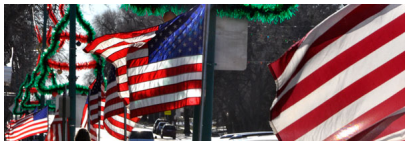
Dec. 7, 1941 is a date most every American knows by heart. Every year on Dec. 7, flags are flown around the United States for National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. In Holyoke, Lions Club members were out and about early last Wednesday, placing flags along the streets in front of local businesses in honor of the 70th anniversary of the attack.



On Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941, America's naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by the forces of the Empire of Japan. More than 2,400 Americans were killed and more than 1,100 were wounded. The attack sank four U.S. Navy battleships and damaged four more. It also damaged or sank three cruisers, three destroyers and one minelayer and damaged 188 aircraft.

The day after the attack, the United States declared war on Japan and entered World War II. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in a speech to Congress, stated, using a now famous saying, that the bombing of Pearl Harbor is "a date which will live in infamy."

The flags at Holyoke Junior/Senior High School were flying at half staff Wednesday, Dec. 7. Wednesday marked the 70th anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

—Enterprise photos

Memorials have been built to remember the day and its events. The USS Arizona memorial in Pearl Harbor is a marble memorial over the sunken battleship USS Arizona, which was dedicated in 1962. The memorial remembers all military personnel who were killed in the Pearl Harbor attack. Another memorial is that of the USS Utah, a battleship that was attacked and sunk in the attack. A memorial to honor the crew of the USS Utah was dedicated on the northwest shore of Ford Island, near the ship's wreck, in 1972. The ship was added to the National Register of Historic Places and declared a National Historic Landmark in 1989.

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