

PS4FS Monthly Newsletter - October 2012:

Dear PS4FS friends,

The 12th annual Prayer Shawl Ministry's Gathering will be Saturday, November 3rd. This is a very special event, their third and newest book will be introduced. If you think you can come, please see details in our newsletter under "Communications From You" and let me know so I may look forward to meeting you! Directions to order the book are located on the Shawl Ministry's website. (link is in newsletter under "Communications From You")

A shocking news statistic from this past month: *"There have been 36 troops killed so far this year by Afghan troops who turn on their American trainers."* While we want this *madness* to stop, we also know we will first-hand realize news stories like this one. They are painful, but once again, I thank all of you for being here, for doing something to ease the grief our families face. This month's newsletter includes a shared story about **PS4FS knitter/crocheter Nancy Kahrs from Ft. Walton Beach, Florida**. Nancy chose to visit a family, and shares the rewards of taking that step. As we move along in this ministry, we have become more confident to reach out and touch our families! Thank you all for being here, and for being daring when you chose to do so! Together, we make a huge difference!

I'd also like to draw your attention to the last story about Cheryl Softich, loving mother of SPC Noah Pierce, DOD 7/26/07. Sadly, Noah committed suicide after being unable to find the proper help for PTSD. Cheryl has worked to change that situation. This is a story I am sure we will hear more about in the future. I have come to admire this mother, as you will too! There are a good number of stories like this one in this month's newsletter!

A note about confidentiality: We are all aware that when we receive information on a family, it is to be kept confidential. What you should also know is that I never share your information with anyone without first asking your permission. Newsletter updates and mass broadcasts are emailed in 5 groups. The web-based Charter program I use does not allow me to use the CC or BCC column. Therefore, 1/5th of each email's groups are shown in the "To" column in mass broadcasts. Although this has not seemed to have been a problem, I just want to make you aware it would be a huge hardship of me to hide your emails in the BCC column without adding a lot more work on my part. I hope this is not a problem with anyone. If so, please let me know.

Please do share our newsletter with your group, your church, your organization. We want Americans to remember our fallen and their families; there is no better way to do so than to share our newsletters, which act as a commemorative of our fallen!

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. COMMUNICATIONS FROM YOU

III. THANK YOU NOTES AND MESSAGES:

I.) CURRENT STATISTICS:

# Prayer Shawls made since October 2007:	6,323	<i>Includes Dover prayer shawls (yellow numbers below)</i>
# sent to Dover since inception of program (Sept. 2009):	3,180	
# sent to Dover this past month:	103	<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 September 2012

Contact Name	Town	State	Date Joined	Group Name
Diane Caggiano	Bristol	CT	9/11/12	St John's Episcopal Church
Patty Reents	Middlesex	NJ	9/24/12	Our Lady of Mount Virgin Prayer Shawl Ministry

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 before witnessing the Dignified Transfer Ceremony. Often they return home wishing they had taken more, wanting to comfort a grief-stricken sister, grandparent, special aunt, 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 - multiple next-of-kin may be associated with a town.)*

