

## Media Release, December 2nd, 2013

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### Mount Diablo's Beacon Will Shine Bright on Pearl Harbor Day

**Photos:** Hi-res images may be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0wrwnd6u6v76zs7/ESF5zijaG>

**Credits:** are included in the file names. Please contact Beryl for caption requests.

Walnut Creek, CA - On December 7th, Mount Diablo's Beacon will be relit for the first Pearl Harbor Day since its restoration earlier this year. A commemorative symbol of those who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor, the Beacon is relit by survivors each year in a ceremony attended by their families and the public. This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> annual Beacon Lighting Ceremony, and the first official relighting since its restoration. From sunset this Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, to sunrise the next morning, the Beacon will shine brighter than ever before.

This year's event is expected to be the largest yet, with local Pearl Harbor survivors and community members eager to see the restored Beacon shine anew. The evening will include presentations by several local Pearl Harbor survivors, California State Parks and Save Mount Diablo, the non-profit organization that coordinated the restoration project.

"We are grateful to have been involved in the restoration of this historic symbol of freedom," said Ron Brown, Executive Director of Save Mount Diablo. "Its restoration ensures the memory of those who lost their lives on that historic day will continue to live on."

The Beacon was originally installed and illuminated in 1928 to aid in trans-continental aviation. It is one of the four guiding beacons installed along the west coast by Standard Oil of CA and is the only one known to still be operational. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Beacon's light was extinguished during the West Coast Blackout, for fear it may enable an attack on California. It stayed dark until Pearl Harbor Day 1964, when Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz relit the Beacon in a commemorative ceremony and suggested it be illuminated every December 7th to honor those who served and sacrificed. Since that day, Pearl Harbor Veterans and their families have revisited Mount Diablo's mountain summit every December 7<sup>th</sup> to see the light shine once again.



Over the years, the Beacon fell into severe disrepair thereby requiring significant restoration. With the California State Parks' limited budget and a need to move quickly, Save Mount Diablo volunteered to fundraise and organize the Beacon Restoration Project. In the process, many individuals and businesses stepped up to help restore the historic Beacon, including Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan, the Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation, Contra Costa Times Columnist Joan Morris and her readers, Shell Refinery in Martinez, Maxim Crane and Chevron.

**What:** [Save Mount Diablo](#), the [Sons & Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors Association](#) and California State Parks will light the "Eye of Diablo", the Beacon atop Mount Diablo to memorialize Pearl Harbor Day for the first time since its restoration. The 50<sup>th</sup> annual beacon lighting takes place at sunset and the Eye shines brightly throughout the night. As the number of Survivors has decreased over the years, the number of people attending the ceremony in honor of these heroes has increased, including many sons and daughters vital to organizing the service.

**When:** Saturday, December 7, 3:45pm - 5pm

**Where:** The ceremony will be held at the Summit Visitors' Building in Mt. Diablo State Park.

**Access:** Parking is available in the Lower Summit Parking Lot and can be accessed from either entrance to the Park. A shuttle service is provided by a volunteer from the lower lot to the Summit for those who would like a ride for the last quarter mile.

**Cost:** \$10 per car park entrance fee to Mount Diablo State Park.

**For more information about the Beacon Lighting Ceremony:** please visit [http://www.savemountdiablo.org/activities\\_events\\_beacon.html](http://www.savemountdiablo.org/activities_events_beacon.html) or contact Save Mount Diablo's office at (925) 947-3535

Save Mount Diablo is a non-profit 501(c)(3) conservation organization, which has been preserving lands on and around Mount Diablo and educating the public to the mountain's natural values since 1971. Preserved lands have increased from 6,788 acres in one park to more than 110,000 acres in more than 40 parks and preserves. Save Mount Diablo continues to preserve, defend and restore the remainder of the mountain for people and wildlife to enjoy. Contact: Save Mount Diablo, telephone: (925) 947-3535, fax: (925) 947-0642, 1901 Olympic Blvd., Suite 320, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; [www.SaveMountDiablo.org](http://www.SaveMountDiablo.org) ###