

Light Turn Out For Annual Flora Veterans Day Program



John Bayler Photos



Olney Valor Quilters Awarded 14 Quilts To Area Veterans Saturday Afternoon

By Mary Anne Maxwell

The Olney Valor Quilters hosted an awards ceremony Saturday afternoon at the Olney Church of the Nazarene.

The group awarded quilts made by the Olney Valor Quilters to 14 veterans who have served during World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

One of Saturday afternoon's quilt recipients was Gerald Lee Harvey of Clay City. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1968.

Andrea Baker, the group's Leader welcomed everyone to the presentation and thanked the veterans in the audience for serving our country.

Nancy Morris noted the quilts were for those who served and came home to honor their service.

"And to Vietnam Veterans, welcome home," she stated.

"We're here to honor your service, for leaving all you held dear."

She said the quilts are made of three layers and went on to note what each of those layers represent: the top of the quilt is made of different colors, shapes and fabrics and represent the recipient, their community and the many individuals in that community; the center layer contains the batting or filler that is the center of the quilt--since it provides warmth, it represents the warmth, comfort and healing it brings to the person who receives it; the backing of the quilt supports the other layers and represents the strength of the recipient of the recipient and the support of their family, community and nation. The stitches hold the layers of the quilt together and represent the love, gratitude and sometimes tears of the quilt maker.

Boy Scout Pack #219 presented the flag at the beginning of the awards ceremony and retired it at the ceremony's conclusion.

A reception was held afterwards for the veterans and their families. Each of the veterans honored Saturday afternoon and awarded a quilt had the quilt wrapped around them and received a hug from two of the Olney Valor Quilters.

Lisa Sutherland organized the Olney Valor Quilters in 2015. The organization was formed nationally by Catherine Roberts, of Seaford, DE in 2003 while her son was serving in Iraq. It is a not-for-profit organization and everything to make the quilts is donated from the fabrics and backing to the labor of piecing, assembling, and quilting the quilts.

These quilts are for veterans who have served during war time in a war zone.



Gerald Lee Harvey, from Clay City, was the only Clay County resident to receive a quilt Saturday afternoon. He is a Vietnam Veteran who served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1968. (Mary Anne Maxwell Photo)



TEAM of MERCY

Team of Mercy candle light vigil and gathering November 17th at 5pm open to the public



November 17th is National Suicide Survivors day for those that have lost loved ones due to suicide. The Team of Mercy Newton Branch Inc. support group in Newton will be hosting a candle light vigil in memory of those loved ones we have lost. It will be at the New Beginnings Church in Newton at 5pm located at 8622 North State Highway 130 rain or shine. To submit your loved ones name to be read please email beverly_worthey@yahoo.com or call Bev Drake at 618-783-9284. Check us out on Facebook at Team of Mercy Newton IL Branch Inc. Also we will take free will donations that help keep our support group going.

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Saturday afternoon, the Olney Valor Quilters presented quilts to 14 veterans of foreign wars including World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Iraq War, and the War in Afghanistan. (Mary Anne Maxwell Photo)