

# PS4FS Monthly Newsletter - August 2012:

Dear PS4FS friends,

Once again there are many heart-warming stories shared in this newsletter. Despite the summer heat, many of you continue to send prayer shawls to Dover Air Base! Thank you for remaining in this ministry, for your untold passions to heal the broken hearts of our families. Your collective work, your deep passions, are indeed felt by our families, as you will see in this newsletter! Thank you all! Blessings to 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:	<b>6,226</b>	<i>Includes Dover prayer shawls (yellow numbers below)</i>
# sent to Dover since inception of program (Sept. 2009):	<b>3,230</b>	
# sent to Dover this past month:	<b>21</b>	<i>This number is included in above totals</i>
# Prayer Shawl Groups/Individuals:	<b>278</b>	

## **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	Montgomery	AL	Sierra Vista	AZ	New Cuyama	CA
Fayetteville	AK	Peterman	AL	Tucson	AZ	Northridge	CA
Hamburg	AK	Phenix City	AL	American Canyon	CA	Ontario	CA
Little Rock	AK	Russellville	AL	California City	CA	Reseda	CA
Monticello	AK	Trussville	AL	Capistrano Beach	CA	Riverside	CA
North Pole	AK	Jacksonville	AL	Dana Point	CA	San Bernardino	CA
Pine Bluff	AK	Bonnerdale	AR	Fresno	CA	San Diego	CA
Van Buren	AK	Camden	AR	Garden Grove	CA	San Jose	CA
Warren	AK	Conway	AR	Glendale	CA	Santa Clara	CA
Boaz	AL	El Dorado	AR	Hayward	CA	South Lake Tahoe	CA
Cullman	AL	Jacksonville	AR	Hesperia	CA	Vista	CA
Enterprise	AL	Russellville	AR	Huntington Park	CA	Williams	CA
Grady	AL	Pago Pago	AS	Lake Elsinore	CA	Alameda	CA
Homewood	AL	Glendale	AZ	Lancaster	CA	Bakersfield	CA
Hoover	AL	Kingman	AZ	Lawndale	CA	Bell	CA
Huntsville	AL	Laveen	AZ	Los Angeles	CA	Blythe	CA
Millbrook	AL	Litchfield Park	AZ	Lynwood	CA	Brawley	CA
Mobile	AL	Phoenix	AZ	Marina	CA	Carson	CA

