

PS4FS Monthly Newsletter - February 2011:

Dear PS4FS friends,

It has been an interesting two months – while Chaplain Wallace tells me there were few casualties in December, there were so few names on the Army's casualty list, I became suspect. After investigating, it seems the Army suddenly (without notice) stopped sending the casualty list to the dozens of groups like ourselves, and when I questioned them, I received a partial list (the end of January) of only seven names. I believe this will all be worked out eventually – there are dozens of groups like ourselves, and we're all working behind the scenes to ensure our continued good-will for our military families who have given so much!

This month, in addition to the Army's Casualty List, **PS4FS Knitter/Crocheter Julie Aamot, Custer, Washington**, who joined us two months ago, came across a large list of Gold Star Families who never received a prayer shawl. Julie is a trooper – sending me a list of twenty-five names. I have taken the liberty of adding these names to our Army Casualty List in the newsletter – so if you'd like to request a "town", note that many of these names have DOD going back as far as 2004. Thank you, Julie, for caring and helping us to leave no stone unturned! Gold Star Families is a valued organization! I'm glad you've touched base with them and can help in this way!

I'm particularly proud of some of the stories in this month's newsletter. **PS4FS knitter/crocheter Kecia Stanley, along with members of the "Stitches of Love" prayer shawl group from the Congregational Church in Laconia, New Hampshire**, made a substantial donation to the Fisher House in Roxbury, Massachusetts! Enjoy reading a number of warm stories like Kecia's!

Let me take this opportunity once more to thank you all for being part of this ministry and accomplishing an unbelievable feat! I'm proud to know you, and be able to work with you in this capacity! We've brought many smiles and much comfort to these families who have given so much! Blessings to you all!

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

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

Fondly,

Cozette

INDEX:

I. INFO

- 1) Current Statistics
- 2) Dover Program
- 3) Army's Recent Casualty List

II. INFO, IDEAS, AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM YOU

III. THANK YOU NOTES, NPC RESPONSES, AND MESSAGES:

I.) INFO:

1.) CURRENT STATISTICS:

# Prayer Shawls made since October 2007:	4,201	<i>This number totals all names handed out, but could decrease as some of those names become 'abandoned' when they are returned due to moving or no response. It also includes approx. 1/2 of Dover prayer shawls distributed to families at that base.</i>
# Prayer Shawls sent to Dover since Oct. 2007	1,338	
# Prayer Shawl Groups/Individuals:	261	

*A Warm Welcome to New Group who Joined PS4FS in January 2011

Contact Name	Town	State	Group Name	Date Joined
Martha Murphy	Meriden	CT	St. Andrew's Church	1/20/11

2.) DOVER PROGRAM



Above, Kecia and the Fisher House Director, Elizabeth St. Pierre, holding one of the twelve donated prayer shawls

Below from L – R: Row 1 Gary Bakeman, Elizabeth St. Pierre (Fisher House Manager), Chuck LaFleur (ALR Director), Kecia Stanley
Row 2: Ernie Wells. and Crvstal Hamel



On another note, PS4FS Melanie Staubitz and Sharon Schuesler, of Cincinnati, Ohio, shared a lovely note they received from Army Chaplain Chuck Wallace:

Ms. Staubitz and Ms. Schuesler, I wanted to take a moment to thank you and those who make the prayer shawls for our service members families. I received several large boxes of shawls in December just when I needed more. The families really enjoy the shawls and I wanted to let you know we appreciate your efforts to reach out to the families in their time of need. CH (MAJ) Chuck Wallace

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Kecia Stanley, who heads Stiches of Love from the Congregational Church in Laconia, New Hampshire, has an amazing story about a HUGE donation to one of 46 existing Fisher Houses; this one is in Roxbury, Massachusetts! I had the pleasure of meeting Kecia and other members of *Stiches of Love* three years ago at the Prayer Shawl Gathering in Hartford! Her group stood out among the 300 in the room because they all wore beautiful matching sky-blue shirts bearing their first names and the group's name: "*Stiches of Love*". Kecia, you and your group are truly an inspiration to us all! We're all proud of you and your good work! Below, Kecia shares her story: (2 photos below left)

Our Stiches of Love group donated 12 shawls to the Fisher House in Roxbury Massachusetts back in October. The day was two-fold for me. I am a member of the American Legion Riders, the motorcycle part of the American Legion Family, and we did a poker ride in July raising \$1,500 for the Fisher house. We went down to present the check and I did the shawl presentation. God bless, Kecia

This particular Fisher House opened in May 2010, and as the Fisher House at Dover, serves Veterans'

and military families who may stay overnight. Many of these families are serving needs at the Boston VA Hospital. The House has 20 bedrooms, strives to provide a warm, caring environment for visiting families. Of course, there is no cost for this service.

