



Heart of America Quilt

7 First Street Winslow, Maine 04901

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Addressing the needs of our country by educating our children and uniting our communities.

We have a new Web Address... Please visit www.HeartofAmericaQuilt.org

Letter from the President

Susan Morissette
Heart of America Quilt

I hope this note finds you well. The leaves are changing here in Maine and beginning to fall. The many shades of yellow, orange and red remind me of the many facets of the Quilt, the many people that have taken part in this huge symbol of unity.

I have two wonderful stories to share with you. They are a small portion of the many stories that tie in with the Quilt and the many positive people that the Quilt has contact with. First, I would like to share with you where I was this past September 11th.

I caught a cab in NY City to take me from midtown to the financial district. The sky was black and the cab driver began to speak to me. He asked where I was from and told me of his visit to Maine back in 1968. He was a true New Yorker, accent and attitude. It was the perfect way to start my day. I think he tried to ease me on the drive because the rain, lightning and thunder had slowed the traffic to a crawl. It was as if the heavens were shedding tears for this solemn day. He asked what I was doing on my visit to New York Mercantile Exchange and I explained a little about the Quilt. When he dropped me off at the building, he explained that he was donating the ride to me. With the budget I was on for this trip, he had no idea how much that \$25 meant to me. The spirit of unity is still alive in NY. I entered the building after passing the huge bull statues in the front. It was overwhelming for this girl from Maine to see the hustle and bustle of

continued on page 2

Support Our Troops Aboard USS KEARSARGE (LHD3)

Dear friends,

As you all know, Heart of America Quilt is proud to have many active and retired members of the Military serving on our boards and active in our team of volunteers. At present one of our dear Advisors, Master Chief Kevin Sullivan, is deployed and is not due to return for a while. I am very blessed to be able to have limited contact with him and during a recent email he forwarded a photo of the ship and its Sailors. You will see there simple request in the photo. I think we can do better than Cookies and Mail ...



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Letter from the President
1	Support Our Troops Aboard USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3)
3	Points of Interest
4	Words from Our Directors
5	Important Information
5	We Need You
5	Donations -- Please Help!

continued from page 1 (Letter from the President)

NYMEX. As I waited in the lobby for our advisor Linda, I turned to see a fireman in uniform, as I looked; I saw he was back-dropped by a portion of OUR Quilt. Our first hanging display was in the lobby hung with NYMEX's five panels. I was able to get a photo of him in front of it.



How symbolic to have those we serve surrounded by the unity. It was almost as if the Quilt was able to hug him. Then after two years of internet work and phone calls, I met our advisor Linda for the first time in person. A hug was in order! I knew this would be a hard day, but with Linda by my side, we could do it and hopefully be a small part of additional healing. As Linda helped prep for the service, she took me around and introduced me to NYMEX staff and family members of those lost. It was humbling to say the least. As we entered the trading floor it was hustling and bustling, but as the bell rang, the floor became silent. NYMEX officials thanked the families for being there and thanked us for our efforts as well. Then, a name was read followed by silence and this was repeated for each friend and coworker they had lost. As the silence hung, I was reminded of how close I was to ground zero, I was reminded of that dreadful day, I remembered how the world came together, how we not only worked to heal, but we have historic proof that unity was and is still alive. I could feel the tears uncontrollably surface and I looked at Linda to see the same. I am often asked if we should be 'over' 9/11 and as I stood there looking at the families that still deal with the pain, I knew that while 9/11 was now 6 years in the past, it was still pain for many. It was still a day that had to be remembered -- a turning point in America's history and a day where Heart of America Quilt still brings warmth to many.



continued from page 1 (Support Troops)

I know that we all have different views on the situation in the Middle East and on politics. I also know that no matter our views, each of us has great concern for our military personnel. I'm writing you today to ask for your help. On a recent trip to Afghanistan visiting the troops, a dear friend of mine returned to email me and explain that we need to do more for them. With this information at hand, Heart of America Quilt has accepted an internal challenge of doing just that by adopting the USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3). The KEARSARGE is on deployment and these Sailors need comforts from home.

As friends of HoAQ I am asking you to be included in this adoption. With the Ship's company being approx. 1200 Sailors, it is a task much larger than one we would be able to do on our own. We will be compiling gifts and cards over the next few months to ship to them. I know some of you have offered your books, your goods and donations. This is the time for us to bring those items together and remind these Sailors of our support and compassion for their dedication to our country. As we sit in our homes with our families and comforts of air conditioning, they are on this ship with heat soaring to 125 deg with out the comfort of their family and normal surroundings.

Donations of goods/letters or funding can be sent to Heart of America Quilt Inc. , 7 First St., Winslow Maine 04901 or donations can be made at our website via the donation button on our home page (please note for 'KEARSARGE')

If you would like to send your donations directly to the KEARSARGE please contact me personally for contact information.

