

Holiday Sharing

By Suzy Hopkins

San Diego, California is the main homeport of the U. S. Navy's Pacific Fleet with 13 piers for the many ships docked there and has 20,000 military personnel present there at any given time.

One Christmastime the harbor was especially full of ships and sailors. The large famously talented San Diego High School choir decided to sing Christmas Carols on the streets around the downtown on Christmas Eve since many stores, restaurants and bars were full of visiting sailors on shore leave. They proceeded to enthusiastically carol and got hot apple cider and hot chocolate at some stops until the last bar closed at 1:30. The mild weather encouraged them to continue singing the familiar Christmas songs so they walked to a nearby park. The bars' patrons were mostly young sailors. 100's of them eagerly followed the sizeable choir to a high grassy hillside lighted by a multitude of colorful Christmas lights. They joined them in spiritedly singing the very well-known and much loved songs which most of them had sung all of their childhood. Surprisingly, the Navy was a great addition and they all sang until the wee hours. It made a lonely time festive.

If you can't go home for the holidays you can bring the holiday cheer to wherever you are.