



Soldiers' Angels

"May No Soldier Go Unloved"

Calling All Angels



Read All About It!

www.soldiersangels.org

The Voices of the Angels

Hello Angels and Friends,

Following the Holidays is when we as humans tend to take an accounting on life, and this is also true with Soldiers' Angels. We have taken the time to do our year-end inventory and get the warehouse and Support Center ready for the upcoming year. 2010 was a great year, but 2011 will be even more fantastic. Some of the upcoming events to look forward to are the Franco Harris Grid Iron Classic Celebrity Golf Tournament held Super Bowl weekend in Dallas. This is a wonderful event that brings the Football world closer to the military world by bridging the gap between them and providing a platform for both to interact. Franco Harris and Lydell Mitchel—who were college roommates—use their collective star power to raise money for deserving causes and for the past two years Soldiers' Angels has been the selected cause, along with the Hawaii National Guard.

In March there will be a gathering of Angels at the San Antonio Soldiers' Angels Support Center. Soldiers' Angels leadership will gather to meet and share information, conduct training and meet key people that assist in the making the projects a reality. This is a very exciting time because our Soldiers' Angels family is so spread out around the country and world and this is a time when we get to meet face to face and see the passion behind everyone's eyes and hearts.

I personally find the start of this year has been very invigorating and cannot wait to see and accomplish more. The first thing on plate will be a trip to Washington D.C to attend the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs' Football Party for Wounded Warriors. Soldiers' Angels has been invited for the past couple years for the efforts made to support and help the wounded warriors of our country. Attending along with me will be Soldiers' Angels' very own Joe Gonzales, a wounded warrior himself. This will allow him to reconnect with his brethren in arms and help us better understand the needs of our wounded so Soldiers' Angels can better assist and serve.

I hope the holidays were filled with love and happiness, and 2011 has started as well for all Angels as it has for us. Already we have started to expand existing relationships: two years ago a small project was started that allowed Bayer to donate 5% of sales in the military commissaries during the month of June to Soldiers' Angels and since then we have grown to several additional brands and raised \$25,000. It's another great example of the community and corporate world meeting together to help our heroes.

Toby Nunn
Executive Director
Soldiers' Angels



Toby (second from right) accepts a check representing the nearly \$25,000 Bayer Healthcare and other companies donated to Soldiers' Angels as part of the Bayer Cares program.

Music Lessons

Throughout 2010, "Calling All Angels" has reported on the new music area in the San Antonio Warehouse and just recently—in January's issue—we reported on how our very own Jeff Bader was working with Yamaha Corporation and physicians to develop music instruction and therapy programs for the wounded. This is how these music lessons help heal our wounded warriors...

Anyone who has ever taken music lessons knows that there is quite a bit to learn when it comes to playing a musical instrument—besides the notes and the theory, you have to learn lots of careful finger and mouth movements.

For most wounded warriors with TBI it can be difficult to learn the basics and, depending on the injury, motor skills can be affected as well. And yet, it is medically proven that music or playing a musical instrument can reduce stress, and music is a great way for people to express themselves.

A HUGE movement began when Soldiers' Angels launched the first ever therapeutic music program. San Antonio, Texas is now the only city in the United States with a therapeutic music facility for America's wounded warriors to use as part of their ongoing rehabilitation: **the music wellness lab at the Soldiers' Angels Support Center** (warehouse). The lab includes five electronic Yamaha Clavinova pianos, lent to Soldiers' Angels by Alamo Music store in downtown San Antonio.

In November 2009, US Army soldier "Specialist P" was injured while on a tour of duty in Iraq and suffered a TBI. His injuries were so serious that doctors at first told him that there was a possibility he could die. **Thankfully, he didn't. But instead of being deployed** again with his unit, which left for another tour of duty in late 2010, Specialist P is in the process of being medically retired.

Just recently SPC P tried his hand at playing a piano in the Soldiers' Angels music lab and even though he had never played before, it turns out he's pretty good. Thanks to the music lab and the teacher, for a little while he was able to forget about the pain he feels from ongoing migraine headaches due to the TBI.

Traumatic brain injury (TBI, also called intracranial injury) occurs when an external force traumatically injures the brain. TBI can be classified based on severity, mechanism (closed or penetrating head injury), or other features (e.g. occurring in a specific location or over a widespread area). *Head injury* usually refers to TBI, but is a broader category because it can involve damage to structures other than the brain, such as the scalp and skull.

From Wikipedia

In typical music lessons, a music student may start by learning notes and a scale, but our wounded warriors are simply instructed to have fun and follow the guide lights while the electronic Clavinova keyboard takes care of the orchestral accompaniment. This allows the students to enjoy their creativity and focus on the joy of making music.

For someone as active as SPC P was, the TBI injury was *life-changing*, but seeing **the music lab and other things done for America's wounded warriors, SPC P says** it means a lot to know that there are people in America who care. It also helps that every time SPC P is able to play the piano, he is able to forget about his frequent headaches and all other changes in his life due to the TBI.

Whether you find your life has changed from serving your country or from an accident, **SPC P shows that you don't let your disability define you; you define your disability.**



DRUM HIKE: Mission Complete!

It is with sincere concern for the health and continued well being of Troy Yokum, that Soldiers' Angels must withdraw its current sponsorship and support of Hike for our Heroes.

While on his journey Troy has suffered from kidney stones as well as injuries to his feet which have demon-



strated potential medical danger and that without a full medical clearance from a Medical Professional its in his best interests to not continue His mission at this time.