3.) ARMY'S RECENT CAUSALITY LIST:

Below is a list of the recent casualties combined with 25 names given to us by PS4FS Knitter/Crocheter Julie Aamot, Custer, Washington. (Note: Those 25 names are not recent; they are all Gold Star Families who have never received a prayer shawl and would like to have one.) All of the names below have **not** received prayer shawls from Dover, and have **not** been contacted so you would need to make the initial contact. If you would like any of these names, please let me know. As you are all aware, it's on a 'first come' basis, so let me know as soon as possible.

Boaz	AL
Enterprise	AL
Hoover	AL
Russellville	AR
California City	CA
Garden Grove	CA
Hayward	CA
Lancaster	CA
Marina	CA
Colorado Springs	CO
Crestview	FL
Titusville	FL
Columbus	GA
St. Marys	GA

Glenwood	IA
Champaign,	IL
Fairfield	IL
Mt. Vernon	IL
Indianapolis	IN
Westfield	IN
Wichita	KS
Mayfield	KY
Auburn Hills	MI
Hastings	MI
Shevlin	MN
Charlotte	NC
Statesville	NC
Whiteville	NC

Concord Township	OH
Streetsboro	OH
Owasso	OK
Sand Springs	OK
Corry	PA
Greenville	SC
Travelers Rest	SC
Clarksville	TN
LaVergne	TN
Killeen	TX
Fort Lee	VA
Hampton	VA
Stafford	VA
Williamsburg	VA

Jackson	WI
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INFO, IDEAS, AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM YOU:

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Dr. Joan Mathis, who works with the First Presbyterian Church's Prayer Shawl group in sunny Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, shares an interesting thought about our various prayer shawl groups. Too often we think others know about us, but unless we are proactive and "advertise" what we do (such as church newsletters and bulletins), we find many others helping our cause. It could be by joining the group, or by giving contributions toward our cause. Think about it and be more proactive if you have not been in the past! Below are Joan's comments:

Our group is growing and some people are very prolific! They are pleased to know that we are part of a national network helping those in grief through the Dover Project. We presented about 18 shawls to our congregation for blessing at two Sunday services in

December. We usually have them blessed at our bi-weekly meetings. But it was amazing how many people did not know that we have this ministry. Not only did some knitters come out of the woodwork, but others requested to learn. Among those who requested shawls for their seriously ill relatives on that day, healings continue to happen! It is really exciting! Joan



Not **all** our prayer shawls are made from yarn! PS4FS knitter/crocheter Elaine Tabor, who works with Christ United Methodist Church's Prayer Shawl group in Franklin, Tennessee, shares a photo of a lovely fleece prayer shawl made Ginger Houston, a member of her church. Elaine tells us: (1 photo left)

Ginger Houston, from our church, made three shawls out of fleece. We have been talking a lot about the Dignified Transfer at Dover and how the Prayer Shawls are placed on a table for the families to take them for the ceremony. She put pockets on them thinking that they would need a

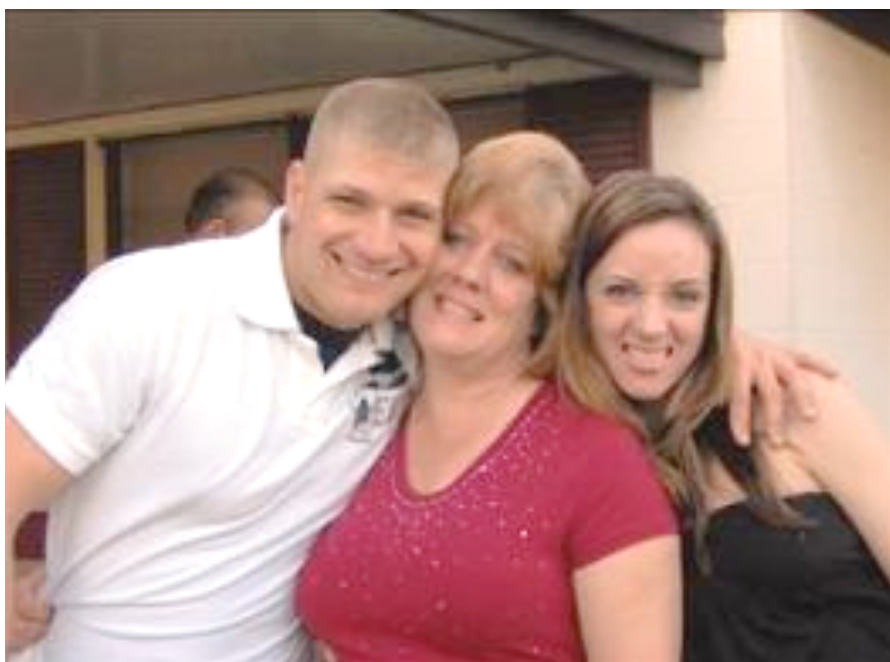
handkerchief and some place to put it when tears would fall as they surely would. She made the patriotic ones thinking of Military families who have lost loved ones. We all want them to know how much we appreciate the sacrifice they make for us. Elaine Tabor

