

PS4FS Monthly Newsletter - September 2012:

Dear PS4FS friends,

We are thrilled to affiliate ourselves with *Friends of the Fallen*, a group of women who volunteer their services to the Dover Air Base Chaplains. The Dover chaplains' work is overwhelming. These women are willing to unwrap our packages, place our prayer shawls in the Fisher House, and help families select the "right" one before attending the Dignified Transfer Ceremony on the tarmac. There is a photo of our new friends in our newsletter where you may learn more about them. We look forward to this beneficial symbiotic relationship where our families will derive much comfort. Most important: do not send any more prayer shawls to Dover Air Base's chaplains; remember to let me know each time you send, include the amount, and I'll send you the new address of Friends of the Fallen. (Their address will not appear on the website or in our newsletters.)

This month's issue includes a number of shared photos and information about your groups! I encourage you all to do this, whether you are a group or a single person, please send photos of you, your work, and tell us about yourselves! It's fun to share!

This past month, on August 17th, I heard a story about "Black Hawk Down" in Afghanistan, where a special operations mission of 7 US troops (including 2 Navy Seals), 3 Afghans, and 1 interpreter died. We hear these news stories, and cringe knowing the names and stories will show up in our work. It's not just a news story to us! If we cannot do anything about ending this war, the *least* we can do is to show our compassion for our families who must face the terrible grim reality, one that will *never* leave them. May our prayer shawls bring them some amount of comfort in their grief.

A second statistic given on August 17th is there are now 221 Service People killed this year. We are only 8 months into this year, with 4 to go! It's so sad to see the faces and feel the reality of these numbers! Thank you for being here, for your compassion and doing our part to let our families know we care. It all helps so much! Many blessings to everyone for your work in this 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. COMMUNICATIONS FROM YOU
- III. DOVER PROGRAM
- IV. THANK YOU NOTES AND MESSAGES:

I.) CURRENT STATISTICS:

# Prayer Shawls made since October 2007:	6,289	<i>Includes Dover prayer shawls (yellow numbers below)</i>
# sent to Dover since inception of program (Sept. 2009):	3,077	
# sent to Dover this past month:	80	<i>This number is included in above totals</i>
# Prayer Shawl Groups/Individuals:	276	

