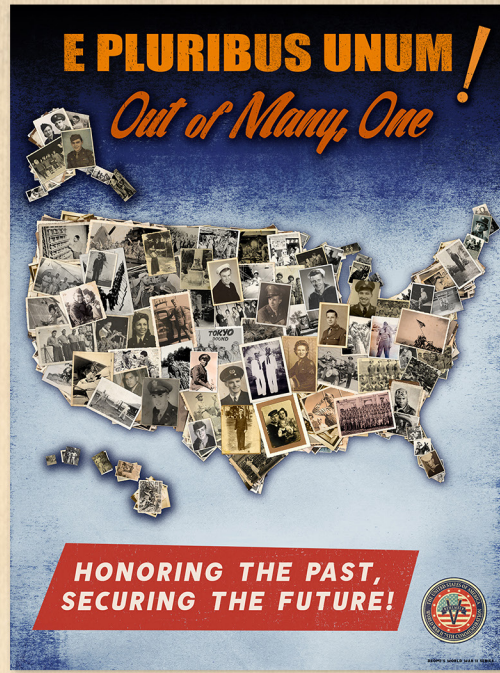


CULTURAL  
AWARENESS

# OBSERVANCE



## FACTS

On December 7, 1941, in a two-hour surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese war-planes sank or damaged 18 warships and destroyed 164 aircraft. Over 2,400 servicemen and civilians lost their lives.

The next day, before a joint session of Congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke to the nation and war was declared on Japan. Senators and representatives who — no more than 48 hours earlier — were champions of isolationism and critics of FDR were now in full support of the war.

The United States faced a mammoth job. It had to prepare to fight on two distant and very different fronts, Europe and the Pacific. America needed to quickly raise, train, and outfit a vast military force. Contributions from all Americans, young and old, men and women, would be necessary to build up what President Roosevelt called the "Arsenal of Democracy." Americans answered the call.

The Armed Forces consisted largely of men and women drawn from civilian life. They came from every state in the nation and all economic and social strata. Over 16 million would serve before the war's end.

The defense industry boomed to meet the demands. Large numbers of people moved across the country to take up war work. During the war 17 million new civilian jobs were created and industrial productivity increased by 96 percent.

Additionally, Americans supported the war efforts in a wide range of volunteer efforts that included food and gas rationing, victory gardens, scrap metal drives, paper drives, and rubber drives.

Americans, from all walks of life, came together to win World War II.

*"I need not repeat the figures. The facts speak for themselves.... These men could not have been armed and equipped as they are had it not been for the miracle of production here at home. The production which has flowed from the country to all the battlefronts of the world has been due to the efforts of American business, American labor, and American farmers, working together as a patriotic team."*

--President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Navy Day speech, October 27, 1944

