

# Shawletter

Prayer Shawls for Fallen Soldiers

a network of needle crafters ministering to families of the fallen

Since 2006 volunteer needle crafters  
have given **6,817** handmade prayer shawls

## Memorial Day Shawl Drive for Friends of the Fallen at Dover Air Force Base

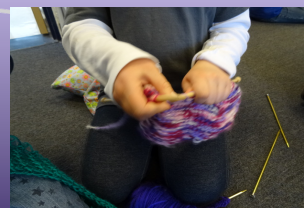
How do you observe Memorial Day? Cookouts? Sales? Swimming? How about making a shawl? Friends of the Fallen has asked for our help. We would like to send **150 shawls** to Dover to commemorate Memorial Day May 26th. These shawls could be utilized in ceremonies in your church or community and then mailed soon after. Follow the “sign up” instructions to the right to let us know you’re participating.

Please attach our PS4FS.org card, which meets Friends of the Fallen and Department of Defense guidelines for gifts to next-of-kin. Name(s) can be added, but please do not share other information. The file is available as a link from the website, and can be printed/copied on card stock. If you’re not a tekkie, or that’s too much trouble, cards can be mailed to you, just be sure to send us a mailing address.

*Continued on Page 2*

### Fast Facts:

- To help us know who plans to provide shawls for Dover AFB, and what type(s) of shawl(s) you plan to send, please sign up on our website ([www.ps4fs.org](http://www.ps4fs.org)) by clicking on the link titled SHAWLS FOR DOVER AFB located in the right sidebar (the darker blue section).
- Both individuals and groups may sign up. (Only one response per group, please)
- Please follow the specific instructions (on page 2) and use the template provided for PS4FS.org cards (6 cards per page) to meet DoD protocol and safety requirements.
- Thanks so much for your help.



*Let the pleasure of the Lord our God be on us:  
O Lord, give strength to the work of our hands.  
Psalm 90:17 (BBE)*

## Dover Details – *continued from Page 1*

**What color?** Some family members prefer patriotic shawls; some choose the deceased service member's favorite color. We need shawls for men, women, youth and children. What's in your stash that you've been saving for a special occasion? What color would bring hope to a grieving family member? If you'd like to knit in memory or to honor a special person in your life, choose color(s) that your heart says are just right.

**What size?** Standard shawl measurements are fine, 24"-30" X 48"-60". It can be very cold on the tarmac. Some family members prefer wider, squarer shawls that can wrap around the lap and legs, 42" X 54".

Storage space is limited; so shawls must roll easily and not tangle with each other. Please do not attach beads or shells, these can snag and are not allowed on the flight line for safety reasons.

Share the story of your Memorial Day shawl with our PS4FS family – tell us why you chose that yarn, why this pattern is special for you. We'll include your experiences in future newsletters. Tell your friends, family and fellow crafters about your gift, share with your neighbors and community. Memorial Day is a great reminder for all of us to appreciate the sacrifices of those who served.



## Thanks and Thoughts

From a Mother: Thank You so much for doing this. This means a lot to our family

From a Mother: Thank you very much for making these shawls. I live in a very cold New England climate and I think a prayer shawl will help keep me warm at home. When I wrap the shawl around me it will be like I am wrapping my arms around my child, M-----.

From a Mother: Thank you so much for all that you do. This prayer shawl will mean a lot to me and my family. Again, thank you

From a Wife (Widow) : Thank you for your support.

From a Mother: Thank you so very much. We miss my son so very much.

From a Mother: Thank you very much

From a Fiancee: Thank you for thinking of us.

From a mom on the phone: I called to say thanks for the shawl. I wrap up in it to cry. Since I've been sleeping with it, I'm able to sleep all night, because it puts peace in my heart and my whole body! When I told my Sunday School class, our teacher said "THAT's the power of prayer - every thread in that shawl has the power of God."

## Lamberts Visit Dover

We are so appreciative of the opportunity to tour the Center for the Families of the Fallen at Dover Air Force Base, hosted by the amazing Friends of the Fallen volunteers. The Center (where family members wait before going to the plane to observe the transfer of the body from the aircraft to the hearse – called the Dignified Transfer Ceremony) and the Fisher House (which provides lodging for the family) are wonderful facilities. We learned that, in most cases, the Friends of the Fallen have less than 36 hours notice that one or more fallen service personnel are being brought to Dover. This, in turn, means that the family members have very little time to prepare for their trip to Dover AFB. The stress of learning of the death of their service person, plus the short time to prepare for the trip to Dover inevitably means things are missed or forgotten. This is where Friends of the Fallen excels – they take care of all the problems and details, so the families can focus exclusively on the return of their fallen service person. They also work closely with the Chaplain staff to explain (in advance) every step of the Dignified Transfer process, so the family members know what to expect.



The Center is designed to serve up to eight different families at the same time, and has had as many as 156 total family members at one time. A bookshelf in the Center has resources (information on grief counseling and death benefits, for example) for the family members to take home, as well as several Prayer Shawls. Our hosts from Friends of the Fallen emphasized that the shawls are uniquely important because they are tangible evidence of the care and concern of fellow Americans, and they are the only thing in the building NOT provided by the government/military (which many family members blame for the death of their service person).

We cannot emphasize enough the level of care, concern and compassion provided by the Friends of the Fallen; it is a privilege to partner with them to supply the Prayer Shawls offered to family members coping with the loss of their service person. And we were so proud of the beautiful shawls we saw there – we're blessed to have so many creative crafters willing to share.