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	Bernardino		Minneola	FL	Aledo	IL
Fayetteville	AK	San Diego	CA	Naples	FL	Cottage Hills	IL
Hamburg	AK	San Jose	CA	Opa Locka	FL	Decatur	IL
Little Rock	AK	Santa Clara	CA	Oviedo	FL	Effingham	IL
Monticello	AK	South Lake		P.S.L.	FL	Fox Lake	IL
North Pole	AK	Tahoe	CA	Palatka	FL	Moline	IL
Van Buren	AK	Victorville	CA	Plant City	FL	Mount Carmel	IL
Warren	AK	Vista	CA	Port		Nelson	IL
Boaz	AL	Williams	CA	Charlotte	FL	New Windsor	IL
Cullman	AL	Yucaipa	CA	Safety Harbor	FL	North Aurora	IL
Enterprise	AL	Alameda	CA	Sarasota	FL	Oak Park	IL
Grady	AL	Bakersfield	CA	Tampa	FL	Opdyke	IL
Homewood	AL	Bell	CA	Valrico	FL	Sheffield	IL
Hoover	AL	Blythe	CA	Wesley Chapel	FL	Taylorville	IL
Huntsville	AL	Brawley	CA	Bartow	FL	Winchester	IL
Millbrook	AL	Carson	CA	Boynton Beach	FL	Peoria	IL
Mobile	AL	Citrus		Homestead	FL	Wheaton	IL
Montgomery	AL	Heights	CA	Lynn Haven	FL	Berne	IN
Oneonta	AL	Fullerton	CA	Tallahassee	FL	Dyer	IN
Peterman	AL	Lucerne		Acworth	GA	Frankfort	IN
Phenix City	AL	Valley	CA	Atlanta	GA	Kirklin	IN
Russellville	AL	Moreno Valley	CA	Bonaire	GA	Knightsville	IN
Trussville	AL	Ontario	CA	Canton	GA	Munster	IN
Cullman	AL	Salinas	CA	Dearing	GA	Fort Riley	KS
Jacksonville	AL	San Jose	CA	Eatonton	GA	Holton	KS
Pine Bluff	AR	Tustin	CA	Gainesville	GA	Junction City	KS
Star City	AR	West		Griffin	GA	Kansas City	KS
Pago Pago	AS	Sacramento	CA	Grovetown	GA	Leavenworth	KS
Glendale	AZ	Yuba City	CA	Hampton	GA	Manhattan	KS
Kingman	AZ	Castle Rock	CO	Helena	GA	Milford	KS
Laveen	AZ	Colora]	CO	Hinesville	GA	Olathe	KS
Litchfield		Colorado		Hogansville	GA	Overland Park	KS
Park	AZ	Springs	CO	Jacksonville	GA	Shawnee	KS
Phoenix	AZ	Fort Carson	CO	Kennesaw	GA	Wichita	KS
Sierra Vista	AZ	Fountain	CO	Kingsland	GA	Eolia	KY
Tucson	AZ	Fruita	CO	Leesburg	GA	Fort Campbell	KY
American		Parker	CO	Ludowici	GA	Jeffersonvill	
Canyon	CA	Salida	CO	Macon	GA	e	KY
California		Thornton	CO	Marietta	GA	London	KY
City	CA	Westcliffe	CO	McDonough	GA	Alexandria	LA
Capistrano		Denver	CO	McRae	GA	Covington	LA
Beach	CA	Larkspur	CO	Midway	GA	Gueydan	LA
Dana Point	CA	Baltic	CT	Peachtree		Lake Charles	LA
Fresno	CA	Hartford	CT	City	GA	Luling	LA
Garden Grove	CA	Niantic	CT	Richmond Hill	GA	West Monroe	LA
Glendale	CA	Suffield	CT	Riverdale	GA	Assonet	MA
Hayward	CA	Uncasville	CT	Saint Marys	GA	Arlington	MA
Hesperia	CA	Waterford	CT	Tybee Island	GA	Attleboro	MA
Huntington		Willimantic	CT	Valdosta	GA	Fall River	MA
Park	CA	Winsted	CT	Winder	GA	Taunton	MA
Julian	CA	Washington,		Ewa Beach	HI	Baltimore	MD
Lake Elsinore	CA	DC	DC	Honolulu	HI	Brockton	MD
Lancaster	CA	Hockessin	DE	Wahiawa	HI	Cabin John	MD
Lawndale	CA	Bradenton	FL	Waipahu	HI	Glen Burnie	MD
Los Angeles	CA	Brooksville	FL	Bettendorf	IA	Hughesville	MD
Lynwood	CA	Cantonment	FL	Davenport	IA	Kensington	MD
Marina	CA	Chuluota	FL	Glenwood	IA	Port Tobacco	MD
Modesto	CA	Clearwater	FL	Grimes	IA	Prince	
New Cuyama	CA	Debary	FL	Johnston	IA	Frederick	MD
Newman	CA	Deland	FL	Le Claire	IA	Saint Leonard	MD
Northridge	CA	Grand Ridge	FL	Red Oak	IA	Silver Spring	MD
Ontario	CA	Immokalee	FL	Idaho Falls	ID	St. Leonard	MD
Porterville	CA	Jacksonville	FL	Jerome	ID	Upper	
Redding	CA	Lynn Haven	FL	Nampa	ID	Marlboro	MD
Reseda	CA	Maitland	FL	Twin Falls	ID	Brunswick	ME
Riverside	CA	Marianna	FL	Preston	ID	Montville	ME
San	CA	Matlacha	FL	Rupert	ID	Newport	ME