Citrus Heights	CA	Kennesaw	GA	Hughesville	MD	Ravena	NY
Fullerton	CA	Kingsland	GA	Kensington	MD	Selkirk	NY
Julian	CA	Ludowici	GA	Port Tobacco	MD	Syracuse	NY
Lucerne Valley	CA	Macon	GA	Prince Frederick	MD	Tyrone	NY
Modesto	CA	Marietta	GA	Saint Leonard	MD	Wallkill	NY
Moreno Valley	CA	McDonough	GA	Silver Spring	MD	Watertown	NY
Newman	CA	McRae	GA	St. Leonard	MD	Weedsport	NY
Ontario	CA	Midway	GA	Upper Marlboro	MD	Ashtabula	OH
Salinas	CA	Peachtree City	GA	Montville	ME	Columbus	OH
San Diego	CA	Richmond Hill	GA	Newport	ME	Dublin	OH
San Jose	CA	Riverdale	GA	Standish	ME	Hamilton	OH
Tustin	CA	Saint Marys	GA	Addison	MI	Lewis Center	OH
West Sacramento	CA	Tybee Island	GA	Ann Arbor	MI	Stow	OH
Yuba City	CA	Valdosta	GA	Auburn Hills	MI	Toledo	OH
Yucaipa	CA	Winder	GA	Boyne City	MI	Upper Arlington	OH
Castle Rock	CO	Ewa Beach	HI	Brighton	MI	Checotah	OK
Colora	CO	Honolulu	HI	Flint	MI	El Reno	OK
Colorado Springs	CO	Wahiawa	HI	Gaylord	MI	Noble	OK
Fort Carson	CO	Waipahu	HI	Harrison Township	MI	Norman	OK
Fountain	CO	Bettendorf	IA	Hazel Park	MI	Owasso	OK
Fruita	CO	Davenport	IA	Jackson	MI	Porter	OK
Parker	CO	Glenwood	IA	Midland	MI	Purcell	OK
Salida	CO	Grimes	IA	Muskegon	MI	Sapulpa	OK
Westcliffe	CO	Le Claire	IA	Owosso	MI	Stillwater	OK
Denver	CO	Red Oak	IA	Romulus	MI	Tulsa	OK
Larkspur	CO	Idaho Falls	ID	Saginaw	MI	Lawton	OK
Baltic	CT	Jerome	ID	Saline	MI	Newcastle	OK
Baltic	CT	Nampa	ID	Southgate	MI	Creswell	OR
Hartford	CT	Twin Falls	ID	Williamston	MI	Hillsboro	OR
Niantic	CT	Jerome	ID	Ypsilanti	MI	Bethel Park	PA
Suffield	CT	Rupert	ID	Apple Valley	MN	Chambersburg	PA
Uncasville	CT	Decatur	IL	Carver	MN	Connellsville	PA
Waterford	CT	Effingham	IL	Duluth	MN	New Freeport	PA
Willimantic	CT	Moline	IL	Inver Grove Heights	MN	Philadelphia	PA
Winsted	CT	North Aurora	IL	Lengby	MN	Seward	PA
Washington,	DC	Olive Branch	IL	Rochester	MN	Humacao	PR
Hockessin	DE	Opdyke	IL	Rosemount	MN	Central Falls	RI
Bradenton	FL	Taylorville	IL	Shevlin	MN	Cranston	RI
Clearwater	FL	Winchester	IL	Catawissa	MO	Pawtucket	RI
Crestview	FL	Aledo	IL	Kansas City	MO	Providence	RI
Debary	FL	Cottage Hills	IL	Lees Summit	MO	Columbia	SC
Grand Ridge	FL	Mount Carmel	IL	Rolla	MO	Easley	SC
Immokalee	FL	New Windsor	IL	Union	MO	Lexington	SC
Jacksonville	FL	Peoria	IL	Baldwyn	MS	Simpsonville	SC
Lynn Haven	FL	Wheaton	IL	Foxworth	MS	Swansea	SC
Maitland	FL	Auburn	IN	Mooreville	MS	Warrenville	SC
Marianna	FL	Bloomington	IN	Philadelphia	MS	Lead	SD
Matlacha	FL	Dyer	IN	Vicksburg	MS	Yankton	SD
Minneola	FL	Frankfort	IN	Black Eagle	MT	Chattanooga	TN
Naples	FL	Indianapolis	IN	Great Falls	MT	Clarksville	TN
Navarre	FL	Kirklin	IN	Rae ford	NC	Elizabethton	TN
Opa Locka	FL	Knightsville	IN	Nashua	NH	Franklin	TN
P.S.L.	FL	Munster	IN	Plaistow	NH	Goodspring	TN
Palatka	FL	Fort Riley	KS	Blairstown	NJ	LaVergne	TN
Plant City	FL	Holton	KS	Hamilton	NJ	Murfreesboro	TN
Port Charlotte	FL	Junction City	KS	Jersey City	NJ	Nashville	TN
Safety Harbor	FL	Leavenworth	KS	Bayard	NM	Arlington	TX
Tampa	FL	Manhattan	KS	Clovis	NM	Austin	TX
Valrico	FL	Milford	KS	Espanola	NM	Bastrop	TX
Wesley Chapel	FL	Olathe	KS	Las Cruces	NM	Brownsville	TX
Bartow	FL	Overland Park	KS	Roswell	NM	Cameron	TX
Boynton Beach	FL	Shawnee	KS	Santa Cruz	NM	Copperas Cove	TX
Homestead	FL	Wichita	KS	Santa Teresa	NM	Dallas	TX
Lynn Haven	FL	Eolia	KY	White Sands	NM	Denton	TX
Pensacola	FL	Jeffersonville	KY	Fallon	NV	Edcouch	TX
Tallahassee	FL	London	KY	Henderson	NV	Edinburgh	TX
Acworth	GA	Covington	LA	Las Vegas	NV	El Paso	TX
Atlanta	GA	Fort Polk	LA	Ballston Spa	NY	Fort Hood	TX
Bonaire	GA	Gueydan	LA	Bronx	NY	Fort Worth	TX
Dearing	GA	Lake Charles	LA	Brooklyn	NY	Frost	TX
Gainesville	GA	Assonet	MA	Clarence Center	NY	Gatesville	TX
Griffin	GA	Arlington	MA	Cohoes	NY	Georgetown	TX
Grovetown	GA	Fall River	MA	Geneva	NY	Greenville	TX
Hampton	GA	Taunton	MA	Getzville	NY	Harker Heights	TX
Helena	GA	Baltimore	MD	Loweville	NY	Houston	TX
Hinesville	GA	Brockton	MD	Monroe	NY	Hurst	TX
Hogansville	GA	Cabin John	MD	Newburgh	NY	Irving	TX
Jacksonville	GA	Glen Burnie	MD	Oswego	NY	Kennedale	TX

