

SACRED SHAWLS... honoring our Military Fallen Heroes

I playfully call them “Chicks with Sticks”. It is a term of **endearment**.  
With hearts of pure gold; personally, I believe they are **heaven-sent**.

I don’t know how they do it... Sticks clicking softly; fingers flying so **fast**.  
With balls of yarn on their laps; weaving treasures that will **last**.

Each loop & stitch... creating an original work of **art**;  
While prayers for strength are whispered from deep inside the **heart**.

Like fingerprints & snowflakes... there are NO two **exactly the same**.  
Each shawl is a masterpiece, full of prayers said, “**In Jesus’ name**”.

Pinks, blues, purples, yellows, greens, and almost every **shade of white**,  
earth tones, pale pastels, or colors that are **vivid and bright**.

Prayer shawls on couches, chairs, and beds; most often draped over shoulders or on a **lap**.  
Locally made and from all corners of this wide country; literally covering our nation’s **map**.

WHERE did it start? HOW did it begin? I’ll tell you, sit back and **listen**.  
About one hundred people, in over thirty states, are all on this same **mission**.

Because life can be hard, so they produce **softness**;  
To cover, comfort, console and always to **bless**.

Made mostly by little ladies, but don’t you be fooled; these folks are amazingly **strong!**  
That’s how the prayer shawl ministry has lasted... for so **long**.

They sound incredible! I’ll take THREE! How do you accept **payment?**  
Credit card, PayPal, or Venmo? Where should the check or money order be **sent?**

Oh no. These cannot be purchased. They aren’t found online, or even in a **store**.  
So how do you get one? Will they deliver to your **door?**

Is there overnight shipping or a handling charge?... Can you order one through the **mail?**  
Up until now, not much has been known about these prayer shawls, but here’s the real **tale**.

This is where the magic unfolds –From the very beginning, from the **start**,  
They have NEVER been for sale. These are gifts... lovingly crafted from the **heart**.

“Prayer Shawls for Families of Servicemembers” is their official **name**.  
Honoring the families of service men and women who have died without fanfare, fortune, or **fame**.

Those who have valiantly defended our freedom; laid down their lives to preserve our **rights**.  
Going wherever they were called; standing guard ALL day and through the LONG dark **nights**.

Those brave souls who were killed while serving on active duty or died during a training **drill**.  
They are forever our heroes, each having completely surrendered their mind, body, and **will**.

Partner-Providers ensure prayer shawls are made, shipped or delivered to the armed forces **family members**,

As a symbol of THEIR sacred sacrifice and a reminder that we as a nation are grateful; **America remembers**.

Letters are sent to each designated "next-of-kin" inviting them to receive a **prayer shawl**.  
In honor of their loved one, who made the most courageous **sacrifice of all**.

Some fallen soldiers arrive for "Dignified Transfer" from overseas to the armed forces mortuary at **Dover Air Force Base**.

As each servicemember arrives by plane, Partner-Providers has plenty of prayer shawls waiting at **that sacred place**.

Then offer them to the loved ones who are greeting their deceased, as a way of showing **extra grace**.

No one can bring their loved one back to life, so we hold silent vigil, doing our small **part**.  
Please wrap this shawl over your shoulders and hold it close to your aching **heart**.  
If you listen close, you will hear silent prayers enfolded in the yarn from the very **start**.

Can you make a prayer shawl at home? By yourself? Sure! Lots of people **do**.  
But something special happens in the circle of more than **two**.

I can't explain it really...But their sticks become swords drawn in a spiritual **fight**.  
They WAGE WAR, fighting unseen forces of injustice and depression with all their **might**.  
Because SORROW is tremendously heavy and GRIEF falls hard in the middle of the **night**.

"Chicks with Sticks", we could never thank you enough, words fall short, so I will simply **say**;  
Miracles happen when they gather in a circle with yarn on their laps and **pray**.

Kristi Smith 5/30/22