

In honor of Father's Day, a quiz challenges readers to test their knowledge

SANTA BARBARA NEWS



OUR 159TH YEAR

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Flag Day at the Presidio

"Our flag highlights the building blocks of our glorious nation."

Rep. Lois Capps



MICHAEL MORIATIS/NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Above, Los Soldados Color Guard marches down Canon Perdido Street to start off Saturday's Flag Day celebration at the Presidio. At right, combined color guards present their colors during the ceremony.



Color guards join for observance and to mark bicentennial of the national anthem

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In 1846, Commodore Robert Stockton and 10 U.S. Marines came ashore in Santa Barbara and hoisted the first U.S. flag into the air at the Presidio.

Saturday, as the original 1782 bells chimed over the Presidio, color guards in traditional dress marched up Canon Perdido Street to kick off the Flag Day celebration.

The year 2014 also marks the bicentennial of the U.S. national anthem. Precisely at 1 p.m., those gathered around the Presidio, accompanied by the Santa Barbara Prime-Time Pops Band, joined with thousands of other American voices across the nation in history's largest group singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

All the formalities, including the raising of the flag, a musket salute and pledge of allegiance, were ob-

served.

Five members of the Vandenberg Air Force Base Honor Guard stood at attention to the right of the stage in front of the Presidio. Opposite them were the traditionally dressed soldados who would man the Presidio back when it was in operation.

Members of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation led the event. Rep. Lois Capps, D-Santa Barbara, attended.

"Our flag highlights the building blocks of our glorious nation," Mrs. Capps said. "These are inspirational symbols that are forever embedded in our flag, which has become a representation of the citizens of the United States."

"Wherever we may be in the world, our flag is honored as our home away from home. As the United States plays in the World Cup this week, I know we will honor our flag there as well."

Keynote speaker Joseph Dooley, president general of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, gave a history presentation about how the flag evolved into its current familiar design and the background story of the national anthem.

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress adopted the stars and stripes as the official flag of the United States.

A Wisconsin schoolteacher was the first to celebrate the flag's birthday with his students in 1885. President Woodrow Wilson estab-

lished a Flag Day proclamation in 1916, and President Harry Truman signed an act of Congress in 1949 designating June 14 of every year as National Flag Day.

In 1814, a large American flag flew over Fort McHenry in Baltimore as while it was under attack by the British in the War of 1812.

Seeing the stars and stripes flying over that fort inspired Francis Scott Key to pen "The Star-Spangled Banner" that the U.S. later adopted as its national anthem.

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