Killeen	TX	Sunset	TX	Stafford	VA	Darlington	WI
Kyle	TX	Texarkana	TX	Suffolk	VA	Elkhorn	WI
La Porte	TX	The Colony	TX	Virginia Beach	VA	Green Bay	WI
Lawn	TX	Three Rivers	TX	Arlington	WA	Hazel Green	WI
Lumberton	TX	Waco	TX	Centralia	WA	Horicon	WI
Mansfield	TX	Watauga	TX	Cheney	WA	Jackson	WI
McAllen	TX	Weslaco	TX	Edmonds	WA	Marshfield	WI
Mesquite	TX	Yantis	TX	Joint Base Lewis-		Neenah	WI
New Caney	TX	Santaquin	UT	McChord	WA	Shullsburg	WI
Nolanville	TX	Arlington	VA	Lakewood	WA	Waukesha	WI
Pharr	TX	Bedford	VA	Olympia	WA	Hazel Green	WI
Plano	TX	Chester	VA	Puyallup	WA	Orfordville	WI
Rowlett	TX	Lexington	VA	Seattle	WA	Glen Daniel	WV
Salado	TX	Pearisburg	VA	Spokane	WA		
San Antonio	TX	Prince George	VA	Tacoma	WA		
Seguin	TX	South Chesterfield	VA	Appleton	WI		

## I. COMMUNICATIONS FROM YOU:

None this month

## II. DOVER PROGRAM:

None this month

## IV. THANK YOU NOTES AND MESSAGES:

**PS4FS crocheter Mitzi Christian, from Alexandria, Virginia,**

joined us a little more than a year ago. You will surely smile at Mitzi's story below, of how crocheting got her through a power outage ordeal: Mitzi tells us:

*I thought you might get a kick out of hearing this: due to a storm that hit the east coast last weekend I lost power. There were almost 4 million of us, so I guess misery loves company. The heat was oppressive, I quickly became bored. Daytime wasn't too bad, but the evenings were horrible. Each night, just before sunset I'd light candles and keep a flash light handy, listening to a radio, and crocheting the shawl I'm currently working on. It sure gave me a deep appreciation of what our grandmothers went through when they did their own needlework, sewing, cleaning, etc. While kinda fun the first couple of nights, it's not an experience I'm eager to repeat anytime soon...lol. Mitzi*

On the right is a photo of CW2 Don Cayetano Viray, DOD 4/19/2012. Don was a Black Hawk helicopter pilot, and died when his helicopter crashed. He was killed with three other soldiers. Mitzi sent a prayer shawl to Don's mother, Luz Viray, from Waipahu, Hawaii. We pray for these brave young men and women, and their families who miss them so much! May our loving prayer shawls give the families strength to be strong and find hope in the face of their loss.





These days, I don't receive the number of direct phone calls as we did in the early stages of this program. Lydia Holquin, loving mother of SPC Manuel Joaquin Holguin, DOD 7/15/2006 (notice early DOD), lives in Woodlake, California and called to ask for a prayer shawl. Lydia had saved a direct request post card sent to her way back in 2008 and was just now making the call. This is not unusual to be overwhelmed with grief and not respond for a long time. It is always a joy to us to receive these calls and be able to fulfill the request, no matter how long ago. If our prayer shawls can make bring more peace and comfort to our families, that's what we are here to do! I spoke with Lydia for a while, and the grief is still very evident, so it is our hope our gift (three prayer shawls for Lydia; her husband, Manual; and son, Javier) will bring them all comfort in the loss of Manuel Joaquin. Lydia promised me she would travel to the local library to read our newsletter! I wish I could have included photos of her and the family with Manual Joaquin, but could only the single photo included with this article.

