

PS4FS Monthly Newsletter - July 2012:

Dear PS4FS friends,

Happy Summer! I've been vacationing with family at Cape Cod for the past week, and have one more week to go before returning to work! I hope all of you are enjoying your summer as well! Generally our Dover numbers slow down in the summer time, but not so this month! I want to take this opportunity to tell you how proud I am to be part of our ministry, a ministry that touches the lives of so many, as stories in this newsletter will show. Thank you for being here, for letting our families know we care! Blessings to all of you!

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

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I.) CURRENT STATISTICS:

# Prayer Shawls made since October 2007:	6,186	<i>Includes Dover prayer shawls (yellow numbers below)</i>
# sent to Dover since inception of program (Sept. 2009):	2,931	
# sent to Dover this past month:	88	<i>This number is included in above totals</i>
# Prayer Shawl Groups/Individuals:	278	

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.)

Anchorage	AK	Hoover	AL	Conway	AR	American Canyon	CA
Fayetteville	AK	Huntsville	AL	El Dorado	AR	Bakersfield	CA
Hamburg	AK	Jacksonville	AL	Jacksonville	AR	Bell	CA
Little Rock	AK	Millbrook	AL	Russellville	AR	Blythe	CA
Monticello	AK	Mobile	AL	Pago Pago	AS	Capistrano Beach	CA
North Pole	AK	Montgomery	AL	Glendale	AZ	Carson	CA
Van Buren	AK	Peterman	AL	Kingman	AZ	Citrus Heights	CA
Warren	AK	Phoenix City	AL	Litchfield Park	AZ	Dana Point	CA
Boaz	AL	Russellville	AL	Phoenix	AZ	Fresno	CA
Enterprise	AL	Trussville	AL	Sierra Vista	AZ	Fullerton	CA
Grady	AL	Bonnerdale	AR	Tucson	AZ	Garden Grove	CA
Homewood	AL	Camden	AR	Alameda	CA	Glendale	CA

