



Submitted photo

New artifacts are available for viewing at the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial at Lake Isabella Park.

Arizona Memorial receives additional WWII artifacts

Kern County Parks Department is pleased to announce that additional World War II artifacts have been placed in Lake Isabella Park. Thanks to the efforts of Tom and Debbie Teofilo, missile casings recovered from Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal and other WWII venues are now on display at the USS Arizona Memorial in Lake Isabella Park.

Joe Nemish, a Pearl Harbor survivor and former resident of the Kern River Valley, envisioned a memorial to those who give their lives at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. That vision became a reality on Memorial Day, 2004. The USS Arizona Memorial was dedicated to all those who sacrificed their lives to ensure the freedom of the United States of America. Mr. Nemish had been safeguarding the artifacts for over 20 years.

The new addition was made possible by the generous donation of

Tom and Debbie Teofilo. The Teofilos felt the missile casings, still located on the Nemish property, represented an event of such historical significance, that they should be made a part of the memorial. After the Teofilos purchased the Nemish property, Tom contacted Supervisor Jon McQuiston's office who along with Kern County Parks Department, began the task of placing the artifacts at the memorial site.

Dean Blalock, Darrell Blalock and Darrell Coston, Kern County Parks Department staff, sanded, buffed and re-did the lettering on the casings. They also built the rack for displaying the missile casings.

We encourage the community to stop by and take a look at the memorial and take a moment to pause and reflect on those brave men and women who fought to protect our nation.