

Message on the 83d Anniversary of the Battle of Midway

June 4, 2025

Today marks the 83d anniversary of America's seminal victory at the Battle of Midway, a watershed moment in World War II that set the Allied forces on the path to ultimate triumph over forces of evil.

After the shocking attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Imperial Japan surged across the Pacific, dealing Allied forces a series of defeats from the fall of the Philippines, to the capture of Hong Kong and Singapore, to devastating air raids over Australia. With the U.S. Navy still reeling from the surprise attack, Japan's ruthless push for regional dominance seemed unstoppable.

By the summer of 1942, Japan set its sights on Midway Island, a tiny American outpost with massive strategic value, just over 1,000 miles from Hawaii. The Japanese plan was clear: lure what remained of the battered U.S. Pacific Fleet out of Pearl Harbor, destroy it, and capture Midway, from where they would launch further offensives across the Pacific.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt knew our Armed Forces had to act decisively. He tasked Admiral Chester Nimitz, a submariner and newly appointed Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, with launching a full-scale effort to restore the Navy's remaining ships to fighting condition. With vital intelligence from American codebreakers, the Allies stayed one step ahead, anticipating the major elements of Japan's strategy.

At dawn on June 4, 1942, the U.S. Navy struck back. Despite facing a larger enemy force and suffering heavy losses, the U.S. fleet under the command of Admirals Jack Fletcher and Raymond Spruance fought with unmatched resolve. In the course of 24 hours, they sank four Japanese aircraft carriers, destroyed a heavy cruiser, and crushed Japanese hopes of advancing deeper into the eastern Pacific, paving the way for our Nation's acceptance of Japan's unconditional surrender and the end of World War II in 1945.

Today, former enemies stand united as allies. The United States and Japan have forged an enduring partnership built on the shared values of freedom, sovereignty, and an abiding commitment to peace across the Indo-Pacific. Together, we are advancing the causes of safety, security, prosperity, and liberty, all while confronting threats from China and North Korea.

The epic Battle of Midway stands to this day as a glorious reminder that, even in the face of long odds, perilous danger, and tremendous uncertainty, no challenge is too great for the strength of the American spirit. As our Nation commemorates this legendary battle, we honor the grit of our servicemen, we pay tribute to the sacrifice of our veterans, and we vow to carry forward the legacy of the fallen heroes who secured victory over tyranny in the Pacific 80 years ago.

Categories: Letters and Messages : Battle of Midway, 83d anniversary, message.

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