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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**THE STAR SPANGLED SALUTE KICKED OFF FLEET WEEK**

*The San Diego Fleet Week Foundation Honored Our Military Maritime Services*

**SAN DIEGO, August 24, 2009** – Sponsored by the Port of San Diego, the Star Spangled Salute was an annual Fleet Week San Diego event not to be missed. The gala took place on Saturday, August 15 and this black-tie event kicked off the 2009 Fleet Week events.

The eighth annual Star Spangled Salute offered a chance for the community to honor our military while enjoying a night of delicious food and patriotic music. Here are some of the highlights from this night under the stars:

***Speaker – Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher:*** Nathan Fletcher is the State Assemblyman representing California's 75<sup>th</sup> District. He is the first combat veteran of the Global War on Terror to serve in the California State Legislature.

Fletcher was elected in 2008 and represents the city of San Diego communities of La Jolla, University City, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch, Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Penasquitos, and Fairbanks Ranch, along with the City of Poway, portions of the City of Escondido, the community of Fairbanks Ranch and portions of Rancho Santa Fe.

In 2007, Assemblyman Fletcher completed his service in the United States Marine Corps Reserves where he served as a Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence Specialist. On his last deployment, Nathan worked in the Horn of Africa region traveling throughout Eastern Africa and the Near East. Previously, in 2004, Nathan served eight months in the Sunni Triangle region of Iraq. In addition to his military service, Nathan has been a tireless advocate for America's veterans and is a member of both the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War.

In each of these legislative facets, the Assemblyman is committed to demanding transparency and accountability from government, creating new jobs in California, expanding the access and affordability of health care and working to solve the water crisis affecting the Golden State.

At the eighth annual Star Spangled Salute, Assemblyman Fletcher spoke to the guests about the importance of supporting the many local service organizations in San Diego that help our servicemen and women and their families. He reminded the audience of

**Performances By:**

***Marine Band San Diego:*** Since its founding in 1915, Marine Band San Diego has provided musical and ceremonial support in a wide variety of commitments ranging from Hollywood films to Marine Corps change of commands, public parades to recruiting tours, patriotic convention openings to recruit graduations.

***The Three Waiters:*** Sophisticated, spontaneous and loads of fun, The Three Waiters involves three talented opera singers posing as waiters at an event before unleashing a dynamic show in the style of The Three Tenors. The combination of surprise, astounding voices and sophisticated humor suits all audiences. Having performed 4,000 shows in over 60 countries, this award winning show of thrilling voices continues to surprise and captivate unsuspecting guests all over the world.

***The Mighty Untouchables:*** This supreme eight-piece multi-cultural mix of musicians and singers entertain throughout the world, and are guaranteed to please audiences of all tastes with their extensive and diverse collection of material. The Mighty Untouchables offer everything from Motown to classic rock, along with Latin, country, current pop hits, and much more.

### **About Fleet Week San Diego**

With a range of major corporate sponsors that include the Northrop Grumman Corporation, the Port of San Diego, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Raytheon, Cubic Corporation, General Dynamics, The San Diego Padres, SeaWorld, USA Federal Credit Union, BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin, Solar Turbines, General Atomics and a host of others, the Fleet Week San Diego Foundation produces events that entertain and thank our military service members and their families for their extraordinary sacrifice and selfless dedication.

Thanks to the overwhelming support from regional businesses and the people of San Diego, our Fleet Week has become the largest “thank you” to the military in the nation and has adopted the tag line, “Fleet Week San Diego, Honoring the Military throughout the Year”.

*Fleet Week San Diego is a nonprofit, public benefit corporation. In addition to honoring the military services through the annual Fleet Week events, the Foundation’s goals are to foster awareness of the contributions made by enlisted military personnel and their families, to enhance relationships between the civilian, business and military communities, to provide events that Military personnel and their families can attend at little or no cost, and to raise funds for charitable efforts benefiting enlisted service members and their families. For more information, or for a complete listing of all of the Fleet Week events, please visit [www.fleetweeksandiego.org](http://www.fleetweeksandiego.org).*

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