

PS4FS Monthly Newsletter - December 2011:

Dear PS4FS friends,

We have numerous thank you notes from our families to share this month, but have heard little from Dover Air Base – I am guessing they are extremely busy - I do not even want to think about that scenario. Please keep Dover's chaplains in your prayers, as well as our service men and women – pray that they will be kept safe, that their work will be of peacemaking, and that they will be brought home soon. May the need for our ministry soon fade away, but as long as that need is present, we continue to be here to help soothe our families' pain. As our families' thank you notes attest, our prayer shawls' work has a divine measure of healing for them. Keep knitting your prayers into your prayer shawls!

Let me take this opportunity to thank every one of you for "hanging in here" – a lot of love and time goes into making our prayer shawls, but we know the rewards are great. Thank you for sharing your work, for sharing your notes - please continue to do so. Remember to send photos of your work, and include photos of yourselves – it helps us bond which is very important to the continuance of our ministry. Our military families also like to read our newsletters which honor our fallen men and women.

May you all share the joy and mystery of wonder this Christmas, and have a healthy, happy New Year!

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:

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| # Prayer Shawls made since October 2007: | 5,439 | Includes Dover prayer shawls (numbers below) |
| # sent to Dover since inception of program (Sept. 2009): | 2,278 | |
| # sent to Dover this past month: | 48 | This number is included in above totals |
| # Prayer Shawl Groups/Individuals: | 278 | |

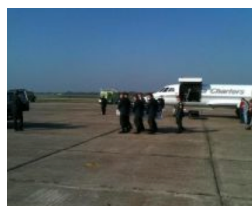
*A Warm Welcome to New Groups/Individuals who Joined PS4FS in November 2011

| Contact Name | Town | State | Group Name | Date Joined |
|---------------|------|-------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Dani Grealish | | | Blue Star Mothers of Eastern Mass. | 11/10/11 |

II. THANK YOU NOTES AND MESSAGES:

A thank you note was received from the family of PFC David Andrew Drake, DOD 9/28/2011. I believe this family was thanking us for a prayer shawl received at Dover. It is not personally signed, and I don't know which group gave the prayer shawl, so I can only share their lovely thank you note below. From an internet search, I believe David lived in Houston, Texas. (3 photos right including the arrival of David's body back at Dover Air Force Base.)

Your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the family of PFC David Drake. Thank you for the beautiful shawl. It means so much to us for your giving spirit. God bless you, The family of PFC David Drake

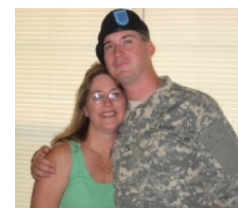


PS4FS knitter/crocheter Ann Morrison, who heads the First United Methodist Church's prayer shawl group in Homosassa, Florida, answered a direct request from James Albury, proud father of PFC Michael Christopher Mahr, DOD 3/22/11. James and his wife, Kimberly, live in the same town, Homosassa, as Ann's prayer shawl group! James even offered his family to attend First United Methodist Church to thank the everyone in person! Isn't that a wonderful way to show their appreciation! James requested another prayer shawl for Michael's twin brother, Matthew. Read his thank you and request below. (3 photos right including Michael and his mother; below is a link to a video of family photos)



Dear Ann, Thank you so very much. I found the shawls when I got home. I waited until my wife got home before taking ours out of the bag. She was so excited to receive it. It is so nice to know that there are people, like you and your group, who really appreciate the sacrifice that Michael made for all of us. And the joy that your gifts bring to the families is beyond words. We will cherish them always.

Just a question, is your church on W. Bradshaw Blvd in Homosassa Springs? I would love to attend one Sunday, with Kim and our Grandson, Christian (Michael's little sister's son) and meet you and your group and thank you in person.



