Foundation Honors Sen. John Warner, Premieres Film About Elvis's Contribution to USS Arizona Memorial



The promotional poster for the new film about Elvis Presley's fundraising efforts for the USS Arizona Memorial. *WORLD WAR II FOUNDATION*

The World War II Foundation held a world premiere for its newest production, "Elvis and the USS Arizona," and honored the late Sen. John Warner at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. this past week.

Warner received the foundation's Senator Bob Dole World War II Leadership Award, presented annually to "an individual of the Greatest Generation or their family who as an individual reflects the values of self-sacrifice, public service and everlasting commitment to our nation's principles of freedom and democracy."

The presentation was made to Warner's wife, Jeanne, by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough, with keynote remarks by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley. CNN's Jake Tapper served as master of ceremonies.

The film, produced by Tim Gray and narrated by Jim Nantz with Kyle Chandler, will air on public televisions this fall. It recounts the contribution made by the wildly popular performer, Elvis Presley, and his sold-out performance on March 25, 1961, at Bloch Arena on Naval Station Pearl Harbor to raise money to complete the USS Arizona Memorial. Presley was in Hawaii filming his movie, "Blue Hawaii."

The Elvis Presley benefit raised over $60,000 for the USS

Arizona Memorial and brought awareness of the fundraising effort. The memorial was completed and officially dedicated in 1962. Presley would visit the Arizona Memorial every time he performed in Hawaii.

Today, the USS Arizona Memorial is the most visited location in Hawaii, thanks in large part to Elvis Presley.

The mission of the nonprofit World War II Foundation is to tell the personal stories of those who were swept up in the most devastating conflict known to man and make these films accessible for free to students, educators, classrooms and the global public.

“Our documentaries rank in the top five of most requested programs nationally on American Public Television stations,” said Gray.