

100 Y/O PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR LEADS REMEMBRANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

MADIERA BEACH, Fla. -- December 7, 2018 – Mel Smith, a 100 year old survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack and WWII combat veteran, led a veterans' wreath ceremony in remembrance of the 77th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The ceremony was hosted by the Madeira Beach Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 4256, where Smith is a member.

The ceremony began at the post facility with an introduction by the VFW post commander, Ron Mills, who reviewed the history of the 1941 attack, and thanked Smith and other members of the post for participating. With a VFW color guard leading the way, Smith led the procession up the Johns Pass Bridge. At its summit, Smith threw a ceremonial wreath into the water below to honor the 2,403 fellow Americans killed in the attack.

Smith recalled the attack vividly, saying, "I remember it as if it was yesterday."

Smith left military service in 1946 but remained connected to veterans by volunteering at the Bay Pines VA Hospital in Saint Petersburg for almost 25 years, from which he retired last year.



Standing on the Johns Pass Bridge (l-r): John Kieffer; Ron Mills, Mel Smith (seated); Michael Richardson (color guard); photo credit: Wayne Wemken

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