



## OUR PEOPLE

### A volunteer voyage on the "Mighty Mo"

05 Nov 2009

Source: *Linehan, Christopher J*

Every day, GE volunteers contribute to the well-being of the communities where they live and work. GE Asset Management (GEAM), the investment management arm of GE, is one of many businesses doing its part to support this mission.

GEAM's volunteer efforts primarily impact residents in Stamford, Connecticut - where the firm has been headquartered for over 30 years - and its surrounding cities. Last year alone, GEAM and other GE employees spent almost 8,000 hours on local volunteer projects, including tutoring and mentoring; planting and maintaining community gardens and school campuses; repairing and improving community centers; Junior Achievement teaching programs; soup kitchen volunteering; job shadowing; and home repairs for the elderly and disabled.

The impact of GEAM's volunteers, however, is not limited to just southwestern Connecticut. In fact, one recent effort brought a member of the GEAM team completely across the country for a project of special personal significance.

In one of the many initiatives overseen by the GE Volunteers organization, members of GE Elfun took part in a project in late August and early September to preserve and maintain the U.S.S. Missouri in Hawaii's Pearl Harbor. A collaborative effort with Elderhostel, the service expedition provided a select group with an opportunity to work aboard the battleship, which has been a part of U.S. military campaigns ranging from the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa to Operation Desert Storm.

Among the many events in which it was involved during its lifetime, the "Mighty Mo" made history in September 1945 when Japan surrendered unconditionally to General Douglas MacArthur and the United States in a ceremony on its deck. In the late 1990s, the U.S. Navy donated the battleship to become a memorial museum in Pearl Harbor.

Joining the volunteer group was GEAM's Lynn Gregory, whose prior connection to the ship-involving her uncle's service onboard during World War II and his witnessing of the surrender ceremony-made her five days of volunteering even more memorable.

The project allowed the volunteers to contribute to the ship's preservation through tasks including cleaning electrical switchboards (manufactured by GE), giving the teak deck protective covering before the ship's drydocking, installing hot water lines for showers, and painting and polishing brightwork. Lynn devoted the majority of her time to filing and cataloguing blueprints, a desperately needed effort involving a massive number of documents that had become disorganized over the decades.

During their stay, the volunteers also participated in a behind-the-scenes tour of the Mighty Mo and, on the final day of

the project, attended an anniversary event to commemorate the signing of the surrender which ended World War II. As part of their work, the volunteers helped prepare the ship for the event by decorating its exterior prior to the ceremony.

Reflecting on her experience, Lynn says, "It was an honor working with such an enthusiastic group of volunteers and I was proud to represent GE. The staff of the memorial were extremely appreciative of our efforts, which made us all feel great about the work we'd done. But the real satisfaction came from knowing we were taking part in a project connected to such an important part of history through World War II, not only for the U.S. but for the entire world."

Augmenting the volunteers' efforts was a \$5,000 donation from GE Elfun to help in the preservation of the Missouri. Through the generosity of donors and the service of numerous volunteers like those from GE, this iconic ship will continue to serve as one of the most important and unique memorials in the U.S.

For more information about the U.S.S. Missouri, visit the Battleship Missouri Memorial website here: <http://www.ussmissouri.com/visitor-information/interesting-facts>.

## Comments

As a retired Navy veteran I would like to thank those who took part in this project. I served aboard one of the ships in her battlegroup in the Gulf. I wish you could have had the opportunity to see her fire her guns broadside back in the good old days. When the "MIGHTY MO" roared it left no doubt to the world we are the "BIG DOG" on the block. Thanks again.

-- Posted by: [Deloy Dill](#) at 11:15 pm ET, 05 Nov 2009 | 

I'm quite certain that although I am a retired veteran of a different time period, I believe that I can safely speak for others that served in WWII and therefore I would like to salute and thank the volunteer's that took part in this effort to help preserve and sustain one of WWII's most historic monuments the USS Missouri (the "Mighty Mo"). Your patriotic efforts are truly appreciated and respected by all that in the name of "Peace" have responded to the call for arms. Thank you!

-- Posted by: [Joseph Kurdell](#) at 09:49 am ET, 06 Nov 2009 | 

GREAT, I Agree..


Wish I coul dhave helped,

Lorin Shirdon-USN 84-1990

-- Posted by: [Lorin Shirdon](#) at 09:50 am ET, 06 Nov 2009 | 

SOUNDS LIKE A FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE . I ONLY WISH WE HAD OPPORTUNITIES LIKE THAT HERE IN THE UK.

I,VE VISITED PEARL HARBOUR ONCE AND FOUND IT TO BE A VERY HUMBLING EXPERIENCE. TO ACTUALLY WORK THEIR WOULD BE A PRIVILEGE.

-- Posted by: [Grant Smart](#) at 10:11 am ET, 06 Nov 2009 | 

Having served in the US Navy when I was younger, I can appreciate what they have done with "Mighty Mo." I had the

privilege of seeing her up close and personal a few times as we passed into Pearl Harbor (yes, I used the US spelling as I was born and raised in Texas.) She is an impressive lady, one that can only truly be appreciated by seeing her in person.

-- Posted by: [Steve Ganze](#) at 11:41 am ET, 06 Nov 2009 | 