

OQC Online

Operation: Quiet Comfort • 307 Palmer Lane • McCormick, SC 29835 • *Honor and Comfort for our Wounded Troops*



U.S. Department of Defense Casualty Statistics

As reported for June 7, 2011

Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Afghanistan

Deaths	1,500
Wounded	11,864



Freedom of Speech

Freedom from Fear



Freedom from Want

Freedom of Worship

OQC Online is a quarterly publication of Operation: Quiet Comfort designed for our online community. Publication dates are June, Sept., Dec. and March. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month preceding publication. To submit articles for consideration, please contact Janis Schafnitz-Hogg, Board President, jans-h@operationquietcomfort.com

www.operationquietcomfort.com

FROM THE HEART

By Jan Hogg, Board President, McCormick, SC

When I first introduced myself as your new board president, I promised to tell everyone a little more about myself in the next newsletter. Well, here goes. To be very honest with you, I cannot remember how long it has been since I first joined Operation: Quiet Comfort. Let's see, which grandchildren were with me at the Michigan State Fair? —John and Lela—so that would be almost five years. That was my first exposure to this amazing organization. I signed a quilt square, wrote a check and went home and researched OQC on the website. What impressed me so much, was the total commitment to honoring our troops and the fact that donations went where they belonged, to our wounded troops and not expensive overhead, advertising and mass mailings. That speaks volumes on the integrity of our founder, Lori Pate.



I have always been involved in charity work of one kind or another as a way of giving back for being so blessed. Operation: Quiet Comfort has been a really good fit for me and I have no plans of going anywhere. Well, I shouldn't say that. I did relocate to the South (South Carolina) from Michigan.

When I first started with OQC in Michigan, hardly anyone in Southeast Michigan (Macomb County) had heard about us, and I did my best to change that. Now I am facing the same challenge in South Carolina. It has taken time, but the good people of the South are starting to listen.

Being from a military family has not hurt in my belief of supporting our troops. My Dad was an Army MP and guarded the Manhattan Project by riding horseback around the perimeter. Many uncles, my brother-in-law, and last but not least, my husband Rick served for 21 years. My son-in-law is preparing for a May 2011 deployment for 14 months in Afghanistan. Amber (also a member) and their five children will be keeping it together at home and awaiting his return. I see many more trips to Colorado in my future! That's OK —whatever it takes to ease the stress of deployment.

Please know that I appreciate each and every one of you for what you do for our troops. I cherish the friendships I have made and will always pray for peace.

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Operation: Quiet Comfort: Who We Are and What We Do by Jan Houin, Plymouth, IN



We are a country at war. I've heard it said that today's war is a war of friends and family. If you don't have someone directly involved, it just doesn't touch you. Unlike the stories I've heard of WWII when our whole country was behind the war effort with rationing and victory gardens, today war tends to become a political issue. When I'm talking about OQC I assure people I don't want to hear their political views and I won't tell them mine.

We hear about those that are killed in the war. We are saddened; lower our flags to half-staff and pray for their families. We don't hear much about those who are injured while serving in harm's way. For some of the injured, they are treated and back on duty in a few days or weeks. For others, it is life changing.

When one of our troops is injured, that's where OQC steps in. From the battlefield, to their first stop for medical care, Operation: Quiet Comfort strives to be there.

Operation: Quiet Comfort was established in July 2004 for the purpose of honoring and comforting members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are injured while serving in harm's way, and to provide support to those caring for them.

Operation: Quiet Comfort is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization registered in the State of Michigan. OQC is staffed entirely by volunteers throughout America who feel very strongly that our military men and women need to be supported by Americans at home, especially when they are sick or injured in the line of duty or are providing medical care under very difficult circumstances far from home.

All "hands-on" opportunities are administered through our Group Site at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/operationquietcomfort/> At this site, you can explore the many opportunities for you to join in showing our military men and women that a grateful nation truly cares.



