

Lodi News-Sentinel

*November 21, 2012*

Anyone who wants to send holiday cards to American troops may do so through Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Stockton.

You may submit cards to McNerney's Stockton or Pleasanton offices through Dec. 5. His office collected more than 9,000 cards last year, with personal messages of gratitude for the troops' service to the country.

"The men and women who have served our country deserve our support every day, but especially during the holidays," McNerney said in a news release. "I encourage everyone to give a little something back to them by sending a personal card through my Holiday Cards for Our Troops program."

Cards will be sent to troops stationed overseas in packages organized by Lodi Support Our Troops, American Red Cross, the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs, East Bay Blue Star Moms, Pleasanton Military Families and Summerset Veterans Club. Cards will also be sent to veterans at Bay Area VA Hospitals, Camp Parks, Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Guidelines for cards:

- Cards should remain unaddressed and envelopes unsealed.
- Sign your card.
- Use salutations such as "Dear service member."
- Cards addressed to specific individuals cannot be delivered through this program.
- Do not include photographs or other items.

Cards may be sent to McNerney's offices at 2222 Grand Canal Blvd., Suite 7, Stockton, CA

95207; or 5776 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 175, Pleasanton, CA 94588.