

The OPERATION: THANK YOU NEWSLETTER

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WHERE is this summer going? Here it is July already. OK, I'll admit I did goof off for 2 weeks of June and went on vacation to Yellowstone and Mt. Rushmore. If you have never traveled that part of the US, I hope you will have the opportunity sometime. God has done some of His best work out that way! Every turn (once you reach the mountains – it's very flat till then) brings another spectacular view. We did have our cell phone with us and it was turned on – but only a select few have that number and we had the laptop so I could keep the email under control. But now that we are back, the clothes are all washed and we are rested it is time to hit the ground running.

We are scheduled to have a booth at the **Hamilton TWP Independence Celebration** June 27th, 28th and 29th. This is the second annual festival and we have been asked to be part of both events by the Hamilton TWP Fire Department. They sponsor the event and pay the entry fee for OTY. At first we were concerned that we weren't getting enough volunteers to cover 3 days but as time draws closer volunteers are stepping forward to join in the fun. C J has stepped forward again with some AVON items with great prices to order for the troops, just like we did to pay for the Meet the Troops Luncheon. There will be a few personal items that ladies can purchase for themselves at good prices. Again all proceeds will go into the OTY account to cover the cost of shipping the items that are purchased and donated to the troops. We will be asking the fair goers to write messages on Christmas cards to start the Cards for the Troops Project. Last year, if you remember, we mailed over 18,000 which was double the year before. I am scared to think about how many we will ship this year considering the growth OTY has had over the past 6 months.

Following the Hamilton TWP Festival we are making plans to party at **Aces and Eights, the Harley-Davidson Dealership in Mason, OH** on Friday, July 11th from 6 to 10PM. Jump on your motorcycles and come join the fun. There will be live music, food, and beverages. No, you don't have to have a motorcycle to stop in. No, I don't ride but my husband and son are big nuts about their bikes. My son has 3, you read that right 3! Yea, he's single! If all goes as planned we will be back there August 15, same time and place getting Christmas messages for the troops. In September, they host a big event that has 10,000 in attendance and we are talking to them about allowing us to join in that event as well. There is a fee for a space on that one. We are working on getting that waved since we will not be selling anything. Watch next month so see how that turns out.

WE ARE FINALLY MOVING!!! Friday evening, July 25th will be the big day. Our friends from the Army and Marines have offered to help in this plus Jon Doughman and Jonah Saylor have talked Rick Bowling from Bowling Carpet in Maineville into loading us the box truck to make it easier. With all this help it shouldn't take over 12 to 15 hours to get moved into our new location. Our benefactor has a warehouse where his businesses are located and we will be moving in there. In August we will get things organized then start having packing days with all the help that we can muster. Y'all come, the door's always open, as they say down where I come from. With this new location combined with the Management Team that is in place I won't always have to be available to get packing days started and for the reader teams to go by and proof read the Christmas cards. This is really going to relieve a lot of pressure from me. We have so many that keep asking what they can do to help. This new location will allow them to say I want to get a group together and do something.

UPDATES ON OUR SOLDIERS

Let's start with the good news. **Sgt. Jessup Burton** is still at Camp LaJuene, NC for now. He has been told he will be going to CA for 2 months for special training. From there he has been told he will be able to start to college. YES!! This is good news and what many of us had been praying for. However, I did make him a promise. He had this college offer but when he was in

on Leave he was talking about volunteering for a tour in Afghanistan. I made him a promise – if he took the college offer and forgot about Afghanistan OTY would make an exception for him and see that he still received care packages BUT if he volunteered for Afghanistan OTY was washing their hands of him. Guess my threat worked. SOOO ladies ... when he gets settled and has a mailing address I hope you will help me keep my promise and bake for him. Many have asked for an address for him now. He does not have a mailing address right now. He keeps in contact by phone with home and they in turn keep me informed.

SPC Daniel Thornhill from New Carlisle lost both legs, was burned over 40% of his body and sustained some other injuries in late May. Below is the latest update on his condition from his step-mother:

He has had some skin grafting done and the stumps of his legs fixed. He had the tube in his left lung removed and is using less of the ventilator. Daniel is still heavily sedated, but is in stable condition.

Your prayers and thoughts are appreciated.

I am also including her info so we can send them a card as well. Daniel was wounded back in the fall and was brought home to recuperate but returned to his unit in November.

Josh Well has his knees as his step-mother, Elizabeth calls his new legs. On 6/24 he received them and she just sent me a video of him walking. He is walking between the rails they use to support themselves with but he is not using the bars at all. I sat and watched the video over and over and cried. Just writing about it, I'm tearing up. Elizabeth tells me she and her husband are planning a trip to TX next month to visit Josh and Brandi. After hearing what had happen to Daniel and how similar their stories are she said she will go by and visit Daniel and any family with him. She emailed Josh and told him about Daniel. Josh as been such an inspiration to all of us through all of his ordeal maybe Daniel will be open to learning life is not over and they can be good support for each other.

You know since the luncheon it has been on my mind a lot and as I told you last month we are already talking about the 2nd annual. I have a dream – that is that next year Josh would be able to be among our Honored Guests. Talk about tears!! Daniel has a long road ahead of him but maybe he too could be one of our Honored Guests. Let's all pray hard during this next year for both of these young HEROES.

WEBSITE BEING UPDATED

I beg your indulgence on the pictures from the Luncheon. I received a CD full of good pictures the day before we left on vacation. Since we have been home I have not had the time to really decide which to put on the website. Ben, our webmaster, also has some but he has the same problem I have – time. We will get them posted very soon now. Keep an eye on our site www.ohiooperationthankyou.org.

KROGER CARD TOTALS WAY DOWN

When the Kroger check arrived this month I found what I had expected – the total and the amount of our check was way down. It is disappointing but not unexpected. This program Kroger has to draw in the tax refunds has us all taking advantage of that offer. OK, I have to admit, I have even taken the 10% and taken my extra \$30. It is too good an offer, with food and gas prices being what they are, to turn down. Just PLEASE don't forget about that OTY Kroger card in your wallet. First off, if it has less than \$1 on it for 90 days it will expire. With more than a \$1 it is fine and will never expire. Once you have gotten you 4 bonuses go back to using the OTY Kroger card. **OTY needs your support.** The OTY donations have fallen off as prices rise. The thing is OTY feels the higher costs as well. Postage just went up even on the flat rate boxes. So please remember to use your cards as this is a way you can contribute and it not cost you a penny out of your pocket.

OPERATION: THANK YOU
SALUTES OUR SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN AND MARINES
THIS HOLIDAY
AND SAY TO THEM ALL
THANK YOU FOR OUR FREEDOM

WE ALL UNDERSTAND FREEDOM COMES AT A PRICE
AND YOU PAY THAT PRICE FOR US

THANK YOU

Happy 4th of July!

*Operation: Thank You One Person Joining With Many
To Serve Our Troops While They Serve Us.*

"Never believe that a few caring people cannot change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have." - Margaret Mead