Please remember that all donations will be shipped to the Ship. The cost will be large and by weight. Donations to help with shipping is the only way to get the items to them. Thank you so much for your help and dedication to our service members. I have been fortunate to hear first hand what each kind act means to them.

Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or suggestions. Thank you in advance for your help in letting Kevin and his Shipmates know that we are here for them.

Special thank you to:

Vince at Military.com

Marty at Geico

Michael at Strayer University

All my best and with deep appreciation,

Susan Morissette ❖

continued from page 2 (Letter from the President)

As my visit ended and Linda showed me the lobby, I noticed a woman in front of the Quilt portion with tears in her eyes. I heard her say-“ There is his name, it’s on there”. I walked up to her and explained who I was, I saw the tears in her eyes and I hugged her. She showed me her sons photo and thanked me(for us). I told her I was sorry and hugged her again. She in just a few moments explained how deep the loss was and how much it meant to see his name on the Quilt being honored and remembered. She will last in my heart as energy for many years to come. Thank you to each of the family members for each moment spent with me, thank you to Linda our dear advisor, to all those at NYMEX and to the NY cabby that reminded me of the good in all of us.



Please check out Tamera’s note about her day in the Directors note portion of this news letter.

On a slightly lighter note.....The Directors approved a ‘vacation’ of sorts, for me. Not the Disney Land type or even a warm beach type, just a break from the Quilt for a few months. I started the time off with getting caught up on some past work. During this time, our Advisor Kevin Sullivan, affectionately known as Sully, emailed me a photo of the ship his is deployed on. The photo had all 1200 Sailors on the deck with a sign that said- “Send Cookies and Mail”. With that being said, and before the Directors had time to figure out what I was doing, I set up with Sully a sort of adoption. I thought it would be great to help out and bring some back home support to our Sailors. While I do love the reaction when I tell people that I have 1204 kids, and I know that the Directors are getting use to me doing stuff like this when they give me time off.....I NEED HELP. Do you have any idea how much work it is to feed 1200 new mouths? ☺ If any of you would like to help with our project- Operation USS KEARSARGE, please contact us. They would love letters, cards, marketing items, snacks, key chains and COOKIES! If you have any other ideas of items to send, feel free to contact us and ask. We have only two months to show them how much we can do and Sully said that we have to keep in mind that a ship can only hold so much. I say we see just how much unity that ship can hold! Please let us know if you, your group or company can help! Thanks to Military.com, GEICO, and Strayer University for being first on board!

As always, thank you for your hard work and dedication. Without you, nothing would be possible. The team work and unity is visible to all who see it. You all amaze me with your dedication and support.

All my best,

Susan Morissette, Executive Director ❖

Points of Interest...

Did you know...

When Heart of America Quilt did its first showing.....It was covered by 3 major networks and the Governor of Maine attended. It wasn’t even a full form of a United States Flag, it was just the corner.

We hear that sometimes when Susan needs a vacation, she can be found on our websites kids corner. We hear her favorite game is HoAQ Blocker.

It is a known fact that HoAQ has some of the hardest working Directors, volunteers and advisors. It is not so known that the volunteers and those mentioned have been known to blow bubbles after a showing.

HoAQ has many friends. Would you believe that McGruff the “take a bite out of crime” dog, was one of the first to ever sign a panel?

**Heart of America Quilt Incorporated
7 First St.
Winslow, Maine 04901**

Special Thanks-

A special thanks to Mount Merici School for their help with our student advisory board! We could not have done it with out the 6th grade, Mrs. Russo and Mrs. Cote!



Words from our Directors

The Directors of Heart of America Quilt:

- **Susan Morissette, President**
- **Colonel K Steven Collier, US Army Retired**
- **Tamera Selhaver, Survivor, G1 Pentagon**
- **Jean Rosenbluth, Business Manager, Automotive Systems Analysis**
- **Master Chief Mike Doyle, US Navy Retired**

Director Tamera Selhaver

To all the Directors of the Heart of America Quilt...I just want to thank you for another year with our beloved Quilt.

This 9/11 was unlike any before and it snuck up on me very quietly. After spending all of the other 9/11's in the limelight of sorts, going on trips with the Quilt, speaking to people and answering phone calls until dawn...this 9/11 rolled around without a sound. And the silence wasn't comforting. Not one email or phone call from my family (okay, forget the fact that I was too sick to get up!). Not one "how are you doing" from folks who've always asked before. It truly was the realization that life does go on (and that people forget) but I just haven't been ready for it.

This just makes it even more important that the Quilt lives on gloriously displayed somewhere for our younger generation to see. It is important that we never forget and always remember. Not just 9/11 but all of battles that our soldiers have heroically fought in (and died) for our freedom. God Bless our Soldiers.

