

Annie G. Fox (1893-1987)

On December 7, 1941, First Lt. Annie Fox was stationed at Hickam Field adjacent to the naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. She was the chief nurse, and became the first woman to receive the Purple Heart in 1942 for “outstanding performance of duty” during the attacks. Her “calmness, courage and leadership was of great benefit to the morale of all with whom she came in contact.” Initially reserved for bravery in action, today the Purple Heart is awarded to those injured or killed in combat. This criteria change was made during World War II, so in 1944 the Army rescinded her Purple Heart and replaced it with the Bronze Star. Fox enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps in 1918 and retired from military service in 1945. She died in 1987, and is buried in [San Francisco National Cemetery](#) (Section A, Grave 657-A).



Annie G. Fox,
Army Nurse Corps, ca. 1940s.

Edwin Joseph Hill (1894-1941)

Edwin Joseph Hill was born 1895 in Philadelphia, and he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1912. Chief Boatswain Hill was serving on the USS *Nevada* at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. The *Nevada* was the only battleship to escape the harbor that day, and Hill led the effort to release the ship from her moorings. He dove off the ship to cast off the lines and swam back to assume his duties on board, but he was killed when a bomb struck the bow. Hill received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions during the attack. He is buried in the [National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific](#) (Section A, Grave 895).



Chief Boatswain Edwin Joseph Hill
(U.S. Naval Historical Center,
Photograph No. NH 49196)

Herbert Charpoit Jones (1918-1941)

Californian Ensign Herbert Charpoit Jones enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1935, and was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy before joining the USS *California* in 1940. Aboard the *California* on December 7, 1941, he urged fellow sailors to safety, “Leave me alone! I am done for. Get out of here before the magazines go off.” Ens. Jones was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor, which brought the country into World War II. In 1943 the Navy launched a destroyer escort, USS *Herbert C. Jones*, in his honor. Ens. Jones is buried in [Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery](#) (Section G, Grave 76).



Ensign Herbert C. Jones
(U.S. Naval Historical Center,
Photograph No. NH 92307)

Chester W. Nimitz (1885-1966)

One of America's most valiant naval officers—Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz—is buried at [Golden Gate National Cemetery](#). A number of distinguished officers who served under him are also buried here. Nimitz served as a fleet admiral in the U.S. Navy and assumed command of the Pacific Fleet after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, bringing the country into World War II. In 1942 Adm. Nimitz went on the offensive, leading to the decisive Battle of Midway. From there, he led successive campaigns – Guadalcanal, New Guinea – that eventually broke the Japanese hold on the South Pacific. In September 1945 Adm. Nimitz represented the United States during the surrender of Japan on board the USS *Missouri*. Nimitz died February 20, 1966 (Section C, Grave 1).



Tokyo Bay - Surrender of Japan aboard USS *Missouri*. Adm. Nimitz, representing the United States, signs the instrument of surrender. (Australian War Memorial, # 040965)

William J.H. Siekemeyer (1880-1958)

Chief Boatswain William J.H. Siekemeyer enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard in September 1940 and commanded the USCGC *Kukui* on December 7, 1941. The unarmed *Kukui* was docked at Pier 4 along with the patrol craft *Reliance* when the attack began. After the attack, the *Kukui* transported an army detachment to Ni'Hau to investigate reports of a Japanese airman on the island.

Chief Boatswain Siekemeyer was a naturalized U.S. citizen. He died in 1958, and is buried in the [National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific](#) (Section R, Grave 829).



Top: *Kukui* before the attacks on Pearl Harbor (U.S. Coast Guard); Bottom: Gravesite of Chief Boatswain William J.H. Siekemeyer.