

PS4FS Monthly Newsletter - May 2012:

Dear PS4FS friends,

Another busy month! You all amaze me how you hang in here and make such a difference in the lives of our military families who have lost so much! Thank each and every one of you for being here, whether you are active now, or have been active in the past; we all need to take a break now and then as I do myself! Together, as a whole, we make up so much more than the sum of the parts! In our early days, we quickly fulfilled the Army's Casualty list, then we began seeking out a lot of the "no responses" (many of whom moved). Finally, miraculously, along came Dover Air Base needing our work! They enabled us to include all four armed services! We continue to receive occasional direct requests which I generally email to the same state's knitters/crocheters on a first-reply basis. Remember to share your thank you notes, and please send me photos of you and your groups to share with us! Blessings to all!

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:	5,953	<i>Includes Dover prayer shawls (yellow numbers below)</i>
# sent to Dover since inception of program (Sept. 2009):	2,731	
# sent to Dover this past month:	60	<i>This number is included in above totals</i>
# Prayer Shawl Groups/Individuals:	278	

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

Contact Name	Town	State	Group Name	Date Joined
Carol Blatt	Huntingtown	MD	St. Nicholas Lutheran Church	4/18/12
Robin Bunton	Whitsett	NC	Springwood Presbyterian Church	4/25/12

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.)

Anchorage	AK	Enterprise	AL	Huntsville	AL	Russellville	AL
North Pole	AK	Homewood	AL	Montgomery	AL	Trussville	AL
Boaz	AL	Hoover	AL	Peterman	AL	Bonnerdale	AR

Camden	AR	Matlacha	FL	Plymouth	IN	Oswego	NY
Conway	AR	Minneola	FL	Winamac	IN	Tyrone	NY
El Dorado	AR	Naples	FL	Fort Riley	KS	Wallkill	NY
Jacksonville	AR	Navarre	FL	Holton	KS	Watertown	NY
Russellville	AR	Niceville	FL	Junction City	KS	Weedsport	NY
Pago Pago	AS	Opa Locka	FL	Leavenworth	KS	Akron	OH
Litchfield Park	AZ	P.S.L.	FL	Olathe	KS	Ashtabula	OH
Phoenix	AZ	Palatka	FL	Overland Park	KS	Atwater	OH
Sierra Vista	AZ	Pensacola	FL	Wichita	KS	Columbus	OH
American Canyon	CA	Pinellas Park	FL	Eolia	KY	Hamilton	OH
California City	CA	Plant City	FL	London	KY	Harrod	OH
Capistrano Beach	CA	Port Charlotte	FL	Covington	LA	Marion	OH
Dana Point	CA	Safety Harbor	FL	Assonet	MA	Miamisburg	OH
Fresno	CA	Tampa	FL	Baltimore	MD	Nashport	OH
Garden Grove	CA	Valrico	FL	Kensington	MD	Norman	OK
Garden Grove	CA	Wesley Chapel	FL	Port Tobacco	MD	Oklahoma City	OK
Glendale	CA	Acworth	GA	Saint Leonard	MD	Owasso	OK
Hayward	CA	Atlanta	GA	Silver Spring	MD	Porter	OK
Huntington Park	CA	Bonaire	GA	St. Leonard	MD	Purcell	OK
Lake Elsinore	CA	Gainesville	GA	Ann Arbor	MI	Sapulpa	OK
Lancaster	CA	Helena	GA	Auburn Hills	MI	Stillwater	OK
Lawndale	CA	Hinesville	GA	Boyne City	MI	Tulsa	OK
Los Angeles	CA	Jacksonville	GA	Brighton	MI	Creswell	OR
Lynwood	CA	Kingsland	GA	Flint	MI	Hillsboro	OR
Marina	CA	Ludowici	GA	Harrison Township	MI	Chambersburg	PA
New Cuyama	CA	Macon	GA	Jackson	MI	Connellsville	PA
Northridge	CA	McDonough	GA	Romulus	MI	Pawtucket	RI
Ontario	CA	McRae	GA	Saginaw	MI	Simpsonville	SC
Reseda	CA	Midway	GA	Southgate	MI	Warrenville	SC
Riverside	CA	Riverdale	GA	Williamston	MI	Lead	SD
San Bernardino	CA	Saint Marys	GA	Ypsilanti	MI	Yankton	SD
San Jose	CA	Valdosta	GA	Duluth	MN	Clarksville	TN
Santa Clara	CA	Winder	GA	Inver Grove Heights	MN		
South Lake Tahoe	CA	Ewa Beach	HI	Lengby	MN	Goodspring	TN
Vista	CA	Honolulu	HI	Rosemount	MN	LaVergne	TN
Williams	CA	Bettendorf	IA	Shevlin	MN	Murfreesboro	TN
Castle Rock	CO	Davenport	IA	Baldwyn	MS	Nashville	TN
Colora	CO	Glenwood	IA	Foxworth	MS	Arlington	TX
Colorado Springs	CO	Grimes	IA	Mooreville	MS	Brownsville	TX
Fort Carson	CO	Le Claire	IA	Vicksburg	MS	Cameron	TX
Baltic	CT	Idaho Falls	ID	Great Falls	MT	Copperas Cove	TX
Hartford	CT	Nampa	ID	Charlotte	NC	Dallas	TX
Niantic	CT	Decatur	IL	Nashua	NH	Denton	TX
Suffield	CT	Effingham	IL	Plaistow	NH	Edcouch	TX
Willimantic	CT	Moline	IL	Blairstown	NJ	Edinburgh	TX
Bradenton	FL	North Aurora	IL	Hamilton	NJ	Fort Davis	TX
Clearwater	FL	Olive Branch	IL	Espanola	NM	Fort Hood	TX
Debary	FL	Opdyke	IL	Roswell	NM	Forth Worth	TX
Fort Walton Beach	FL	Taylorville	IL	Santa Cruz	NM	Gatesville	TX
Immokalle	FL	Winchester	IL	Henderson	NV	Greenville	TX
Jacksonville	FL	Crown Point	IN	Las Vegas	NV	Harker Heights	TX
Lynn Haven	FL	Indianapolis	IN	Ballston Spa	NY	Houston	TX
Maitland	FL	Knox	IN	Bronx	NY	Irving	TX

