

... from Front Page Young Soldier Welcomed Home from Afghanistan

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Friends, neighbors and family gather on Serrano Court to welcome HM3 David Polse home

Photos Doug Kohen



David Polse being escorted home





Gathering on the driveway of the family home.

nity College in Sonora with a certificate in Fire Sciences. After stints at Camp Pendleton for corpsman train-

nis with the help of an interpreter is have their backs here at home," did not easy.

town, but former mayor and current

city council member Brandt Anders-

son had a special proclamation for

Polse from the City honoring his serv-

ice. He described Polse as modest,

double duty - meeting Polse and driv-Lafayette's mayor was out of ing him home from the airport about a eek before the surprise event. All told it was an amazing outpouring of love, support and sincere thanks from a host of groups, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Combat Veterans, American Legion and the Blue Star Moms. All had a gift as a token of their appreciation, symbolic coins and a flag from the Blue Star Moms. "Thanks you for coming out. 1 mentary BART tickets to use while really appreciate it," said Polse, "It's he's home. The presenter joked that, just really good to be home." Parents Frannie and Maury Polse certainly shared that sentiment, adding that they "are so proud of him, and so happy he's home." They, along with David's grandmothers, brothers Jake and Aaron, neighbors, high school pals and a contingent of veterans filled the street and front yard to celebrate his return, safe and sound.

Patriotism was in the air as one of the many Blue Star Moms in attendance High School, was humbled and oversang the Star Spangled Banner to get the party started.

Polse, a graduate of Acalanes whelmed. He joined the Navy after graduating from Columbia Commu-

ing, and the China Lake Weapons Center, he was able to attach to the Marines Third Division in Kanahoe Bay, Hawaii. Deployed in November 2010 to Kandahar Province in Afghanistan, his unit was assigned embedded troop training at a forward operating base with eight Marines and 30 Afghan Nationals. Rendering emergency medical treatment in a combat zone and training the Afgha-



In a poignant moment, a gentleman from the Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley said, "We wanted to make sure that you get the welcome home that we never did." The leather clad Warriors' Watch Riders, whose motto is "They have our backs over there, we

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