★ ★ FROM THE FRONT ★ ★

Greetings from the desert!!!

This is 1LT _____. I just wanted you to know how much my staff and I appreciated the gifts you sent us. It really means a lot to us to know that you took time out your schedule and family to think of us over here. A man once asked, "Why do you do it? For the money, adventure, prestige or a mixture of it all?" and I replied, "I do it for you, your family, this city, this state, because I agree that the world can be a ugly place, and America is the oasis in the sea of ugliness." So from the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Second paragraph edited.

In a nutshell that's the PLX (Pharmacy, Lab, X-Ray) department. Once again thank you very very much for your thoughts and prayers.

Jerald _____
1LT, MSC

★★★★★★★★★★

Operation Quiet Comfort,

Thank you for the recent care package. The snacks, coffee supplies, and drink mix are greatly appreciated. It is a great morale boost to receive such a generous package.

Thank you,
CPT XXXXXX XXXXXX

★★★★★★★★★★

Thank you for your donation & thoughtfulness. The soldiers of our camp greatly appreciate all that you do & send. Please continue to send generously.

Thank you
Sgt. Brandi _____

★★★★★★★★★★

On behalf of the Soldiers assigned to the ____ Combat Support Hospital, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the care packages your organization has sent to us. It is comforting to know that so many individuals such as yourself have taken the time to remember us and send items to boost our morale. Although we would all like to be able to sit down and personally write a letter to each of you individually, it is not always possible due to the mission. We would, however, like you to know that the items received from all of you to include: toiletries, books, games, movies, CDs, clothing and snacks are not going to waste. We put these items out for all Soldiers to enjoy at their leisure and they are well received. In the event that you are so inclined to send us more gifts, please know that snacks are always a crowd pleaser. Again, thank you so much for all that you have done and continue to do to support the Troops. We would not be able to do what we do each day without the support you and others like you.

God bless you!
CH XXX

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Operation Quiet Comfort,

Thank you for the care packages. The coffee was a big hit! Also, thank you to all the individuals who took time to write letters & cards to the medical

staff & service members. It was greatly appreciated and an unexpected part of the packages. I have shared the cards & letters with many people here who all appreciate them.

Thank you again,
XXXXXX XXXXXX

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear OP Quiet Comfort -

Hello my name is Sgt. Daniel _____. I am a squad leader with _____ in an infantry marine deployed to _____, Afghanistan. On February 7th, 2011, I was on patrol with my squad walking through a dried up canal. I stepped on a soviet land mine, AKA "TOE POPPER." To my luck I only had shrapnel to the legs, thigh and arms. I still have my 10 toes and two feet, so that is a good thing. I was still medevac'd to Camp _____, where they took x-rays and attended to my wounds. Once in my bed I received a black bag filled with your care package items. It was great to open the bag and see George Straits greatest hits CD and a CD player and all the hygiene gear. I just want you to know that it was greatly appreciated, and also this will be my first shower since January 4th. So as you can imagine the hygiene gear was amazing to see. HA HA HA. Thank you so much for everything you collected and sent to us on deployments. Also I am fine. I will be back with my unit before you get this letter. Thanks again.

R/S
Daniel _____
Sgt/USMC

★★★★★★★★★★

We received about 8 boxes or so of goodies from you today. Thank you so much for all you do, we really appreciate it. Your blankets are going to wounded warriors on their way out and your hygiene kits are getting good use from those who are still here. Thanks.

Sr.A.Jillian _____

★★★★★★★★★★

Thank you for the kind words and well wishes. We are a team of 20 medics, LPN's, RN's, CRNAs and surgeons. We typically work out of a tent for three to five days at a time, when we are forced to resupply and reorganize. So far here in _____ we are working out of what we like to call a Hardened Surgical Facility. We are literally twenty feet from the helipad. We are fortunate; we have enough personnel that the ER and ICU work in shifts. However, in the OR just as the surgeons are, the nurses are on-call 24 hours; there are just not enough of us.