Hayward	CA	Tampa	FL	Jeffersonville	KY	Hamilton	NJ
Hesperia	CA	Valrico	FL	London	KY	Jersey City	NJ
Huntington Park	CA	Valrico	FL	Covington	LA	Las Vegas	NJ
Lake Elsinore	CA	Wesley Chapel	FL	Fort Polk	LA	Bayard	NM
Lancaster	CA	Acworth	GA	Gueydan	LA	Clovis	NM
Lawndale	CA	Atlanta	GA	Lake Charles	LA	Espanola	NM
Los Angeles	CA	Bonaire	GA	Brockton	MA	Las Cruces	NM
Lucerne Valley	CA	Dearing	GA	Fall River	MA	Roswell	NM
Lynwood	CA	Gainesville	GA	Taunton	MA	Santa Cruz	NM
Marina	CA	Griffin	GA	Baltimore	MD	Santa Teresa	NM
Moreno Valley	CA	Hampton	GA	Cabin John	MD	White Sands	NM
New Cuyama	CA	Helena	GA	Glen Burnie	MD	Fallon	NV
Northridge	CA	Hinesville	GA	Hughesville	MD	Henderson	NV
Ontario	CA	Jacksonville	GA	Kensington	MD	Las Vegas	NV
Ontario	CA	Kennesaw	GA	Port Tobacco	MD	Ballston Spa	NY
Reseda	CA	Kingsland	GA	Prince Frederick	MD	Bronx	NY
Riverside	CA	Ludowici	GA	Saint Leonard	MD	Bronx	NY
Salinas	CA	Macon	GA	Silver Spring	MD	Brooklyn	NY
San Bernardino	CA	McDonough	GA	St. Leonard	MD	Clarence Center	NY
San Diego	CA	McRae	GA	Assonet	ME	Cohoes	NY
San Jose	CA	Midway	GA	Montville	ME	Geneva	NY
San Jose	CA	Riverdale	GA	Newport	ME	Getzville	NY
Santa Clara	CA	Riverdale	GA	Addison	MI	Loweville	NY
South Lake Tahoe	CA	Saint Marys	GA	Ann Arbor	MI	Monroe	NY
Tustin	CA	Tybee Island	GA	Apple Valley	MI	Newburgh	NY
Vista	CA	Valdosta	GA	Auburn Hills	MI	Oswego	NY
West Sacramento	CA	Winder	GA	Boyne City	MI	Oswego	NY
Williams	CA	Winder	GA	Brighton	MI	Ravena	NY
Yuba City	CA	Ewa Beach	HI	Flint	MI	Selkirk	NY
Yuba City	CA	Ewa Beach	HI	Gaylord	MI	Tyrone	NY
Castle Rock	CO	Honolulu	HI	Harrison Township	MI	Wallkill	NY
Colora]	CO	Waianae	HI	Jackson	MI	Watertown	NY
Colorado Springs	CO	Waipahu	HI	Muskegon	MI	Weedsport	NY
Colorado Springs	CO	Bettendorf	IA	Romulus	MI	Ashtabula	OH
Denver	CO	Davenport	IA	Saginaw	MI	Columbus	OH
Fort Carson	CO	Glenwood	IA	Saginaw	MI	Dublin	OH
Larkspur	CO	Grimes	IA	Saline	MI	Fairfield	OH
Westcliffe	CO	Le Claire	IA	Southgate	MI	Hamilton	OH
Baltic	CT	Idaho Falls	ID	Williamston	MI	Lewis Center	OH
Hartford	CT	Jerome	ID	Ypsilanti	MI	Stow	OH
Niantic	CT	Nampa	ID	Carver	MN	Toledo	OH
Suffield	CT	Rupert	ID	Duluth	MN	Upper Arlington	OH
Uncasville	CT	Twin Falls	ID	Inver Grove Heights	MN	Checotah	OK
Waterford	CT	Decatur	IL	Lengby	MN	El Reno	OK
Williamantic	CT	Effingham	IL	Rochester	MN	Lawton	OK
Winsted	CT	Moline	IL	Rosemount	MN	Newcastle	OK
Washington,	DC	North Aurora	IL	Shevlin	MN	Noble	OK
Hockessin	DE	Olive Branch	IL	Catawissa	MO	Norman	OK
Bartow	FL	Opdyke	IL	Kansas City	MO	Owasso	OK
Boynton Beach	FL	Peoria	IL	Lees Summit	MO	Porter	OK
Bradenton	FL	Taylorville	IL	Licking	MO	Purcell	OK
Clearwater	FL	Wheaton	IL	Rolla	MO	Sapulpa	OK
Crestview	FL	Winchester	IL	Union	MO	Stillwater	OK
Debary	FL	Auburn	IN	Baldwyn	MS	Tulsa	OK
Grand Ridge	FL	Bloomington	IN	Foxworth	MS	Creswell	OR
Immokalee	FL	Dyer	IN	Foxworth	MS	Hillsboro	OR
Jacksonville	FL	Frankfort	IN	Mooreville	MS	Bethel Park	PA
Jacksonville	FL	Georgetown	IN	Mooreville	MS	Chambersburg	PA
Lynn Haven	FL	Kirklin	IN	Philadelphia	MS	Connellsville	PA
Maitland	FL	Knightsville	IN	Vicksburg	MS	New Freeport	PA
Marianna	FL	Munster	IN	Black Eagle	MT	Philadelphia	PA
Matlacha	FL	Fort Riley	KS	Great Falls	MT	Seward	PA
Minneola	FL	Holton	KS	Great Falls	MT		Puerto Rico
Naples	FL	Junction City	KS	Great Falls	MT	Humacao	
Navarre	FL	Leavenworth	KS	Clayton	NC	Central Falls	RI
Opa Locka	FL	Milford	KS	Fayetteville	NC	Cranston	RI
P.S.L.	FL	Olathe	KS	Fort Bragg	NC	Pawtucket	RI
Palatka	FL	Overland Park	KS	Greenville	NC	Providence	RI
Pensacola	FL	Overland Park	KS	Raeford	NC	Simpsonville	SC
Pensacola	FL	Shawnee	KS	Nashua	NH	Warrenville	SC
Plant City	FL	Wichita	KS	Plaistow	NH	Lead	SD
Port Charlotte	FL	Wichita	KS	Plaistow	NH	Yankton	SD
Safety Harbor	FL	Eolia	KY	Blairstown	NJ	Clarksville	TN