Kennedale	TX	Pharr	TX	Santaquin	UT	Appleton	WI
Killeen	TX	Plano	TX	Bedford	VA	Darlington	WI
La Porte	TX	Rowlett	TX	Lynchburg	VA	Elkhorn	WI
Lawn	TX	San Antonio	TX	Roanoke	VA	Green Bay	WI
Lumberton	TX	Seguin	TX	South Chesterfield	VA	Horicon	WI
Mansfield	TX	Sunset	TX	Arlington	WA	Jackson	WI
Mansfield	TX	Sunset	TX	Cheney	WA	Marshfield	WI
McAllen	TX	Watauga	TX	McChord Air Force		Neenah	WI
Mesquite	TX	Watauga	TX	Base	WA	Waukesha	WI
New Caney	TX	Weslaco	TX	Puyallup	WA		
				Tacoma	WA		

II. COMMUNICATIONS FROM YOU:

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Mitzi Christian, who lives in Alexandria, Virginia, joined us a year ago in May. Mitzi shares with us a photo of two prayer shawls she sent to Dover this past month. Thank you for sharing this, Mitzi! And thank you for what you do here! *(1 photo right)*



III. THANK YOU NOTES AND MESSAGES:



PS4FS knitter Kay Shandler, who lives in Emporia, Kansas, joined this ministry in our early days of April 2008. Kay was immediately our most prolific knitter – being a “one woman show”, she would take dozens of names each month, writing notes, meticulously sending a follow-up note after about three months (just in case a reminder was needed). I did a quick count of how many prayer shawls Kay has sent out for this ministry: **260!** According to my records, Kay sent an additional **129** notes which received “no response”, 5 of them “declined”, and 31 of that 129 moved with

no forwarding address. I had the pleasure of meeting Kay a few years ago at one of the Prayer Shawl Gatherings in Hartford, and was so happy to be able to meet this “knitting machine” among us! Today, Kay has turned her focus to other needs, is still a member of our ministry, as now and then she continues to hear from a family, which is pretty astounding! She heard from Juanita Colunga, loving mother of SPC Zeferino Eusebio Colunga, DOD 8/6/03 (notice early DOD). Juanita lives in Belleville, Texas. Kay writes: *(3 pictures above)*

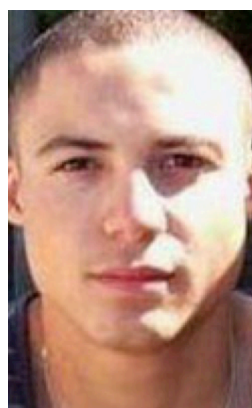
You won't believe this but I just received a request for a shawl from a letter I sent out in 2008. The letter I got back was one I had sent to them as a second attempt to contact them. It is going to Juanita Colunga in Bellville TX - the soldier's first name was Zef. I will get it made up tomorrow!