Standish	ME	Clovis	NM	Humacao	PR	Nolanville	TX
Addison	MI	Espanola	NM	Attleboro	RI	Pharr	TX
Ann Arbor	MI	Las Cruces	NM	Central Falls	RI	Plano	TX
Auburn Hills	MI	Roswell	NM	Cranston	RI	Rowlett	TX
Battle Creek	MI	Santa Cruz	NM	North		Salado	TX
Boyne City	MI	Santa Teresa	NM	Providence	RI	San Antonio	TX
Brighton	MI	White Sands	NM	Pawtucket	RI	Seguin	TX
Ferndale	MI	Fallon	NV	Providence	RI	Sunset	TX
Flint	MI	Henderson	NV	Columbia	SC	Temple	TX
Gaylord	MI	Las Vegas	NV	Easley	SC	Texarkana	TX
Granger	MI	Ballston Spa	NY	Lexington	SC	The Colony	TX
Harrison		Bronx	NY	Lyman	SC	Three Rivers	TX
Township	MI	Brooklyn	NY	North		Waco	TX
Hazel Park	MI	Clarence		Charleston	SC	Watauga	TX
Jackson	MI	Center	NY	Simpsonville	SC	Weslaco	TX
Kentwood	MI	Cohoes	NY	Swansea	SC	Yantis	TX
Midland	MI	Geneva	NY	Warrenville	SC	Santaquin	UT
Muskegon	MI	Getzville	NY	Lead	SD	Arlington	VA
Owosso	MI	Loweville	NY	Yankton	SD	Bedford	VA
Romulus	MI	Monroe	NY	Chattanooga	TN	Chester	VA
Saginaw	MI	Newburgh	NY	Clarksville	TN	Hampton	VA
Saline	MI	Oswego	NY	Elizabethton	TN	Lexington	VA
Southgate	MI	Ravena	NY	Franklin	TN	Newport News	VA
Sturgis	MI	Selkirk	NY	Goodspring	TN	Norfolk	VA
Williamston	MI	Spencerport	NY	LaVergne	TN	Pearisburg	VA
Ypsilanti	MI	Syracuse	NY	Murfreesboro	TN	Prince George	VA
Apple Valley	MN	Tyrone	NY	Nashville	TN	South	
Carver	MN	Walkkill	NY	Arlington	TX	Chesterfield	VA
Duluth	MN	Watertown	NY	Austin	TX	Stafford	VA
Inver Grove		Weedsport	NY	Bastrop	TX	Suffolk	VA
Heights	MN	Ashtabula	OH	Beaumont	TX	Virginia	
Lengby	MN	Columbus	OH	Brownsville	TX	Beach	VA
Rochester	MN	Dublin	OH	Cameron	TX	Arlington	WA
Rosemount	MN	Hamilton	OH	Copperas Cove	TX	Centralia	WA
Shevlin	MN	Lewis Center	OH	Dallas	TX	Cheney	WA
Columbia	MO	Morrow	OH	Denton	TX	Edmonds	WA
Union	MO	Stow	OH	Edcouch	TX	Joint Base	
Catawissa	MO	Toledo	OH	Edinburgh	TX	Lewis-McChord	WA
Kansas City	MO	Upper		El Paso	TX	Lakewood	WA
Lees Summit	MO	Arlington	OH	Fort Davis	TX	McChord Air	
Rolla	MO	Checotah	OK	Fort Hood	TX	Force Base	WA
Union	MO	El Reno	OK	Forth Worth	TX	Olympia	WA
Baldwyn	MS	Noble	OK	Frost	TX	Seattle	WA
Bay Saint		Norman	OK	Gatesville	TX	Spokane	WA
Louis	MS	Owasso	OK	Georgetown	TX	Tacoma	WA
Foxworth	MS	Porter	OK	Greenville	TX	Appleton	WI
Kiln	MS	Purcell	OK	Harker		Darlington	WI
Mooreville	MS	Sapulpa	OK	Heights	TX	Elkhorn	WI
Philadelphia	MS	Stillwater	OK	Houston	TX	Green Bay	WI
Union	MS	Tulsa	OK	Hurst	TX	Hazel Green	WI
Vicksburg	MS	Lawton	OK	Irving	TX	Horicon	WI
Black Eagle	MT	Newcastle	OK	Kennedale	TX	Jackson	WI
Great Falls	MT	Creswell	OR	Killeen	TX	Marshfield	WI
Raeford	NC	Hillsboro	OR	Kyle	TX	Neenah	WI
Nashua	NH	Bethel Park	PA	La Porte	TX	Shullsburg	WI
Plaistow	NH	Chambersburg	PA	Lawn	TX	Waukesha	WI
Plaistow	NH	Connellsville	PA	Lometa	TX	Hazel Green	WI
Blairstown	NJ	Hanover	PA	Lumberton	TX	Orfordville	WI
Hamilton	NJ	New Freeport	PA	Mansfield	TX	Glen Daniel	WV
Jersey City	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	McAllen	TX	Grant Town	WV
Albuquerque	NM	Seward	PA	Mesquite	TX		
Bayard	NM	Spring Grove	PA	New Caney	TX		

II. COMMUNICATIONS FROM YOU:

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Dottie Stevens, who works with **Stitched in Prayers**, of **Trinity United Methodist Church in Smithfield, Virginia**, had an idea that I thought would be fun to share with you! Dottie says:

Thank you for all your newsletters. I always look forward to reading them. I want to ask you, if it was all right to share your email and newsletters with my church family. I would copy them and put them on our church board. They would be an inspiration for all knitters and crocheters who don't have computers.

