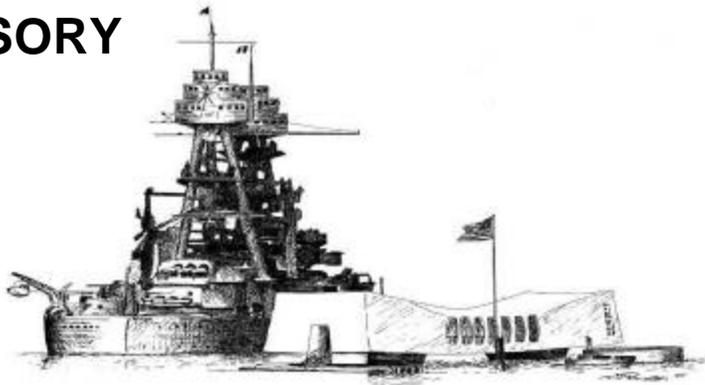


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## **Artist Wyland to complete final phase of last Whaling Wall in Hawaii**

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — Media are invited to join marine life artist Wyland between noon and 3 p.m., January 15, as he completes his 89th Whaling Wall mural at the Navy Exchange Mall at Pearl Harbor. Work on the two-phase project began in May with a seven-story-high ceiling mural. The second — and final phase includes the painting of two side walls.

“The two side walls will complete the effect of being immersed completely underwater,” Wyland says. “The idea is to use all of the architectural space of the Navy Exchange in a unique way to give people a whale’s eye view from seventy feet underwater looking toward the surface.”

The ceiling rotunda depicts a pod of forty-foot humpback whales during the winter calving season off Hawaii. When the project is finished, the large windows of the mall entrance will illuminate green sea turtles, dolphins, and native reef fish swimming through deep-sea lava tubes.

Wyland’s goal is to paint 100 life-size marine murals during his lifetime. The choice of the NAVY Exchange as the site of what he believes will be his last ocean mural in Hawaii was a natural, the artist says.

“The Navy has always supported the work I’ve done,” Wyland says. “It’s an honor and a privilege to dedicate this mural to all the members of our armed forces and their families in recognition of the challenges that lie ahead for them.”

The two-story, 340,000-square-foot Pearl Harbor mall features the Navy's largest retail outlet in the world and the largest Defense Commissary (military supermarket) in Hawaii.

**Media representatives who are interested in the event should contact the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office at 808/ 473-2888 by 11 a.m. to arrange an escort.**

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