

National RV Central States News

Happy 80th Birthday!!

Gene Dunn will be celebrating his 80th birthday on March 1st. He can receive cards--before March 5th--at the following address:

Gene Dunn
1701 N. International Blvd., Box 310
Weslaco, TX 78596

For new members, Gene is one of the charter members of our club and is our current National Director.

Rosie Marr is in the hospital after a serious setback last week. She is doing much better but is still undergoing tests. Everyone is praying for her quick recovery. Howard does not wish to receive phone calls or cards at this time.

Rally News: We are looking forward to seeing each of you at the Burleson Rally on Apr. 2-4. Send in your registration now!!

Are you still saving your pennies for the Branson Rally on May 21-25? We are planning a big 4-day blast to celebrate our club's 10th anniversary.

We thought you might be interested in reading the following letters. Let's start working on quilts and blankets for the 6-State Rally in Sedalia this year.

Dear FMCA Friends -

Three years ago, 330+ quilts were donated to the Children's Miracle Network of Greater Baton Rouge when we gathered at the Six State Rally in Gonzales, Louisiana. The quilt challenge was a hit and I was asked to oversee it on a permanent basis. Two years ago Eunice Getzendanner and Dee Holloway took over the task at the Rally in Hutchinson Kansas when my husband, Pearce and I were not able to make the trip. There were 760+ quilts given that year to numerous charities in Kansas and they were a big hit. We ran into a problem that year with the word "challenge". As with a lot of events, there was too much competition and we decided to the "challenge" out of the name and call it something else. This past

September (2006), the rally was held in Beaumont - September 26 – 29, 2006. In May, 2006, I contacted the Golden Triangle Quilt Guild of the Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange area. This guild has about 250 members. They offered to be at my beck and call and to help with anything that I needed. Such wonderful women.... “Blessings for Beaumont” produced 666 quilts this time. Some were pieced, some were fringed fleece and some were purchased. The quilts were displayed in every way imaginable for these four days. On Wednesday of that week the Quilt Guild put in a real show with a lovely reception (complete with homemade cookies) and a morning of demonstrations. There were 11 woman and all were demonstrating something at the same time. Everyone was able to enjoy learning more about everything from hand piecing to wool appliqué. Several were even giving away patterns. Tables had been set up for each of them and people were able to mingle, watch and ask questions of any of these talented ladies. The guild provided a number of hostesses who greeted each person and gave them handouts on the three quilt shops in the area. Arrangements had been made in advance for these quilt shops to give discounts during the 4 days of the rally.

“Blessings for Beaumont” ended on Friday evening when we presented the President of the Guild with the quilts to turn over to their local charities. Here is how these lovely quilts were divided. In Beaumont, 75 went to the Women’s Shelter, 72 went to Hope Center, 32 went to Girls’ Haven, 102 went to CASA and Some Other Place received 97. In Silsbee, the Silsbee Christian Services received 42. In Orange, 30 went to Orange Christian Services. In the mid-county area, Gulf Care Nursing Home was given 51 and the United Board of Missions received 100. Last but perhaps one of the most important gifts to me was the 65 beautiful quilts given to our men and women or the war who are currently in the Brooks Burn Center in San Antonio.

The Rally was a JOY for all of us who participated and I am looking forward to this coming September when we do “Something Special for Sedalia (Missouri)”.

I want to invite each FMCA Club in our region to participate. Please become a part of this wonderful project. I tried to scan a couple of the Thank You letters that I received from the gift to Beaumont. The printing is so small that I didn't think that anyone could read them so I am retying my favorite one on the bottom of this e-mail. It touched my heart and the hearts of all of the officers of the Six-State Rally Association. We will be donating more of our beautiful quilts to BAMC after the Rally this Fall.

I will stay in touch with all of the Clubs as we prepare to go to Sedalia.

**Ann Bailey, FM
Red River Rovers
Lone Star**

7922 Thornhill Drive

San Antonio, TX 78209
January 11, 2007

Dear Ms. Bailey,

We've never met, but I was one of those several months ago who helped to transport 65 of your organization's quilts to the wounded warriors at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

BAMC is one of the nation's leading medical trauma centers, and thus, only the most seriously wounded or ill soldiers are sent there for treatment. The Center specializes particularly in the treatment of patients with amputations, eye injuries and burns. The wards are kept quite cool, in an effort to keep down infections, and therefore, quilts aren't just a beautiful luxury; they're an extra way to keep the patients warm and comfortable. Currently, about 150 of our wounded soldiers are being treated at BAMC.

The local Red Cross volunteer who collects and distributes the quilts says that she's profoundly touched by the soldiers' reaction to this project. She walks into every patient's room with several quilts in her arms and invites each soldier to select whatever quilt appeals to him or her. She says she's constantly surprised at how grateful the patients are to be given a homemade quilt. In like manner, she's learned never to try to guess which quilt will be selected. Sometimes the largest and toughest of the soldiers select a "ladylike quilt" which features flowers or butterflies in pastel colors. Others like the "patriotic" red, white and blue, flag type quilts and still others prefer the traditional quilt patterns which may remind them of quilts they slept under during happier times. But each of the soldiers accepts a quilt and then won't permit it to be taken away for any reason.

Your quilts arrived several months before Christmas, at which time the quilt stash was greatly depleted. Some of your quilts were distributed at once, and the rest were given out at the patients' Christmas party in late December. The Red Cross lady was relieved and grateful that there was a quilt for each patient. As the soldiers are transferred out of BAMC (usually to a hospital closer to their homes), more patients arrive, and thus, the need for quilts is continuous.

Sometimes a person does what he thinks is a good deed and wonders if that act really benefited or brought comfort to anyone. In this case, there was no doubt. The beds and wheelchairs of the wounded soldiers are bright with multicolored and constantly used quilts. Your group has done a very, very good deed. Many thanks for your help with this project.

With best regards,

Marguerite Kownslar