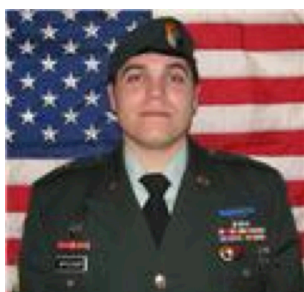
I have a request of you and your group, would it be possible for you to knit a special request shawl for Michael's twin brother, Matthew. This has been an especially hard time for him and I know that he would love something that shows him that there are people out there to whom Michael's sacrifice means something. I would greatly appreciate it. I would love to give him a shawl that emphasises the twin aspect, the same, yet different in subtle ways, but always intertwined and linked. I am not sure exactly of any design or colors, but something along this line. If you guys could do this for Matthew I am sure that it would give him some measure of healing. I am sure, with your abilities and knowledge in knitting, that you and your group could come up with some design that shows this theme. I realize that I am asking a lot, especially since you have already given us so much, but I would love to present Matthew with something special. He has lost more than I would ever understand, and I think that in some ways even more than his mother. But, that is the way it is with twins, even when they grow up, they are still the best of friends and cannot get enough of being together. I cannot imagine going through life knowing that "half" of me is missing. Matthew works in Bushnell and he goes out to visit Michael at the Florida National Cemetery every other day during his lunch hour, and I think that since the weather is getting cooler, one of your shawls, customized to signify thier bond, would be a wonderful gift to give him to take out with him when he goes during the winter months. I apologize for going on and on, but just felt that I needed to ask, for myself and for Matthew. Again, we Thank you very much for your gift and for your time, and for your love and caring. I hope that you have a blessed day and life. Sincerely, James and Kimberly Albury

Michael's obituary included the following about him:

His comrades called him "Superman" because he was fearless. He would do anything for anyone. He always put others ahead of himself. He would always stay late to work on the truck and tell his comrades to go ahead and he would take care of their RG. Michael was a very proud soldier and loved the Army. He never had a moment of regret for the choice he made to serve his country. He loved the Army and everyone he knew dearly. Godspeed Honey, we all love and miss you. You will always be in our hearts, Hooah!

The following link is a tribute to Michael and his family:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WaxdByGQ1k&feature=related>



PS4FS knitter/crocheter, Lynne Niebert, heads the Trindle Spring Lutheran Church's Prayer Shawl group, in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. This active group seeks out our families who have lost a loved one to the war, and enjoys the personal contact and love knitted into their prayer shawls. This month they sent me eight submissions of their work. Below is a thank you note from Elisa Apolinar, wife of SSG Martin Apolinar, DOD 5/29/2011. The family lives in Phoenix, Arizona. Elisa has a new son, so this is the second prayer shawl sent to this family in celebration of their 2-month old son, Gabriel Martin Apolinar. Elisa writes: (1 photo left)

Dear Lynne, Thank you so much for the absolutely beautiful prayer shawl and blanket you and you ministries sent my son and me. A special thank you for the prayers and kind words of support and love you sent in your card. I am truly grateful for your kindness. Although nothing can replace the pain I

have in my heart in losing Martin, it is comforting to know that there are people like yourself and you ministries who appreciate and honor our soldiers and their families' service and sacrifices. From the bottom of my heart, thank you! Sincerely, Elisa Proud Wife of SFC Martin Apolinar

A second thank you note comes from the family of Capt. Joshua T. Byers, DOD 7/23/03. (Notice early DOD). It cannot be stated enough times, when we hear from grateful families whose loved one died early in this conflict, it should not surprise us they are still in pain – our prayer shawls mean so much to them. We are thankful that our gifts continue to reach out to all our military families! Below is a message written by Joshua's mother, Mary Byers: (2 photo right)

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl I received from you ministry. It was lovingly made by Mary Fertenbaugh and gives me such peace when I use it. It brings memories of Josh to my mind and has been a dear blessing to me. Thank you all for sharing your love and thoughts, and remembering our fallen sons and daughters through this thoughtful ministry you do. Blessings, Mary, Mother of Capt. Byers



A third thank you comes from the family of SGT Kristoper Mathis, DOD 8/15/11. It is from Kristoper's mother and father, James and Angela Spear - I'm not certain, but I believe they live in Irving, Texas. Below is their thank you: (1 photo left)

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl you sent our daughter, Jordon Spear-Mathis. Her husband was Sgt. Kristoper Mathis. Our family will include you all in our prayer intentions. Sincerely, James and Angela Spear



