



U.S. Department of Defense

Casualty Statistics (as of May 30, 2014)

Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan

Total Deaths	2,318
Wounded	19,793

Operation New Dawn Kuwait and other Locations

Total Deaths	66
Wounded	297



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
www.operationquietcomfort.org

DOING RIGHT BY OUR HEROES

By Jan Hogg, McCormick, SC

Working away a “To Do List” can be a real drag, but at least we have the freedom to do so. The brave men and women protecting our freedoms have to deal with a different list. Their list is a “To Do Without List.”

For nearly ten years, Operation: Quiet Comfort, with the help of a grateful nation has been trying to make their list shorter. It goes without saying that we cannot do anything about missing their loved ones. What we can do is provide comfort items and let them know they are appreciated and have not been forgotten.

Knowing we care makes a difference. Messages of thanks from our deployed reinforces our mission to be there providing comfort until we get all of our sons and daughters home. Until that happens, we need your help to keep the shipments moving. Would you please consider adding “Stepping Up for Our Heroes” to your “To Do List” and make a donation for comfort items and shipping expenses.

Operation: Quiet Comfort is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible.

Donations can be sent to:
 Operation: Quiet Comfort
 307 Palmer Lane
 McCormick, SC 29835

Thank you for giving this important mission serious consideration.



U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Christopher Goetz walks away from a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter after loading a simulated patient during a training exercise on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, May 5, 2014. Goetz, a combat rescue officer, is assigned to the 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Evelyn Chavez

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Celebrate & Support Our Troops #3 . 2	John Davis, WWII Veteran 5
OQC: Making a Big Difference 3	Shipped With Love 6
From the Front 4	

Celebrate & Support Our Troops #3 By Jan Houin, Plymouth, IN

Enthusiasm was evident April 3rd as more than 250 people packed the Knights of Columbus Hall in Plymouth, IN, for the third annual Celebrate & Support Our Troops dinner and auction fundraiser to benefit Operation: Quiet Comfort. Besides donations from local businesses and individuals, several OQC supporters who were too far away to attend shared their talents by sending items for the auction.

Doors opened at 5:00 and people poured in to look over the great selection of silent auction items. They also had the opportunity throughout the evening to pack a Go Bag or sign cards and denim squares to encourage the troops.

The program officially opened with Culver Military Academy cadets posting the colors and Bob Pickell singing our National Anthem. In a solemn ceremony Doug Hill shared the meaning of the Missing Man Table.

Everyone enjoyed a great meal of roasted whole hog and delicious sides and deserts. Instead of having food prepared by one place, local restaurants each donated one or two items on the menu. Desserts consisted of homemade pies and cupcakes baked by local individuals.

Ken Houin honored all veterans with the Armed Forces Medley. Spotlighting two local veterans, Ken introduced Brian Pike who returned in December after serving in Kuwait with the National Guard. Ken then introduced John Davis, a WWII veteran, who landed in the sixth wave on



Collage of live auction items at the Celebrate & Support Our Troops fundraiser in April.

Omaha Beach. As most veterans are, these men were humbled by the presentation. Brian said he didn't do much as his role was processing...but we all know that anyone serving our country has done much for our freedom. John shared a little about his trip to Washington D.C. on Honor Flight and urged other veterans to check it out. (www.honorfliight.org)

Jan Houin shared the mission of Operation: Quiet Comfort explaining what we do and why. Although many attendees had heard much of the information before, several who have attended each of the three banquets said they learned something new. Because OQC is always flexible to meet the changing needs of those we serve, there is always something new to learn.

The evening concluded with a live auction, and people were excited or disappointed to see who would take home the silent auction items. It was a successful evening of fundraising and friend raising! There are not enough words to thank those who helped in any way to make this event a success.

Maybe you can't coordinate an event like this but what can you do to help? Send a check or write a card...KEEP TALKING and share the mission of OQC with family, friends and co-workers. Find what works for you and do something because our troops and their families are making sacrifices every day to keep our country strong and safe. Let's show them that a grateful nation truly cares!



Lovable 4' Stuffed Giraffe was auctioned to a new loving home!



Great crowd enjoys Celebrate & Support Our Troops dinner and auction to benefit OQC in Plymouth, IN.



Missing Man Table at the dinner.

