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Three Big Days For Alvarez

Santa Clara has set aside March 23, 24 and 25 to celebrate the return of Navy Lieutenant Commander Everett Alvarez Jr., the pilot who spent more than 8½ years as a prisoner of war.

There will be marching bands (invited from all over California), ringing church bells and a banquet for 1000 persons.

And Mayor Gary G. Gillmor has declared March 23 a city holiday and named it "Alvarez Day" to honor the former POW as "a symbolic figure for others who have

suffered during the Vietnam war."

Alvarez, who has been resting and undergoing medical tests at the Naval Hospital in Oakland, attended the University of Santa Clara and his parents are Santa Clara residents.

He will be in the parade, which will be at 1 p.m. on March 25, and will address the banquet that night at a location still to be chosen.

A park will be named after him and proceeds from the banquet will be used to establish an Everett Alvarez Scholarship.



UPI Telephoto
Santa Clara put up this billboard as part of the homage it plans to pay the former prisoner