

December 7, 1975

POOL # 2 - Arizona Memorial to Kennedy Theatre

A 4 boat floatila left the landing at 7:40 a.m. headed for the Arizona Memorial. Calm seas, sunny day, the President and Mrs. Ford on the fantail of Admiral Gaylor launch. The 15 minute run across the harbor was uneventful except the press launch motor died and 20 reporters were transferred at mid-sea arriving only an eyelash ahead of the Fords. Approximately 100 people and press were crowded along the sides of the memorial. Ford's speech was unchanged from text. Ford laid his wreath and the Marines and Navy followed. Then 34 other floral tributes were placed at the end of the memorial. They were given by groups such as the Elks, the Legion, the VFW. The flag was raised. Star Spangled Banner played and Hawaiian taps sounded. Ceremony ended after 25 minutes. The boats went back across the harbor; the party up to Admiral Gaylor's home for breakfast -- scrambled eggs, English muffins, coffee, sausage, orange juice. About 80 special guests including high Navy brass, local dignitaries, and politicians met and chatted with the Fords in the Admiral's spacious back yard under huge trees. Breakfast over; Ford came to the Kennedy Theatre uneventfully.

HUGH SIDEY

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