OQC: Making a Big Difference *By Jan Houin, Plymouth, IN*



Board members and sisters, Jan Houin and Peggy Reynolds, don't always agree on how but always know why they do what they do for OQC!



Volunteers get the job done at OQC monthly packing night.



Jan supervises packing. Last newsletter she was standing on a chair, this time she's sitting in a wheel chair.

Operation: Quiet Comfort, founded in 2004 in Michigan, is now a national not-for-profit whose goal is to send comfort packages to U.S. military troops who have been injured overseas and the medical personnel who care for them. The packages may consist of travel-size hygiene items, high protein snacks, healthy meals, bread makers, bread mixes, quilts, underclothing, sweat shirts and pants, pajamas, slippers, cards of thanks and well-wishes, and a variety of other needed items.

OQC is very flexible in its inventory and adjusts quickly to meet the needs of various medical stations reported by the military's pastoral care services and other avenues. The group only sends what is needed and requested at a particular site, and does not waste time and money on generalized items. OQC is currently shipping to seven field hospitals, but this could change rapidly as new needs are identified.

The Plymouth, IN, branch of this unique group is headed by national board member Jan Houin, assisted by her husband, Ken. She became involved with the organization in 2007. Other board members include President Jan Hogg located in South Carolina, Katie Baron and Barb DeClement in New Jersey, Cristina Conciatori in New York, Ellie Williams in Ohio and Houin's sister Peggy Reynolds in Plymouth, IN. All OQC shipments originate in Plymouth in a building behind the Houin's home.

It is also noteworthy that this 501(c)(3) has no paid staff and operates solely through the use of volunteers. Thirty to fifty boxes of "love and comfort" are shipped from the Plymouth site every month. Each box, depending upon weight, can cost up to \$45 in postage. Fortunately, they do not all weigh the same, since the monthly budget for postage is \$1,000.

OQC is funded entirely by donations. Although persons wishing to supply shippable items may contact Jan Houin for needs, the better support is given through monetary donations. This is because OQC can buy more product at discounted rates than an individual can purchase with the same amount of money at a retail store.

Another important way to support the organization is by volunteering. Once a month, on the second Thursday, volunteers meet at the Houin's warehouse from 6:30-8:30 p.m. EST to pack "Go Bags" (backpacks filled with the needed items) and other comfort items.

Other volunteers are needed in a myriad of ways. Anyone, even home-bound individuals, can volunteer. Over 1,500 cards of encouragement and thanks for serving are sent each month. One item which has proven very popular to injured women and men in the service is quilts, another opportunity for volunteer works of love.

Consistent individual donations are essential to the future of OQC. An excellent way to show support is to make a regular monthly commitment to the organization. That will allow OQC to plan and budget for the future.

We don't ask anyone to support the war, but we ask everyone to support the troops. Everyone doing a little makes a BIG difference to show our military men and women that a grateful nation truly cares.



OQC volunteers are super!

☆☆ FROM THE FRONT ☆☆

I want to express my gratitude for the wonderful items that you sent to my unit. It really means a lot to us that people are thinking about us over here. Hope you have good holidays. Take Care.

Kelly _____

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

You may know that we try to send "Healthy Snacks" to keep the medical staff energized when they are working long shifts. However, we also try to meet any requests we get. Recently one of our units said they wish for "American junk food," so I did some special shopping. If you noticed the candy and cookies listed on one of our shipments, it went to this group.

I asked if the box had arrived and this was the reply:

"It most certainly did and when we opened it, you should of seen the happiness in our faces! We were like "SCORE!" We are planning to junk out during the play offs! We had snow here too not as frigid but cold.

Thanks again, love the junk food! So Americana!

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

I received this email recently. It broke my heart when I had to tell her we do not have enough quilts to send her what they need. They can use 50 and we only had a total of 57 to ship to all of our units in 2013. We are extremely grateful for the 57 and each one was a blessing.

If you sew, please consider making a Four Freedoms Gratitude Quilt or a 3x5 quilt. If you do not sew, please ask any individual or quilting group to step up for our heroes. You do not have to be a "quilter" to make these. You only need to sew a straight line. Complete instructions are provided with your quilt and any questions can be answered by our experienced quilters.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask, jans-h@operationquietcomfort.com

Thank you for your consideration. Jan.

