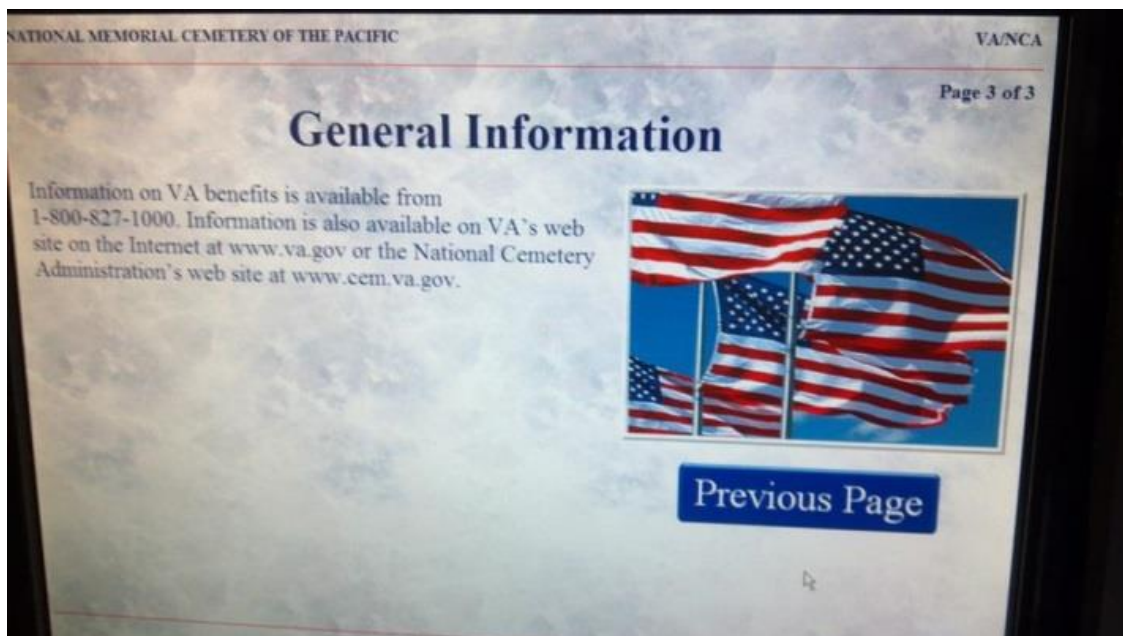
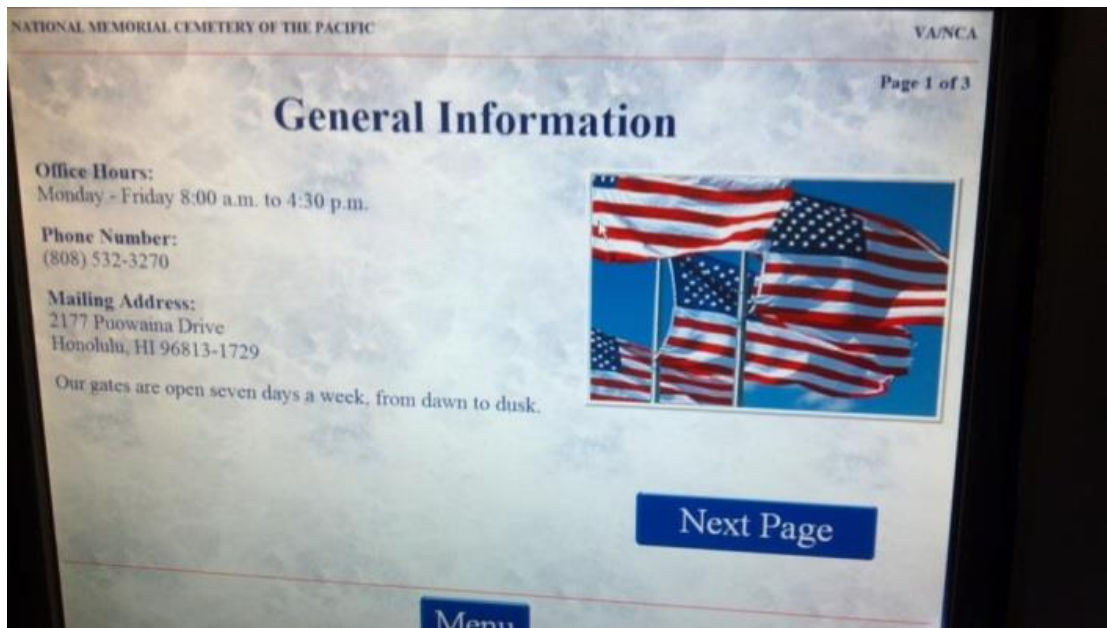
USS-Oklahoma Memorial



Father Schmitt-USS-Oklahoma

National Memorial Cemetery on the Pacific General Information

Punch Bowl Entrance



Military Honors

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense For Public
Affairs

Community Relations and Public Liaison

1400 Defense Pentagon, Room 2D982

Washington, DC 20301-1400

Phone: 703-571-3343

<http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil>



[Previous Page](#)

Veteran Willenborg Carl, J

NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC

Veteran and Location Information

Name
WILLENBORG,
CARL J.

