

Operation Christmas Stocking

Operation Christmas Stocking - A Touch of Home For Our Soldiers

On July 8 a group of quilters gathered at Susan's Calico Creations to work on "Operation Christmas Stocking." These quilters are a part of non-partisan group of dedicated volunteers, providing little pieces of home in support of our soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Sandi Carstensen is Founder & National Coordinator of Operation Christmas Stocking. Sandi began as a member of Home of the Brave Quilt Project the purpose of which is to support active service personnel deployed overseas to sustain Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan or Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq. In gratitude for their service and sacrifice, Citrus Belt Quilters Guild, Redlands, California started making replicas based on the Civil War U. S. Sanitary Commission quilt on display at the A. K. Smiley Library, Lincoln Shrine, Redlands, California. These quilts were presented to the families of service persons who died while in the service of our country, primarily in Iraq and Afghanistan, and were buried at Riverside National Cemetery or were from the Greater Inland Empire Area who died while in the service of our country; primarily in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Operation Pillowcase originated in August 2004 when Sandi Carstensen's son-in-law emailed her from Baghdad and asked her to make him a dark pillowcase. She did and he was the hit of his battalion. She made a few more, then a few more. She mentioned what she was doing to on-line quilting friends and soon pillowcases were being sent from all over the United States and even other countries. As of December 2007, more than 4,000 pillowcases have been sent to troops in Afghanistan or Iraq.

With the success of Operation Pillowcase, the on-line quilting friends, now lovingly referred to as sewing angels, decided they wanted to do something special for our troops for Christmas. In August 2004, busy hands began sewing homemade stockings, which in turn, lead to the formation of Operation Christmas Stocking. The sewing angels work year round sewing independently or among groups sewing brightly colored stockings in hopes of fulfilling all the requests that we receive. As of December 2007, more than 7,000 Christmas stockings have been sent abroad to our soldiers in the Middle East.

Courtesy of Fulton Journal

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