



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**(Hi res photos of the event are available on our Flickr stream:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/pacificaviationmuseum/sets/72157634779429295/>)**

“Happy Birthday, Amelia!” Celebration Today A Big Hit at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor

Honolulu, HI—Over 700 people brought their families and celebrated the famous aviatrix Amelia Earhart’s 116th birthday at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, today, Wednesday, July 24.

Families with at least one person in costume were invited to visit the Museum free, view the Museum’s unique “Amelia Earhart in Hawaii” photo exhibit, enjoy the festivities with cake and refreshments, and meet “Amelia” and members of The Aloha Chapter of the Ninety-Nines International Organization of Women Pilots, of which Earhart was the first president.

The winners of the “Dress Like Amelia” costume contest were: Wynter Marlow, first place; Alana Uehara, second place; Sara Lemstrom, third place.

“This is a family event that brings the pioneers and heroes who have paved the way for women in aviation to our guests. We’re honored to have Hawaii’s women aviators participate and we’re honored to celebrate Amelia Earhart and her accomplishments,” said Museum Executive Director Kenneth DeHoff. “She has a very special connection with us here at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor.”

Before her disappearance, Earhart set numerous aviation records, including being the first person to fly solo across both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

Born July 24, 1897, she has a special connection with the Museum as she ground-looped her plane on takeoff on the historic Ford Island Runway, preventing her initial round-the-world flight attempt. Seventy-six years ago, Earhart took a leave of absence from her Purdue University job, hopped in her Purdue-funded “Flying Laboratory” and flew around the globe. Then she disappeared.

The latest 2012 expedition to recover her plane by The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR) claims to yield new sonar images that reveal what appears to be the wing or fuselage of an aircraft matching the dimensions of Earhart’s Lockheed Electra, underwater off the coast of remote Nikumaroro Island in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. The tiny atoll is believed by some to be her final resting place.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that depends on memberships and donations for its Restoration and Education projects. It is open 9am to 5pm daily, located at 319 Lexington Boulevard, Historic Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818. Named “one of the top 10 aviation attractions” nationally by TripAdvisor, it is a Smithsonian affiliate museum.

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