

“Blankets of Honor”

August 9, 2010 - Eldersburg

This project was born after viewing a show on television, about Veterans recovering at the Walter Reed hospital. Their blankets were plain white, certainly not something from home. Jacki White from Archbishop Sheen Council No. 7612 and Ann Stallings from Bel Air Council No. 4714 felt that our Wounded Warriors deserved better than that for their substantial contributions to the United States of America. These ladies decided to encourage other Knights of Columbus ladies in the Maryland jurisdiction to make or buy colorful blankets to pass out to the hospitalized Veterans in the Baltimore-Washington area. To date, they have dispensed well over 900 “Blankets of Honor”.

Jacki and Ann announced the “Blankets of Honor Program” at the regional Membership and Program Seminars to the Ladies Auxiliaries of the Knights of Columbus in the summer of 2008. By early fall, the blankets started rolling in. Each blanket was tagged by the two Chair Ladies, “Blankets of Honor donated by the Ladies Auxiliaries of the Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus” to identify the donor. Then, plans were set to make visits along with a team of several volunteers to Veteran Hospitals in the area. The following hospitals were visited in the past two years:



- Veteran’s Hospital on Greene Street in Baltimore, Maryland – distributed 140 Blankets with 11 volunteers.
- Veteran’s Hospital in Washington, D.C. --- distributed 150 blankets with 12 volunteers.
- National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland —dropped off 135 Blankets with 4 invited volunteers.
- Perry Point Veteran’s Hospital, Cecil County, Maryland—

distributed 440 Blankets with 15 volunteers (an 8 car caravan was needed because of the large number of blankets).

- Old Soldiers Home, Southern Maryland ---sent 80 Blankets with two volunteers.

The amount of “Blankets of Honor” collected and tagged totals over 1400. They continue to roll in. There have been many times throughout the past two years when the ladies throughout the State were taught to make fleece blankets and they enjoyed this

tremendously. The next stop for the co-chairs will be the Veteran's Hospital on Lock Raven Boulevard in Maryland with stops hopefully in Western Maryland at a later date. They intend to find any other Veterans group in need of blankets or they will redeliver to the hospitals that they have already been to. The support from the Auxiliaries, The Fourth Degree and the Councils has been fantastic.



This is an ongoing program and the rewards are exceptional. The smiles on the faces of our beloved Veterans when receiving the "Blankets of Honor" are so worthwhile. The appreciation from the Veterans is wonderful but the feeling that the volunteers come home with is far greater. If anyone knows of Veterans in need of blankets please e-mail or call Ann Stallings @ easepe@aol.com 410-638-0246 or Jacki White @ jackiwhite@verizon.net 410-795-0862.