Thank you Kay for being such a trooper among us! We miss you, but love hearing from you now and then! Blessings to you, and to everyone in this ministry for hanging in there and bringing comfort to our families in their time of pain!

We had a direct request from Leland Turner, loving father of PFC Neil Isaac Turner, DOD 1/11/12. Neil and his wife, Charlotte, live in Tacoma, Washington. I did the usual, emailing all our members from Washington, and within minutes, heard back from **PS4FS member, Julie Aamot, who lives in Custer, Washington**. You will remember Julie's name from last month's newsletter, as she is one of our very energetic members, but also the mother of one of our fallen, her son, SPC Aaron Seth Aamot, DOD 11/5/09. Below is the link to a short video of Neil. Thank you Julie for caring so much about others who are now walking in your shoes! (2 photos right)

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

My name is Leland Turner. My son, Neil Turner was killed Jan. 11 2012. Please send more info. Thanks, Leland



Julie Aamot had a second contact this past month, this time from a stepmother from Dover. Cherie Griffith lives in Fuquay Varina, North Carolina, and writes how much our prayer shawls mean to them, especially receiving one from a mother with the same plight! She writes: (2 photos left)

Hi Julie. My name is Cherie Griffith and I am writing to let you know that I received your prayer shawl while in Dover, on December 16, 2011. My stepson, Major Samuel Mark Griffith (USMC), 36, was killed in action on December 14, 2011 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. I am so sorry this has taken me so long to

write to you but it has been so hard to try to put into words what your shawl has done for me. I need to tell you up front that I have known Sammy since he was six years old, and my husband and I had full custody of both him and his younger sister, so he was my son and I never called him or his sister my stepchildren. They both were and will always be my children too. He was the oldest of four children (he has two sisters, Renee, 34, and Kelly, 26, and a little brother, David, 15) and a true blessing to our family. Our family has been devastated by the loss of Sam and there have been days that I just didn't know if I would be able to continue on without him. While waiting for the return of his body to the states, we stayed at the Fisher house in Dover and I was given your prayer shawl. I can't tell you what it has meant to me to know that you too lost a son and still had the strength to make such a beautiful and wonderful shawl for someone you didn't know.

Because of you, both my daughter (who was also given a shawl by someone else) and I sat down and each made a prayer shawl in hopes that we too can give someone the comfort that your shawl has given and still gives to me. I wanted to get it done before sending this note to you so that I could attach a picture of it. I know there are no words that can be said to give you any comfort for the loss of your son, but I want you to know that your act of kindness in making the prayer shawl has given me comfort and strength to try to continue on. I use it all the time and can't tell you how much I pray that no one else has to go through what we have with the loss of our sons. In my heart I know that God must have had a better plan for them. I have attached a picture of the card that was made for our son's memorial service. It tells a small story about Sam and his life. Thank you for doing such a



wonderful thing for a stranger and know that I will always thank God for you! I cannot put into words what you have done for me and will never be able to thank you enough! God Bless You and your family always! I will be sending my shawl to Dover in honor of your son and mine! Thank you! Cherie' Griffith



Above: Clockwise beginning with Matthew Mahr (holding 3-week-old Lora), Ann Morrison, Carly Mahr, Christian Halle, and mother and father James and Kimberly Albury (Michael and Matthew's parents), Pastor Mark Whittaker.

Right: photo of prayer shawl.

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Ann Morrison, who heads the First United Methodist Church's prayer shawl group in Homosassa, Florida, sends us pictures regarding their work this past month. On the left is a ceremony held on Saturday, April 14th, a special memorial to honor PFC Michael Mahr, DOD 3/22/11. The ceremony was held at the Citrus County Fallen Heroes Monument in Bicentennial Park. Ann tells us, *"This has been a very moving experience for me and my husband to be so personally involved with the family."* It has been my experience that those of you who become personally involved (i.e., the direct contact program using our Army's casualty list) find the most rewards for both the family and those of us in this ministry. Please don't be shy about getting your feet wet with this program. It DOES take more effort on your part, to write and contact families, but

the rewards are great. Michael's parents, James and Kimberly Albury, live in the same town, Homosassa.