Soldiers' Angels will continue the previous and ongoing mission of supporting our nation's returning heroes and veterans that Troy Yokum's efforts contributed to in support of veterans and their families.

We at Soldiers' Angels applaud his efforts to date, as it is truly a remarkable feat, and pledge that we will assist him as he transitions into the next phase or chapter of his life with his wife.



Any donations received by SA in support of this project will be applied directly to veterans support activities.

S.A.V.E. Employee of the Month: First Lieutenant Eric Rice

What led this month's S.A.V.E Employee of the month to be hand-picked by Soldiers' Angels for a major position?

"I just wanted to serve," USMC First Lieutenant Eric Rice explains.

In 2006, 1stLt Rice enlisted in the Marines and in 2007 went to Officer's training. Today, though he is the Soldiers' Angels Facility Manager at the Texas warehouse, Rice is still in the Marine Corps Reserves in San Antonio. Surprisingly, he hasn't benefited directly from SA as a Marine, but "Soldiers' Angels did assist several Marines that I know and a few Marines from my unit."

As the Soldiers' Angels S.A.V.E. program kicked off, 1stLt Rice helped out by calling on some of his contacts in the San Antonio area. In part because of his willingness to help Soldiers' Angels, the organization approached Rice to see if he would be interested in working for Soldiers' Angels in November of 2009 when the warehouse was being staffed.



"Once A Marine, Always A Marine," and that holds true for Rice, who sees working for Soldiers' Angels as another way he can support his fellow Marines as he always has. As the Facility Manager Rice runs the Soldiers' Angels Support Center at the Texas warehouse where the Soldiers' Angels museum is also housed. The museum is "fully equipped with Soldiers' Angels memorabilia, letters and pictures from OIF & OEF, and is dedicated to the service members and veterans of OIF & OEF," says Rice. "I am responsible for maintaining and showing [it] to the public as well as holding community-based events to support the military." In addition, Rice and a ten-man team of veteran employees make sure anywhere between 200-2,000 care packages go out to deployed heroes every day.

The veterans that Rice manages are from all branches of military service. "I have a great team that assists me every day and allows this facility to run effectively," he says. "Without my team behind me and myself behind them, we would not have such a well-operating Support Center. My staff really does all the work and I am very thankful for their help and desire to keep serving."

A special THANK YOU to Eric Rice for taking the time to do the interview, and for the picture. But most importantly, thank for the continuing sacrifices you make.

What it Means

An Army officer wrote to Soldiers' Angels recently, asking for help boosting the morale of his Soldiers in Afghanistan. He also shared why it matters so much...

What you, your staff and donors do is remarkable. **It makes a huge difference.** I know that you will say that it is small, but it is these small things that make the huge difference and *that* the Soldiers remember.

A box during Christmas, birthday, or for no reason can **change a Soldier's tour from one of distraught [feelings] to a positive experience**--just to know that people (outside of their family and friends) not only care, but remember what they are doing. And what we are doing is amazing. The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines of today are the best of any generation. And it is nice to hear it from strangers. Those two words--Thank You, or five words, "Thank you for your service"--never get old, and Soldiers may not say it, but it fuels the soul and keeps them going.

I tell you this because what you do is just as important, because you keep us going. So I say to you, Thank You for your service and commitment.

God Bless you, your staff and your donors,

LTC C



Meet the New Soldiers' Angels CNC National Coordinator



Rae McLaughlin, CNC National Coordinator

Soldiers' Angels announces a new addition to its dynamic team of leaders.

Rae McLaughlin joins the Soldiers' Angels team of leaders as the CNC ([Community Network Coordinator](#)) National Coordinator. In this volunteer capacity, she brings many years of experience through various efforts for Soldiers' Angels, including national campaigns and military events in the state of Pennsylvania. She has been an active volunteer for Soldiers' Angels for five years on several different teams. She also has been influential in Pennsylvania as the State CNC, holding over 70 events, donation drives, information and fundraiser stands in 2009 - 2010.

In addition, Rae is actively growing groups of registered Soldiers' Angels volunteers in PA to ride motorcycles and other vehicles to welcome home soldiers, send off soldiers and units, stand flag lines for soldiers killed in action. These groups are also regularly collecting money and donated items for sending one-time care packages to soldiers waiting for adoption. Rae works diligently with the PA National Guard, PA Veterans Affairs, Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council, Moms of Military (MOM), Hunts for Healing, the Patriot Guard, **Warrior Watch Coalition, Rolling Thunder, American Legion riders' and Ladies**

Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, the Marine Corp. League, Blue and Gold Star Mothers, Fisher House and Veterans Sanctuary, etc. She is also a proud mother, sister, and sister-in-law of active military servicemen.

As a National Coordinator, Rae will oversee the Soldiers' Angels Community Network Coordinators across the nation. "All of our Soldiers' Angels teams are amazing, and I feel honored to help our organization grow and flourish in any way that I can," she says. "I hope to work with each community coordinator to be the best they can be by utilizing their strengths and resources." Rae's goal is to motivate by having fun, all while inspiring the team of CNC Angels to raise significant donations for military and their families.

"By involving each of our local communities and engaging local businesses, we will grow our local volunteers and involve our communities to help fund our great purpose," Rae says. "Public outreach and networking our communities with events and fundraisers are absolutely necessary to continue caring for our military, veterans, and family members needs."