As our website is public, both the newsletters and my email address are already there! Please feel free to share the newsletters with your churches and anywhere else! The more who know about it, the more we have help and love around this ministry! Thank you Dottie! (3 photo – Dottie is the third from left with the blue/white striped shirt.)



Above: L-R: Helen Aberth (Dottie tells me Helen is a prolific knitter!), Retired Chaplain Mary Henderson (wearing her new prayer shawl, a gift for her work in the nursing home), Dottie Stevens, and Barbara Williams.

Far Left: Chaplain John Edwards, speaks with Willie Manning in Virginia Hospital, Hampton. Willie is draped with a blanket made by the **Stitched in Prayers** group. Willie, a WWII Veteran, just celebrated his 90th birthday. He has a spinal injury.

Left: Virginia Edwards, a member of **Stitched in Prayers**, speaks with Earl Thornton in Virginia Hospital. Earl served in Desert Storm. He has a spinal injury.

Dottie tells us their “group sends prayer shawls and blankets to VA hospital when requested. We have filled many a stocking for veterans at the hospital and soldiers with 3-by-5 prayer cloths, some with crosses, and some without. Last year we had a request for 250 prayer cloths! I have wonderful, amazing helpers! There are no words to describe the look of joy on the face of the person receiving a shawl. It makes every stitch, pain and headache count.

Thank you for sharing your ideas and story, Dottie! Good work ladies! You are all an inspiration to the good work we do here! You can be very proud of your accomplishments!

PS4FS knitter/crocheter, Cheryl Scallon, who heads the **St. Julie Brilliart Shawl Ministry in Tinley Park, Illinois**, has a sweet surprise to share with us! This active group, which has been with this ministry since November 11, 2007 (we were established only a month earlier!), has the gorgeous Gold Star Prayer Shawl pattern which they’ve shared with us on our website (under “Directions” page), and they had one displayed under Chaplain David Sorensen’s time at Dover Air Base, for all families to adore when they arrived at Dover. Cheryl’s group was good enough to gift one to Chaplain Sorensen, which I know meant a lot to him! As many of you are aware, The Prayer Shawl Ministry is finishing their third Prayer Shawl book, and “guess who” is in it! Congratulations Cheryl and ladies at St. Julie Brilliart! What an honor! Your work is gorgeous, breathtaking, and well-deserved to be in this book! I look forward to meeting Cheryl at the November gathering of the Prayer Shawl group! I hope many of you will also be able to come this year! It has always been the first Saturday in November so please begin planning ahead!





PS4FS knitter/crocheter, Debbie Bates, heads the Christ United Methodist Church's Prayer Shawl group from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. This active group joined us four years ago on April 30, 2008. In that time, they have sent 36 prayer shawls to Dover Air Base, and of that 36, they sent 13 to Dover this past month! Thank you ladies! Together we make a huge difference! And thank you for sharing a photo of your group so we may get to know you better! (1 photo left)

Row 1 from L-R: Mary Ann Hartley, Rachel De Vries

Crouched in middle: Janice Kincaid and Jean Rhodes

Last row standing: Carole Eckroat, Ina Marie Brenner, Carole King, Susan Bergmann, Gari Ann Banks, and Lois George

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Nancy White, who heads the Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church's prayer shawl group from Oakhurst, California, shares what their group has been into these days. This active group joined our ministry in the early days, October 10, 2008, one year after we began. In that amount of time, they have sent 34 prayer shawls directly to families (in those days, we were writing letters/cards to families on our Army casualty list), and wrote to an additional 4 families who did not respond, which we've come to understand often happens with our grief-stricken families. In the Dover Program, they have sent 15 prayer shawls. Nancy is proud of their group, as she should be. She tells us:

Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church Prayer Shawl Ministry, Oakhurst, California, tries to tithe 10% of our monthly projects to PS4FS. Our church knitters/crocheters have gifted over 900 shawls to people in need of a hug and a prayer, and we consider our shawls "portable hugs from God". Thank you for your program, and for allowing so many of us to contribute to our US families of fallen soldiers. We know our shawls have gone to our local community, to PS4FS, and overseas to families in China, Afghanistan, Turkey, Korea, and Russia. It's amazing what a simple gift of yarn can turn into for those who receive them! We meet weekly at our church to knit/crochet; many work at home and bring the shawls in for the blessing ceremony on the first Sunday of each month. Over the last five years we've had at least 35 people working on the shawls, varying from month to month.