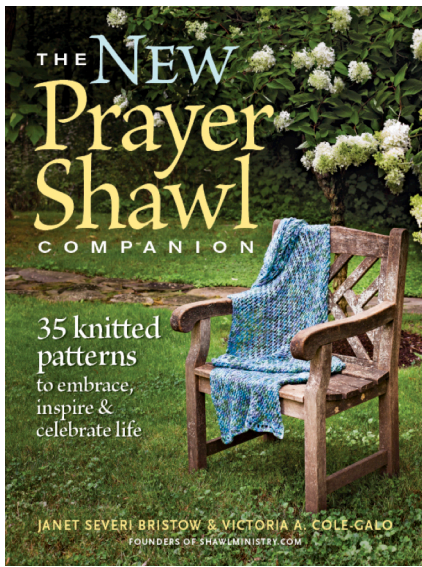
Anchorage	AK	Cupertino	CA	Riverside	CA	Matlacha	FL
Fayetteville	AK	Dana Point	CA	Salinas	CA	Minneola	FL
Hamburg	AK	Empire	CA	San Jose	CA	Naples	FL
Little Rock	AK	Garden Grove	CA	Tustin	CA	Opa Locka	FL
Monticello	AK	Glendale	CA	West Sacramento	CA	Oviedo	FL
North Pole	AK	Hayward	CA	Yuba City	CA	P.S.L.	FL
Pine Bluff	AK	Hemet	CA	Castle Rock	CO	Palatka	FL
Star City	AK	Huntington Beach	CA	Colora]	CO	Palm Bay	FL
Van Buren	AK	Indio	CA	Colorado Springs	CO	Plant City	FL
Warren	AK	Julian	CA	Fort Carson	CO	Port Charlotte	FL
Birmingham	AL	Kelseyville	CA	Fountain	CO	Riverview	FL
Boaz	AL	La Grange	CA	Fruita	CO	Safety Harbor	FL
Cullman	AL	Lake Elsinore	CA	Parker	CO	Sarasota	FL
Enterprise	AL	Lancaster	CA	Salida	CO	Tampa	FL
Grady	AL	Lawndale	CA	Thornton	CO	The Villages	FL
Homewood	AL	Los Angeles	CA	Westcliffe	CO	Valrico	FL
Hoover	AL	Lucerne	CA	Colorado Springs	CO	Wesley Chapel	FL
Huntsville	AL	Lynwood	CA	Denver	CO	Bartow	FL
Millbrook	AL	Marina	CA	Larkspur	CO	Boynton Beach	FL
Mobile	AL	Meniffee	CA	Baltic	CT	Clearwater	FL
Montgomery	AL	Murrieta	CA	Hartford	CT	Homestead	FL
Oneonta	AL	New Cuyama	CA	Niantic	CT	Lehigh Acres	FL
Phoenix City	AL	Northridge	CA	Suffield	CT	Lynn Haven	FL
Russellville	AL	Ontario	CA	Tolland	CT	Tallahassee	FL
Trussville	AL	Redding	CA	Uncasville	CT	Acworth	GA
Cullman	AL	Reseda	CA	Waterford	CT	Atlanta	GA
Jacksonville	AL	Riverside	CA	Willimantic	CT	Bonaire	GA
Oneonta	AL	San Bernardino	CA	Winsted	CT	Canton	GA
Pine Bluff	AR	San Diego	CA	Washington, DC	DC	Dearing	GA
Star City	AR	San Jose	CA	Hockessin	DE	Fort Stewart	GA
Pago Pago	AS	South Lake Tahoe	CA	Brooksville	FL	Gainesville	GA
Chandler	AZ	Victorville	CA	Cantonment	FL	Griffin	GA
Glendale	AZ	Vista	CA	Chuluota	FL	Grovetown	GA
Kingman	AZ	Westwood	CA	Clearwater	FL	Hampton	GA
Laveen	AZ	Williams	CA	Debary	FL	Helena	GA
Litchfield Park	AZ	Yucaipa	CA	Deland	FL	Hinesville	GA
Phoenix	AZ	Alameda	CA	Grand Ridge	FL	Hogansville	GA
Sierra Vista	AZ	Bell	CA	Homestead	FL	Jacksonville	GA
Surprise	AZ	Blythe	CA	Immokalle	FL	Kennesaw	GA
Tucson	AZ	Brawley	CA	Jacksonville	FL	Kingsland	GA
Albany	CA	Carson	CA	Kissimmee	FL	Leesburg	GA
American Canyon	CA	Citrus Heights	CA	Largo	FL	Ludowici	GA
Brawley	CA	Fullerton	CA	Lehigh Acres	FL	Macon	GA
California City	CA	Lucerne Valley	CA	Lynn Haven	FL	Marietta	GA
Capistrano Beach	CA	Moreno Valley	CA	Maitland	FL	McDonough	GA
Cathedral City	CA	Ontario	CA	Marianna	FL	McRae	GA

