

Dear Editor-

As we celebrate the sacrifices of our country's military service people on Veteran's Day, we feel compelled to honor the community members who have participated in the Quilts of Valor Project.

We own and operate DeKalb County's oldest quilt shop in rural Clare and learned of the Quilts of Valor Foundation from one of our customers. The Foundation's mission is to cover all combat wounded and injured service members with a handmade quilt.

Almost every day we hear about someone's family or friend serving in the War. Most people would like to help soldiers, but don't know what to do. American history tells us many stories of women making quilts for soldiers at war. Veterans tell us about the excitement of receiving a quilt during their time in the military. Families of soldiers in the Iraq/Afghanistan War tell us that their kids are asking for their quilts from home.

We challenged our customers, local veterans, and our friends to assist us in covering soldiers who were wounded. We hoped that we would see about 10 quilts from Memorial Day 2007 until Veteran's Day. What a surprise it was to learn that we had 27 quilts by November 1!

We'd like to thank Shelia Summerson of Newark, Lyn Exner and Mary Jean Lane of Kirkland, Fred Meinke, Clarice Mitchell, and Dawn and Caroline Awe, all of DeKalb, Bonnie McCord of Cortland, Janet Jones of Naperville, Bonnie and Dean Davis of St. Charles, Jeanette Youngs and Pat Renner of Rochelle, Ann Kenny of Aurora and Marie Tenzinger of Wheaton, and Linda Kelly of Maple Park, for their financial contributions and hard work to create these beautiful quilts. Some of the quilts have already been sent to the Veteran's Medical Center in Los Angeles. Others are on display at the Kishwaukee Valley heritage Society in Genoa this weekend.

We all wish we lived in a world where there was no war and people didn't get hurt. We appreciate the sacrifice of our veterans and hope that our labor of love will give some comfort on the road to healing.

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