Last month you read a story about Scott and Theresa Dryden, loving parents of Marine LC Stacy A. Dryden, DOD 10/19/08. They live in North Canton, Ohio, and were recently remarried. PS4FS knitters and crocheters Melanie Staubitz & Sharon Schuesler, who live in Cincinnati, Ohio, received a thank you note from Stacey's parents as follows: (1 photo left)

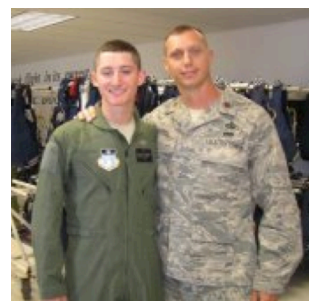
Thank you for the prayer shawls, my husband cried when he saw what was in the box. I cried also when I saw there were two in the box. The shawls are a great comfort to both of us. Again, thank you and everyone who makes the shawls. What a wonderful gift for the families who have lost their loved ones protecting our great country. God Bless you all. Theresa Dryden.

Then her husband Scott adds:

Since October of '08, I have been healing. Every little bit helps. Thank you so much. God will bless you. Scottie Dryden

Another follow up from last month's newsletter is a thank you note from Linda Ambard, wife of Maj. Philip Ambard, DOD 4/27/11. PS4FS knitter/crocheter Sharron Hollingsworth, from Emmett, Idaho quickly delivered a handmade prayer shawl upon Linda's request, with the following thank you note: (2 photos right)

Sharon, I am sitting here on my son's 20th birthday wrapped in the prayer shawl that you made for me. Tiger, his father's son--the one who was the closest to his dad, is our baby. I am finding warmth and comfort from the labor of faith love. Thank you. Linda

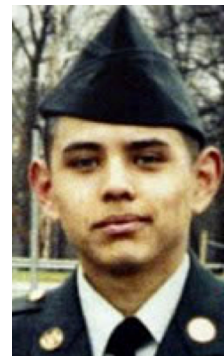
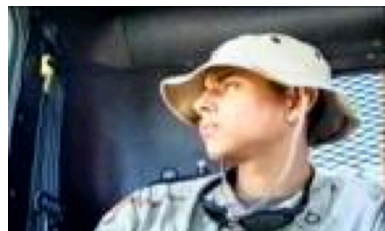


PS4FS knitter/crocheter Lynne Neibert, who heads the Trindle Spring Lutheran Church's prayer shawl group in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, sent me eight names this past month to whom their group sent ten prayer shawls. They share with us a thank you note from John and Sandra Bartle, proud parents of CPT Daniel Benjamin Bartle, DOD 1/19/12. John and Sandra live in Missoula, Montana and write: (1 photo left)

Our son, Captain Daniel Benjamin Bartle, age 27, died January 19, 2012 in a helicopter crash. Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. We both treasure and appreciate the love and thoughtfulness that went into its making. God bless you! Love, John and Sandy Bartle (parents)

Lynne's group received a second thank you note from Marie Perrez-Miranda, who lives in Theresa, New York. Marie's son, PFC Luis Perez, died 8/27/04 (notice early DOD). We are very proud of Lynne's group for seeking out our families. Thank you for your tireless work! Marie's beautiful note is below. (2 photos right)

I want to say thank you for the shawl. It is beautiful. It was Luis' favorite color. I received it today. When I put it on, I do feel him because it was made for him with love. Thank you again and God bless you for the comfort you give others!



Lynne Neibert's group received a second direct request responding to messages they leave on website "message boards/guest books" for our military fallen. (If you want to learn more about this, check out our website on how to do it. It's easy and so much more rewarding to receive direct responses from our families.) This request comes from Marianne Vicente, we believe she is a friend of Karin Hall, loving sister of CPT Ryan Hall, DOD 2/18/12. Marianne writes:

I read your message on Captain Ryan Hall's legacy site and was hoping to have a prayer shawl sent to Captain Ryan's sister. Thank

you so much - I truly appreciate it. Captain Ryan Hall KIA 02-18-2012 in Djibouti, Africa stationed at Hurlburt Field, Florida. He was an amazing man and leader. We pray that his legacy will live forever and that their sacrifice will never be forgotten. He was one of the crew in the U-28 crash. There were no survivors. Please send

the prayer shawl to: Karin Hall, Hutto, Tx 78634

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do." ~Edward Everett Hale~



Above: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Air Force personnel fill Freedom Hanger at Hurlburt Field (Florida) Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012 during a memorial service held for four Hurlburt Field airmen who were killed when their aircraft crashed Feb. 18, 2012 in Africa. Family, friends and fellow airmen gathered at this special operations base in Northwest Florida to remember Air Force Capt. Ryan Hall, Capt. Nicholas Whitlock, 1st Lt. Justin Wilkens and Sr. Airman Julian Scholten who died in the crash.