Soldiers' Angels is eager to see Rae's positive contributions to the organization nationally and enthusiastically welcomes her to its team of leaders. You may reach Rae at cnccoordinator@soldiersangels.org.

Introducing Shining Angels

Hello SHINING ANGELS,

Every month we will choose two stories spotlighting your great work with our heroes in a new section in our newsletter called SHINING ANGELS. The process is simple. We need YOU to let us know what YOU are doing in two paragraphs and a photo. Your job is to write this story (with proper grammar and punctuation) as no one knows your story better than you do. Please include the 5 W's and the H when appropriate. WHO-WHAT-WHY-WHEN-WHERE-HOW.

Please send your story and photo to ShelleMichaels@soldiersAngels.org. A panel of Angels will decide each month which two stories will be placed in the newsletter as we only have so much space. However, GREAT NEWS as we will put EVERY story on a page on our website SoldiersAngels.org and also on our [Facebook Fanpage](#).

You can start submitting at any point in February for the first SHINING ANGELS section in March. Submissions for the month must be in by the 15th of each month prior to the spotlight. We are looking forward to seeing all the great Angeling happening across the globe. Your personal work will only be highlighted in the newsletter ONCE per year, but feel free to share everything so we can add it to our website and fanpage.

The two chosen Angels monthly will be awarded a package shipped from our [Angels Store](#) to a hero of their choice in their name. Have a great Angeling time. Thanks for supporting our troops, veterans and their families.



Shelle Michaels
National Communication Officer

Christmas Angels

Even in today's tough economy, Angels found ways to make our deployed heroes feel loved, supported and appreciated during the 2010 Holiday Season. When Angels submitted their Holiday stories to the newsletter, it became clear that our troops felt the LOVE!!!

With her husband deployed to Kosovo, Army Wife and Soldiers' Angel Lynn Rodgers found a way to keep busy—extremely busy! With the help of two friends, she made and shipped 70 fleece blankets to the troops in Kosovo before Christmas (five additional blankets were in production when Lynn hit a speed bump—her mother became ill). "I also collected toys for Operation Homefront," says Lynn, which were distributed to children of deployed parents at a local school. Lynn also sent Christmas cards to six different military units!



Staff Sergeant Rodgers was so impressed with Lynn's selfless acts that he nominated her for a national award honoring military spouses who go above and beyond to support the troops. Lynn is one of five finalists and the only National Guard wife.

In July 2010, *Calling All Angels* covered *The Three Hat Angels* who were able to make a Christmas wish come true for a platoon in 2009. One of those "Hat Angels," Iris, and a group of Wisconsin Angels decided to focus on a group of deployed medics for Christmas this year.

The Angels had a plan and even got the word out about their huge fundraising event to assemble backpacks for the wounded. Unfortunately Mother Nature didn't cooperate; there was a sizeable snowfall that led the event being halted. But just as the weather doesn't stop postal carriers from their appointed rounds, it doesn't stop Wisconsin Angels, either. "We had at least

gotten the word out," Iris recalls. "Many backpacks were donated by one of our American Legion posts and many individuals made contributions. Our Angels in this state sent over 50 packages to our medics."

The way the Angels and surrounding communities came together reminded Iris of something that happened while she was stationed in Alaska and working at a hospital.

"A little baby girl was brought in she was trying so hard to be good but you could tell she felt rotten," Iris recalls. She tried hard not to fuss. Then, as we were helping her, she started feeling better and you could see the twinkle in her eyes. That's when I KNEW Christmas had arrived. I saw the 'Star of Bethlehem' in that little baby girl's eyes and my heart opened to the magic of Christmas." It's the small acts of kindness that bring the "Christmas Magic," and our Wisconsin Angels did just that.

It wasn't the only bit of Christmas Magic in which Angels participated this year...

Continued next page



Christmas Angels, continued

Imagine you're a sergeant in the Armed Forces, a proud father of three children whose mother unfortunately is not around, a man who is feeling the toll of multiple deployments. Your mom (the grandmother of your children) comes up with a last-ditch effort to bring Christmas to the family and you try to hope. She picks up the phone and calls an Angel—Soldiers' Angels. She's not even sure she will have any luck since it's late on Christmas Eve Day, but she leaves a message.

Our very own Patti Patton-Bader received the message. "Tears in my eyes and hope in my heart, I call a Soldiers' Angel in the city of this hero and his family," Patti recalls.

Even Patti wasn't sure, but as always she had hope that a "Christmas Angel" would appear. However, this time even Patti was a little concerned, figuring that the Angel she reached out to would most likely have just sat down to eat their Christmas Eve dinner. "I was afraid they might just hang up," Patti reports.

A little while later a "Christmas Angel" did make an appearance; Patti received a message that the family WOULD have a Christmas! The Angel that Patti contacted had a gift card to a local grocery store and was able to pick up a few gifts for the sergeant's children. The Angel and her husband would be dropping everything off at the home that night (Christmas Eve) and added that if there was anything else they could do, just let them know.

Thank you to ALL of our "Christmas Angels." Thank you for bringing our Armed Forces and their families some holiday cheer. There is doubt that you brought some joy into the lives of our Armed Forces as well as their families this Holiday Season!

The Voices of Battle



CPT. Keith A. Perry

In January's issue of Calling All Angels, readers were introduced to The Voices of Battle Project and the Voices of Battle section to be added to the newsletter. With every new blog, website, etc. it may take a little while to get the word out, so in this month's we will be learning a little bit more about CPT Keith Perry and the "Voices of Battle."