You may know this already, but we provide surgery (life, limb or eyesight) to our soldiers and others that may be acutely injured in this province of Afghanistan. Our team is from _____. I am the Chief Nurse and also I am the Operating Room nurse for the team. We are augmented by a team of Advanced Trauma trained Air Force nurses. We have transitioned from augmentation to integration as they feel ever so much a part of our team as the men and women we trained with daily to get here. That is what happens when you have like experiences that challenge and inspire you. I am sure that you know exactly what I mean.

Part of my job is the health and hygiene of the soldier. That is where your



FROM THE FRONT CONT.



group is extremely helpful. You help me and the nurses bring warmth and comfort to the soldiers and often to us as we work long hours and stay in the hospital with the patients. Because we are a hardened facility, we directly support all Level 1 and several close Level 2 facilities. Often those PA and medics are working from a box or a bag in their "room." Every chance we get we send boxes of blankets, pillows, and sheets, toiletries, games, etc to the outlying FOB/COP to help our guys any way we can.

Thank you for thinking of us and for your support!!

Hope to hear from you all again!

CPT, Chief Nurse

Amanda _____

Try Cool Ties—Easy, Inexpensive Project by Leslie Yangman

I'm sure you've all seen cool ties, even if you don't realize it, maybe at a street fair or some other activity where folks are getting warm. They are long thin fabric ties, with a bit of a granular crystal-like substance inside. When hydrated (soaked in water) the crystals expand and provide evaporative cooling to the person wearing the cool tie. It is a fantastic way to bring great relief from the heat.

There are groups and individuals across the country working on these valuable gifts to the troops. They don't take much fabric or even much watersorb (the granular crystals)... but they provide much needed cooling for our men and women working in very hot conditions.

We primarily use muslin or other inexpensive 100% cotton fabrics, sew tubes, turn them right side out, put in a bit of watersorb and sew the tubes closed. Each cool tie is packed in a zipper-top bag and instructions are affixed and they're ready to go.

Cool ties are a great project for scouts and other younger or inexperienced sewers. If you have the desire to make them, your time will definitely be put to use.

I will email you instructions and all the handy tips I've compiled, just email me anytime, funtobewithlp@yahoo.com, and I will get them out to you. If anyone ever has any questions, please don't hesitate to ask—I'd rather answer 100 questions or even 1,000, than have even ONE cool tie not meet OQC guidelines and not be able to be sent to those who need them.

I will be keeping the blog <http://www.CoolTiesforOQC.blogspot.com> updated, so please check there for 2011 updates as well as some history on the project.

We can always use more help, the more the merrier. Come and join our proud cool ties team for 2011 and beyond! Our sewing volunteers provide all their own materials, but we gladly welcome any "angels" out there, who would like to help us with fabric or watersorb.



Cool tie in use, as modeled by my son, my main cool tie filler dude!



Hydrated cool tie—you can sort of see how the center part (the "v" part of the tie) is filled and hydrated with the expanded watersorb.

Packing in Plymouth, IN *by Jan Howin, Plymouth, IN*

At this time Operation: Quiet Comfort is supporting 11 units in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With the help of many volunteers, we pack and ship approximately 50 boxes of love and comfort each month from Operation: Quiet Comfort shipping headquarters. That would be the office building behind our home in Plymouth, IN. The building itself includes my Mary Kay office and my husband, Kenny's office for his business, Kentec Enterprises. In the large meeting room of the building you'll find four long tables and a few card tables for sorting and packing OQC supplies.

I do local purchasing. OQC President, Jan Hogg, does online purchasing and has supplies shipped to us. There always seems to be plenty of boxes to walk around. Once supplies are gathered and sorted, volunteers build the boxes for shipping including a label on all sides identifying it as an OQC package. After the boxes are made, volunteers pack them with whatever supplies are available to fill the needs and requests at that time.

