

PS4FS Monthly Newsletter - August 2011:

Dear PS4FS friends,

As summer sizzles by, we continue to have a good number of prayer shawls delivered to Dover Air Base. If you are like me, my knitting tends to slow down in the warmer summer, so thank you to those members who continue to keep Dover on our minds this time of year. Unfortunately, the casualties continue to be high, so your prayer shawls are very much appreciated by the Dover Chaplains and families. We've had two new members join us this month – see newsletter for details. Again, I urge all of you to consider sending photos of yourselves and groups to share with our ministry. It helps us to build camaraderie among our ministry, becoming nearly as important as the tribute photos of our military members and their own families. A milestone this month is we have passed the 5,000 mark in giving prayer shawls! So many families have been comforted by your work! Thank you for what you do here. Even if we do not receive thanks from recipients of our prayer shawls, we know from the Dover chaplains how important our work is. Blessings to all!

Note: If you prefer to be removed from this list, please notify me.

<http://webpages.charter.net/ps4fs/Shawls/>

Fondly,

Cozette

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I.) CURRENT STATISTICS:

# Prayer Shawls made since October 2007:	5,022	<i>Includes Dover prayer shawls (numbers below)</i>
# sent to Dover since inception of program (Sept. 2009):	1,852	
# sent to Dover this past month:	60	<i>This number is included in green total above</i>
# Prayer Shawl Groups/Individuals:	272	

*A Warm Welcome to New Groups/Individuals who Joined PS4FS in July 2011

Contact Name	Town	State	Group Name	Date Joined
Joan Heaton	Newport News	VA	Points of Grace Ministry at Grace United Methodist Church	7/13/11
Gladys Hontz	Allentown	PA	Trinity Knitters of Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church	7/29/11

II. COMMUNICATIONS FROM YOU:

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Judy Herdman, who works with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Prayer Shawl Ministry in Three Bridges, New Jersey, shares a photo of their group and their beautiful work! This photo was taken at the blessing of the prayer shawls! Thank you, ladies, for sharing your work!

1st row from left to right: Terry Schultz, Betsy Ellis, Tanya Lamassa, Josephine Knoblock, Carol Laine, Judy Ashcraft

2nd row: Sharon Boehmer, Judy Herdman, Rita Cunniff, Ruth Mania, Debbie Dammattao



PS4FS knitter/crocheter Joan Heaton, who works with Points of Grace Ministry, from Grace United Methodist Church in Newport News, Virginia, joined us last month. Joan's group is quite active; in fact, Joan tells us they wanted to personally deliver their first 15 prayer shawls to Dover Air Base! Joan says: (see photo of group below right) *We placed 15 prayer shawls on the altar yesterday for a special blessing. Each prayer shawl had the attached message:*

A Special Note: Although we cannot begin to imagine the grief you and your family are feeling with the loss of your loved one, please allow us to show our appreciation for the valor and patriotism of your cherished one. We pray the warmth of this prayer shawl, as you are wrapped within its folds, will remind you of the arms which once held you. Please accept our sympathy and our gratitude for the priceless gift of your beloved, whose bravery helped protect our freedom. God Bless You, Points of Grace Ministry.

Thanks for all your help. God Bless You, Joan Heaton

At this writing, Joan raised the 15 to 17 prayer shawls, and she planned to drive to Dover this past week. I am hopeful she will share photos of her trip to Dover, which will appear in next month's newsletter.

Front row left to right - Martha Boyer, Linda Rodgers, Alex Strawser (who has attended our meetings since before he was born) and his mother Maggie Strawser.

Back row left to right - Lynne Neibert, Thelma Forry, Doris Gochenaur, Margaret Lang, Saundra Breech, Carmen Wagner

Not pictured: Mary Fertenbaugh, Janet Grey, Donna Kohr, Linda Kunkel, Vonnie Neibert, Shirley Kimmel, and Tracy Zerby (who does our scrapbook)

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Lynne Neibert, who works with Trindle Spring Lutheran Church's prayer shawl group from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, was asked by their local

paper, The Patriot News, to share their ministry's stirring story about prayer shawls for a newspaper article. Below is a photo used in that newspaper. The article's title is:

Prayer Shawls Help Comfort Grieving Military Families – Church group uses prayer and their knitting skills to say 'we appreciate what their loved ones did for our country'.

It goes on to say the "group knit and crochet prayer shawls, they pray the people who wear them will feel as if God was hugging them." The group of 14 women joined our

ministry in July 2008, and have been a prolific part of our ministry. Lynne thoroughly enjoys seeking out military families on her own, especially since we "lost" the Army's casualty list. We are thankful to have you as part of our ministry, and are glad your local newspaper recognized your group's powerful work! The article continues: "'People are really touched to get a handmade gift' said Maggie Strawser of Wellsville. When one of the women completes a prayer shawl, she passes it around to the others and they each say a silent prayer.

Before they ship it with a sympathy note, they bring it to their minister, the Rev. Richard Lorenz, who says a blessing over it during Sunday worship. But the prayers start before the shawl is finished. "As we're making them we think about the person who will receive them", Neibert said. "I like to knit in a quiet place so I can really feel that person's pain and pray for them." Neibert says she can feel the Holy Spirit's presence when she knits. ...Sandra Breech said her heart goes out to the families so much, that she wishes she could knit all the time. "I really pray God's blessing on every shawl," she said. "I hope these people feel God's arms wrapped around them and have peace."