Clarksville	TN	Fort Hood	TX	Pharr	TX	Stafford	VA
Franklin	TN	Fort Hood	TX	Plano	TX	Virginia Beach	VA
Goodspring	TN	Forth Worth	TX	Rowlett	TX	Arlington	WA
LaVergne	TN	Frost	TX	Salado	TX	Cheney	WA
Murfreesboro	TN	Gatesville	TX	Salado	TX	Edmonds	WA
Nashville	TN	Harker Heights	TX	San Antonio	TX	McChord Air Force Base	WA
Arlington	TX	Houston	TX	San Antonio	TX	Puyallup	WA
Arlington	TX	Houston	TX	Seguin	TX	Tacoma	WA
Austin	TX	Hurst	TX	Sunset	TX	Tacoma	WA
Bastrop	TX	Irving	TX	Texarkana	TX	Appleton	WI
Brownsville	TX	Kennedale	TX	The Colony	TX	Darlington	WI
Cameron	TX	Killeen	TX	Three Rivers	TX	Elkhorn	WI
Converse	TX	Killeen	TX	Three Rivers	TX	Green Bay	WI
Copperas Cove	TX	Kyle	TX	Waco	TX	Hazel Green	WI
Copperas Cove	TX	La Porte	TX	Watauga	TX	Horicon	WI
Dallas	TX	Lawn	TX	Weslaco	TX	Jackson	WI
Dallas	TX	Lumberton	TX	Yantis	TX	Marshfield	WI
Denton	TX	Mansfield	TX	Santaquin	UT	Neenah	WI
Edcouch	TX	McAllen	TX	Bedford	VA	Orfordville	WI
Edinburgh	TX	Mesquite	TX	Chester	VA	Shullsburg	WI
El Paso	TX	New Caney	TX	Prince George	VA	Waukesha	WI
Fort Davis	TX	Nolanville	TX	South Chesterfield	VA		

II. COMMUNICATIONS FROM YOU:

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Julie Dean, who heads the Hickory Knit & Crochet Group in Hickory, North Carolina, (pictured 2nd from left below) sends along a photo of their beautiful work and a terrific group photo for us to meet them all, including baby Isabel! We thank you for all the love you give to this ministry! The Hickory Knit & Crochet Group has been with our ministry since February 19, 2010. **In that amount of time, they have sent 70 prayer shawls to Dover Air Base!** Thank you all for your dedication! I was very moved by Julie's comments below, telling us about her trip to the post office to deliver these prayer shawls: (2 photos right and below)

Thought you might like to see our latest batch sent to Dover just

yesterday. As I was walking into the post office with a very large box filled to the brim, a young man dressed sharply in full army fatigues came out as I was approaching the "in." He stopped and held the door for me. I almost cried. Talk about making what we do real...it was very powerful! What a blessing that moment was from the Lord. Working on some other things to send to you.



L-R: Carrie Soria-Kyte, Julie Dean, Susan Pons, Helen Lacy (orange shirt), Susan Hyde, Kathy Well, Nancy Isenhour (my mom), Sandy Moon (missionary to Russia), Geneva Johnson, Michelle Griffin, Linda Jennings, Glenda Rice, Hannah Case with baby (Isabel), Virginia Kelso, Lou Grandmaison (retired Major in Army).