Midway	GA	Waukegan	IL	Silver Spring	MD	Lees Summit	MO
Peachtree City	GA	Winchester	IL	St. Leonard	MD	Rolla	MO
Riverdale	GA	Xenia	IL	Upper Marlboro	MD	Union	MO
Saint Marys	GA	La Grange	IL	Urbana	MD	Baldwyn	MS
Suwanee	GA	Peoria	IL	Brunswick	ME	Bay Saint Louis	MS
Tybee Island	GA	Wheaton	IL	Caribou	ME	Foxworth	MS
Valdosta	GA	Berne	IN	Mars Hill	ME	Greenwood	MS
Winder	GA	Dyer	IN	Montville	ME	Hattiesburg	MS
Ewa Beach	HI	Frankfort	IN	Newport	ME	Kiln	MS
Honolulu	HI	Indianapolis	IN	Standish	ME	Mooreville	MS
Mililani	HI	Kirklin	IN	Addison	MI	Moss Point	MS
Mililani	HI	Knightsville	IN	Ann Arbor	MI	Pass Christian	MS
Waianae	HI	Munster	IN	Auburn Hills	MI	Petal	MS
Waipahu	HI	Fort Riley	KS	Battle Creek	MI	Philadelphia	MS
Bettendorf	IA	Holton	KS	Boyne City	MI	Union	MS
Blue Grass	IA	Junction City	KS	Brighton	MI	Vicksburg	MS
Cascade	IA	Kansas City	KS	Chesterfield	MI	Black Eagle	MT
Davenport	IA	Leavenworth	KS	Corunna	MI	Great Falls	MT
Glenwood	IA	Manhattan	KS	Ferndale	MI	Boonville	NC
Grimes	IA	Milford	KS	Flint	MI	Carthage	NC
Johnston	IA	Olathe	KS	Fraser	MI	Cherryville	NC
Le Claire	IA	Overland Park	KS	Gaylord	MI	Concord	NC
Red Oak	IA	Shawnee	KS	Grand Rapids	MI	Fayetteville	NC
Bonnars Ferry	ID	Wichita	KS	Grandville	MI	Hope Mills	NC
Crown Point	ID	Eolia	KY	Granger	MI	Naples	NC
East Chicago	ID	Jeffersonville	KY	Harrison Township	MI	Pembroke	NC
Idaho Falls	ID	London	KY	Hazel Park	MI	Pilot Mountain	NC
Jerome	ID	Russellville	KY	Jackson	MI	Pisgah Forest	NC
Kuna	ID	Alexandria	LA	Kentwood	MI	Raeford	NC
Lewiston	ID	Arabi	LA	Lansing	MI	Raleigh	NC
Nampa	ID	Covington	LA	Midland	MI	Sanford	NC
Preston	ID	Gueydan	LA	Muskegon	MI	Spring Lake	NC
Twin Falls	ID	Haughton	LA	Owosso	MI	Waxhaw	NC
Bonnars Ferry	ID	Lake Charles	LA	Rochester Hills	MI	Nashua	NH
Jerome	ID	Luling	LA	Romulus	MI	Plaistow	NH
Preston	ID	Pearl River	LA	Saginaw	MI	Blairstown	NJ
Rupert	ID	West Monroe	LA	Saline	MI	Cape May	NJ
Aledo	IL	Assonet	MA	Sanford	MI	Hamilton	NJ
Aledo	IL	Attleboro	MA	Shelby Township	MI	Jersey City	NJ
Bloomington	IL	New Bedford	MA	Southgate	MI	Kinnelon	NJ
Chicago	IL	North Adams	MA	Sturgis	MI	Patterson	NJ
Cottage Hills	IL	Springfield	MA	Williamston	MI	Albuquerque	NM
Decatur	IL	Tewksbury	MA	Ypsilanti	MI	Bayard	NM
Effingham	IL	Arlington	MA	Apple Valley	MN	Clovis	NM
Fox Lake	IL	Attleboro	MA	Carver	MN	Espanola	NM
Gurnee	IL	Fall River	MA	Duluth	MN	Las Cruces	NM
Lawrenceville	IL	Pocasset	MA	Duluth	MN	Roswell	NM
Moline	IL	Taunton	MA	Inver Grove Heights	MN	Santa Cruz	NM
Mount Carmel	IL	Baltimore	MD	Lengby	MN	Santa Teresa	NM
Nelson	IL	Brockton	MD	Rochester	MN	White Sands	NM
New Windsor	IL	Cabin John	MD	Rosemount	MN	Fallon	NV
North Aurora	IL	Glen Burnie	MD	Shevlin	MN	Henderson	NV
Oak Park	IL	Hagerstown	MD	Blue Springs	MO	Las Vegas	NV
Opdyke	IL	Hughesville	MD	Columbia	MO	Reno	NV
Round Lake Beach	IL	Kensington	MD	Union	MO	Ballston Spa	NY
Sheffield	IL	Port Tobacco	MD	Catawissa	MO	Bronx	NY
Springfield	IL	Prince Frederick	MD	Highlandville	MO	Brooklyn	NY
Taylorville	IL	Saint Leonard	MD	Kansas City	MO	Clarence Center	NY

