

September, 2002

Dear Fellow Chief Petty Officers and Friends of the Chief Petty Officer Community:

The world's last and most famous battleship, USS MISSOURI (BB 63), is moored at Pearl Harbor's historic Battleship Row, 1,000 feet from USS ARIZONA. Together, they form the alpha and omega of World War II: from that first devastating attack sinking the ARIZONA on December 7, 1941, in Pearl Harbor and entombing 1,102 Sailors, to the Japanese surrender on board MISSOURI on September 2, 1945. This battleship stands for the spirit of the United States. She is a fitting memorial to the dedicated Sailors who served aboard her in defense of our country and to the people and historic events reflecting our nation's legacy of duty, honor, strength, resolve, and sacrifice.

Hello, my name is Chris Adams, Senior Chief Yeoman, stationed on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu at United States Pacific Command, and I'm writing to you in my role as Chairman of the World-Wide CPO Restoration Project. This project is on behalf of USS Missouri Memorial Association whose chairman is VADM Robert K.U. Kihune, USN (Ret.).

USS MISSOURI was decommissioned in 1992. In 1996 the Secretary of the Navy selected the USS MISSOURI Memorial Association, Inc., a non profit (501)(c)(3) organization (Tax ID#99-0310903), as the caretaker for this historic battleship. In 1998 she was towed to Pearl Harbor, and on January 29, 1999, the MISSOURI was opened to the public.

When the USS MISSOURI Memorial Association received the ship from the Navy, she was in "as-is condition." She needed a lot of work and with the dedication of over 30,000 volunteers, and both in-kind donations and monetary contributions, many areas of the ship are now open to the public. Admission fees help fund the ongoing operational costs of the battleship. Generous donations from individuals and corporations, along with grants from a few foundations, provide additional funds to restore, refurbish, and preserve the ship. Here's where we very much need your help!

The Chief Petty Officers Mess and Berthing spaces are in extremely poor condition. Before they can be restored to their original condition and the spaces fully opened to the public, they must meet current EPA requirements. We envision a CPO Country restored to museum-quality condition. USS MISSOURI offers a unique opportunity to tell the story of the Chief Petty Officer, those who served on the battleship and those who play such a vital role in today's Navy.

The cost to restore CPO Country is about \$250,000. The CPO Project is part of a much larger capital campaign called "All Hands on Deck." Its goal is to raise \$10 million for the total restoration of the MISSOURI. The Memorial Association receives no government appropriations or taxpayer dollars. They must rely on contributions from individuals like you, and grants from corporations and foundations.

By participating in this campaign, you'll be supporting American history, just like the USS CONSTITUTION, 'OLD IRONSIDES' in Boston Harbor, has been doing for over 200 years. USS MISSOURI will be around for many years to come and you'll have been a part of preserving this more modern part of that great Navy history. Here's how you can help:

1. Send your tax-deductible donation of \$25, \$50 or \$100 to:

Chief Petty Officers' Restoration Project
PO Box 240818
Honolulu, HI 96824



Make your check payable to: USS Missouri Memorial Association, Inc., and in the memo section, write CPO or CPO Project. To pay by credit card, call 1-888-877-6477, ext 2 (or print out the form at the bottom of this letter and fax to: 808-423-0700). Donations can also be made at www.ussmissouri.org website. Look for the "Make a donation" box at the bottom of the page; choose "CPO Restoration Project" and click on the "Make a donation" button.

You will receive a thank you letter, an honorary plank owner "personalized" certificate and a replica of the surrender card given only to those present at the Tokyo Bay surrender ceremony on September 2, 1945, and your name will be listed on USS Missouri Memorial Association's website.

2. Help us by becoming the Chair Person in your local Navy area. As team leader you will seek the support of the CPO community and its friends for this important restoration project, and solicit funds to pay for what needs to be accomplished on USS MISSOURI.

3. Spread the word. This project is not limited to donations by Chiefs alone. Donations will be accepted from anyone, civilian or military. Any amount of money will be accepted, but our goal is at least \$50.00 per donor.

Note: We are also accepting plaques, memorabilia, and other items which you think would make our CPO museum more interesting while showing pride in your local command and in your Chiefs' community.

Your contribution will benefit all visitors who come to see the Battleship MISSOURI. It will help them to understand and reflect on the role that Chief Petty Officers play in our Navy. Ships have changed, but CPOs have not: they are still the same patriotic Americans that are and have been the backbone of our Navy for over 109 years.

Sincerely,



Chris Adams
Senior Chief Yeoman, U.S. Navy
WorldWideCPO@ussmissouri.org

SHE FOUGHT FOR
OUR FREEDOM,
NOW IT'S TIME
TO FIGHT FOR
HER!

P.S. Please visit the USS MISSOURI website (www.ussmissouri.org); follow the RESTORATION link at the bottom of the page. There you will see the pictures of the CPO quarters as they look today. Also, at that website, look for the links: *Mo'Stuff*, then *Video* to hear and see former President George Bush (who is the Honorary Chairman of the USS MISSOURI Memorial Association) talk about the vital and critical role that this ship has played in history. Our Ship's Store, too, is a great resource for ship memorabilia.

P.P.S. Consider that Battleship MISSOURI's biggest benefactor has contributed \$500,000 towards her restoration. The Chiefs, as they traditionally do, will lead the way and can become MISSOURI's top donor. Just imagine, our goal is \$250,000 for this project, but if just 50,000 Chiefs (active/reserve/retired) donate \$50 each, we could raise \$2,500,000! All additional contributions will go towards restoring the entire ship. Let's get the Chiefs on board around the globe! Just do it!

TO: CPO Restoration Project (Attention: Paul)

USS Missouri Memorial Association, Inc.

FAX: 808-423-0700

Please charge my credit card for the amount \$ _____

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Date: _____