PS4FS crocheter Mitzi Christian, who recently joined us May 5, 2011, lives in Alexandria, Virginia. She shares two photos of her recent work which she sent to Dover Air Base this past month. Mitzi, like many of you, does this work out of love, despite her own physical challenges in life. Words cannot adequately thank you all enough for what you do here. I know several of you challenges such as eyesight, arthritis, surgeries (your own or a spouse), and, of course, we have about five knitters who are themselves mothers of fallen military. You are all simply amazing, an inspiration to not just me and each other, but to our military families who read these newsletters! Blessings to you all! Below are Mitzi's words: (2 photos right)



I've sent off another two shawls to Dover today, and am attaching two pictures for you to see. I have another started, the most beautiful shade of Raspberry. While the weather has made my hands hurt more than usual lately, on those days I can't crochet it feels like something is missing in my day. Still, I look forward to the time when none of us will need to send more than the occasional shawl to Dover. I hope you're enjoying the summer. Thanks again for all the work you do, lots more than most can imagine. Mitzi

II. DOVER PROGRAM:

Robin Raine, Chief, Families of the Fallen Support Branch, Dover Air Base, sends us a photo of our work on display at the Fisher House. Doesn't it look nice the way it is displayed? Robin tells us she has been transferred to another part of the base, and therefore, won't be working directly with the families at Fisher House. I'm sorry to hear this as she has been so diligent about keeping us in touch with us. We will miss you, Robin! She shares with us the importance of our work. Thank you, Robin! It's so nice to get feedback about what we do in this ministry!

I hope this finds you doing well this fine May day. I just took a picture of one of the prayer shawl displays at the Center for Families of the Fallen and wanted to send it to you. So many of our family members remark how amazing it is that someone took the care and time to hand make something so precious for them. Many a day finds ladies and little girls leaving here wrapped in one of your shawls, and often taking one home for someone who wasn't able to be here. Like you, we wish no families had a reason to come to this place, but because they still do, know that your efforts are very much appreciated.



IV. THANK YOU NOTES AND MESSAGES:

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Julie Dean, who heads the Hickory Knit & Crochet Group in Hickory, North Carolina received a thank you note from Melanie Lyons, Whittier, California, loving aunt of SSG Thomas Kent Fogarty, DOD 5/6/12. Melanie offered to donate a check in memory of her nephew! Isn't it amazing the grace of our military families? They are thinking of "us" at a time like this! Melanie and the rest of Thomas' family made the journey to Dover Air Base where they chose from among our prayer shawls before attending the Dignified Transfer Ceremony on the tram. Melanie's prayer shawl was made by Helen Lacy of the Hickory Knit & Crochet Group. Below are three emails between Melanie and Julie, beginning the Thomas' aunt, Melanie: (1 photo right, and numerous below including next page)

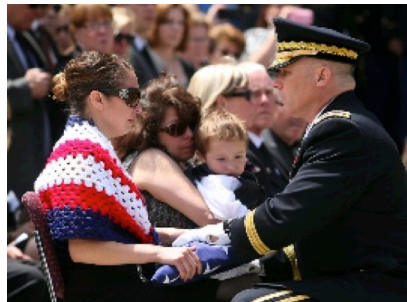
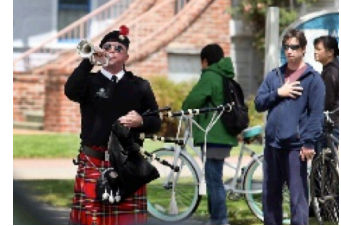
*Dear Helen and Julie,
My sister and I were grateful recipients of beautiful prayer shawls you made and donated in honor of our fallen soldiers. Not only were they beautiful, but we truly felt your prayers and comfort as we wore them to the ceremony to bring my beloved nephew's remains home from Afghanistan. We were so touched by your gift. We would like to make a donation to your group in memory of my nephew, Army Staff Sgt. Thomas K. Fogarty. May we send a check to the 'Knit and Crochet Ladies of Hickory, NC'? Thank you so much for your compassion, generosity and prayers,
Melanie Lyons, Whittier, CA*



