

PS4FS Monthly Newsletter - October 2011:

Dear PS4FS friends,

I am hopeful many of you will be able to attend the Prayer Shawl's Gathering Convention on Saturday, November 5th in Hartford. See the newsletter for details and how to register!

We are very happy to introduce our third Dover Chaplain, CH (LTC) Chaplain Garry Losey. He is very enthusiastic about our program and how much it means to the families who visit Dover. Enjoy Chaplain Losey's letter of introduction in this month's newsletter! He tells me how well Chaplains David Sorensen and Chuck Wallace paved the way for his job, making it so much easier for him to begin his work at Dover. You will all value his appreciation of our work! Quoting from his letter: *"This giving out of a deep felt-love for others is the most precious gift that God has given us and as I see it in my wife's work, I see it in each and every shawl that we give to the families that come through Dover. God bless you for your labor of love for the Families of the Fallen."* We look forward to working with him!

Blessings to you all as we enter the fall months! May you enjoy good health, and thank you, thank you, thank you for all you have done here! It never ceases to amaze me how much we have done together in this ministry! The healing power of this group is boundless!

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:		
# sent to Dover since inception of program (Sept. 2009):	5,320	<i>Includes Dover prayer shawls (number below)</i>
# sent to Dover this past month:	110	<i>This number is included in green total above</i>
# Prayer Shawl Groups/Individuals:	278	

*A Warm Welcome to Individual who Joined PS4FS in September 2011

Contact Name	Town	State	Group Name	Date Joined
Elaine Jingles	Grand Rapids	MI		9/1/11

II. COMMUNICATIONS FROM YOU:

Once again, Vicky Gallo and Janet Bristow will hold an event **NOT TO BE MISSED!** Each year they top the previous year's event! I will be there, along with a number of you from our ministry. It's a fun-filled day, you will meet new people, enjoy numerous activities along with a mouth-watering lunch, all for a mere \$7.00! Consider registering early if you plan to go as it always fills up. Let me know if you plan to go so we may meet and chat while there! Below is the link to register and details on The Prayer Shawl Companion books both exceptional and highly recommended. Vicky and Janet are currently working on a **THIRD** book, which will be out by next year's convention! The following link is where the information below was taken:

<http://www.shawlministry.com/events.html>

11th Annual "Gathering The Circles"

Saturday November 5th, 2011 - 10am - 2pm

Pre-registration is required

Registration cut-off date: 10-28-11 or until is capacity reached

Click: for the [Gathering Flyer 2011.pdf](#) registration form

Coming October 2012

The New Prayer Shawl Companion - Knitted Patterns



The Prayer Shawl Companion Books

Designs and Patterns to Embrace, Inspire, and Celebrate Life

Written By: Janet Bristow and Victoria A. Cole-Galo

Now available in stores and on-line book websites

[click on the pictures for book ordering options]

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Diane Slagle, who joined us this past June, lives in Batavia, Ohio. When I asked her to share a photo of herself and some of her work, I was taken aback by her beautiful work. Below is a picture of Diane – I often crop photos to show only the individual, but **had** to include the gorgeous background! I told Diane it didn't look like Ohio, looks more like Austria, and guess what, it is! She was on the Austrian/German border – the photo was taken last year! Thank you for sharing your work, Diane. She writes:

I am a quiet person and don't usually put myself out front, but since you asked for a picture I am sending one of myself along with the three prayer shawls I sent to Dover in July. I am working on more. This is a great ministry and I am so grateful to be a part of it. Thanks for everything, Diane



III. DOVER PROGRAM:

We all extend a warm welcome to this ministry's 3rd Dover Chaplain, Chaplain Garry Losey. I had the privilege of speaking with him on the phone a few weeks ago and am excited about his exuberance over our program.

My name is Chaplain Garry Losey and I am thankful for this opportunity to introduce myself to those who have given so much of their time to share their love to the families of the Fallen. I just arrived in August from Chicago, Illinois to work with the Army Liaison Team at Dover Air Force Base. During this past month I have been extremely busy with the families of the Fallen.

The one positive thing I have to offer these families of our fallen heroes are the prayer shawls that have been so lovingly made. The beautiful shawls have not only touched the lives of the families that have come through Dover, but they have shown them the love that rest in the hearts of the people of this great country. Your hard work and great love has been seen in the faces of the families that have come to see their loved ones brought home. Again I want to thank you for your love and dedication that touches the hearts of our families.

Just a little about myself. I am a native of Oregon. I have been blessed to serve God in many different capacities as a pastor in California, Hawaii, and Virginia, a hospital chaplain in the Chicago area, and as an Army Chaplain on active duty and in the reserves for the last 24 years. The blessings that I have received have been numerous. The greatest blessing is seen in the picture above, my wife (Yvonne) of 34 years. The saying is true ~ that behind every successful man there stands a loving and caring wife and in my case as many other can also say a beautiful one. We have been blessed with two children: our daughter Sherlyn, and our son Benjamin. We have also been blessed with two grandchildren: Gabbie and Gavin. One thing that ties my family to each of you is my wife's love to create things with fabric. Although she does not make shawls, she does make beautiful quilts which she loves to share.

This giving out of a deep felt-love for others is the most precious gift that God has given us and as I see it in my wife's work, I see it in each and every shawl that we give to the families that come through Dover. God bless you for your labor of love for the Families of the Fallen. Thank you for your support.

Chaplain Garry

Thank you, Chaplain Garry, for your heartfelt letter! We all love you and Yvonne already! Please extend to Yvonne an invitation to join us in our cause – if she'd like to join our ministry, we gratefully accept quilts too! We'd be honored!

Many blessings to you in this new journey at Dover! May we work seamlessly together! When your stockpiles run low, let me know and we'll ensure you and the other armed services at Dover have what you need to spread the healing love we've "knit" into our gifts!

We also received a note from Robin Raine, Dover's Chief of Families of the Fallen Support Branch. She sent me a copy of the base's Family Support Network Fall Newsletter, which includes a link to our website for those families interested in a prayer shawl. This means there is a good chance we may be getting more direct requests in the near future! Robin writes:

I hope this finds you doing well. For a change, I get to send you one of our newsletters! Thanks to you and the gracious ladies around the country, we have lots of boxes of prayer shawls for our families of fallen service members to wrap themselves in, especially as the weather starts to get cool. It can be up to 10 degrees temperature difference between the center and the flight line, so the shawls can make a world of difference in their experience, receiving their loved ones back to American soil. As always, thanks so very much for all you do. Your tireless passion in keeping your ministry going is very much appreciated by more people than you know. Warm Regards, Robin



IV. THANK YOU NOTES AND MESSAGES:

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Rachel Eggleston, from Gilbert, Arizona, sent a purple prayer shawl to Lori Deysie, proud mother of PFC Ara Deysie (nicknamed Tman), DOD 5/9/08. Lorie lives in Lake Havasu City, Arizona and writes: *(1 photo right)*

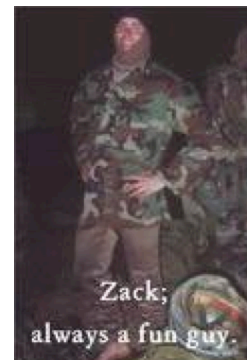
Thank you for the beautiful Shawl that Rachel Eggleston made – it is in beautiful shades of purple and so warm and big! Thanks and hugs to all the ladies that work so hard sending the shawls! It's one talent that I have never been able to learn. You all have great patience and big hearts. I read the article on my son, Ara Deysie, AKA Tman. The picture of him and his sister is one of my favorites. Let Rachel know I appreciate the shawl. I sit out and watch the sunset from my front yard in the evening. Thank you, Lori Deysie



PS4Fs knitter/crocheter Mitzi Christian, from Alexandria, Virginia,

joined us this past May. She volunteered to take a direct request from Jeanette Poston, proud mother of SSG Zachary Ryan Wobler, DOD 2/6/05. Jeanette lives in Gate City, Virginia. She writes: *(2 photos left, 1 right)*

Dear Mitzi, The shawl arrived last week. The colors are my favorites. I couldn't have chosen anything better! Thank you so much for the shawl but even more for the prayers that are stitched into it. It has been over six years since our son was killed, and I still need His comforting on a daily basis. Thank you again and may God bless you for this work that you do for fallen soldiers families. Sincerely, Jeanette Poston



PS4FS knitter/crocheter Lynne Niebert heads the Trindle Spring Lutheran Church group from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, a very active group who has been with us since July 2008. They continue to seek out names by leaving messages on Guest Books and Message Boards. This group shares FOUR thank you notes. Note: A reminder that we in this ministry appreciate when you share your thank you notes. Many of us do not get them, so sharing them allows us to enjoy the “fruits” of our work, and a bonus is that the families enjoy them as well! These notes also serve as a tribute to these men and women! Please remember to share them if you are willing to do so!

The first thank you note comes from Bonnie and Joseph Schneider from Watertown, Connecticut. They are the proud parents of STC Dae Han Park, DOD 3/12/11. The Trindle Spring Lutheran group sent a prayer shawl and a lap robe, both made by Linda Kunkel. The thank you note reads: *(1 photo right)*

Thank you so much, it means so much to the families of the fallen. My husband and I know first-hand. Yes, his dad would like a lap robe and the shawl would be for me. Again, thank you soooo much! God Bless you and your work. It means the world to families. Bonnie and Joseph Schneider.



The second thank you message comes from a loving grandmother, Nancy Johnson from Frankfort, New York, asking for several prayer shawls, including one for a new born baby girl! Nancy's grandson is PFC John Corey Johnson, DOD 5/27/11. The Trindle Spring group sent a total of 4 prayer shawls, a prayer shawl for Nancy Johnson (grandmother) made by Carmen Wagner, a lap robe for John Johnson (father) made by Mary Fertenbaugh, a prayer shawl for Jennifer Johnson (wife) made by Janet Grey, and a baby blanket for baby Rae LeAnn (daughter) made by Carmen Wagner. Thank you for your generosity, and thank you for finding this family on the internet! Nancy writes: *(1 photo left)*

Today I read your posting on the guest book for my grandson, PFC John Corey Johnson, offering prayer shawls for the families of fallen soldiers. My grandson, Corey, died a hero for our country. My son, Corey's father, is visiting and I showed him your generous offer. We would both appreciate one. I know that his wife, Jennifer, would like one as well. I am sure that Jennifer would appreciate a baby blanket for their daughter, Rae LeAnn Corey Johnson, who was born August 11, 2011 and weighed 7 pounds. Nancy

Johnson, grandmother of PFC John Corey Johnson

The next thank you note comes from Anna Valentine, proud mother of CPL Donald E. Valentine, DOD 9/18/07. Anna lives in Orange Park, Florida. Doris Gouchenaur made a loving prayer shawl for Anna. Anna's writes: *(1 photo right)*

Thanks for your blessing. Anna Valentine



The fourth note comes from Sandra Smith, loving mother of CPL Jeffrey Allen Williams, DOD 9/5/05. Sandra lives in Mansfield, Texas. Her prayer shawl was made by Janet Grey. She writes: *(1 photo left)*

Thanks for supporting our fallen soldiers. Sandra Smith



We received a direct request from Creede, Colorado. Barbara Ahlquist, mother of Marine SGT Clinton Ahlquist, DOD 2/20/07, shares with us the value of our work. Sometimes, it's nice to hear these kinds of compliments from the receivers of our prayer shawls! We DO enjoy an occasional "pat-on-the-back" – it keeps us going, don't you all agree? From our correspondence, Barbara is a special person. Clinton had a beautiful smile! Below is her message. *(2 photos right)*

I am a Gold Star Mother. I lost my son on February 20, 2007 in Ramadi. My son, Sgt. Clinton Ahlquist, USMC was KIA by an IED. My friend has a Prayer Shawl and told me about your program. She gets so much comfort and love from the shawl and suggested I request one. If you would be able to do that for me, I would be truly grateful. This is such a wonderful gift that you are providing to so many of us that have suffered the loss of a child. I so appreciate all that you and the other knitters do for our fallen soldiers families. It is wonderful people like you that make America great. May God Bless you, Barbara Ahlquist



PS4FS knitter/crocheter Pat Van Horn, who works with Holy Apostles Catholic Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado, gladly accepted Barbara's request! Pat has been a member of our ministry since October 2008 – someone always to be depended upon whenever the "call" comes out! Thank you, Pat! And thank you everyone for what you have done with this ministry!