Enjoy the following, just examples of why America is so great...many blessings, Tamera
[Ecclesiastes 3](#) and [Beautiful America](#)

Director Mike Doyle

As a Director for Heart of America Quilt, I have become very involved in all aspects of the organization. Heart of America Quilt has created the National Community Service Education Project (NCSEP). We are seeking volunteers to help us evaluate our curriculum that can be easily adapted into many different classes such as, Sociology, Political Science, Government, etc. We need your help to do this.

Many of you are teachers and school administrators with vast experience in curriculum evaluation. I ask that you to consider taking part in the pilot of our K-3 curriculum.

Heart of America Quilt will provide the activity books and curriculum at no cost. All we ask is that you provide us feedback so that we can continue to improve the National Community Service Education Project.

If you would like to test and evaluate our curriculum, please email the Heart of America Quilt team at, admin@heartofamericaquilt.com.

Your contributions to our effort will help our students to learn the true meaning of "Uniting to Honor". Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Mike Doyle

Director & Web and Information Advisor
NCSEP Coordinator

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead

We are uniting our country and educating our children on working together to better their country and their world. Our success depends on:

- **Great people like YOU**
- **A continued show of unity**

Here are a few ways to help unite your community:

1. **Organize a public signing.**
2. **Call your local town officials and ask them to sign a panel with your organization.**
3. **Have an art contest and let the winner be the designer of your panel.**
4. **Invite your neighbors to a gathering and all do a portion of the quilt.**
5. **Collect food and clothes for your local shelter while you do a signing.**
6. **Take a panel to the mall!**
7. **Ask a local event if you can bring a panel and a table.**
8. **Take a panel to work!**

Heart of America Quilt Incorporated
Phone: (207)873-3573
E-mail: admin@heartofamericaquilt.org
We're on the Web!
www.HeartofAmericaQuilt.org

Heart of America Quilt is dedicated to unite in honor of those affected by 9/11, and to educate children and the public about current events, history and uniting for community service.

Important Information

Welcome to Our Newest Advisor:

Phil Vyce, Pioneer Services
HoAQ PR/ Marketing Advisor
phil@heartofamericaquilt.org

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact us. Heart of America Quilt Incorporated 7 First St. Winslow Maine 04901 is our mailing address. At this time there is no public visiting time. For email, please contact Admin@HeartofAmericaQuilt.org and you can always visit our website at www.HeartofAmericaQuilt.org.

Web Links:

Over the past three years we have met some of the kindest people in America! As always, unity and sharing with you about them is how we all keep doing the things that make this country so great! Check out these links for friends of the HoAQ:

www.nymex.com www.usnca.org
www.totalcomputer.com www.1navy.com
www.military.com www.strayer.edu
www.geico.com/military

Also check out our site for more!

Positions Available - We need YOU!

Advisors - Heart of America Quilt is growing! We need your help with nominations to our board of advisors. Please send nominations admin@heartofamericaquilt.org .

Volunteers - the heart of our organization, the very people that make it work! We need volunteers in all states to help organize educational programs and giving holidays.

Event Planners - We make Big impressions, but work on a very small budget. We need help raising funds to provide services and continue to spread our reach of the helping hand.

HoAQ DC Ambassador- That's right! We are looking for child and adult ones to help us spread the word and our mission.

None of this would be possible with out our Advisors and all of our wonderful Volunteers.

Special Thank You

Special thank you to all of our sponsors and volunteers that helped make the DC showing a huge success.

Donations - Please Help!

Heart of America Quilt is run by an all-volunteer body. We need your donations to keep it going. We have created a great form of living history that needs donations for preservation and continuing the gift of unity by means of our education plan. Every donation counts: \$1, \$5, \$25. Please help us preserve all this hard work.

Buy a Heart of America Quilt "T" Shirt

http://marketspace.goodstorm.com/stores/https_www_goodstorm_com_stores_heartofamericaquilt

Shop for what You Need and Support Us at the Same time!



<http://www.shopforcharityday.com/145522>



<http://www.giveline.com/default.asp?v=V098261005>

or Simply Make a Donation

www.HeartofAmericaQuilt.org "Donate Now"

Donations can be mailed to:

Heart of America Quilt
7 First Street
Winslow Maine 04901
You can make donations of miles and hotel points by contacting Admin@HeartofAmericaQuilt.org

Please contact us for In Kind Donations. Every little bit helps. A ream of paper, stamps, fabric, office equipment. Please call if you have questions.

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact us. Heart of America Quilt Incorporated 7 First St. Winslow Maine 04901 is our mailing address. At this time there is no public visiting time. For email, please contact Admin@HeartofAmericaQuilt.org and you can always visit our website at www.HeartofAmericaQuilt.org .

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