Captain Keith A. Perry has been serving his country for eight years and was direct commissioned after graduating law school from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

He was reading *Soldiers Magazine* when "the article 'Wartime Poetry' jumped out at me," he recalls. There sat several military poems by Joy Wohlman Boyce, a library technician at Fort Wainwright Alaska. After reading the collection of poems, Perry realized that the message found in all of the poems is exactly what many of our troops are experiencing. "I thought this was tremendous idea—something that more people should be a part of," Perry says.

It took a while to develop the mission of *Voices of Battle*. "Ultimately, I wanted to make this an outlet for service members to express their experiences in a positive way," Perry explains. "You have to approach something like this openly and honestly. Sharing is not an easy thing for anyone to do, particularly combat veterans."

In doing his homework and researching MilBlogs and war poetry to ensure that by launching *Voices of Battle* he was not duplicating something has already been done, Perry discovered two things. His first discovery was that many of America's service members have been able to express themselves, but not through war poetry; instead, they have been able to express themselves through MilBlogs. The second discovery was "most of these sites had a link to Soldiers' Angels, which immediately caught my attention. That is how I came to find out about the great work being done by your organization."

As always, Perry continues to stress was that the *Voices of Battle Project* **is strictly a personal project** and **is not run** in his official capacity in any way. On his blog, he writes:

"... if you haven't put pen to paper yet, or if you haven't told your buddy that you know enjoys writing about VOB, what are you waiting for? This is a great chance to get your message out. If you are uncomfortable putting your name to it, simply let me know when you submit your poem/essay. There is no problem posting anonymous works. As always, I look forward to reading your submissions!"

For more information about *Voices of Battle* or to submit a poem/essay, visit www.thevoiceofbattle.com

"I am on active duty in the U.S. Army and am in the Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps). The JAG motto is "Soldiers First, Lawyers Always," and I think that is an accurate description of my service so far"
- CPT Keith Perry

Thank you to Captain Keith A. Perry for the interview and photo.

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day (February 14) is the most popular day of the year for young love—or any LOVE, for that matter!

Despite what he or she might say, there isn't a person alive who wouldn't like to receive a little something on Valentine's Day, just to know someone is thinking of, supports, loves and appreciates them. Whether it's from a spouse, friend, sibling, parents or even a child in your life, it's ALWAYS a great feeling to know that someone in this world is thinking of you!

Valentine's Day is typically for people in love, but of course there are many different ways you can love someone. The Soldiers' Angels Motto IS "May No Soldier Go Unloved." Well Angels, think of sending one of our heroes a Valentine's Day card or care package as another of say "We love you for defending our way of life!"

It isn't that important that it arrives on time, just that it arrives!

The Soldiers' Angels Valentine's Day Care Package is available at the Angels Store and includes the following items:

- Assorted Valentine's Day Candy
- Assorted Snacks
- 2 Pairs of White Socks
- 1 Plush Photo Frame for that special someone's photo
- 1 Valentine's Day Football**
- 1 Set of Dominoes

You can send a Valentine's Day Care package from the Angel Store by going to www.angelsstore.org



Cookies for the Troops

It's that time again... Girl Scout Cookie Time!

Girls Scouts are wonderful supporters of the troops, giving people who buy their yummy cookies the chance to also donate boxes of treats for deployed troops. And for the last several years, Soldiers' Angels has proudly helped send those delicious Girl Scout cookies to American service members around the world.

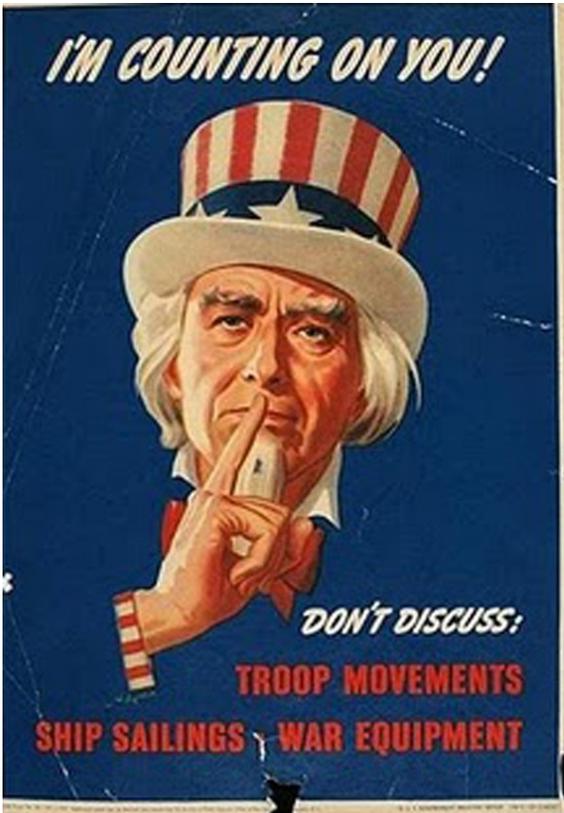
This year, the goal is the same, and Girls Scouts will be able to send entire CASES of cookies (*not* single boxes) to Soldiers' Angels for deployed military personnel.

Girl Scout Troops are invited to email Caren Vink at cvink@soldiersangels.org and she will arrange for pick up and shipping to the nearest Soldiers' Angels location.