The second Thursday of every month we hold an OQC "work meeting" from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Usually between five and ten volunteers show up to do whatever is needed. Some come once, others come every time. All agree that they have enjoyed the camaraderie, feel a sense of accomplishment and have a better understanding of how and what OQC does to show our injured troops that a grateful nation truly cares.

We try to schedule extra packing events at different days and times to give more opportunities for those who cannot make it to the regularly scheduled monthly work night. This is just one part of the puzzle. None of this would be possible without the donations of generous people throughout the United States that support OQC with financial and in-kind donations.





OPERATION: QUIET COMFORT 2011

INDIANA MEET AND GREET

WHEN: Saturday August 13, 2011

WHERE: Home and Offices of:

Ken and Jan Houin
17671 13th Road
Plymouth IN 46563
574-936-1424

janh@operationquietcomfort.com

WHO: All who support the efforts of OQC and anyone who wishes to learn more about our mission.

WHAT: See where the OQC packing and shipping takes place, do some “hands on” packing, cut & sign denim squares, make and sign cards, view Four Freedom Gratitude Quilts, learn how to present OQC to your local community. Meet and hear comments from Jan Hogg, President of OQC. Visit with many other OQC volunteers.

FOOD & BEVERAGES provided!

R.S.V.P. janh@operationquietcomfort.com
OR Phone: 574-936-1424

R.S.V.P. Deadline is August 5th so we can plan food and fun for all.

Plan your family vacation around this event and visit area points of interest. We are two hours from Chicago, one hour from Notre Dame or Amish Acres. There are numerous golf courses, lakes and attractions nearby.

FACILITIES

Days Inn

2229 N. Michigan St.
Plymouth, IN 46563
Phone: 574-935-4276

Holiday Inn Express

2619 N. Michigan St.
Plymouth, IN 46563
Phone: 574-936-2444

Super 8 Motel

2160 N. Oak Rd.
Plymouth, IN 46563
Phone: 574-936-8856

Swan Lake Resort

5203 Plymouth-LaPorte Trail
Plymouth, IN 46563
Phone: 574-935-3908

Lindenwood Retreat Center

9601 Union Rd. P.O. Box 1
Donaldson, IN 46513
Phone: 574-935-1780

Hidden Lake Paradise Camp Ground

12589 Rose Rd.
Plymouth, IN 46563
Phone: 574-936-2900

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp-Resort

7719 Redwood Rd.
Plymouth, IN 46563
Phone: 574-936-7851



Shipped with Love Jan.- May, 2011



Category: CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR
311 Men's Underclothing Kits
10 Women's Underclothing Kits

40 Women's Crew Socks
522 Flip Flops

Category: BEDDING & LINENS
30 Four Freedom Gratitude Quilts

119 Small Quilts 3x5
23 Lapghans

300 Travel Pillows
600 Pillow Cases

204 Cotton Thermal Blankets

Category: FOOD & EQUIPMENT
1367 oz. *Good* Coffee

1275 Individual servings
Tea & Hot Chocolate

1250 Individual servings
Drink Mix

36 tubs Sugar & Creamer

4 Bread Machines

324 Bread Mixes

52 Spreads (PB & J)

505 Microwave Meals

560 Jerky & Tuna

2320 Individual servings

Healthy Snacks

12 pkg. Tableware

Category: GROOMING & HYGIENE

264 Go Bags

13 We Care Kits

15 Hygiene Pkg. (special requests)

80 Wet Wipes

35 pkg. Female Hygiene

440 pkg. Saline Wipes

Category: SPECIAL PROJECTS:

525 Cool Ties

60 Helmet Liners

Bless all of you who have stepped up to be counted and who are working so hard ... sacrificing so much ... to ensure our wounded warriors know we were there for them "just in case."



Notice:

In compliance with IRS regulations, receipts are sent for all donations of \$250.00 or more, or for any lesser amount upon request.