Continued on next page

Dear Melanie, Thank you for your kind note. I am so sorry for the loss of your nephew. Thank you for being a blessing & encouragement to our group. We, of course, do not make the prayer shawls for the thanks, but when we get a sweet note like yours, it is such an encouragement and reminds us why we do what we do. I Googled your nephew's name, and printed what has been published about him and even got to see a picture of him. I will show this to the ladies when we meet this coming Thursday, along with your note. Thank you for the mention of a donation. We are not a non-profit organization but just ladies in the community who meet weekly to knit & crochet for this ministry. So, a check would need to be made out to me, Julie Dean, which would be used for yarn & needles unless you would like to designate it for postage to mail more prayer shawls to Dover AFB. I put out a jar for donations periodically when our shipping funds are running low. If you do not want to send a check, a gift card to Michael's would supply yarn for us. Please do not feel obligated. To further honor your nephew, I would like to submit his info along with your note to Cozette, the lady who runs the national ministry, Prayer Shawls for Fallen Soldiers ---<http://webpages.charter.net/ps4fs/Shawls/> It would most likely appear in the June or July newsletter, if that is ok with you. Again, thank you for your thoughtfulness. Our group will be praying for you & your family this Thursday. We meet every Thursday 8:45-10am. Blessings, Julie Dean

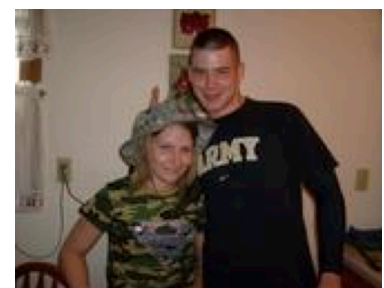
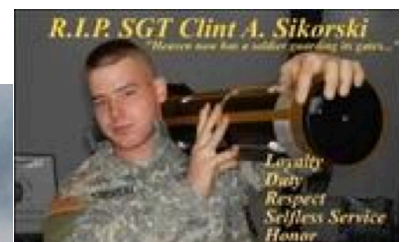
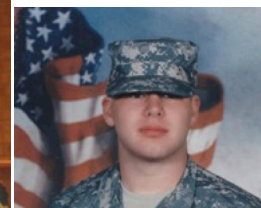
Dear Julie, Thank you for your note and information about the group. I loved the picture and am forwarding the e-mail to my sister so she can see it too. It means a lot to us to be able to support your work. I will send a check payable to you, and you and the Knit and Crochet Ladies may use it as you see fit for yarns, needles and/or postage or any other items you may need to continue this beautiful, compassionate endeavor. We have no objection to sharing Tommy's story in your newsletter. His mom and dad - Stephanie Fisher and Tom Fogarty have been deeply touched by your expression of sympathy and appreciation for his service and sacrifice, as is his widow, Vanessa. It is a small island of comfort in what sometimes seems to be an endless ocean of grief for us all. Thank you so much for your prayers and all you do. Melanie Lyons (additional photos on next page)



Above are some moving storyline photos of Thomas' funeral, including his wife, Vanessa Fogarty, his two sons, 5-yr old Kellan, and 3-yr-old Caden, his mother, Stephanie, and step-father, Michael Fisher. Thomas was only 30 years old.

Janet Bristow, one of the founders of the Shawl Ministry, based in Hartford, Connecticut, received a direct request from a mother for a gold star prayer shawl (pictured on our website). Janet forwarded the message onto me. (5 pictures to the right and below)

Hi I am writing you to find out how one would go about getting a Gold Star Shawl. I lost my 21 year old son on a stateside military base in a car pedestrian accident on 10 17 08. I think the shawl is so lovely. Walline Sikorski, Proud Mother of SGT Clint Sikorski (continued on next page)



Above and right is a photo of Clint and his niece, Tegan. Below is the last time the family was together before Clint's death. Clint his 2 sister me and Clint's 2 nieces. It includes Clint's sisters, Bobbie, his mother, Walline, and Maureen.

This is one of those stories that perfectly totally inspires me – I am so blessed to work with all of you in this ministry! We have only two groups from Wisconsin, so I wrote to both of them thinking they wouldn't know how to do the gold star prayer shawl (even though the pattern IS on our website, it's not an easy one to undertake!). BOTH groups immediately said they'd be willing to try it! As this beautiful pattern comes to us from PS4FS knitter Cheryl Scallon, who heads St. Julie Billiard Shawl Ministry in Tinley Park, Illinois, I also contacted Cheryl and even though she is buried in work, home responsibilities, and a backlog of other gold star prayer shawl requests, she still offered to make another one! THREE out of three said yes! You all inspire me beyond words!