I would like to send a big thank you to you and your organization. We received a box of 4 quilts that were just beautiful. The problem that I had was that we have about 50 people here. And was wondering if possible we may get some more quilts to spread around the Medical Group. I want to say thanks again as we appreciate your hard work and thoughtfulness.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

We received this thank you letter recently. It was a page with a few pictures and the following messages:

"Thank you very much for your support!!!"

_____ Aid Station _____

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Dear Quiet Comfort,

Thank you so much for sending those care packages for Christmas. I hope your Christmas was as Merry as you made ours.

SSgt Jacob _____
 _____ Afghanistan

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



The following note was accompanied by the photo above.

First I would like to say THANK YOU. I received two boxes and my guys/ girls are very thankful for everything.

The blankets as you can see are a huge hit. Even so much that our sister unit who supports and secures the ground for our medevac mission was so jealous. I passed on your information. If you want to send another box or two they surely will be used and loved!

Thank you for the snacks, mac & cheese, protein bars, coffee and condiments (tub of sugar and cream)!!

I am thankful that there are Americans just like you. It is always difficult to ask for items as we are humbly here to do our wartime mission. However, I have found it to be a blessing to those who want to show their support to be specific. The cool ties, and helmet liners will be very nice as it is getting hot, bread maker stuff sounds interesting, shorts and pajama pants might remind us of home, blankets, pillows, healthy snacks always. Haha heck your whole list sounds nice. So whatever your heart desires, I believe the best gifts come from the heart.

I have attached a photo, I am the guy on the far right. This is our medevac helicopter that we use to run our medical missions. I will try to get another picture that shows the red cross as the Chief right next to me covered it up:)

I hope this finds you in good health.

Sincerely,
 CPT Chad
 Aviation Physician Assistant

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Hello friend,

I just wanted to reach out and say thank you for working so hard to bring smiles to soldiers faces. It is nice to know that there are people who support us and think of us during some of the most stressful times in our lives. All of us here just wanted to say thank you for all that you do and we hope all is well on your side of the world!

Bryanna _____

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

John Davis, WWII Veteran By Ken Houin, Plymouth, IN



John Davis, WWII Veteran and his wife, Frances.

June, 2014, marks the 70th anniversary of D-Day, a turning point in WWII. On June 6, 1944, more than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline,



The ship John was on at the Omaha Beach landing on D-Day.

to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which, “we will accept nothing less than full victory.” More than 5,000 Ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day’s end, the Allies gained a foot-hold in Continental Europe. The cost in lives on D-Day was high. More than 9,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or wounded, but their sacrifice allowed more than 100,000 Soldiers to begin the slow, hard slog across Europe, to defeat Adolf Hitler’s crack troops.

Operation: Quiet Comfort states that while we work tirelessly on behalf of this newest generation of warriors, we hope that in doing so we show our cherished veterans of the past that we got it right this time. One veteran was recognized at the Celebrate & Support Our Troops fundraiser in Plymouth, IN.

John Davis volunteered for the United States Army at the age of 18 in 1943. Yes, for you math people, Mr. John Davis is 89 years old and still flies the American Flag in his front lawn every day. After his enlistment John went to Fort Lewis, WA, for training where he was promoted to PFC. John was assigned to the 247th Combat Engineers and then with his unit traveled to Solsberry Wilts, England, where they spent three months preparing for the

“Today 70 yrs ago I was busy waterproofing my GMC 6x6 army truck preparing it for the Invasion. When I back it onto the LST it would be ready for unloading at Omaha Beach, a four hour job waterproofing. When we drove off the LST didn’t even get the tires wet. I was scared the truck would stop running when driving in water. Made it with all 12 men I had.” —John Davis

largest invasion ever by allied forces. General Dwight Eisenhower himself stood before the 247th to personally announce to them that “tomorrow is the day.” John and his unit prepared their vehicle and loaded it onto a Naval transport which was headed for Omaha Beach. John’s LSD was the last one loaded which meant it would be the first one off upon

their landing. On the second day of the invasion the 247th Combat Engineers were in the 6th wave of GI’s landing at Omaha Beach. The 247th traveled throughout France, Belgium and Germany during which time they participated in the Battle of the Bulge. After overtaking a German Officers Barracks in Brunswick, Germany, John secured a large Nazi flag that all of the members of his unit signed with their names and home towns. While in theater the 247th Combat Engineers built 5,280 ft. of bridges to keep the flow of troops and supplies moving, a feat that all of his unit is proud of.