It's a sweet deal for all involved!



OPSEC: Loose Lips Sink Ships



Within the Navy, the odds of making it through boot camp without hearing 'Loose Lips Sink Ships' are improbable. Though the slogan is old, it still embodies the basic principle of Operational Security, or OPSEC.

What Is OPSEC?

Operations Security, or OPSEC, is keeping potential adversaries from discovering the critical information of our military. As the name suggests, it protects our operations – planned, in progress, and those completed. Success depends on secrecy and surprise, so the military can accomplish the mission faster and with less risk. Our adversaries want our information, **and they don't concentrate on only soldiers to get it. They want to connect with the family member, the supporter or the friend.**

There are many countries and organizations that would like to harm **Americans and degrade our influence in the world. It's possible, and not unprecedented,** for spouses, family members and those supporting U.S. military personnel to be targeted for intelligence collection. This is true in the United States and especially true overseas! **What can you do?**

Be Alert

Foreign governments and organizations collect significant amounts of useful information by using spies. A foreign agent may use a variety of approaches to befriend someone (Facebook even) and get sensitive information. This sensitive information can be critical to the success of a terrorist or spy, and consequently deadly to Americans.

Be Careful

There may be times when our troops cannot talk about the specifics of his or her job. **It's very important to conceal and protect certain information**

such as flight schedules, ship movements, temporary duty (TDY) locations to include APO addresses and installation activities, for example. Something as simple as a phone discussion or email about where they are deploying, or going TDY, can be very useful to our enemies.

Protecting Critical Information

Even though information may not be secret, it can be what we call "critical information." Critical information deals with specific facts about military intentions, capabilities, operations or activities. If an adversary knew this detailed information, our warrior's mission accomplishment and personnel safety could be jeopardized. It must be protected to ensure an adversary doesn't gain a significant advantage.

By being a member of Soldiers' Angels in supporting our warriors, you may often know some bits of critical information. Do not discuss them outside of Soldiers' Angels via email, Facebook, texts, tweets or over the telephone. We have secure means as registered angels to disseminate information and these methods need to be followed to assure we are doing our part to provide a secure support net for our warriors and their families.

Examples Of Critical Information

- Detailed information about the mission of assigned units.
- Details on locations and times of unit deployments to include APO addresses.
- References to trends in unit morale or personnel problems.
- Details concerning security procedures

These bits of information may seem insignificant. However, to a trained adversary, they are small pieces of a puzzle that highlight what our troops doing and planning. Remember, the elements of security and surprise are vital to the accomplishment of the goals of the military and their collective personnel protection. It is your duty as an Angel to assure that protection. The bottom line is to use common sense and keep our troops safe on the front lines!

"OPSEC is a vital element in protecting the troops and missions, and I want to stress how vital a role every member of the team plays in ensuring that we deny our adversaries potentially useful information. Whether we are on duty or off duty, we cannot afford to let our guard down. Your diligence in OPSEC is key to ensuring our effectiveness in operations and our collective safety. Together, we will succeed."

—Maj. Gen. Keith B. Alexander
Commanding General
U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command

Visiting the Malogne House

They came from the North, South, East and West—Angels from California, New York, New Jersey, Texas, Rhode Island and the District of Columbia to spend time with wounded warriors at Malogne House on the grounds of Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

In mid-December a group of angels decided to get together. This get-together wasn't just to bond with their fellow Angels, but to see what our wounded warriors needed and to boost their morale. In addition to the Angel volunteers, Board of Trustees member Rich Lowe came in on Saturday by train from New York.

After a night's rest, the Angels who had arrived on the 13th of January went shopping and picked up a wide range items for the wounded warriors and their families. Spread out over two tables in the lobby of Malogne House were items that either Angels brought with them or procured on their day out shopping. There were hygiene items, items for the kitchen, clothing and more. In addition, The Lone Survivor Foundation donated two boxes of the book *Lone Survivor* by Marcus Luttrell.

At first the wounded warriors were a little shy and hesitant when they first saw the tables with the items on them. As time went on, curiosity got the best of them; As they strolled by the tables, they stopped to ask a few questions. Many of the wounded warriors swung back by once they took care of business. Every warrior that stopped by and picked up what they needed always expressed how grateful they were to be able to take the items on the tables.

One family member of a wounded warrior stopped by and picked up a simple rubber bracelet. When she saw that it was a Soldiers' Angels bracelet, she said, "I'm going to take this. Soldiers' Angels was there for me during a difficult time." Another wounded warrior thanked the Angels that were manning the tables, saying, "You do such good work." The joy on the faces of our wounded warriors and their families was priceless.



Picture from www.dvidshub.net/

To all the Angels who went to the Malogne House: AWESOME ANGELING! To our wounded warriors and their families: THANK YOU for the sacrifices you have made and continue to make!

Fort Hood Baby Shower

Soldiers' Angels and [Operation Top Knot](#) are throwing a Baby Shower at Fort Hood for 150 mummies on April 30, 2011 and would like your help to give ALL 150 deserving mummies gift baskets filled with a variety of baby items.

In order to do this, donations are needed. Below is a list of suggested items for the gift baskets:



- Bottles
- Pacifiers
- Toys
- Blankets
- Clothes
- Booties
- Burp Cloths
- Bath Accessories



Please send all donations to:

Soldiers' Angels
Operation Top Knot
4408 North I-H 35
San Antonio, TX 78218

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Lindsay Varn at lvvarn@soldiersangels.org.