THANK YOU NOTES, NPC RESPONSES, AND MESSAGES:

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Sharon Wainwright, who heads the 'Knit-a-Prayer' group at First United Methodist Church, Bakersfield, California, received a surprise thank you from a family of SPC David Scott Robinson, KIA 11/20/10, who had visited Dover Air Base. David's wife, Heidi, and two sons and daughter, live in Clarksville, Tennessee. Below is Sharon's message: (3 photos right, 1 below left)

I have a wonderful, amazing "happening" to share. One could call it a "God Sighting!" I received a thank you note addressed to First United Methodist Church, Bakersfield, CA, with a local return address. The note read as follows:

Dear Sharon, I'm writing to thank you on behalf of my sister, Karen. She and her family live in Arkansas. On November 20, her grandson, my great nephew, David Scott Robinson, was killed in Afghanistan. When his Dad flew to Dover, Delaware to receive his body, he was presented with a prayer shawl made by you. Their hearts were touched by the note you included, the words of comfort and the prayers that had gone up in the making of the shawl. I'm amazed at our God and how He works. Words cannot express our appreciation. God is good, all the time. Blessings to you, Barbara Holland



Sharon continues:

The tag on this prayer shawl had my own personal name attached, along with my contact address. I have no idea how the shawls at Dover are selected or displayed for individuals who receive them. It's absolutely incredible to me that one of the shawls our group sent would have a relationship to an individual who lives in Bakersfield, California! God does work in mysterious ways His wonders to perform. I just wanted to share this happening with you. I had tears in my eyes as I read Barbara's precious note and realized how God's hand is in this ministry. Blessings, Sharon Wainwright



PS4FS knitter/crocheter Lynette Schnieder, works with Common Threads at St. George Episcopal Church in Belleville, Illinois. Lynette is a prolific worker in our ministry. She received a message from Susan Needham, mother of SSG Joshua David Powell, KIA 9/21/10. Susan lives in Pleasant Plains, Illinois and writes: *(1 photo left)*

Hi Lynette! I wanted to thank YOU for the beautiful prayer shawl and eyeglass case. They are so beautiful. I truly appreciate them being blessed by your pastor. That makes them even more special. You have truly been given a gift. What a wonderful thing to share with families with wounded hearts to help them heal! I wish I was as talented. Maybe I will find my way to help put a few stitches in broken hearts as you have. I know the holidays get crazy and it was so sweet of you to get those done in such a short time. The colors are beautiful. You are truly a blessing. Thank you again, God Bless you, Sue

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Grace Cooper, who works with the First Lutheran Church in Pasco, Washington, received a thank you from the family of PFC Robert Near, KIA 1/7/11. The family lives in Nampa, Idaho. Grace writes: *(1 photo right)*

Cozette, Today I delivered two Prayer Shawls to the family of Pfc. Robert Near, 21 of Granger WA. The family was unable to travel to Dover so it was a pleasure to give the shawls to the family. The streets of the small town of Sunnyside were lined with flags. Flags were attached to cars and motorcycles as the citizens prepared to show their respect for this fallen hero. Gov. Chris Gregorie directed that all flags fly at half-staffed in memory of Pfc. Near. It was very emotional! On Sunday we had a visiting Pastor who had visited with the family on Saturday. We are working hard and maybe soon will have some more to send to Dover. Blessings to you! Gracie Cooper

