

# The Direct Contact Program

[www.PS4FS.ORG](http://www.PS4FS.ORG)

[PS4FS2@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PS4FS2@GMAIL.COM)

Since October 2007, over 6,600 prayer shawls have been sent to families of our military fallen! Please share thank you notes so we all may read them. Encourage your military families to visit our website! They find comfort reading shared messages and photos in the monthly newsletters! As of January 2013, our program mainly consists of a "direct contact" program, whereby you may choose a town from our newsletter, I then send you the family information so you may contact them. By far, the easiest and fastest way to contact families is as follows:

**INSTRUCTIONS TO GOOGLE A MILITARY NAME, AND LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE FAMILY'S "MESSAGE BOARD":**

This method saves us the cost of postage and time. Google the military rank, first name, and last name (eliminate the middle name).

Add the word "message board" or "guest book" at the end, it should look like this:

SGT John Smith message board

CPT James Jones guest book

Once there, leave a message (sample below), then wait to be contacted. This method is much faster than "snail mail", it saves postage, and tends to be more effective at getting results. Often a note is laid away by a grief-stricken family member, but many more eyes see these message boards and guest books, and they respond. Sometimes you will hear from the family, sometimes a friend of the family will give you their information. Either way, it is a far simpler way to contact our families. Please expand our army casualty list to all service branches. Just Google a known name, copy and paste your message on their message board, and allow them to contact you. It is that easy!

Sample Message to be left on a Message Board / Guest Book:

Re: Rank First name, Last name , DOD Hello,

I represent PRAYER SHAWLS 4 FALLEN SOLDIERS (PS4FS), an organization that since October 2007 has sent over 6,500 prayer shawls to military families who have lost a loved one. We are an organization of over 280 groups from all over the country. We make every effort to reach families even when post cards are returned after they have moved. Would you kindly send me a contact email/address so that we may send a loving hand- made prayer shawl to the family?  
Thank you!

Prior to this, we were sending our prayer shawls to Dover Air Base, where the chaplains would hand them out to families who are about to witness the Dignified Transfer Ceremony. Our prayer shawls become a meaningful part of that ceremony,

as families walk out onto the cold and windy tarmac. But the good news is that as of January 2013, Dover asked us to hold our gifts, because the number of casualties are down. This is the good news our ministry has been waiting to hear for six years!

It's important to attach a card to each prayer shawl with your name (or your group's name), contact information, and a note. A sample note you might attach is provided below:

To the Recipient of this Prayer Shawl:

This prayer shawl was made for you in remembrance of your loved one.

May you wear it with pride and love,

May it bring you hope, peace, and comfort every time you are wrapped in its love.

Recipients often tell us the prayer shawls bring them strength, that they are reminded of cherished times with their loved one!

Blessings for your loss, and may this gift bring you to a better place!

PS4FS (Prayer Shawls 4 Fallen Soldiers) is an organization which began in October 2007. Since that time, we have given over 6,600 prayer shawls to our military families. To date, we have 282 GROUPS of knitter/crocheters from all over the country (the majority are church-based), devoted to giving their handmade prayer shawls to our military families of the fallen. Families find comfort knowing we exist - a large group of Americans who care about your loss. Please visit our website to learn more about us, and enjoy reading the newsletters which share many of our stories and photos from you!

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Website : [www.ps4fs.org](http://www.ps4fs.org)