From Patton to Patton...



PATTON'S OWN – ALWAYS FIRST

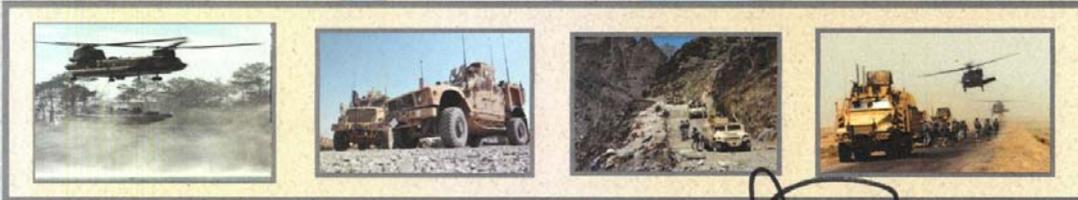


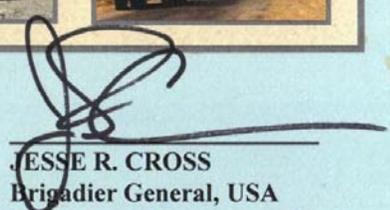
Presented to

Soldiers' Angels of Georgia

On behalf of the Third Army G4, stationed in Kuwait, I would like to personally thank you and your volunteers for being so generous by providing a variety of Christmas bags to the many deployed Soldiers. Soldiers' Angels of Georgia has brightened the holiday season for many Soldiers and Civilians that are away from their Families and loved ones. We appreciate all of the support that you extend to our Soldiers serving abroad and their Families on the home front. From our G4 Family to yours, we thank you and salute you, HOOAH! Lucky 4

ARMY STRONG




JESSE R. CROSS
Brigadier General, USA
Third Army/USARCENT G4



18 January 2011

*Ms. Dianne Moore
GA CTL, Soldiers' Angels
[REDACTED]
Douglasville, GA 30135*

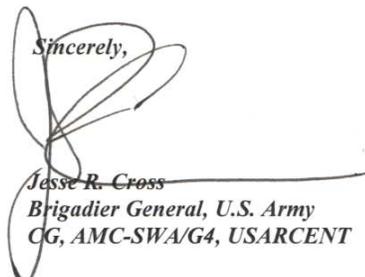
Dear Ms. Moore,

Please accept my deepest gratitude for your outstanding support in your consideration of our Soldiers.

I was deeply touched and will always remember this very special showering of gifts from the Soldiers' Angels of Georgia.

PATTON'S OWN, ALWAYS FIRST!

Sincerely,


Jesse R. Cross
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
CG, AMC-SWA/G4, USARCENT

Interview With A Hero: Army Veteran Elizabeth A. Dinanno



Since *Interview With A Hero (Soldier)* was added to *Calling All Angels* in February of 2010, we've heard from most every branch of service, single fathers, sons following family traditions, military families and more. This month we have a *Shero*, "I was an Army brat, so I always thought I would follow in my father's footsteps," she says.

After graduating from high school in 2005, Elizabeth Fishcler decided to join the Army as her father did. "After the war started, I *knew* for sure that I wanted to join and help others any way I could," says Dinanno. "Receiving the GI bill for school—and a steady paycheck in this economy straight out of high school—was a plus."

"I had heard of Soldiers' Angels and had an Angel of my own before I ever deployed," Elizabeth recalls. While she was stationed in Germany a fellow soldier and close friend of Elizabeth's told her about Soldiers' Angels and she gave him the "OK" to give his Angel her address. The Angel to Elizabeth's friend began to write to Elizabeth, too.

When she learned about Soldiers' Angels, it gave Elizabeth a sense of pride to know that there were Americans who did and do care about the sacrifices that she and her brothers and sisters in arms make—that they **don't go unnoticed and unappreciated**. It also turned out that Elizabeth's Angel came along at the perfect time. She was going through a difficult stretch in her life and having the extra support made all the difference to a new mom who had just received orders to be deployed.

When asked if having an Angel helped keep her focused, Elizabeth answered **"ABSOLUTELY! In my case, I had MULTIPLE angels who took care of me and my family while I was deployed.** So, it helped to keep me focused on the task at hand. I never had to worry about the morale of my family, even if there was a day that I didn't get a chance to talk to them. The Angels talked to them EVERY day—even if just to say 'Hi'—and I cannot express how appreciative I am for that."

Elizabeth's favorite Angel Story isn't about anything she received in the physical sense...

"My angel posted my name on the Soldiers' Angels discussion board [Forum]," Elizabeth recalls. She told other Angels about how my husband and I were both deployed and that my parents were going to be taking care of my child for the duration. It wasn't a WEEK later that I called my mom from Kuwait, and my mo was going on about how many letters, and emails, and packages she had received from the Angels. The happiness in her voice, and knowing that my child was being taken care of, put my mind at ease."

Elizabeth would like to say to all the Angels who support her and her family, "Words cannot express how grateful I am (how grateful my family is) to have found you! If it weren't for you, my deployment might've been a lot more stressful. You never know how much someone can touch your life, until you're deployed and their letter is what you look forward to at mail-call. And I know that I can say, **100%, that your organization put a smile of my parents' faces as well when they received care packages for my child (whom they were taking care of while I was deployed).** You not only kept my morale up, but that of my family, and I am FOREVER thankful for that."