After being discharged from the Army in 1945, John married his sweetheart, Frances, and together they raised four children, all of whom John tells me, used that Nazi flag at their school class show and tell events.

While sharing his story John wished to make all veterans aware of the Honor Flight Northeast Indiana. The Honor Flight Network is a nonprofit organization created solely to honor America’s veterans for all their sacrifices by flying them to Washington, D.C., to reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to WWII survivors along with other veterans who are terminally ill. ALL FLIGHTS ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE VETERANS BEING HONORED. John was on one such flight and wants everyone to be aware of them. For more information go to www.honorflight.org



Delicious homemade pies and cupcakes were a hit at the Celebrate & Support our Troops dinner!



Notice:

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

REMINDER...

OQC is grateful for 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

Download this newsletter from our website. Go to

www.operationquietcomfort.com

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

and click on the “Newsletters” button!

Shipped with Love

Jan. - April, 2014

By Jan Houin



Category: CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR

88 knit Helmet Liners
 40 Black Knit Caps

Category: BEDDING & LINENS

51 Four Freedom Gratitude Quilts
 27 Small Quilts (3x5)
 7 Lapghans

Category: FOOD & EQUIPMENT

60 Bread Mixes
 13 Spreads (PB&J, Honey, Nutella)
 1008 oz. “Good” Coffee
 24 Sugar & Creamer (plastic tubs)
 1060 individual servings Tea
 740 individual servings Hot Cocoa
 140 individual servings Drink Mix
 226 Microwave Meals
 3 pkg. Jerky
 2673 individual Healthy Snacks

Category: GROOMING & HYGIENE

370 Go Bags
 62 large Hygiene Items
 67 travel size Hygiene Items
 4 packages Laundry Detergent
 19 boxes Female Hygiene

Category: MORALE, WELFARE, RECREATION

10 Coloring/Activity Books
 2 large boxes Crayons (Special request to “pass the time”)

CARDS

We sent over 4,000 cards of appreciation and encouragement in these shipments! PLEASE write some cards and encourage others to do so also, because we never want to send a box that doesn't include our heartfelt notes to remind our troops that a grateful nation truly cares.



Jan Houin decided if she had to have a cast it needed to be patriotic. Thankfully the ankle is healed and Jan is back on two feet.

Board of Directors

President: Janis Schafnitz-Hogg
McCormick, SC

jans-h@operationquietcomfort.com

Secretary: Katie Baron

Byram, NJ

katieb@operationquietcomfort.com

Treasurer: Cristina Conciatori

Bardonia, NY

cristinac@operationquietcomfort.com

Barbara Declément

Hammonton, NJ

Jan Houin

Plymouth, IN

janh@operationquietcomfort.com

Peggy Reynolds

Plymouth, IN

peggyr@operationquietcomfort.com

Ellie Williams

Sylvania, OH

elliew@operationquietcomfort.com



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

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: Heidi Bristol
heidibristol@att.net

PROJECT: Crochet & Knitted Items

Coordinators: Katie Baron
katieb@operationquietcomfort.com

Julie B. Barrett

jbarrett5@cox.net

PROJECT: Travel-size Pillowcases

Temporary Coordinator:

Janis Schafnitz-Hogg

jans-h@operationquietcomfort.com

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: Cards of Thanks and Well Wishes and Volunteers to Sign Them

Contact: Diane Schneider

diane8587@gmail.com for guidelines

119 Brentfield Loop
Morrisville, NC 27560

PROJECT: Membership

Questions/Comments/Posting Guidelines

Coordinator: Cristina Conciatori

cristinac@operationquietcomfort.com

Signed Blocks:

Operation Quiet Comfort

17671 13th Road

Plymouth, IN 46563



Special thanks to the Newsletter Crew—

Coordinator: Jan Hogg

Newsletter

Design, Editing and

Layout:

Ellie Williams

Sylvania, OH

Contributors:

Jan Hogg

Jan Houin

Ken Houin



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