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Flags of State Street

Karna Hughes, NEWS-PRESS FILE

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The Santa Barbara Navy League's bright blue and yellow flags have been flying along State Street since Monday.

They coincide with the nonprofit civilian-run organization's annual Salute the Troops campaign, which aims to bolster support for active-duty members of the sea-based military.

The banners depict an aircraft carrier on watch at sea, with three planes patrolling in the sky above. They represent service members who've patrolled local coastlines and visited Santa Barbara, according to a release from the State Street Flag Program.

As part of its campaign, which runs through Feb. 24, the Navy League encourages community members to boost the troops' morale by writing postcards of appreciation.

"Today, there are approximately 1.5 million Americans on active duty in the military," said Karen Crawford, the league's president, in a release.



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"The Santa Barbara Navy League extends our stated mission of support for the sea services by reaching out to every man and woman in uniform to thank them for their dedication to our nation. We invite the community to join us in this expression of gratitude."

Postcards should be mailed to Salute the Troops, c/o Santa Barbara Navy League, P.O. Box 4007, Santa Barbara 93140-4007.

Each postcard should indicate which ship or branch of service you are writing to. Correspondents younger than 18 should not include personal identifying information, such as last names, addresses or e-mail.

The local Navy League has adopted a dozen units, including USS Ronald Reagan, Coast Guard Cutter Blackfin and US Air Force 30th Operations Group at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

For a complete list of adopted units and additional postcard writing guidelines, go to www.santabarbaranavyleague.org or call 879-1598.

The State Street Flag Program, organized by the Santa Barbara Downtown Organization, promotes downtown events and celebrations. The banners change throughout the year, depending on the event being highlighted.

For information on the flag program call 962-2098, ext. 23, or visit the Web site: www.santabarbaradowntown.com.

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