This special prayer shawl will be made by PS4FS Katie Charbonneau's group, Jacob's Well Prayer Shawl Ministry, from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. This group has been with us since January 2008.

I want to thank PS4FS Linda Bergen and her group, Pieces of Hope, from Wautoma, Wisconsin, who also have been part of our ministry since January 2008! Neither Katie nor Linda's group have ever made this prayer shawl, but they stepped forward because they wanted to fulfill this mother's request! You are all amazing! Blessings to you all for caring! Once I notified Walline that we have a group from her same home state who will make her gold star prayer shawl, she gratefully wrote back: *(continued next page)*



I so want to thank you so much for this. It brought tears to my eyes when I opened this email to know that you will be honoring my son by making this prayer shawl for me. I really want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this wonderful gift and I will definitely think of Clint as it is wrapped around me. Katie and the Jacob's Well Prayer Shawl Ministry group know in winter here it can get cold so I will wrap in a lot in the wintertime! I am so looking forward to seeing this Gold Star shawl. I do not know how to knit or crochet I have other talents like making photo effects and other things. I have honored many fallen soldiers in my photo effects for the parents TY so much for doing this for me.

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Lynne Niebert, who heads the Trindle Spring Lutheran Church's prayer shawl group in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, shares several thank you notes with us this month.

The first comes from Nancy Byrd, Fairview, West Virginia, proud mother of LCPL John Byrd, DOD 10/30/04. Nancy's note will bring tears to your eyes; her appreciation is so deeply felt, and reminds a thousand times why we are all here, doing this work! She writes: *(2 photos right)*

Dear Lynne, Carol and folks of the Prayer Shawl Ministry: I know that our Father has called you to this ministry and that He greatly blesses you and your efforts. I thought you might appreciate an understanding (a more intimate one) of the comfort that your shawl has provided for me. Yesterday, I woke up from a dream, seeing the tears in the eyes of my son. My tears mingled with his. As I woke, your shawl came at just the right time and helped me realize that I'm not alone. I just hope you realize what your kindness means to the people who you are reaching out to. Sincerely, Nancy Byrd





Trindle Spring's second thank you note comes as a special request from the Vickie Wessell, Kinston, North Carolina, maternal grandmother of SPC Steven Roy Jewell's (DOD 8/14/07) son, 13-year-old William David Jewell. Lynne's group had already given a prayer shawl to Steven's mother, Cynthia Weisner, of Dover, North Carolina. This particular prayer shawl group remains very active seeking out additional relatives by Googling the name and leaving messages on message boards, thus, this additional request for Steven's young son. Thank you, Trindle Spring for your diligence and eagerness to find our families! If you would like to read instructions on how to Google military names, go to our website under the "Directions" page. Below is Vickie's request: *(1 photo above left, 3 below including Steven 8 year old son, William David, who is now 13)*

Dear Lynne, I am the maternal grandmother and I have the honor of having custody of SPC Steven Jewell's only child and son, William David Jewell. Will was 8 years old when his dad died in Iraq. It is so very hard to believe he is now 13 years old. I saw your post on Steven's Legacy page and was wondering if you make these for children. If you do, would you please make one for Will? Thank you for all you do to help the families of our fallen. Even though Steven was of no relation to me, he is still my hero and the biggest of all HEROES to Will. Vickie B. Wessell, Kinston, North Carolina



Trindle Spring's third thank you note comes from 1LT Justin Wilkins' (DOD 2/18/12) loving mother and father, Dr. and Mrs. J. Wilkins (I do not have their first names). They live in Bend, Oregon and write *(3 pictures, 1 left, 2 right):*

To The Shawl Ministry, Thank you so much for my prayer shawl. I've used it so much at all my memorial services. It means so much that your church sent them out to us. I've included a picture of Lt. Justin Wilkins and his obituary for the scrapbook. Thank you for including him with the other soldiers'