Maggie Strawser, right, of Wellsville, models her recently finished prayer shawl for Lynne Neibert, left, Saundra Breech, center, and her son Alex. BETH ANNE HEESSEN, The Patriot-N

WAY TO GO, ladies! We're proud to have you as part of our ministry! Thank you for your tireless work! You are an encouragement to us all! Blessings to each and every one of you!

III. THANK YOU NOTES AND MESSAGES:

PS4FS knitters/crocheters Melanie Staubitz and Sharon Schuesler, both from Cincinnati, Ohio, have been very active with our ministry since joining us back in April 2008!

They received a thank you note from a Dover family: grandmother Ruby Taylor Wyly, who lives in Hickory, North Carolina. Ruby's grandson is CPL Johnathan W.

Taylor, DOD 2/22/11. Ruby writes: (2 photos right)

Dear Ladies, I received two shawls from your Prayer Shawl Ministry on Feb. 25, 2011, when the body of my 23 year old Marine Grandson, Johnathan Taylor, was returned to Dover Air Force Base, Del. from Afghanistan. I will always thank you for these and find comfort every time I wear or look at the beautiful shawls. My grandson was truly a hero, and my family and I will always miss him very much. Gratefully, Ruby Taylor Wyly, Hickory, NC

A tribute video clip of CPL Johnathan Taylor, including the parents, is below:

<http://video.tbo.com/v/37237724/citrus-county-marine-loses-life-in-afghanistan.htm>



PS4FS Pat Drooge, who works with St. Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry in Boca Raton, Florida, has been active with that group making prayer shawls for this ministry.

Recently, Pat delivered two prayer shawls to the family of US Marine Sgt Marlong E. Myrie, DOD 7/2/11, who had lived in Oakland Park, Florida. Pat's message follows: (3 photos left and below)

Today I delivered two prayer shawls to a soldier's mother and wife. The Fallen Soldier is U.S. Marine Sgt. Marlon E. Myrie, from Oakland Park, FL. (suburb of Ft. Lauderdale). I took the shawls to the funeral home and they will deliver them personally to the family. He was killed in Afghanistan on July 2nd – he was only 25 yrs. old. Love & Blessings, Pat

Below is a video clip of the Dignified Transfer Ceremony which took place in Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport, where he was welcomed home by family and an honor guard. (3 photos left, including Dignified Transfer Ceremony at Ft. Lauderdale)

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/obituaries/mh-myrie-marine-killed-services-20110705,0,4772673.story>



PS4FS knitter/crocheter Louise Rossiter, who works with the Buxton United Methodist Women's Prayer Shawl Group in Buxton, North Carolina, received a lovely message from Kelsey Goeke, wife of 1LT Christopher S. Goeke, DOD 7/13/10. Kelsey lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Wait till you read the odd coincidence with my first AND last name! Kelsey's message once again shows how much our loving work means to these families! Thank you all for what you do here! Our families need to know they are remembered – it means so much to them! (3 photos on next page)

Also, I wanted to share with you that I found it interesting to learn that Cozette Haggerty founded the prayer shawl ministry. Coincidentally, my maiden name is Haggerty and our puppy we got right before Chris deployed is named Cozette! I found this coincidence interesting, perhaps you will too ☺

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Goeke

1415 Eagle Crest Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87115

July 15, 2011
Dear Buxton United Methodist Women's Prayer Shawl Group,
My husband, LT Christopher S. Goeke, was Killed in Afghanistan on July 13th of last year. A year ago today, I was at Dover Air Force Base preparing to view Chris's dignified transfer. It was then that I was given my lovely purple prayer shawl and your note of support and encouragement. Thank you so much for your comforting gift. In the darkest of moments, the prayer shawl has been a reminder that others recognize my loss and Chris's sacrifice. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and taking the time to reach out to me through your beautiful gift.



LT Goeke died July 13 in Kandahar City, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with rifle, rocket propelled grenade, and small arms fire. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

A Star Man at West Point, he graduated 6th in his class.

He married his wife, Kelsey, just 18 months ago. He was scheduled to return home from Afghanistan in one month, and planned to attend captains' school in Colorado.

His facebook page lists this as his favorite quote:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points

out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." -Teddy Roosevelt



PS4FS knitter/crocheter Julie Dean, who works with the Hickory Knit & Crochet Group from Hickory, North Carolina, tells us she received a direct request from Debbie Halstead, proud mother of SGT Nicholas Ray Gibbs, DOD 12/6/06. Debbie lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. Despite the hot weather, Julie tells us: (2 photos right)

One of our precious ladies made a beautiful WOOL prayer shawl during these days when the thermometer was pushing 100, for Ms. Halstead (a direct request). Thought you might like to see her sweet response.

Helen ~ I received the most BEAUTIFUL red, white and blue shawl from you guys today and want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I just don't know how I ended up getting it because I don't remember ordering it. But, since my son was killed in action, there are ALOT of things I don't remember. Could you please let me know if & when I ordered this? I posted this on our Gold Star Parent Brigade and no one else has ever heard of you guys but said they would love to have one. I thank you from the bottom of my heart because this will be wrapped around me ALOT ~ that you can count on. ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL shawl & job. Thank you doesn't seem like enough but that's all I have for now. You have NO idea how much this means to me!!! Warmest Regards, Debbie Halstead, Proud Mother of a Fallen Soldier RIP Sgt. Nicholas Ray Gibbs

