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Members of Los Soldados del Real de Santa Barbara, a Spanish-soldier re-enactment group, raise the U.S. flag at the Presidio.

## Veterans honored at the Presidio

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It is not in mourning, but in greeting, that we should salute America's veterans, a historian said Tuesday during a Veterans Day observance at the Presidio.

Dr. Rose Hayden-Smith, author of "Sewing the Seeds of Victory: American Gardening Programs of World War I," reflected on the bravery of the nation's armed forces during the commemoration hosted by the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.

Members of Los Soldados del Real de Santa Barbara, a Spanish-soldier re-enactment group, raised the U.S. flag, honoring members of each of the five military branches.

"Our bell rings today, every year this time, to honor the men and the women who have served the greater good of our country at significant personal sacrifice," said Terease Chin, a trust board member.

"We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the ... American service members

who died in battle," she continued. "However, we can recognize and thank the 25 million veterans still living with us today."

Although all veterans are commemorated on Veterans Day, Dr. Smith said in her speech that people should not overlook World War I, the war that led to the tradition in the first place.

It was a war with losses "too enormous and too painful not to acknowledge in a formal way across the world," she said. It was "the last old-fashioned and first modern" war that left in its wake the certainty that an even greater war would occur, changing how people fought, introducing the likes of chemical, aerial and trench warfare, machine guns, flamethrowers and tanks.

"Never had so many traveled so far to fight and die," Dr. Smith added.

And warfare continues. "Only the dead have seen the end of war," Dr. Smith said, quoting Plato.

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## Speaker: People should not overlook World War I

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That is why veterans must be honored for their continuous sacrifices; their personal tales must be shared "to remind us of the greater things we hold in common" like our love for liberty, she said.

Not everyone was enthused about the ceremony. An anti-war protester among the audience members interrupted the services on two occasions, warning listeners that soldiers returning from war are "committing suicide at a rate of 20 per day."

"I wanna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside. Ain't gonna study war no more!" he sang, after which he stormed off the scene.

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