



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WAKE ISLAND DEFENDER'S DAY

WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941 Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and five hours later, Wake Island was attacked; and

WHEREAS, Wake Island was defended for 15 days by 449 Marines, 68 sailors, six members of the Army Air Corps, and 1,146 civilians employed by the Boise-based Morrison-Knudsen company; and

WHEREAS, approximately 250 of these civilians were from Idaho, and after the fall of Wake Island the survivors were taken prisoner of war and served as slave labor in extremely harsh conditions for the Japanese government for 44 months; and

WHEREAS, these civilians were granted veteran status by the United States government in 1981, let us remember always the brave service and sacrifice of these heroes; and

WHEREAS, December 7, 2011 is the 70th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and subsequent attack on Wake Island;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor of the state of Idaho, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, December 7, 2011 to be

WAKE ISLAND DEFENDER'S DAY

in Idaho.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 7th day of December in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-sixth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-first.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "C.L. 'Butch' Otter".

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ben Yursa".

BEN YURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE