

PS4FS Monthly Newsletter - February 2012:

Dear PS4FS friends,

Our hearts sink each time we hear a news story about losing more troops. This past month, I overheard a report about 6 NATO troops killed in a helicopter crash over southern Afghanistan – according to news reports: *“A NATO helicopter crashed Thursday (1/19/12) in southern Afghanistan in an apparent accident that killed six members of the international military force, the U.S.-led coalition said. The cause of the crash was under investigation, but the coalition said there were no reports of enemy activity in the area at the time. In line with policy, it would not disclose the identities of those killed or their nationalities until the governments and families involved had been notified.”* We in this ministry feel the connection of our work, knowing our prayer shawls will be wrapped around family members only a few days later; we can visualize our chaplains gearing up for the busy time ahead, the families standing at the Dignified Transfer Ceremony on the tarmac of Dover Air Base. It’s not a picture we want to see – but we are reminded of our blessed work, in trying to heal the deep wounds, grief, and pain of these loved ones. Thank you for being here – for doing your part to heal our families.

This month, you will see the **Army Casualty List** returned to our newsletter. For those of you who have been with us for more than two years, you remember we sent post cards to these families, often choosing next-of-kin near our own towns and states. This was called our **“Direct Request”** program. About the time we caught up to the current list of casualties, the **Dover Program** was instituted. It was easier for us to send our loving works of art to Dover than to write and send post cards, which often went unanswered the first time around, causing us to send a follow-up card. (We learned grief causes our families to overlook our postcards, but often the second card, sent a few months later, brought forth families extremely grateful that we persevered.) It is gratifying to know there continues to be a number of you who prefer this direct contact approach, as it is more labor-intensive and time-consuming. Please read the explanation in the newsletter and if you’d like to request names from specific towns, I’ll send you the next-of-kin’s information.

Our Dover chaplains work very hard. We are grateful for their work, and they, in turn, are grateful for ours. What a timely symbiotic relationship we have knit together!

Please don’t be shy – we enjoy photos of our knitters/crocheters – send them along and tell us about yourselves! Even if you’ve sent a photo before, send another if it has been a while! Include pictures of your work too! These photos help to solidify our cyberspace relationships and ministry!

Note: Please notify me if your email address changes or if you prefer to be removed from this list.

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

Fondly,
Cozette

INDEX:

I. CURRENT STATISTICS (including Updated Army Casualty List)

II. THANK YOU NOTES AND MESSAGES:

I.) CURRENT STATISTICS:

# Prayer Shawls made since October 2007:	5,754	Includes Dover prayer shawls (numbers below)
# sent to Dover since inception of program (Sept. 2009):	2,540	
# sent to Dover this past month:	281	This number is included in above totals
# Prayer Shawl Groups/Individuals:	281	

*A Warm Welcome to New Groups/Individuals who Joined PS4FS in January 2012

Contact Name	Town	State	Date Joined
Michelle Lovato	Lake Chelan	WA	12/30/11
Donna Fazzino	Middletown	CT	1/26/12
Jeannie Brandon	Dallas	TX	1/29/12

ARMY'S CASUALTY LIST:

There are a number of you who prefer direct contact with our families, so this list will once again be displayed in our newsletters. **Please remember to keep me up-to-date of how many prayer shawls you send to these families so that we may keep accurate statistics.** If you take a name/town, I will **not** mark a prayer shawl sent unless you follow-up and tell me you have done so.

The list of towns below includes "Next-of-Kin" of Army casualties who we have **not** delivered prayer shawls through our direct contact/mail program. It is likely a few members of these families have visited Dover Air Base and chosen a prayer shawl while there. Often they return home wishing they had taken more, wanting to comfort a grief-stricken sister, grandparent, special aunt or uncle, or for the soldier's children. If you would like to contact these families to offer a prayer shawl, send me a list of the towns.

(Note: Repeat towns have been eliminated, so multiple next-of-kin may be associated with a town. In earlier days of this program, I received a monthly list of prayer shawl recipients from Dover Air Base. We no longer receive that list, and the Army's updated Casualty List is sporadic. This means we don't know who on this list has been to Dover and chosen a prayer shawl or two.)

Anchorage	AK	99518-2286	Williams	CA	95772-9998	Honolulu	HI	96819-1150
North Pole	AK	99705-6757	Castle Rock	CO	80104-7586	Bettendorf	IA	52722-2152
Boaz	AL	35957	Colorado Springs	CO	80916-1461	Davenport	IA	52803-4921
Enterprise	AL	36330-7311	Fort Carson	CO	80902-4654	Glenwood	IA	51534
Homewood	AL	35209-3739	Baltic	CT	06330-1419	Grimes	IA	50111-2052
Hoover	AL	35226	Hartford	CT	06112-2538	Le Claire	IA	52753-9640
Montgomery	AL	36106-3144	Niantic	CT	06357-1014	Nampa	ID	83686-5630
Peterman	AL	36471-8001	Bradenton	FL	34203-8894	Decatur	IL	62522-1944
Trussville	AL	35173-3731	Clearwater	FL	33760-2555	Effingham	IL	62401-2249
Bonnerdale	AR	71933-9998	Debary	FL	32713-4719	Moline	IL	61265-4986
Conway	AR	72032-4235	Fort Walton Beach	FL	32547-3608	Opdyke	IL	62872-2121
El Dorado	AR	71730-9761	Immokalee	FL	34142-2144	Taylorville	IL	62568-2027
Russellville	AR	72802	Jacksonville	FL	32224-7562	Winchester	IL	62694-3718
Pago Pago	AS	96799-3362	Lynn Haven	FL	32444-6506	Indianapolis	IN	46227
Gilbert	AZ	85233-7251	Maitland	FL	32751-6204	Jasonville	IN	47438-8885
Litchfield Park	AZ	85340-5939	Minneola	FL	34715-5632	Porter	IN	46304-1731
Phoenix	AZ	85053-1642	Naples	FL	34103-3264	Fort Riley	KS	66442-4705
Sierra Vista	AZ	85635	Navarre	FL	32566-3103	Holton	KS	66436-8769
American Canyon	CA	94503-1047	Opa Locka	FL	33054-3913	Junction City	KS	66441-2256
California City	CA	93505	P.S.L.	FL	34952	Olathe	KS	66062-2323
Capistrano Beach	CA	92624-1215	Panama City	FL	32408-3736	Overland Park	KS	66215-2195
Corona	CA	92883-4981	Pensacola	FL	32514-9749	Palco	KS	67657-9039
Dana Point	CA	92629-3132	Plant City	FL	33566	Wichita	KS	67220
Fresno	CA	93703-4721	Port Charlotte	FL	33952-4614	Fort Knox	KY	40121-4001
Garden Grove	CA	92844-1635	Safety Harbor	FL	34695-5110	Covington	LA	70433-1924
Glendale	CA	91208-1811	Tampa	FL	33611-1015	Deridder	LA	70634-6993
Hayward	CA	94541	Valrico	FL	33596-7044	Fort Polk	LA	71459-2968
Huntington Park	CA	90255-5721	Atlanta	GA	30311-2644	Kenner	LA	70065-3851
Lancaster	CA	93536	Bonaire	GA	31005-5102	Leesville	LA	71446-4257
Lawndale	CA	90260-2023	Gainesville	GA	30507-8350	Merryville	LA	70653-3641
Los Angeles	CA	90065-3723	Hinesville	GA	31313-2969	Monroe	LA	71203-4041
Lynwood	CA	90262-4970	Kingsland	GA	31548-4249	Shreveport	LA	71107-5958
Marina	CA	93933-2721	Ludowici	GA	31316-7834	Plymouth	MA	02360-1487
Northridge	CA	91325-2247	Macon	GA	31204-4951	Worcester	MA	01606-3011
Ontario	CA	91762-2013	McDonough	GA	30253-7240	Silver Spring	MD	20903-3218
Reseda	CA	91335-3204	Midway	GA	31320-3238	Windsor Mill	MD	21244
Riverside	CA	92509-6784	Newnan	GA	30263-1004			
San Bernardino	CA	92405-1845	Saint Marys	GA	31558-3849	Auburn Hills	MI	48326
San Jose	CA	95125-5031	Valdosta	GA	31602-2131	Boyne City	MI	49712-1592
Santa Clara	CA	95054-1427	Winder	GA	30605-3564	Brighton	MI	48116-6228
South Lake Tahoe	CA	96150-3051	Ewa Beach	HI	96706-6209	Flint	MI	48505-4258

Jackson	MI	49203	Nashport	OH	43830-9636	Edcouch	TX	78538-9998
Romulus	MI	48174-3258	Arcadia	OK	73007-9998	Edinburgh	TX	78539-3927
Saginaw	MI	48604-9601	Asher	OK	74826-2632	Fort Davis	TX	79734-9998
Southgate	MI	48195-1733	Bartlesville	OK	74006-7901	Fort Hood	TX	76544-1810
Duluth	MN	55811-2881	Checotah	OK	74426-9455	Fort Worth	TX	76140-8202
Inver Grove Heights	MN	55076-3027	Collinsville	OK	74021-5476	Gatesville	TX	76599-0001
Lengby	MN	56651-9998	Edmond	OK	73003-4817	Harker Heights	TX	76548-2745
Rosemount	MN	55068-1820	Henryetta	OK	74437-1412	Houston	TX	77044-5879
Shevlin	MN	56676	Madill	OK	73446-2409	Irving	TX	75062-0000
Advance	MO	63730-7306	Minco	OK	73059-3012	Killeen	TX	76542-4305
Fort Leonard Wood	MO	65473-1095	Moore	OK	73160-8019	La Porte	TX	77571-3615
Kansas City	MO	64114-2507	Ochelata	OK	74051-2426	Lawn	TX	79530
Steele	MO	63877-1625	Oklahoma City	OK	73112-8303	Lumberton	TX	77657-7634
Warsaw	MO	65355-6654	Okmulgee	OK	74447-3915	Mansfield	TX	76063-3782
West Plains	MO	65775-6674	Owasso	OK	74055-5669	Mansfield	TX	76063-3782
Wildwood	MO	63011-1967	Porter	OK	74454-9998	McAllen	TX	78504-2859
Foxworth	MS	39483-4953	Sapulpa	OK	74066-2127	Mesquite	TX	75149-5334
Vicksburg	MS	39180-5704	Stillwater	OK	74074-7412	New Caney	TX	77357-3439
Great Falls	MT	59405-8314	Tulsa	OK	74114-4105	Pharr	TX	78577-4126
Carthage	NC	28327-8790	Creswell	OR	97426-9872	Plano	TX	75093-8622
Fayetteville	NC	28314-5653	Hillsboro	OR	97123-6214	Rowlett	TX	75088-5871
Greensboro	NC	27405-3418	Coraopolis	PA	15108	Rowlett	TX	75088-5871
Greenville	NC		Corry	PA	16407-2030	San Antonio	TX	78251-2512
Spring Lake	NC	28390-8979	Jeannette	PA	15644-1037	Seguin	TX	78155-2814
Whitsett	NC	27377-9782	Philadelphia	PA	19143-1005	Sunset	TX	76270-9998
Fargo	ND	58103-7903	Clemson	SC	29632-1001	Watauga	TX	76148-1851
Bellevue	NE	68005-3230	Columbia	SC	29203-9572	Weslaco	TX	78596-5929
Grand Island	NE	68801-2630	Florence	SC	29506-3901	Layton	UT	84040-3219
			Greenville	SC	29692	Santaquin	UT	84655-5550
Lincoln	NE	68502	North	SC	29112-8283	Barboursville	VA	22923-1802
Dumont	NJ	07628-2630	Travelers Rest	SC	29690-8990	Lynchburg	VA	24503-3400
Hamilton	NJ	08610-3920	Lead	SD	57754-3744	Nokesville	VA	20181-3006
Roswell	NM	88201-4441	Yankton	SD	57078-6357	Sterling	VA	20165-3511
Las Vegas	NV	89131-1678	Clarksville	TN	37042-8770	Virginia Beach	VA	23454-6923
Reno	NV	89521				Arlington	WA	98223-4722
Sparks	NV	89436-2663	Goodspring	TN	38460	Cheney	WA	99004-8935
Wells	NV	89835-9502	Lafayette	TN	37083-3241	McChord Air Force Base	WA	98439-1608
Ballston Spa	NY	12020-2680	LaVergne	TN	37086	Tacoma	WA	98405-4656
Oswego	NY	13126-3004	Murfreesboro	TN	37128-4916	Appleton	WI	54915-6401
Tyrone	NY	14887-9998	Nashville	TN	37209-1048	Darlington	WI	53530-9740
Wallkill	NY	12589-3952	Red Boiling Springs	TN	37150-6306	Elkhorn	WI	53121-1232
Watertown	NY	13601-3227	Brownsville	TX	78526-3723	Green Bay	WI	54313-7523
Akron	OH	44333-2833	Cameron	TX	76520-1830	Jackson	WI	53037-9705
Ashtabula	OH	44004-6007	Copperas Cove	TX	76522-3053	Neenah	WI	54956-6364
Hamilton	OH	45011-4103	Corpus Christi	TX	78404-3728	Waukesha	WI	53188-4038
Harrod	OH	45850-9707	Dallas	TX	75217-1831			
Miamisburg	OH	45342-2413	Denton	TX	76209-1941			

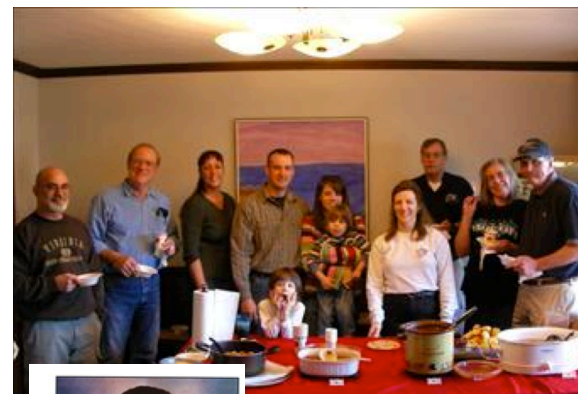
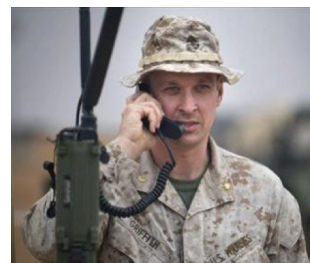
II. THANK YOU NOTES AND MESSAGES:

PS4FS knitter Beryl Turner, who summers in Holden, Massachusetts, and winters in Del Ray Beach, Florida (lucky girl!) and is a good friend of mine, shares a note from a Dover sister, who received Beryl's prayer shawl while at Dover Air Base. This note brings home the true meaning and importance of our work. I know often we do not receive thank you notes, but please know everyone does appreciate our ministry and work. As often repeated, "all bets are off" when it comes to writing thank you notes under circumstances as these families must endure. So thank you for sharing when you get them, as that means so much to us!

Beryl's note comes from Kelly Griffith, loving sister of Major Samuel Mark Griffith, DOD 12/14/11. From my search on the internet, I believe this family is from Florida, but I don't know which city. Below is Kelly's letter: (4 photos right: I am guessing the second photo included Kelly and the family.)

On December 14th, I answered the door to see three Marines. They had come to tell my parents that my brother, Major Samuel Griffith, had been killed in action in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Our family's world was turned upside down that day. The night we watched Sammy come home in Dover, Delaware, I was given a light purple prayer shawl with your letter attached. I cannot tell you the comfort it has given me. I sleep with it each night and find myself wrapped in it often. My brother was an amazing man! He has always been my hero. And although I know he is in heaven and I will see him again, I still hurt. The prayer shawl reminds me of his hugs, the countless pranks we pulled on each other, and the great advice he always gave me. He was 10 years older than me, but he had a way of treating me like one of the "big kids" and a good friend. It was truly amazing to see the selfless gift of the prayer shawl. I don't know that I could ever thank you enough for your kindness and thoughtfulness. This prayer shawl has been a blessing!

I plan to learn to knit so that I can give to another family in need. Although I sincerely hope that no more families have to face the loss of a loved one like this, Sammy would be so grateful for this wonderful gift. So, thank you from both of us. Sincerely, Kelly Griffith



Major Samuel Mark Griffith
US Marine Corps
14 June 1975 – 14 December 2011



PS4FS knitter/crocheter, Judy Herdman, who head St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Prayer Shawl Ministry in Three Bridges, New Jersey, received a thank you note from Dover mother, Donna Lee Elm, from Tampa, Florida, for a prayer shawl she chose while at the base. (From an internet search, some of the family lives in Phoenix, Arizona.) Donna's son's name is SPC Michael Elm (DOD 10/14/11). Her note reinforces the importance of our loving gifts to these families: (1 photo right)

Dear members of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Prayer Shawl Ministry, I want to thank all of you so much. On October 14th, we lost our son, Michael, who was in Infantry in Afghanistan. At the Fisher House in Dover, when my family went for the repatriation, our Chaplain offered us prayer shawls. All my daughters, one son, and I picked one out. I got your red/white/blue one. The loss is so horrible and so fresh right then. I cannot tell you what a comfort I felt from the shawl. When I hugged it to my chest, it felt like when I hugged Mikey when he was a little boy. When I wrapped it around my shoulders, it felt like Mike, the man, standing next to me - a good 7 inches taller, with his arm around my shoulders. The comfort your prayer shawl gave me during some of the worst days of my life was so welcome and so needed. I sleep with it every night and I keep it on my armchair to hug when I need to cry. It continues to give me far more comfort than the pile of yarn it was made of. That comfort comes to me from God, and through the kind efforts of you ladies. Thank you so much. Donna Lee Elm and family



PS4FS knitter/crocheter Mitzi Christian, who joined us May last year, lives in Alexandria, Virginia, and has been very active with our ministry! Mitzi shares with us some photos of her work, along with a thank you note from Sue Creed, loving grandmother of Makayla Bragg, DOD 12/22/11. (Note, Makayla, was a beautiful young woman, only 21 years old! From doing some internet research, she was known for her sharpshooting ability, and was due to come home only a few days later. How sad!) Mitzi tells us: *I received a thank you note from Sue Creed, the grandmother of Makayla Bragg who was killed in Afghanistan in December. Mrs. Creed was kind enough to send me a copy the program for Makayla's funeral with her bio on the back, as well as a copy of an interview that Makayla's mother gave to a local newspaper. What an honor it is to receive thanks from the family of a young soldier who paid the ultimate price for our freedom, when it is I who thank them with my entire heart! (5 photos on next page, including the Grandmother's thank you note and Mitzi's prayer shawls.)*



Mikayla Anne Bragg was born June 9, 1990 to Stephen Bragg and SheyAnne Baker. She was known as "Kayla" to her family and friends.

Family members describe Mikayla as a kind-hearted person, who always went out of her way to help others, as someone who could make you laugh and who was sweet and caring.

Mikayla joined the Army on January 11, 2010. Following completion of Basic Training and Advance Individual Training, Mikayla was assigned to Alpha Company, 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division where she deployed and worked as a Motor Transport Operator, earning the rank of Specialist.

Mikayla's awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and NATO Medal.

Mikayla served honorably in support of Operation Enduring Freedom doing what she had always done, serving with her fellow Soldiers.

Mikayla is survived by her father Stephen, her mother Sheyanne Baker, her sisters Kandyce Bragg and Delaney Davids, her brother Allen Davids, half siblings Joseph Bragg, Ariel, Darien and Julian DeForge, her step father Darin Baker and step mother Amber Bragg.



Dear Mitzi

Thank you for the lovely
prayer shawl. I keep it near
me.

My Granddaughter Mikayla was
killed in Afghanistan. The military
family & friends have been awesome.
My daughter and Mikayla's 2
sisters and a brother have been
strong. They were all very close.
We know Mikayla is a peace