Cohoes	NY	Baker City	OR	Cameron	TX	Chester	VA
East Atlantic Beach	NY	Creswell	OR	Copperas Cove	TX	Ford	VA
East Meadow	NY	Hillsboro	OR	Dallas	TX	Greenbackville	VA
Fort Drum	NY	Tigard	OR	Denton	TX	Hampton	VA
Geneva	NY	Baker City	OR	Edcouch	TX	Lexington	VA
Getzville	NY	Tigard	OR	Edinburgh	TX	Midlothian	VA
Hewlett	NY	Beaver Falls	PA	El Paso	TX	Newport News	VA
Loweville	NY	Bethel Park	PA	Fort Davis	TX	Norfolk	VA
Monroe	NY	Chambersburg	PA	Fort Hood	TX	Pearisburg	VA
Newburgh	NY	Connellsville	PA	Fort Worth	TX	Prince George	VA
Oswego	NY	Evans City	PA	Frost	TX	South Chesterfield	VA
Patterson	NY	Galeton	PA	Garland	TX	Stafford	VA
Pittsford	NY	Hanover	PA	Gatesville	TX	Suffolk	VA
Pittsford	NY	New Freeport	PA	Georgetown	TX	Virginia Beach	VA
Rochester	NY	Philadelphia	PA	Greenville	TX	Williamsburg	VA
Selkirk	NY	Pittsburgh	PA	Harker Heights	TX	Yorktown	VA
Spencerport	NY	Seward	PA	Houston	TX	Arlington	WA
Syracuse	NY	Spring Grove	PA	Hurst	TX	Centralia	WA
Tyrone	NY	York	PA	Iola	TX	Cheney	WA
Wallkill	NY	Humacao	PR	Irving	TX	College Place	WA
Watertown	NY	Attleboro	RI	Kennedale	TX	Edmonds	WA
WeedSPORT	NY	Central Falls	RI	Killeen	TX	Joint Base Lewis-McChord	WA
Worcester	NY	Cranston	RI	Kyle	TX	Lacey	WA
Ashtabula	OH	North Providence	RI	La Porte	TX	Lakewood	WA
Bellefontaine	OH	Pawtucket	RI	Lawn	TX	McChord Air Force Base	WA
Columbus	OH	Providence	RI	Lometa	TX	Olympia	WA
Dayton	OH	Beech Island	SC	Lumberton	TX	Puyallup	WA
Dublin	OH	Bluffton	SC	Mansfield	TX	Seattle	WA
Dublin	OH	Bluffton	SC	Mansfield	TX	Spokane	WA
Genoa	OH	Columbia	SC	Mc Gregor	TX	Tacoma	WA
Hamilton	OH	Easley	SC	McAllen	TX	Walla Walla	WA
Lebanon	OH	Goose Creek	SC	McAllen	TX	Tacoma	WA
Lewis Center	OH	Hopkins	SC	Mission	TX	Appleton	WI
Lorain	OH	Jackson	SC	Moody	TX	Darlington	WI
Morrow	OH	Lexington	SC	New Caney	TX	Elkhorn	WI
Oberlin	OH	Lyman	SC	Nolanville	TX	Green Bay	WI
South Lebanon	OH	North Charleston	SC	Pflugerville	TX	Hazel Green	WI
Stow	OH	Parris Island	SC	Pharr	TX	Horicon	WI
Toledo	OH	Simpsonville	SC	Plano	TX	Hudson	WI
Troy	OH	Swansea	SC	Richmond	TX	Jackson	WI
Upper Arlington	OH	Warrenville	SC	Rowlett	TX	Marshfield	WI
Columbus	OH	Lead	SD	Salado	TX	Neenah	WI
Lebanon	OH	Piedmont	SD	San Antonio	TX	Shullsburg	WI
Troy	OH	Yankton	SD	Seguin	TX	Waukesha	WI
Checotah	OK	Chattanooga	TN	Sugarland	TX	Wilmot	WI
El Reno	OK	Clarksville	TN	Sunset	TX	Hazel Green	WI
Lawton	OK	Crossville	TN	Temple	TX	Orfordville	WI
Noble	OK	Elizabethton	TN	Texarkana	TX	Glen Daniel	WV
Norman	OK	Franklin	TN	The Colony	TX	Grant Town	WV
Owasso	OK	Goodspring	TN	Three Rivers	TX	Cheyenne	WY
Porter	OK	LaVergne	TN	Tyler	TX	Rawlins	WY
Purcell	OK	Murfreesboro	TN	Uvalde	TX	Rivertown	WY
Sapulpa	OK	Nashville	TN	Waco	TX	Shelly	WY
Stillwater	OK	Arlington	TX	Weslaco	TX	Sheridan	WY
Tulsa	OK	Austin	TX	Yantis	TX	Shell	WY
Lawton	OK	Bastrop	TX	Saint George	UT		
Miami	OK	Beaumont	TX	Santaquin	UT		
Newcastle	OK	Brownsville	TX	Bedford	VA		