As usual, an email went out to all of our groups from the same state (California) and a quick reply came from **PS4FS Sharon Wainwright, who runs Knit-a-Prayer from First United Methodist Church in Bakersfield, California.**

This group has been with our ministry since our inception, 10/8/2007! They are active with both their church and our ministry, having send 107 prayer shawls to Dover – this does not include the number they have delivered to individual families which is likely another 100! Thank you, ladies, for being here, for your inspirational work! When they joined us, Sharon wrote the following message: *(1 photo above left)*

*This is another opportunity which God has provided for us to share our joy of knitting with those in need. Today we passed the 600 mark on the number of shawls and lap robes which have been completed in the 2 1/2 years since we began. We have shared shawls with family members and friends of our church members as well as given many to the local hospice groups, the homeless shelter, the battered women's shelter and Jamison center, the local facility where young children are placed in protective custody. It has been amazing how God has directed our giving and provided places for the shawls/lap robes to be given.*

Sharon's reply to send three prayer shawls to Lydia shows their passion for this ministry:

*Our group, Knit-a-Prayer would be thrilled to send three prayer shawls to the family in Woodlake. Just send me the name, address, etc. and I'll have them in the mail the first of the week. This is a very small way we can honor this young man and offer comfort to his family. Blessings, Sharon*

Thank you, knitters and crocheters of Knit-a-Prayer!



Recently, **PS4FS knitter Cozette Haggerty, (yes, me!) Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield, Massachusetts,** received a request from Debbie Drexler, loving mother of PFC Jeremy Drexler, DOD 5/2/2005 (notice early DOD). Debbie lives in Berryton, Kansas, has two other sons serving in the military, and she desperately wanted a prayer shawl, hoping it would help comfort the grief she continues to experience. I made Debbie a "Janie Lester" prayer shawl (the pattern on our website Janie Lester, Boca Raton, Florida, designed, which has a large cross knit in one end). It is all black, and the attached card says: *"Black symbolizes self-confidence, strength, harmony, and it absorbs*

*negativity. May this garment give you all those qualities each time you are wrapped in its loving threads!"*

Debbie's prayer shawl was blessed at the Cathedral by The Very Rev. James G. Munroe, and as I explained to Debbie, it was blessed a second time by my "boss", The Rt Rev. Gordon P. Scruton, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. At that blessing, Bishop Scruton asked each of us in the office to lay our hands on the prayer shawl as he gave an eloquent blessing for Debbie's healing health. *(3 photos, 1 above of Jeremy, 2 right of Christ Church Cathedral's blessing of the prayer shawl – I am pictured with The Very Rev. Jim Munroe, who also gave this prayer shawl a most eloquent blessing for Debbie.)*



PS4FS knitter/crocheter Lynne Neibert and Nancy Hornberger, of the Trindle Spring Lutheran Church's prayer shawl group, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, had an amazing journey this past month, visiting the grandmother, Patricia Bennett, of Navy Seal Ryan Mark Bennett, DOD 5/19/12. Below is Lynne's story to share with you: (1 photo left)



*Nancy Hornberger, a high school friend of Patricia, and I delivered a shawl to this grandmother of Navy Seal Ryan Mark Bennett (20) DOD May 19, 2012. Ryan died very unexpectedly while in Guam. He was scuba diving with other men in his unit. The cause of his death has not been determined. So, the many unanswered questions make his death even harder for the entire family to accept. They are hoping to find out the actual cause of his death at some time in the future. But, not knowing has prevented closure for many family members.*

*Because Patricia lives close by in Marysville, PA., this was the first shawl that members of Trindle Spring were able to deliver personally to a family member of a fallen soldier. It was a sad honor to present our prayer gift, but one I wish that we could do more often. The shawl and the visit were very much appreciated. Pat seemed to want to tell Ryan's story and share her sadness with others who cared. Ending the visit was not easy but we came away knowing that it was an important visit for Pat and the both of us as well.*

*I often feel sadness when working through the internet reaching out to so many grieving families and sometimes it is overwhelming. But, delivering a shawl in person gave our ministry even more meaning to me. It gave me a better realization of the important work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. through the work of our hands, our group, and our congregation have been blessed with the honor of serving God in such a personal and meaningful way – showing our appreciation of those who have served our country unselfishly and honoring those families who have sacrificed so much for us all. Humbly offered by Lynne Neibert*