In September 2008, Elizabeth married her husband, SPC Steven Dinanno, shortly after the birth of their daughter, Emily, and his safe return. Elizabeth then decided to leave the Army and is now a proud veteran and Army Wife!



A special THANK YOU to Elizabeth Dinanno for the interview and picture, but most importantly THANK YOU for the sacrifices you have made and continue to make as an Army Wife!

Spotlighted Team: Give Love, Give Blood

Every now and then the Spotlighted Team section features a Soldiers' Angels event ...

Does the thought of giving blood freak or scare you? The average human body holds 10 pints of blood, so donating a pint does no harm. However, anyone giving blood should not be on any medicine or have any type of disease that can be transferred through a blood transfusion, such as hepatitis, HIV etc.

Red is a powerful color that symbolizes many things—energy, love, passion, sensuality, desire; war, strength, power, determination. For Angels, it also means troop support...



It's time to save the date, actually save the week. The 2nd Annual Support the Red, White and Blue; Give Love, Give Blood is the week surrounding February 11, 2011. This annual event was created after the Ft. Hood shooting in November 2009 when the surrounding communities, along with Ft. Hood, rushed out to medical facilities to give blood. By doing this the hospitals that were providing medical care to the wounded had enough blood on hand for anyone who needed a transfusion.

The willingness to give blood inspired Angels Shelle Michaels and Greta Perry to create an Annual Blood Drive in honor of America's heroes. They launched Support the Red, White and Blue; Give Love, Give Blood in February 2010.

If you ever had a loved one (family member, close friend, etc) critically injured in an accident or wounded by the act of war, you know that it is vitally important that wherever your loved one is taken for their medical care that that medical facility have blood to use for blood transfusions to SAVE their LIFE!

The mission of Angels of Soldiers' Angels is to support our Armed Forces!, to be there to the best of ability to ensure that our heroes are not forgotten or go unloved. What better way to show our heroes that they aren't forgotten and they ARE LOVED by giving a gift of LIFE! – A pint of BLOOD?

We encourage ALL angels to take time out of their busy schedules and—in coordination with WEAR RED day and Valentine's Day, but most importantly to honor our heroes—**please give blood give a hero a second chance.** You won't regret it. If for some reason you are not able to give RED, you can give GREEN and make a donation.

Please send your photos of your giving experience to share with other Angels to ShelleMichaels@SoldiersAngels.org.

Spotlighted Team



If you would like your team to be spotlighted, pick **ONE** member of your team to be interviewed and send an email to newsletter@soldiersangels.org with the Subject Field "Spotlighted Team."

Sewing Team: THE BEST AND THE WORST...



Did you see THE popular weekly magazine's coverage of the best (and worst) of 2010?

A popular actress was on the cover, presented as the "woman of the year," and it included "the 25 most intriguing people" — **best dresses, best weddings, hall of shame, etc...** you get the picture.

ALLLLLLL the way back on page 178 (of 182 pages) was a headline "Honoring the Fallen" — OH, REALLY! Honoring the fallen? On page 178?! Yes sir, that's quite an honor! You need a magnifying glass to read their list of the 547 heroes who gave their lives in the warzones in 2010.

I haven't seen the face of ONE fallen hero on ONE magazine cover. Maybe I missed it in the chaos of my own holiday activities, but I don't think so.

As I wrote this article on Christmas Eve, my husband and daughter were doing their traditional Christmas package wrapping - my son and grandson were watching "Polar Express" and my turkey dinner preparations were almost finished; the flowers for the dinner table were already in place.

I have a suspicion that the families of our fallen heroes did not celebrate Christmas in their traditional ways.

I know you are paying attention and your constancy overwhelms me! Thank you!

Welcome to our new Sewing Team members! Even with the hustle and bustle of the season, we had 109 new signups for the months of November and December!

ANNOUNCEMENT: A big thank-you to Katie, who proposed and will coordinate our newest project: PATRIOT PILLOWCASES. For guidelines, please visit the [Sewing Team page on the Soldiers' Angels website](#).

Much love and best wishes for a wonderful New Year!

Thank you!

Dee:)

Dee Jerge, Vice President-Sewing Team



Sewing Team Information & Contacts

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New Year's with Angels at the Landstuhl Fisher House

There is nothing like a hot pretzel with mustard while watching your favorite baseball team or purchased from your favorite vendor on the streets of New York. And it has been said that the fun begins in the kitchen, especially during the holiday season—no matter who or where you are there, is nothing like some good home cooking. Add pretzels to the mix and it all gets even better!

In 2009, Soldiers' Angels Willie Aufmkolk and Rudi held a pretzel baking event at the Landstuhl Fisher House in Germany for New Year's. It was such a big hit that for a second year in a row, a group of German Angels went to the Landstul Fisher House not only to bake pretzels for our wounded warriors, but to spend time with them too.

Thankfully the weather in Germany was pretty good, which meant no ice or snow on the Autobahn—good news for four Angels headed to Landstul on a wintry day. Angel Astrid Clauss picked up Angels Regina, Sal and Isabella and away they drove to Fisher House, where they were greeted by Anthony and Sarah, who signed them in and took them to meet Doria, the Assistant Manager. The Angels felt warmly welcomed and were introduced to everyone.

