

8th Annual Star Spangled Salute kicks off Fleet Week 2009



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The San Diego Fleet Week Foundation honored the Military Maritime Services in the Southwest Region by hosting the 8th Annual Star Spangled Salute at the Manchester Grand Hyatt, Aug. 15.

“The Star Spangled Salute is the ideal event to kick off Fleet Week 2009 because so many of the events are more narrowly focused and this provides an opportunity for a large number of our military guests, sponsors and board members to socialize and get excited about the upcoming events,” said

Alexandra Squires, San Diego Fleet Week Foundation executive director.

Approximately 350 active duty Sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen as well as retired service men and women from all branches of the armed forces turned out for the event. Special guests included some World War II veterans. “I think that this event was a roaring success,” said Squires.

“I believe that this event needs to be bigger not only to honor the men and women in uniform, but also those people who understand the service and sacrifices of the service members and appreciate everything that they do,” said retired Rear Adm. John McLaughlin, president and chief executive officer of the Midway Museum.

Fleet Week 2009 upcoming events include the Coronado Speed Festival at Naval Air Station North Island Aug. 26 through the 27; an all enlisted golf tournament at the Admiral Baker golf course Sept. 16; and the enlisted luncheon at SeaWorld Sept. 20.

Fleet Week San Diego was established in 1997 by community and business leaders who understand and support the Sailors and Marines. These leaders also sought to provide a means for San Diego to express that support in a way that would also establish San Diego as a patriotic, pro-military city.

Nurtured by the Chamber of Commerce, the annual series of events grew quickly into a recognized feature of the region’s annual calendar. By 2001, Fleet Week outgrew its home in the Chamber and was incorporated as The San Diego Fleet Week Foundation.

For a complete list of events, visit www.fleetweeksandiego.org