I. COMMUNICATIONS FROM YOU:

As in years past, I plan to attend the Prayer Shawl Ministry's Annual Gathering in Hartford. I hope many of you will be able to join me. It's always fun meeting you there! Please let me know if you plan to come so I may look for you, and maybe even sit together! This event is special in every way, a "not-to-be-missed" event! Meeting Vicky Galo and Janet Bristow, the founders of this amazing ministry, is always a treat! Their enthusiasm is infectious! Our own ministry would never have been founded had it not been for Vicky and Janet! We are a spin-off of their ministry, an idea which never would have come to fruition had it not been for their ministry! Below are details! Again, notify me if you plan to be there! I look forward to meeting many of you! If you plan to register, do it right away as it always fills up quickly! Visit their website (details below) where you may both register and order a copy of their new book:



12th Annual Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering

Saturday November 3rd, 10am - 2pm, Doors open at 9:30am

St. Patrick ~ St. Antony Church - Hartford, CT

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Registration is on first come ~ first serve basis

Once capacity is reached, registration will be closed -

check our website for notices.

Click on the link below to download the registration form

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

Please join us for our annual ecumenical gathering of the various Shawl Ministry circles in Connecticut and beyond.

During our time there will be an opportunity for knitting/crochet, prayer, storytelling, and sharing. Bring your knitting/crochet, stories, ideas, tips, prayers and shawls.

If you wish, bring a bag lunch. Soup will be donated again this year from the

House of Bread. Beverages and dessert will be available – see registration form if you'd like to donate a dessert.

This event is recommended for established prayer shawl knitters/crocheters.

Pre-registration **is** required and space is limited (first come-first serve basis.

Monies are non-refundable).

Welcome to one of our newest groups, **Our Lady of Mount Virgin Prayer Shawl Ministry is from Middlesex, New Jersey, headed by Patty Reents**. This group hit the ground running, sending 18 prayer shawls to Dover Air Base this past month! Wow! Thank you and welcome to our web-based ministry which continues to grow and spread its wings of love! We look forward to hearing more from you! Right, Patty shares a picture of the group and their lovely work! Notice all their work is in red, white, and blue!

Row 1: Natalie Guibleo, Rosemary Walsh, Patty Reents, Therese Boyd.
Row 2: Carmella Bradley, Terry Maxcy, Pat Engelman, Gayle Troia.



PS4FS knitter/crocheter Diane Caggiano, who heads St. John's Episcopal Church's prayer shawl group in Bristol, Connecticut, joined us this past month. We warmly welcome you, Diane! She shares an interesting idea where she intends to 'recruit' prayer shawls for Dover Air Base:

I am an Episcopal Deacon in the Diocese of Connecticut. Several churches in our deanery are planning a Veterans Day Concert for Sunday November 11th at the church where I am assigned. As part of that concert, we have asked each church to donate red/white/blue prayer shawls that we would like to send to Dover. My heart is in this ministry because I know first-hand what families go through having lost my Dad when I was only 7 months old at the close of WWII. My mother was a Gold Star wife and my grandmother a Gold Star mother. Thank you for what you do for these families. Sincerely, Rev. Diane Caggiano

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Nancy Kahrs, who works alone, lives in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, sends us a photo of herself, and you may also read an interesting submission she shares with us under the *Thank You Notes and Messages* section! (She took some "bold" steps visiting a military mother.) Nancy joined this ministry November 10, 2008. In that amount of time, she has delivered six prayer shawls to our families, and one to Dover Air Base. She tells us: *(1 photo right)*

I love to spin (spinning yarn, not exercise), knit, and read. I am a bereavement volunteer for hospice and facilitate a grief support group at my church. I have an overdeveloped sense of humor and get in trouble with people who take everything literally. I have been blessed by friends and family who enrich my life and haven't committed me yet but rather join in the fun!

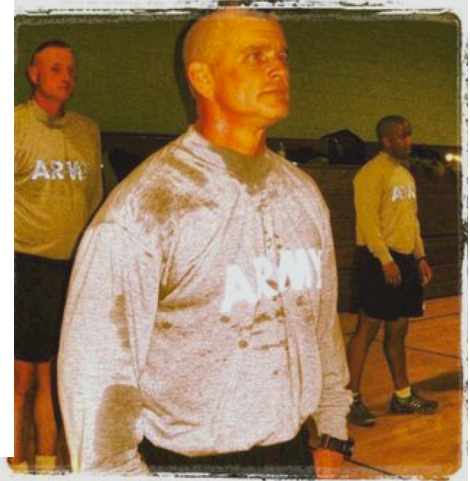
Don't you absolutely LOVE Nancy's sense of humor!



II. THANK YOU NOTES AND MESSAGES:

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Lynne Neibert, who heads the Trindle Spring Lutheran Church's prayer shawl group in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, shares several notes they received from families for their prayer shawls. Lynne's group is very active with the "direct contact" program, where they email and send notes to families asking if they would like a prayer shawl. We are grateful for your good work, Lynne and the entire group. Thank you for going the extra mile and finding families with your love and work!