Rudi and Sal were in charge of the pretzels. "We had pretzels with cheese and some with salt, in addition we offered Bavarian *Fleischkäse*," reports Astrid. Bella helped with the baking and Regina and Willie took photos. The delicious pretzels were well-appreciated and Angels Willie, Rudi, Sal, Regina Isabella and Astrid received a pleasant surprise when a longtime supporter of Soldiers' Angels, John, a Lieutenant Colonel at Kaiserslautern/Landstuhl was able to join the festivities.

The Angels also had the privilege of meeting extraordinary patients from many countries, such as Romania, Greece, Georgia and of course the United States. As Willie has always done, she packed up some welcome home gifts for the wounded and their families. Among the gifts were three beautiful quilts sent from by a quilters' society from America. Landstuhl Fisher House staff members Doria and Tracy took all the Angels to the hospital, where gifts were handed out and one soldier from Georgia was serenaded by Tracy and her daughter.

After their short visit at the hospital, the Angels went back to the Fisher House and drank a cup of Regina's excellent coffee and talked. A homemade calendar with photos of last year's events was given to Doria, and gifts for Vivian Wilson (Fisher House Manager) and Colonel Cho (the Head of LRMC) were left as a small token of appreciation.

The Angels promised to return on Good Friday for the German Good Friday Dinner and then drove home, grateful for their experiences and for Doria's kind letter of appreciation.

A special Thank you to the Landstuhl Fisher House for their Hospitality, to our wounded warriors and their families for their sacrifices ,and to our fellow Angels for bring some cheer to our wounded warriors and their families in Germany.

Pictures were taken by Willie!



The team: Bella, Sal, Regina, John, Astrid and Rudi



Pretzels are done

*Rudi,
Bella and
Sal make
→
pizza sticks*



Soldiers' Angels Germany



The helmet of a United States Marine who was injured in an explosion sits on the floor of a MEDEVAC helicopter over Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

Nearly 5,500 American troops were wounded in action in 2010 — more than double the total of 2,415 in 2009, and almost six times the number wounded in 2008. But, thankfully, fatalities among wounded declined due to advances in battlefield medical evacuation and treatment.

Landstuhl hospital received almost 10,000 sick and injured troops in 2010 – the highest number in recent years. With your help, Soldiers' Angels again distributed about \$300,000 worth of supplies to our Wounded Warriors in 2010, including over 2500 sets of sweats, 4000 t-shirts, underwear, socks, 1000lbs of personal care items, 3000 handmade blankets, over 3000 phone cards, and much more.

Soldiers' Angels Germany

If you would like to help with a donation of clothing, personal care items, calling cards or Blankets of Hope, please email us at mphillips@SoldiersAngels.org or visit the Soldiers' Angels Germany blog at www.soldiersangelsgermany.org.

MTD, Medical Transient Detachment

Attn: Soldiers' Angels

CMR 402

APO AE 09180

Please include your email address with your shipment!

Activities and Fundraisers

February

Spikes Fest 2011 - Feb. 12, 2011 at 11am-3pm located The Penn State Multi-Sports Facility State College, PA For more information contact Leslie Scott at leslie.scott@live.com

Give Love, Give Life - Week surrounding February 11, 2011

Grid Iron Golf Tournament - Super Bowl fundraiser for SA in Dallas, Texas with Franco Harris



2010

March

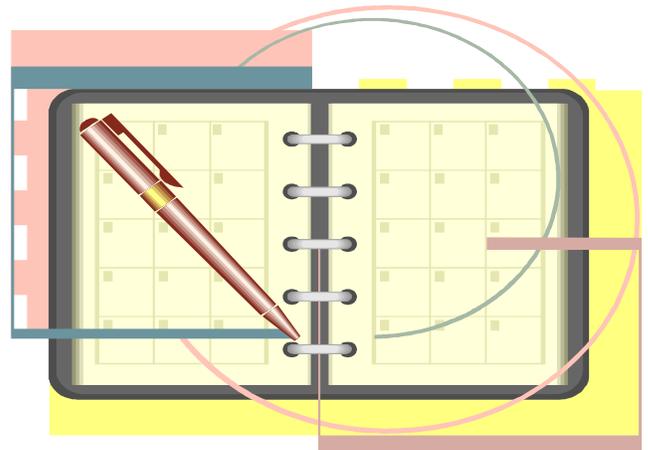
Meet and Greet - March 5th in San Antonio, TX. For more information and details, please email Ann Davidson at adavidson@soldiersangels.org



LCpl Justin Swanson

Reading Event - March 15, 16 and 17 It will be held at Buena Park High School in Buena, CA. This event was launched to honor LCpl Justin Swanson who paid the ultimate sacrifice on November 19, 2009

Daytona Bike Week - Daytona, FL



If you know of an event, activity or fundraiser for Soldiers' Angels that is either sponsored by or for Soldiers' Angels, please let me know.!

*My goal is for every state to take part in this new addition, so **PLEASE** email me at newsletter@soldiersangels.org*

*Thank You
—Amy*

Pics Page!



*Some of the soldiers that
received blankets*

Calling All Angels blog is to help give "you" the reader an additional way to voice your opinions, comments, ideas and stories. ALL deadlines will be for submission whether stories, announcements or newsletters will be posted on the blog. There are links to published Newsletters.

Please visit the blog at <http://callingallangelsnews.blogspot.com> or you can send an email to newsletter@soldiersangels.org



*More Pictures
New Year's @
the Fisher House
in Landstuhl
Germany*

*May No Soldier Go Unloved,
May No Soldier Walk Alone,
May No Soldier Be Forgotten,
Until They All Come Home.*



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