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Evelyn Rainey, who heads the McLeod Memorial Presbyterian Church's prayer shawl group in Bartow, Florida, shares an interesting twist that their group does for Dover Air Base Families. They include stuffed animals for the Dover Family's children. What a great idea! Can you imagine the smile that puts on a small child's face when all else around them is so grim? Evelyn's group joined us January 31, 2008. Isn't it amazing, all five of the above groups in this section have been in this ministry nearly from our beginning days!

I wanted to let you know that McLeod Prayer Shawl Ladies has mailed 20 shawls to Dover care of the Friends of the Fallen address you gave us. We also included several crocheted, stuffed animals since we understand that many children are also accompanying their parent and thought they might like a toy to hug rather than a shawl.

Friends of the Fallen Secretary, Ellie Dill, confirmed receipt of your prayer shawls, including the stuffed animals from McLeod Memorial Presbyterian Church's prayer shawl group. This past month PS4FS knitter/crocheter Sharon Wainwright's "Knit-a-Prayer" First United Methodist Church from Bakersfield, California sent 15 prayer shawls to Ellis's address for Dover families. : (For those of you who want to use Fed Ex and need a house number, Ellie has graciously offered her home address. I will include both the Dover FOF address and Ellie's home address whenever you write to tell me you want to send to Dover, offering you the choice.) Ellie writes:

Received several boxes this week from people associated with your organization this week, 51 shawls, 3 stuffed animals and a blanket. They are beautiful. The little animals will really put a smile on the little one's faces. How fortunate we are to have such giving people donating their time and talent. I have sent thank you notes out. Just wanted to let you know that we are receiving them.



PS4FS knitter/crocheter Mitzi Christian, lives in Alexandria, Virginia. Mitzi joined us last year, May 5, 2011, and has in that short time sent 9 prayer shawls to Dover Air Base! Way to go, Mitzi! She shares with us her latest creation, a beautiful scalloped prayer shawl in a gorgeous color! (1 photo left)

II. DOVER PROGRAM:

As you are all aware, our gifts to the Dover Air Base are now being received by *Friends of the Fallen* (FOF), an organized group at Dover who are well-utilized and needed by the Dover Chaplains. This will alleviate our chaplains from having to open our packages and display our prayer shawls. The chaplains are incredibly busy; their talents are better used consoling visiting families who are only at Dover for short periods of time! *Friends of the Fallen's* mission is:

“We are volunteers from Dover AFB and its surrounding communities. The desire of each volunteer is to provide support, service, and items of comfort to families who come to Dover Air Force Base to witness the Dignified Transfer of their loved ones.”

If you would like to learn more about FOF, visit their website: (3 photos below: 2 are taken from FOF website, the third is of the FOF volunteers.)

<http://www.friendsofthefallen.org/>

From this point forward, please do NOT use the former addresses of our chaplains, but rather the address sent to you mid-August, or ask me for the updated address. I will not print it here in the newsletter. As usual, please let me know when you want to send prayer shawls to Dover so I may keep an accurate statistics. For those of you who prefer FedEx to mail your prayer shawls, you will receive two addresses: 1.) The FOF post office box number at Dover Air Base, and 2.) Ellie Dill's home address (Ellie is the group's secretary) with a street address to enable FedEx shipments. Ellie is happy to accept our prayer shawls and transport them to The Fisher House.

Karen Mordus, (pictured below right in navy blue shirt) FOF's president, and Ellie Dill, the secretary, each write below:

So you're the amazing woman that organizes these positively beautiful and thoughtful prayer shawls! What an honor to meet your acquaintance! Unfortunately, Chaplains Losey & Wheatley have been pretty busy with our families. Chaplain Losey didn't want to have you being neglected so he asked that we reach out to you about the Prayer Shawls. We would be honored to be associated with Prayer Shawls 4 Fallen Soldiers (love the website too). You and your group are truly remarkable. We are forever grateful for your generosity to all of our families. I know they are touched by the thoughtfulness. Respectfully, Karen Mordus, President, Friends of the Fallen, Dover AFB

My name is Eleanor Dill. I am the secretary for the Friends of the Fallen in Dover, Delaware. Your name and web site was given to me by our Chaplains. Our volunteers are at every Dignified Transfer, to be of service to the families. I would like to thank you for all you do and send you some information about our group. I have had the honor of seeing these beautiful shawls and the comfort they bring to the families. They are priceless! The base chaplains are wonderful with the families. I have seen first-hand how much they appreciate what you do. This is the reason they asked FOF to communicate with you, they felt they were not giving you timely feedback due to their increasing work load. (We are all looking forward to a day when our services are not needed.) We are happy to help out. It will lighten the load on the Chaplains since we will now pick up the packages and restock for them. Please visit our website (see below) and let me know any questions you may have after viewing it and I'll be happy to answer them. I look forward to receiving your newsletters, Warm Regards, Ellie Dill, Friends of the Fallen Secretary, Dover Air Base.



