

COMMUNITY

Quilting group brings joy to local veterans

Quilts of Valor



By Jonathan Crider
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With so many of our country's vital military personnel working and living inside of our local area, citizens in Santa Rosa County have long been involved in programs dedicated to giving back to our local veterans. The families and friends of these American servicemen and service-women have in fact been some of the most active participants in veteran-focused activities. As a community, citizens of Santa Rosa County have shown an extensive record of heartfelt pride and support for all of our veterans and military personnel.

In perfect stride with these noble community sentiments, members of the local Santa Rosa Quilters Guild have been recent participants in a nationally known service project for veterans. Established in 2002, the guild now comprises some 80 members including Sharlene Adkison, the Quilt of Valor Committee chairperson. "The Santa Rosa Quilters Guild was formed to promote the appreciation of quilts and the art of quilt making," she said. "We have several groups within the guild including a modern group, members that make community quilts and a Quilt of Valor group."

According to the Quilts of Valor Foundation website, the project was originally started in 2003 by mother of an Iraqi War veteran Catherine Roberts, in Seaford, Del. In an effort to express gratitude and show appreciation to our veterans for their service, Valor

Quilts have been presented to troops returning home, wounded warriors and other armed service personnel with more than 37,000 having been presented to veterans and their families.

A somewhat new facet within the guild, the Quilts of Valor group has already succeeded in presenting a few of their works to deserving veterans in the local area. Adkison says the purpose of their local group is to create quilts for veterans and service members while also promoting friendship and fellowship within the guild and the Santa Rosa community.

"We are a very fortunate group to be able to make these quilts for service members and veterans that have been affected by war," she said. "Each time we hear about a recipient, it motivates us to keep sewing, and we feel very proud to be involved in such a project." Adkison also expressed the group's gratitude at being able to participate in this project for our nation's veterans. "We love quilting and it is very rewarding to make something that is constructed with love and given in appreciation for the sacrifices made by these men and women."

Joe Klipstein, a recipient of one of the valor quilts for his service and wounds in



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—Sharlene Adkison,
Quilt of Valor
Committee chairperson



Submitted photos

the Vietnam War, humbly expressed his gratitude for the work done by the group. "It was an honor to receive a quilt because I felt that there were more deserving people than I," he said. "The women making these quilts are amazing. They take the time out of their schedules to create these beautiful works. I still use my quilt. It reminds me of where it came from."

For those desiring to become involved in the Santa Rosa Quilters Guild and the Quilts of Valor group, the group meets from 9 a.m. until noon on the second Thursday of every month at the The Community Life Center, located at 4115 Soundside Drive in Gulf Breeze.

"They welcome new members and more infor-

mation can be found at their website: www.srqguild.com. "We would welcome future suggestions for qualified Santa Rosa County Veteran Quilt of Valor recipients," Adkison said.

Santa Rosa Republican Women's Club elects new officers



Carol Boston passes the gavel to Rebecca Ward.



L to R: Anne La Grua, Secretary; Rebecca Ward, President; Martha Brenenstahl, Vice President and Angie Angelopoulos, Treasurer.



Charlene Mauro accepts a check for \$800 for the Marine Science Station.



Carol Boston awards a \$775 check to the Fisher House.



The Hurlburt Field Wounded Warrior Project is awarded a \$775 check.



Rebecca Ward and Carol Boston prepare for the award presentation at the Fisher House.

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