Lynne received a thank you note from Alexander Povilaitis Sr., loving father of SSG Alexander G. Povilaitis, DOD 5/31/12. We are not sure where Alex Sr lives, but a second prayer shawl was sent to Alex Jr's wife, Kimberly, who lives in Lakewood, Washington. Alex Sr. writes: *(2 photos right)*



Lynne and all Ministry, Thank you for you kind expression of sympathy on the death of my son, Alex. Thank all of y'all for the pretty shawl. That was very nice of y'all to do that!

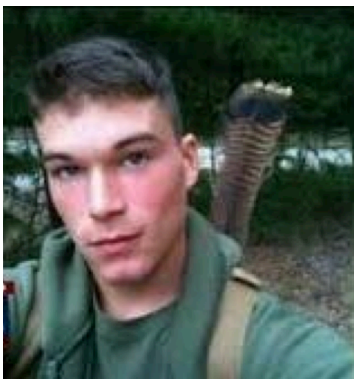
Alex's wife, Kimberly also wrote a thank you note:

To the Prayer Shawl Ministry, What a beautiful shawl I received! Thank you so much. It's cool up here in Washington year round, and this shawl has already served me well. Mrs. Margaret Lang does such beautiful work! Thank you again. Please accept this donation to the cause. Your Sister in Christ - Kimmy P. (Wife of Alexander)



A second thank you note to Trindle Spring comes from Mary Brozovich, loving wife of SFC Daniel Anthony Brozovich, DOD 10/18/06 (Notice early DOD). Mary and her Ryan, and daughter, Carrie, live in Greenville, Pennsylvania. Lynne's group gave a lap robe to 7-year-old Ryan, and prayer shawls to Carrie and Mary. Mary writes: *(1 photo left)*

Dear Lynne, I wanted to let you know that we received the prayer gifts today and really love them. My son Ryan was so excited when he saw his lap robe. He really loves it! Please tell Ja'net Grey how much he likes it and please thank her for us. As for my daughter Carrie and myself, we really love our gifts. They feel so warm and cozy. Again thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Sincerely, Mary, Carrie, and Ryan Brozovich



Lynne's group, Trindle Spring, received a third thank you note from Mary Coti, loving grandmother of LCPL Niall Coti-Sears, DOD 6/23/12. A prayer shawl was given to Mary and a second to Niall's mother, Susan, both who live in Arlington, Virginia. Both Mary (grandmother) and Susan (mother) wrote thank you notes: *(2 photos, 1 left, 1 right)*

To Lynne Neibert, Prayer Shawls 4 Fallen Soldiers, and The Prayer Shawl Ministry, Thank you so much for that beautiful prayer shawl. My husband and I will share it as we say our special prayers for or grandson, Niall Coti-Dears, KIA in Afghanistan, June 23, 2012 by an IED. We are heartbroken over him and I can hardly write to thank all of you, my hand is shaking with my emotional thought of Niall. Thank you for being our friend at this time. Mary H Coti and Colonel William Coti USMC (Ret)



To Linda Rodgers and Lynne Neibert, Thank you for using your hands to bring comfort to me and my mother. The shawl I received is beautiful and I use it daily as I wrap my love around my son. Thank you Lynne, for making this happen. With love, Susan K. Coti (Mother of Niall)

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Cozette Haggerty (yes, that's me!), from Wilbraham, Massachusetts, received a lovely thank you note from Deborah Drexler, loving mother of PFC Jeremy Drexler, DOD 5/2/2004 (notice early DOD). Deborah found our website where she sent a direct request for a prayer shawl. She lives in Berryton, Kansas, and has two additional sons serving in the military: AM2 Timothy Drexler in the Navy, and SSGT Kenneth Drexler, a Marine. Both sons are currently deployed, so we ask your prayers for this mother who has been through so much! Deborah writes: *(2 photos above right)*



My sweet angel friend, Thank you for the shawl. It is beautiful. I sit in my chair wrapped up in it a lot lately. I really do hope it has healing powers. Winter is around the corner – at least I won't be cold! I have this awesome shawl to keep me warm! Both my sons are deployed now. I am so worried. One is in Afghanistan, the other on a battleship. I never took down our Christmas from last Christmas. It is decorated with all military and USA ornaments so I call it "Support our Troops" tree in the off-season. I am sending you a dog tag to keep as a simple thank you for all you do and caring about me and my son. You have really blessed me and I want you to always remember this when you wear it. Again, thank you and bless you! Debbie Drexler



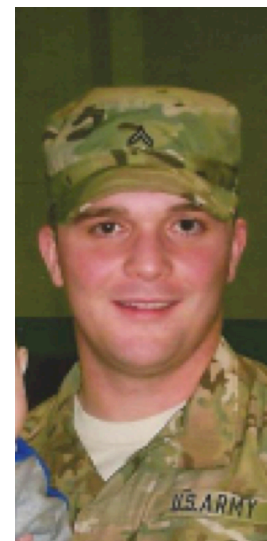
Deborah, I will gladly display Jeremy's dog tag above my desk at work, and ask our knitters and crocheters to pray for Timothy and Kenneth! Blessings to you!



