

# Stockton to Host Statewide Event with WWII Veteran on 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Attack

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John Thomas, chairman of the event and a World War II veteran, has worked with a statewide committee which includes National Operation College Promise Director Wendy Lang, Fairleigh Dickinson University Veteran Outreach Director and OCP national board member Martha Papon Garcia, Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors member Lee Darby of Northfield, N.J., Atlantic County Veterans Advisory Board representative Herb Davis, and the president of Stockton's Student Veteran Organization, Paul Garrity.

The event will feature a memorial tribute in Stockton's Veterans Park, followed by a luncheon with noted military speakers such as Mid-Atlantic Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Edward Croot, and U.S. Navy veteran William Keyes.

At 12:48 p.m., the group will take part in a national moment of silence to observe the time of the initial surprise attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor in Oahu, Hawaii. All eight U.S. Navy battleships were damaged, with four sunk, along with cruisers, destroyers and other ships. American fatalities totaled 2,403, with 1,178 others wounded. The attack shocked the American people and led directly to the nation's entry into World War II in both the Pacific and Europe.