The next note Lynne Niebert's group shares with us comes as a prayer shawl request from Felicia Escobedo, proud mother of SGT Donald V. Stacy, DOD 6/28/11. The family is from Texas, but I do not have the town. Thank you to Janet Grey who made the loving prayer shawl for this family. Felicia writes: (1 photo right) *I'd be interested in a shawl in honor of my son, thank you so much. The love, comfort, and support from all over the US has been appreciated and overwhelming in a good way. Thank you Lynne."*



The next thank you comes from Tanya Palmer, wife of CPL Charles O. Palmer II, DOD 5/5/07. Tanya is from York, Pennsylvania, but the funeral was held in California at her husband's request. Linda Kunkel, of the Trindle Spring Lutheran Church's Prayer Shawl group sent Tanya one of her prayer shawls. I encourage you to watch the video of Chuck's funeral, meet his family, including Tanya. It's a most moving tribute to Chuck! Tanya writes: (1 photo left)

Thank you so much. I am Charles wife, my name is Tanya. I grew up in York, PA (near us in Mechanicsburg). I am so grateful to know that people from all over the country are reaching out to the

military families. Thank you Tanya

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xnYlPb8EQ>

Lynne's group gave another two prayer shawls to the family of PFC John C. Johnson, DOD 5/27/11. The family lives in Utah (town is not known). John's mother, Vicki Dryer, received a prayer shawl from Carmen Wagner, and John's daughter, McKenna Elizabeth Johnson, was given a prayer blanket made by Lynne Neibert. (1 photo right)



Three prayer shawls were given by Lynne's group to the family of CPL Kyle R. Schneider, DOD 6/30/11. Family members receiving prayer shawls are Lorrie Schneider, Kyle's mother, Theresa Dodge, Kyle's fiancé, and Kevin Schneider, Kyle's brother. Kyle lived in Phoenix, New York (1 photo left)



The Trindle Spring Prayer Shawl group gave 6 prayer shawls to the family of SPC Joshua Lancaster, DOD 1/19/11. The wife, Melanie Lancaster, lives in Clarksville, Tennessee. (Joshua's obituary says he was from Millbrook, Alabama) Other family members receiving prayer shawls include: Kim Irwin. Joshua's mother, Abi Irwin, Joshua's sister, Taylor Irwin, his sister, Gloria Garrett, Joshua's grandmother, and David Lancaster, Joshua's grandfather. It is very moving to see how this group outreaches to our families, giving multiple prayer shawls to the family. Thank you, ladies at Trindle Spring in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania! You inspire us all with your dedication in this ministry! And thank you to everyone in this ministry for staying the course and making a difference in so many broken lives – letting them know we are here and care!





PS4FS knitter/crocheter Camz Zoglmann, from Aiken, South Carolina, was sent a thank you note and photo from the family of SGT Carlo “Kikoy” Eugenio, from Rancho Cucamonga, California. Camz’s prayer shawl was chosen while the family was at Dover Air Base.

“In Memory of Sergeant Carlo “Kikoy” Eugenio, With our deepest gratitude, The Eugenio Family” - Thank you for the prayer shawl—you are a blessing!, Cynthia Eugenio-Valdes (Carlos’ sister) 11/2011

A video tribute to Eugenio and his integrity, may be viewed below:

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/inland_empire&id=8431266

Camz shares how we all feel about receiving thank you notes from our families:

I do so appreciate her sending it to me as we seldom get thank you notes and we definitely do not stitch expecting thanks from families. It brought tears to my eyes & I have more now as I re-read the note to type here. Oh, the pain these families endure and oh, their pride in the heroes. We can only hope & pray that our feeble stitching efforts give them some measure of comfort. Again, thanks for letting me help in this project! Best wishes, Camz

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Nancy Dew, from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, only joined us this past August, and already has received a lovely thank you note for her work! Thank you, Nancy! The note comes from Rai Anne Sancho, loving wife of US Specialist Jeremiah Sancho, DOD 10/13/11. Rai Anne lives in Palm Bay, Florida, traveled to Dover Air Base where she chose Nancy’s prayer shawl at the Fisher House. She writes: *(I photo right)*

I just wanted to say thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl you made. I received it when I was flown to Dover Air Force Base. I lost my husband on October 13, 2011. The prayer shawl really comforted me while I was there and continues to do so now. Thank you for making them because they really do help. Thank you so much! Love, Rai anne Sancho.

