

FRIENDS OF SAN PEDRO LIBRARY

SPECIAL EDITION WINTER 2012

LOUIS ZAMPERINI CANCELS USS IOWA SAILS TO THE RESCUE

Citing Louis Zamperini's ill health and weakness after a bout with pneumonia, his agency, Keynote Speakers, has canceled his January 29, 2012, appearance at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Auditorium. All persons who submitted a reservation form with payment will have their money returned.

Friends of San Pedro Library are delighted to report that in Mr. Zamperini's stead, Robert Kent of Pacific Battleship Center will step in to provide a preview of one of the most exciting events in recent San Pedro history—the arrival of the **USS Iowa**, scheduled for early 2012.

USS Iowa was the lead ship of her class of battleship and the fourth in the United States Navy to be named in honor of the state of Iowa. It was the only ship of her class to serve in the Atlantic Ocean during World War II.

During the War she carried President Franklin D. Roosevelt across the Atlantic to Casablanca en route to a crucial 1943 meeting in Tehran with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin. She has a bathtub, installed for President Roosevelt, and an elevator created to take him between decks.

When she was transferred to the Pacific Fleet in 1944, the **Iowa** shelled beachheads at Kwajalein and Eniwetok in advance of Allied amphibious landings. She also served as the Third Fleet flagship, flying Admiral William F.

Halsey's flag at the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay.

During the Korean War, the **Iowa** was involved in raids on the North Korean coast, after which she was decommissioned and became part of the "mothball fleet."

She was reactivated in 1984 as part of the 600-ship Navy plan and operated in both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets.

The **Iowa** was decommissioned for the last time in 1990 and was initially struck from the Naval Vessel Register in 1995. She was reinstated from 1999 to 2006 to comply with federal laws that required retention and maintenance of two **Iowa**-class battleships. In April 2011 the **Iowa** was donated to the Los Angeles based non-profit Pacific Battleship Center and will be permanently moved to the Port of Los Angeles—San Pedro—to serve as a museum and a memorial to battleships. (Information on **USS Iowa** from Wikipedia)



Robert Kent
Pacific Battleship Center
Sunday, January 29, 2012
2:00 p.m.
Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
Auditorium
3720 Stephen M. White Drive
\$10 donation at the door