

What is the Home of the Brave Quilt Project?

Throughout its history, the United States has remembered its military heroes. The Home of the Brave Quilt Project was started to continue that proud tradition. It is a nationwide movement dedicated to honoring our fallen heroes of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan by making and presenting hand made quilts to a Fallen Soldiers family. We use the quilts to honor and show our gratitude for their soldier's service and provide a measure of comfort to their families. We honor our living Soldiers with Quilts of Valor and our fallen Soldiers family with a Home of the Brave "Soldiers Quilt."

We've taken our inspiration from quilts made during the Civil War. During the Civil War, a volunteer organization called the U.S. Sanitary Commission was formed with the purpose of raising funds and gathering supplies, as well as overseeing the sanitary conditions of the military hospitals. The Women's Auxiliary of the U.S. Sanitary Commission was particularly important in making and donating clothes, bandages and quilts. All donated supplies were stamped "U.S. Sanitary Commission" on the back and documented in the Commission's records.

In 1861 a general call went out for the donation of quilts and coverlets for soldiers. The Sanitary Commission requested that the quilts measure 48 by 84 inches, as these quilts were given to soldiers to carry as part of their bed rolls and were used in military hospitals on the cots of wounded soldiers. In 2 ½ years, the Women's Auxiliary made and donated over 250,000 quilts. They frequently carried the names of the makers and messages of hope and support.

Of these quilts, only seven are known to exist today. Quilts were lost because of the wear and tear from use during military campaigns, others were burned when field hospitals were moved, and many soldiers were buried wrapped in their quilts. Only one of these quilts is currently on public display, it is at the A.K. Smiley Library, Lincoln Memorial Shrine in Redlands, California. We have fashioned our Replica Civil War U.S. Sanitary Commission quilt on this Album Quilt.

The Home of the Brave Quilt Project is a grassroots movement. While some donations have been received, each quilt is made with supplies donated by the maker or quilt guild. Each area or state coordinator sustains their cost out of their own resources. Because it is a genuine grassroots movement, this quilt project has struck a national cord, receiving recognition by many military and political figures as well as noted quilt institution.

There have been 6,333 Fallen Heroes since March 20th 2003, the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The State of Nebraska has lost 70 of their Children, 67 men and 3 women that have given their life for our country and our state.

The home of the Brave Quilt project has given 4,370 quilts to 3,683 families. Hugs and Prayers are hard to hang on to, a quilt is not".