Veteran's Last Recorded Information
Service Period Unknown
Branch US MARINE CORPS
Rank CPL

Location
NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC
Section N Site 1514



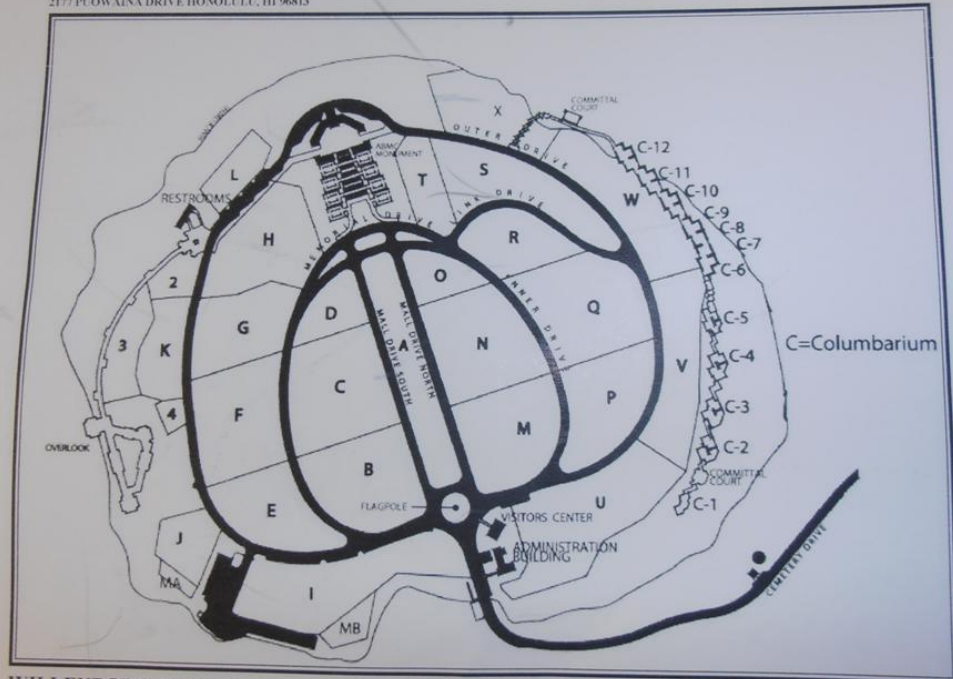
[Return To Names](#)

[Print Map](#)

[New Search](#) [Main Menu](#)

NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC
2177 PUOWAINA DRIVE HONOLULU, HI 96813

(808)532-3720



WILLENBORG, CARL J.

Section N Site 1514



Veteran Kruse, Lawrence F.

MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC

Veteran and Location Information

Name
KRUSE,
LAWRENCE F.

Veteran's Last Recorded Information
Service Period: Unknown
Branch: US MARINE CORPS
Rank: 1 LT

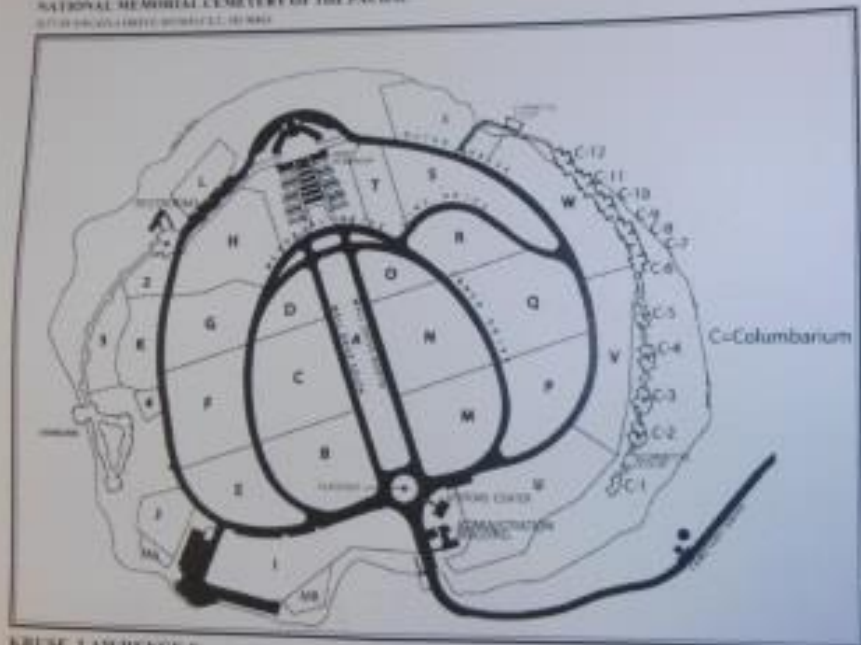
Location
NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC
Section N Site 1519



[Return To Names](#)

[Print Map](#)

[New Search](#) [Main Menu](#)



KRUSE, LAWRENCE F.

Section N Site 1518





Skip Hefel



USS-Missouri