Lynne Neibert shares a note from Donna Crowdrey, Atwater, Ohio, loving mother of Staff SGT Robert Crowdrey (39) DOD 10/13/11. She writes: (1 photo right)



*I received the beautiful patriotic shawl in the mail today. You did a beautiful job! I thank you so much. It'll be perfect for a nap, reading! What a blessing you ladies are and such a beautiful gesture of outpouring love to us and all families who've lost their loved one. I really do covet your prayers! Brian's only been gone three months but it seems like yesterday to me and my family. Thank you again! Donna Crowdrey*

A third message shared by Lynne Neibert regards PFC Luis Perez, DOD 8/27/04. A prayer shawl was delivered to Luis' mother, Marie Perez Miranda, in Theresa, New York. Marie writes: (1 photo left)

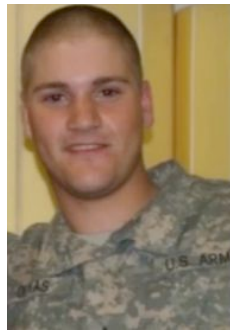
*I want to say thank you for the shawl. It is beautiful. It was his favorite color. I received it today. When I put it on, I do feel him, because it was made for him with love. Thank you again and God bless you for the comfort you give others. Marie Perez Miranda*



Finally, Lynne includes two pictures of lap robe /blankets that were made by Jan'et Grey, a member of her congregation. Lynne tells us: "We almost hate to part with them but when they are requested by a family of a Marine or an Army fallen soldier they will be mailed. Thought you might enjoy seeing them. Best to you , Lynne"

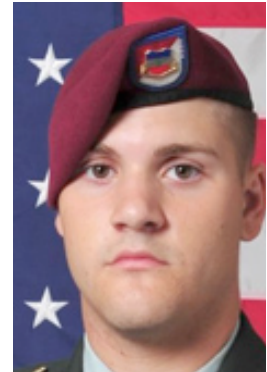
VERY nice work, Jan'et! Thank you for sharing this with us! (2 photos below)





PS4FS knitter/crocheter Shirley Osborn, who runs the Knitters & Crocheters Group of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Kettering, Ohio, was the first to respond to a state-wide request. This group has been with us since April 2008, my records show they have sent 32 prayer shawls to Dover Air Base, and that does not include a many more to individual families before the Dover program began. Did you know we have SIXTEEN groups just within the great state of Ohio? That's quite a lot when you realize there are 278 groups/individuals in this ministry! As you

all know, when I get a direct request, I generally offer it to all the groups/individuals within the same state as the family. At least eight of them responded! The mother, Marian Olivas, from Fairfield, Ohio, requested a prayer shawl in memory of her son, CPL Nicholas Henry Olivas, DOD 5/30/12. My database showed three other family members, a wife, baby son, and a father (not living with the mother), so I suggested we send them four. Thank you, Knitters & Crocheters Group of Good Shepherd for responding so quickly, and thanks to all of you who often respond to these calls! This program runs so smoothly thanks to your passions for what we do! (1 photo left, 2 right)



A direct request was emailed from Francis Dembowski, proud mother of PFC Robert H. Dembowski, DOD 5/24/07. Francis lives in Richboro, Pennsylvania. Generally, I notify our groups in the same state. The first one to respond fulfills the request. However, this time, Francie asked for a "flag" prayer shawl, so I went directly to PS4FS knitter/crocheter Becky Bowers, who leads the Belmont Baptist Church's group in Charlottesville, Virginia, and she came back with a "yes"! (This pattern is on our website under directions.) Thank you, ladies at Belmont Baptist Church! Below is Francis' request. (6 photos below) God bless you in your endeavor to reach out to the families of the fallen! I would appreciate any shawl but I love the one with the flag. Francie, Proud mom of PFC Robert H. Dembowski - One of many who gave all



Above and left are photos found on the Internet of Robert's funeral. These photos tell a story that we should never forget the great pain and anguish our families, their friends, the towns, and the military must endure in the aftermath of their loss. Thank you again, to Becky Bowers and the wonderful knitters/crocheters at Belmont Baptist Church in Charlottesville, Virginia for making the special requested flag prayer shawl for this family!