

PS4FS Monthly Newsletter - January 2012:

Dear PS4FS friends,

We warmly welcome Chaplain John Wheatley who joins Chaplain Gary Losey at Dover Air Base. You may read his letter in the Dover section of our newsletter. I was especially touched by the following remarks from his letter:

“This is the place where grace does its most powerful healing. It is as if, for that moment while holding the shawl, while touching something that reminds people of something familiar and good, that the pain of the loss, just for a moment, is diminished.”

Thank you, Chaplain Wheatley – we have seen the power of our knitted and crocheted prayer shawls, we lovingly knit our prayers into them, as attested by the shared stories in our newsletters.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you in giving 222 prayer shawls to Dover this past month. The call came from our chaplains, and you answered with great generosity! Thank you for being here, for caring, for doing this work, for adding your love to our military families.

This month’s newsletter is very small – there are no thank you notes or pictures. Please share yours whenever possible. May I take this opportunity to wish you all good health and happiness in 2012. Blessings to all!

Note: If you prefer to be removed from this list, please notify me.

<http://webpages.charter.net/ps4fs/Shawls/>

Fondly,

Cozette

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I.) CURRENT STATISTICS:

# Prayer Shawls made since October 2007:	5,669	<i>Includes Dover prayer shawls (numbers below)</i>
# sent to Dover since inception of program (Sept. 2009):	2,496	
# sent to Dover this past month:	222	<i>This number is included in above totals</i>
# Prayer Shawl Groups/Individuals:	279	

*A Warm Welcome to New Groups/Individuals who Joined PS4FS in December 2011

Contact Name	Town	State	Date Joined
Nancy Green (for mother Joyce Kulusich)	Laguna Woods	CA	12/12/11

We extend a warm welcome to Nancy Green and her mother, Joyce Kulusich, who joined us this month. Joyce is the knitter, and Nancy will act as her mother’s contact with our ministry. They joined with quite a “bang” – delivering 35 prayer shawls to Dover Air Base! Thank you so much! This was a time when Dover needed to be resupplied, so your 35 prayer shawls were timely! It’s hard to believe one person could make so many, Joyce! Blessings to you both! (Nancy plans to send us a photo for next month’s newsletter!)

II. DOVER PROGRAM:

We received an update from Robin Raine, Chief of Families of the Fallen Support Branch at Dover Air Base. In the past, Robin has been terrific about sending us updates and photos, keeping us in touch with what's going on at the base. Robin wants to introduce us to Chaplain John Wheatley, who joins Chaplain Gary Losey at Dover. Below is her note, followed by messages from Chaplain Wheatley and Chaplain Losey:

Thank you for including me in your newsletter distributions; I always enjoy hearing from you. I'm sorry you haven't heard from us much, but I do know that the prayer shawls have been greatly utilized. One family even had several sent home to share with other family members who couldn't come to Dover (I think Chaplain Losey was involved with this). Your ministry reaches further than you may know!

In case you haven't been introduced to Ch Wheatley, I wanted to give you his email address. Ch Wheatley and Ch Losey are our current Army chaplain team, now that Ch Wallace has left us to go back home after his long year with us. I hope you and the ladies have a truly blessed holiday season. Thank you all so much for taking the time and care to keep your prayer shawl ministry going - I know our families of the fallen are comforted in the warmth of your love and support. Warmest regards, Robin

We welcome Chaplain Wheatley to Dover Air Base – and look forward to a successful working relationship in the coming year. Below is an introduction from Chaplain Wheatley – you will nearly be brought to tears with his remarks about how important our ministry is to the base! Thank you, Chaplain Wheatley!

I wanted to take the opportunity introduce myself to you as the second US Army Chaplain assigned to Casualty and Mortuary Affairs, Dover Air Force Base, Dover, DE. This second position opened in September, 2011. It is my privilege to work alongside Chaplain (LTC) Garry Losey in the ministry of caring for the Families of Fallen Soldiers who are repatriated to their country thru Dover AFB. Having served in numerous locations and positions over twenty-two years of military ministry, I have come to believe that the work done thru the Chaplains here at DAFB is both a high honor and a humbling experience.

As I joined the team here at Dover I was continually asked by both family and friends alike, 'why would you want to do that, go there, and be exposed to such constant pain and heartache?' The answer was not hard to discern - why wouldn't I want to? There is no higher honor than to be invited into the midst of the deepest pain and greatest vulnerabilities of the loss of a loved one - this is the place where grace does its most powerful healing. Our mission is not to shy away from the pain but to march into the midst of it with gentle compassion and calm assurance. This is the honor of Team Dover!

A unique part component of our ministry and presence with Families of Fallen Soldiers is to introduce them to the wonderful shawls that we receive from all across the nation. The colors, patterns, designs, and touching notes accompanying each shawl all contribute to become a 'silent messenger of comfort' to Families. I watch, on a continual basis, the expressions upon people's faces as they touch and receive these symbols of care which embody the spirit of a grateful nation. Something almost transformational occurs! It is as if, for that moment while holding the shawl, while touching something that reminds people of something familiar and good, that the pain of the loss, just for a moment, is diminished. As Families receive these beautiful sentinels of grace, they take them home and are reminded, day by day, of the love, spirit, and support of an entire nation!

Thank you for this wonderful ministry and outreach. Those who make and ship them are the 'quiet angels' whose work is rewarded by God. We would continue to ask that your organization send us shawls. We have, most recently, distributed the preponderance of shawls we had on hand and certainly welcome receiving more as soon as possible. Blessings to each and thanksgiving for the unique ministry of PS4FS! Peace and Blessings, Chaplain (Major) John C. Wheatley, Ed.D.

Finally, a third message coming from Chaplain Losey to share with you:

Thank you and all the dear people who have worked so hard in getting the prayer shawls to us. They are a great help and the family members appreciate them so much, they often ask if they can take extra ones home for family members who cannot make it to Dover. Once again thank you so much for your great support, Chaplain Garry Losey