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Battle Of Midway 65th Anniversary - June 4-7 1942

"The battle was much more than just a "clash of titans." It was and should always be remembered as a tribute to the courage, skill, and yes, even the luck of our WWII predecessors. In remembering the fight, we must remember them."

-- ADM Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations

Take time out to remember the battle of Midway and the heroic Sailors who sacrificed much for a victory which truly set our Navy on course for victory throughout the Pacific. It is more than just a great sea story. It stands as testament to the character and core values of our Sailors, and how they define our maritime nation.

The remembrance of our victory at Midway is about our Sailors

- The Sailors pointed the way. They left us a legacy of service and sacrifice. We stand on their broad shoulders and we continue to learn from them. We continue to remember them.
- Grit and teamwork were the fuel of victory, shipmates helping shipmates.
- We recognize not only what the victory at Midway says about the power of our Navy but what it says about our Sailors who fought and died at Midway.

America needed to win

- Midway stood between our enemies and Hawaii which held the U.S Pacific fleet which protected our west coast. Veterans of Midway knew they had to stop them there.
- The Japanese believed that destroying the Pacific Fleet would force the United States to negotiate for peace.
- The outcome of the war was far from certain and the significance of the battle was not fully grasped at the time. It was just the beginning of the march across the Pacific with many battles yet to fight.

A great victory and turning point in the Pacific

- It was spirit and determination that carried the day against a greater force. No battleships vs. Japan's eleven ... and only three carriers ...Enterprise, Hornet and Yorktown ...vs. the Imperial Navy's four which participated at Midway.
- The Japanese lost four carriers, a heavy cruiser, three destroyers, some 291 planes, at least 4,800 men with heavy damage among the remaining vessels. American losses included the carrier Yorktown, the destroyer Hammann, about 145 planes and 307 men.
- Japan's losses, both at Coral Sea and Midway, did much to restore the balance of naval power in the Pacific. The Japanese never recovered from the loss of many of their best naval pilots in the two battles.
- Strategist Basil Liddell Hart said: "It is the loss of hope rather than the loss of life that decides the issues of war." The victory at Midway gave our nation that hope.

Our struggle today is difficult and demanding as well

- The shipmates we have and the ones we have lost in this war are just as strong and just as brave as those who fought and won World War II. We can honor them all, past and present, for their courage. It is in their memory that we do this, that we must do this. That is what the Battle of Midway really means.