Download this newsletter from our website. Go to

www.operationquietcomfort.com

<<http://www.operationquietcomfort.com/>>

and click on the "Newsletters" button!

REMINDER...

OQC is accepting financial donations as we "friend-raise" and "fund-raise" to get existing supplies to the troops.

Send donations to:

Operation: Quiet Comfort

C/O Jan Hogg

307 Palmer Lane

McCormick, SC 29835



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Established in July 2004 for the purpose of honoring and comforting members of the U.S. Armed Forces injured while in harm's way, and providing support to those who care for them.

About Our Work

We're creating care packages for U.S. Military men and women receiving care at medical facilities abroad. Often our injured men and women arrive for medical care without their belongings and it can take weeks before those belongings catch up with them—and sometimes they don't arrive at all. Even when injured our troops need items like hygiene and grooming products, clothing, entertainment and support from the home front.

It is the mission of this effort to help assure those individuals are honored for their sacrifice and comforted by creating "GO BAGS," or transition kits, that include comfort items like our "Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilt," personal care items and products that entertain and provide "down time" for their spiritual, emotional and physical healing.

We rely on the expertise of Pastoral Care Services and others knowledgeable about what items are most appropriate for their particular unit or facility. As a result, the program focus will change to meet the needs of those we sponsor. The Go Bags and Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilts are just part of our work ... there are opportunities for everyone to show their thanks and appreciation.

Everyone brings different gifts to the table ... we invite you to share yours!

In-Kind Donations (including quilts, knit items and cool ties)

Operation: Quiet Comfort

c/o The Houins

17671 13th Rd.

Plymouth, IN 46563

www.operationquietcomfort.com

Founder Lori Pate, **La Salle, MI**
lpate@operationquietcomfort.com

Volunteer Project Coordinators

PROJECT: OQC Online Newsletter
Coordinator: Janis Schafnitz-Hogg
jans-h@operationquietcomfort.com

PROJECT: Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilt Kits
(must become an approved quilter)
quilts@operationquietcomfort.com

PROJECT: Quilt Assembly Questions
Carol Anderson
chateau@cablespeed.com

PROJECT: Small Quilts - 3' x 5' Cot/Gurney/Litter Quilts
Coordinator: Cristina Conciatori
CristinaC@operationquietcomfort.com

PROJECT: Member-to-Member Program-Quilt Supplies & Blank Denim Blocks, matching Angels with members needing supplies
Coordinator: Sandy Scharf
oqcmembertomember@gmail.com

PROJECT: Cool Comfort Neck Ties
Coordinator: Leslie Pangilinan
funtobewithlp@yahoo.com

PROJECT: Crochet & Knitted Items
Coordinators: Joanne Diehl
joanned08@netzero.com
Julie B. Barrett
jbarrett5@cox.net

PROJECT: Travel-size Pillowcases
Coordinator: Connie B.
mbfans@aol.com

PROJECT: Cards of Thanks and Well Wishes and Volunteers to Sign Them
Contact: Diane Schneider
Diane52381@nc.rr.com for guidelines

PROJECT: Coke Points for CDs/Players, DVDS/Players
Coordinator: Tracy Branigan for information
tabranigan@comcast.net

PROJECT: Sea to Shining Sea - Recycling Printer Cartridges and Cell Phones
Chair Cristina Conciatori
cristinac@operationquietcomfort.com

PROJECT: Fundraising, eBay & Amazon Sales
Contact: Cristina Conciatori for information, to register for selling on eBay or Amazon for OQC
cristinac@operationquietcomfort.com

PROJECT: Booth in A Box
Sandy Scharf (east of the Mississippi)
oqcmembertomember@gmail.com
Amber Sherman (west of the Mississippi)
amber_joyful@hotmail.com

PROJECT: Membership
Questions/Comments/Posting Guidelines
Joyce Cantrell
jcantrell@operationquietcomfort.com

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OQC is proud to be working in partnership with AnySoldier.com.