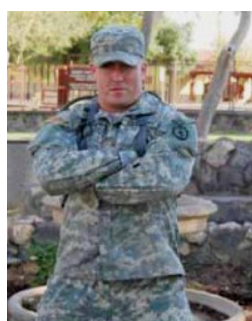
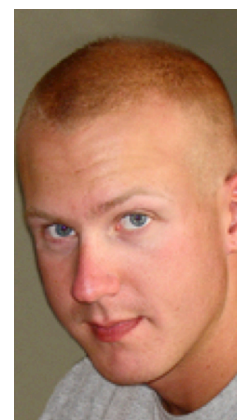
PS4FS knitter/crocheter Mitzi Christian, who works alone from Alexandria, Virginia, shares a stirring thank you note she received from Janice Jackson, a friend of the family of SGT Timothy John Conrad, DOD 2/23/12. Janice writes the thank you for John's wife, Holly, and her 6-month old baby, Bentley, who both traveled to Dover last February, where they received a prayer shawl from Mitzi, before walking out to witness the Dignified Transfer Ceremony. Holly and Bentley live in Hinesville, Georgia. The note follows: (2 photos – 1 left, 1 right)

Mitzi, Sorry for the delay in this note. Your prayer shawl was used in a mighty way on a cold February day in Dover. It wrapped a six-month old baby boy, Bentley, from harsh winds as he met his father's body back from Afghanistan. SGT timothy Conrad was killed in action. It was a hard, cold, windy day. Your comforting shawl and prayers that were attached were so precious. I am a military wife, Marine mom, and a family friend that traveled to Dover to help Holly, the sweet, young mother that lost her husband. Please continue to pray for Holly, Bentley, and family. It

has been six months now, and still very hard. I am so thankful to you and God for having strangers willing to support and pray for men and women serving our country. I wrapped that baby and held him tight as we stood there getting his Daddy. I appreciate you so much for giving to others. In Christ, Janice Jackson, Troutville, VA

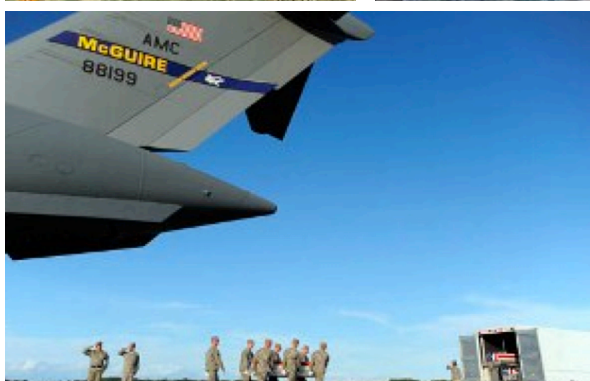


I continue to be surprised by the *Divine Avenues* our ministry reaches. As many of you may know, I work for the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. By nature of my job, I know the clergy in our Diocese. The Rev. Janice Ford, rector of Church of the Reconciliation, Webster, Massachusetts, sent a letter to Bishop Scruton regarding a Marine's funeral she was asked to preside, telling how moving it had been for her. Alan and Jean Dabrowski, parents of Marine Corporal Kevin Dabrowski, DOD 8/11/12, live in Webster. Janice's letter tells how Kevin was killed from injuries he sustained from a tragic car accident near Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Once I read the letter, I asked Janice if she felt the family would like one of our prayer shawls. Gosh, I had this immediate "link"! It felt wonderful! I did my usual, sending an email to all our Massachusetts groups, hearing back immediately from PS4FS Dani Grealish, who appropriately heads the Blue Star Mothers of Eastern Massachusetts in Raynam, Massachusetts. They joined us this past November 10, 2011. They live near Webster, and were very happy to do their "service" as Blue Star Mothers! Thank you for being in this ministry, Blue Star Mothers of Eastern Massachusetts! (1 photo right)