Above: Fisher House at Dover Air Base – donated November 10, 2010 to the Air Force by the Fisher House Foundation.



Row 1 from L-R: Shari Sack (new VP), Bev Woods Past VP, Kim Landis, Past President

Row 2 from L-R: Nancy Roy (Donations Coordinator), Janet King (Parliamentarian), Karen Mordus (current President)



On January 18, 2012, there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony unveiling Fisher House's playground for visiting families' children. Companies in the local community and across the nation donated funding to make this gift possible.

IV. THANK YOU NOTES AND MESSAGES:

PS4FS knitter Kay Shandler, from Emporia, Kansas, has been one of our most prolific knitters. Kay joined us April 1, 2008, and was extremely active with this ministry during our earlier period of fulfilling the Army's monthly casualty list by writing notes to our families, asking if they'd like a prayer shawl. Although Kay is no longer as active with us, she continues to receive direct request responses to notes she wrote years ago! Doesn't it amaze you, even though we have learned this is typical behavior for grieving families to not respond to their mail, throw it into a "basket" and *maybe* look at it years later! This is the case once again! She received a request from Kay Beeman, proud mother of SPC James H. Pritle, DOD 10/4/2003. Kay lives in Silver City, New Mexico.

I am glad I was able to meet Kay a few years ago at the annual Prayer Shawl Gathering in Hartford. Her work continues to give! In tallying up her totals, Kay sent 143 prayer shawls in about 2 years' time; she sent an additional 129 cards to families who didn't respond, often this is due to a change of address, choosing to not respond, and a small number of them declined her offer. Thank you, Kay! You are an inspiration to all of us! (1 photo right)

Below is Kay Beeman's thank you note to Kay Khandler for her beautiful prayer shawl:

I got the beautiful shawl yesterday !!!! Thank you! It means so very much that my son is not forgotten. Thanks again! Kay Beeman

Below is a direct request from Terry Hardin, proud mother of SPC Kevin M. Hardin, DOD 1/22/12. Terry and her husband, Charles, live in Eddystone, Pennsylvania. This story is particularly sad, read on to see why. (1 picture right, 3 below left)

I am the mother of a fallen soldier. I was referred to you by another Gold Star mom. I would be truly honored if you would consider making me a prayer shawl. I am happy to provide you with more information. My husband, Charles, is a Vietnam veteran and is facing a terminal illness and I would greatly appreciate your help and consideration. In deep appreciation, Terry Hardin, Eddystone Pennsylvania

As usual, I wrote to all 32 of our Pennsylvania groups in this ministry, and the first to reply was PS4FS knitter/crocheter Nancy McCarty, who heads the St. Luke Lutheran Church's prayer shawl group in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. (Many other groups replied – thank you to all of you, as always!) Nancy's group is happy to send this family 4 prayer shawls (including Kevin's grandmother and wife). Mother Terry's appreciation is very apparent in her reply:



Thank you so very much for your prompt reply to my email. Yes! I would truly love a prayer shawl for my husband also, that would be truly awesome. I cannot begin to tell you how very much this means to my husband and I, dear friend! If is not asking for too much, may I also request one for Kevin's grandmother? His grandmother is 87-years-old and she is totally lost without Kevin as they were extremely close. My husband, Charles, can literally pass any time now so more than anything, we would be truly honored and very much appreciate receiving one for him ASAP. But if asking for three prayer shawls is too much, we totally understand and appreciate anything you can do. I know without a doubt we will receive much comfort from the prayer shawl. Many thanks to you!

We will be eternally grateful. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts.



Above are photos of Kevin found on the Internet. It's extremely sad to see Kevin wounded, visited by his parents, Terry and Charles, at Walter Reed Hospital, and then view photos of his funeral! It is even sadder to know that a few months later, Kevin's father, Charles, became terminally ill. He is now battling stage-4 colon cancer. At this writing, Charles is home on hospice. Terry, our hearts go out to you in every way! May you find peace through all of this madness in your life!

