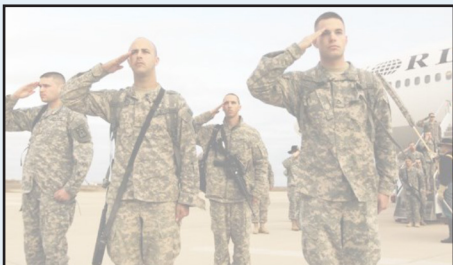


# The gift of hope, one quilt at a time!

*Fighting for our country takes great strength of character, extreme patriotism and enormous commitment.*

Ben Franklin is pairing up with American Hero Quilts right here in the state of Washington to collect as many quilts as possible to send to military hospitals and service centers around the world.



*By creating and donating a quilt, you are giving comfort, compassion, hope and thanks to these amazing souls who have been injured in the line of duty serving our country.*



Welcome to American Hero Quilts! We were established in 2004 to provide a recognition and an appreciation to our wounded service men and women who served in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. We think of each quilt as a metaphoric hug and a way to express our gratitude for their service to our country.

Little did we realize that we would still be providing patriotic quilts to these warriors 20 years later. We have over 800 volunteers participating in our program—ranging from piecers, binders, quilters and other helpers, including generous contributors. And, as of the end of 2023, we provided approximately 32,000 quilts total to our deserving men and women and their families. Our quilts are sent to Madigan Hospital at Joint Base Lewis McCord, other Warrior Transition Centers in the US, and directly to bases in Afghanistan. Thanks to all of you.

# Thank You!

FOR SUPPORTING OUR INJURED SOLDIERS!

**Ben Franklin® Crafts & Frame Shop**  
19505 Hwy 2, Monroe, WA | 360-794-6745  
[www.bfranklincrafts.com](http://www.bfranklincrafts.com)

# Ben Franklin® Crafts & Frame Shop

*Celebrating 16 Years*  
OF DONATIONS TO



**HERO QUILT CONTEST**  
Accepting quilt & quilt top donations  
**Now through Mon. May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

*Quilts will be displayed in-store  
May 10<sup>th</sup> - June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
for customers to vote on their favorite,  
and to share your beautiful work.*

**Contest winners will be announced  
June 11th on our Facebook Page**

You may enter as many quilts or quilt tops as you would like. All entries MUST be submitted no later than 4:00pm on Mon. May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

*Please see inside of pamphlet for specifications for the quilt and quilt tops.*

1st place receives a \$75 Ben Franklin gift card,  
2nd place receives a \$50 Ben Franklin gift card,  
3rd place receives a \$25 Ben Franklin gift card,  
and one voter's ballot will be drawn for a  
\$25 Ben Franklin Gift Card

## **Donations:**

(if you would like to send donations of the backing, batting and binding along with the quilt top they would be accepted most gratefully)

## **Backings:**

- Should be at least 5" larger on all sides than the top.
- These fabrics CAN NOT be used due to their fibers: Flannel, corduroy, fleece, and fabric with sparkles. Fibers from these fabrics can interfere with the healing process of wounds.
- These fabrics CAN NOT be used due to the nature of the use of the quilts: Light colored fabrics or muslin. Some of the injured have open wounds which can cause stains.

## **Bindings:**

- Strips should be cut from the widths of the fabric. As bindings are the weakest point on any quilt, multiple little pieces sewn together make this weak point even weaker.

## **Batting:**

- Warm and Natural.
- Hobbs 80/20.
- Natural fibers with good wear-ability.

## **Money:**

- American Hero Quilts is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit and 100% of all donations go to buying products to produce the quilts or to quilt them.



## **Fabrics:**

- Must be 100% cotton and of "good" quality.
- Must be prewashed and ironed.
- Must be Red, White, Blue or Patriotic themed.
- May be plain or patterned.
- Can be the bright Red, White and Blue, or the more muted Burgundy, Navy and Off-White

## **Quilt Size and Pattern:**

- Must be no less than 60" wide and 70" long up to Twin Size (69"x90")
- Fabrics should coordinate well within the quilt to create a sense of pride and patriotism for ADULT recipients.
- Any pattern is acceptable as long as it is well put together and sewn carefully with an eye for quality.
- Please do not replicate the pattern of the American Flag in your quilt.
- Please take the time to clip your threads on the back, as these quilt tops will be sent to volunteering Long-Arm Quilters that are donating time and we want to make their work as easy and creative as possible.

## ***Your donations bring hope***



"A couple of weeks ago I was to receive my Purple Heart. Before they gave it to me they gave me a blanket made by you. I thought that was the best show of thanks and appreciation a person could do. It means a lot to me to know that someone is willing to show their support to our troops in a way that is so personal and caring. It will be a treasure me and my family to cherish for the rest of our lives. Thank you again and God Bless."

## **Why are the standards so stringent?**

These quilts are treasured by those that receive them. Some recipients want to know how to frame them to protect them, as well as display them as a constant reminder that the sacrifices made are appreciated by the citizens of our fine country. So please, slow down and make quality rather than quantity.

Often these quilts are enjoyed day after day by those who have received them, wrapping themselves in them as though they continue to receive the hugs they represent.

Some who receive these quilts are, unfortunately, buried with them. Others pass these quilts down to their own children because of what the gift represents.

**American Hero Quilts are not made for just anyone. They are made for *real American heroes.***