PS4FS knitter/crocheter Nancy Kahrs, who works alone, lives in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. She joined us November 10, 2008, so has been a member of our ministry for a long time. Nancy personally delivered a prayer shawl to Kathleen Silva, loving mother of SPC Ryan James Cook, DOD 9/18/2011. Kathleen and Nancy live in the same town. Nancy tells us: (3 photos left, 1 right)

What a blessing to meet Kathleen Silva, Ryan's mother. We visited for almost an hour. She generously gave me a couple of pictures of Ryan. She also gave me a Gold Star pin. I cannot begin to tell you how touched I am! I was so honored that she also shared a gold star pin which had me in tears. Thank you so much for starting this ministry and giving those of us who make the shawls the opportunity to say thank you to these precious families. Nancy Kahrs



Pvt. Noah Pierce



August 2002 Post SVL OK



Above photos include mother, Cheryl, by Noah's coffin, where she stayed as long as the funeral home would allow! Cheryl's granddaughter sits by Noah's grave, too young to fully understand this loss in her life.



Mother, Cheryl Softich, is a Gold Star mom who lives in Eveleth, Minnesota. She made a direct request for a prayer shawl, which took me (and you) on a journey I did not expect. Cheryl's son, SPC Noah Pierce, DOD 7/26/07, survived two tours of duty in Iraq, but he could not survive the demons of PTSD. Through Cheryl's urging, a veterans' mandatory National Suicide Prevention Hotline was

established to aid veterans suffering from PTSD. Cheryl tells the story below:

Not a day goes by that I do not miss my son and I like the idea of wrapping up in a shawl called a "prayer shawl" as I talk to the Lord off and on all day long. I have to, He has my son now. I don't know what I would do without Him. Noah came home in 2006 very sick with PTSD and then he slipped through all the cracks in the system - he put a gun to his head July 26, 2007. In a poem he left behind, he said that "physically he is home - mentally he never would be." He was so right. Noah died by suicide due to PTSD that can and does kill you from the inside out when you suffer as much as Noah did. He tried to get help, but instead he slipped thru the cracks in the system. The VA's didn't really understand this kind of PTSD as it is different from the other

wars due to different weapons. They failed my son by brushing it off with sleeping pills, then when they saw in the paper he was dead, the VA office in Duluth, MN called said: "We are so sorry for the loss of your son. He came to us not long ago and we did not realize what we had on our hands, so we put him in with a group of Vietnam Vets. We are so sorry. Is there anything we can do to help you?" I still can't believe that call ever happened. Yes, I knew Noah went there and how he was put



in with a group of older men who had been meeting for years. Nobody helped my son; I tried so hard, but I am only mom. I found out there are some things I can't fix and I will live with that guilt for the rest of my life. A lot of things changed after Noah died because I did not keep my mouth shut, so in a way, Noah's death did have something to do with the hotline, as in his death, others are still alive because I told Noah's story. I shared his poems.

You can see all about my Noah just by going to Google and type in his name.

*The Life And Lonely Death Of Noah Pierce tells everything almost without error. His poems can be found in The Rouge Voice. AmVets in Virginia, MN named their post after Noah. He has been in a couple of magazines, a few books, 3 of his poems are in a college debate book, he is featured in "Always Lost: A Mediation of War" that is traveling around from one college campus to another, one state to another, soon to be installed in Washington DC. Noah is the only suicide in "Always Lost" and he tells the other side of a casualty of this war. Noah was featured in an HBO Documentary called "Wartorn" and the Pentagon aired a special viewing for those of us involved in it. My fear is my son will be forgotten. I can't let that happen and will continue to tell his story to those who ask, I will continue to try to educate on PTSD, I will continue to try to get people to understand that **Noah did not "commit" suicide, he "died" by suicide**. Big difference! His illness slowly killed him from the inside out. POW = prisoner of war in their own minds when PTSD is left untreated by those that should KNOW how to, or at least make an effort to treat it. The army failed him first, the VA 2nd, we can't forget me, his mom. I knew and couldn't prevent it. I knew! Cheryl Softich - Noah's mom*

Cheryl was eager to share her story in our newsletter, so I suggested she also share it with members of the United States Armed Services Committee in Washington DC - and she did just that! Cheryl, Noah, must be very proud of you! Your strength is to be admired, and I'm sure Noah is happy you are keeping busy, trying to make some good from his loss! Thank you for your strength and courage!

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Sandra Koehler, who lives in St. Michael, Minnesota, was the first from that state to respond to Cheryl's request. Thank you, Sandy! You have been part of this ministry since December 15, 2007, nearly from the beginning! We are glad you are here and were able to fulfill this

special request! I've asked Sandy to take a photo of her prayer shawl when it is completed, so you will hear more on this story!