

The OPERATION: THANK YOU NEWSLETTER
June 2007

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BEEF O'BREADY'S FUND RAISER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13TH BETWEEN 5 & 8:00PM

**10% OF THE FOOD SALES WILL BE DONATED TO OTY
BRING YOUR FAMILY, PLAN A PARTY, INVITE YOUR
FRIENDS – HAVE FUN –ENJOY GOOD FOOD
HELP OPERATION: THANK YOU!**

LOCATION: BEEF O'BREADY'S

37 E. US 22/3 - MAINEVILLE

In the shopping center behind Gold Star Chili

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PLEASE NOTE MY EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED (SEE HEADING)

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KROGER GIFT CARDS ARE READY

Are you a Kroger shopper? I know I have asked that question before and that I have gone over the use of an Operation: Thank You Gift Card before but please excuse me if I go over it once more for our new members. IF you shop Kroger any time YOU can carry an OTY Gift Card and when you charge it with your chosen amount daily, weekly, or monthly you will help OTY have a steady income every 4 weeks. YOU DO NOT LOOSE ANY OF YOUR PLUS-CARD BENEFITS. You will get your discount at the pump and on the sale items in the store as always. You make sure to charge your Gift Card BEFORE they start to check out you groceries. This can be done at customer service OR at the register with whatever amount you want to and you can pay for this amount with a credit card, check, debit card or cash – however you have paid for your groceries in the past. They do not advise you to wait till you need to go to the Kroger gas station, however. They suggest you load your gas money in the store. How does OTY make anything on all this? When you load your card that amount is added to the accumulative amount for the 4-week period. Your amount will be added to mine and the other 50 people who say they want to use the card to help the OTY bank account. If you are interested give me a call or email me. How many friends and family members do you have that might be interested in help us. Each card will be loaded with \$2 to start so that will be the cost of the card.

** If the card amount drops below \$1 and stays there for 90 it will become invalid. There is no limit to how many times you reload. Be careful with the card as it is like cash to anyone who might find a lost card.

The OTY Gift Card is accepted in all Kroger Affiliated Stores throughout the US. Kroger, Fred Meyer, Ralph's, Fry's & Fry's Marketplace, King Sooper's, Dillon's, Smith's Food & Drug, City Market, QFC, Food 4 Less, Owen's, Foods Co., Hilander, Pay-less, Cala-Bell, Baker's Jay C, Fred Meyer Jewelers, Littman and Barclay Jewelers.

Morrow Village-wide Yard Sale

The first Saturday in May the Chamber of Commerce of Morrow sponsors a Village wide event. It is the only time during the year you will see a traffic jam in Morrow. This year the weather could have been more cooperative with a pretty sunny day. The clouds were threatening all day but did hold off till after the sale. OTY's sponsor, People's Building Loan and Savings offered us their front yard to join in the sale. Jim Brown from the Mason Branch and Donna Thorman with Kara and ===== from the Morrow Branch cooked hot dogs and cold water which the proceeds were donated to OTY. John and Carol Hise stepped up when I was unable to be there myself and managed the sale. Other volunteer who helped them during the day were Bob and Lisa Rigdon, Emogene Stevenson, Betty Starett, Nikki Garr, and Kathy Beckman. The weather held off and the people came by. OTY added \$325 to our funds that day. Not bad at all! I would like to thank John and Carol and ALL who help by giving of their time and energy as well as those who donated items to the sale. ALL of you are greatly appreciated!!

Got to Meet More of our HEROES

I hope you don't think I am rubbing it in when I tell you about the young HEROES returning or home on leave that I have the opportunity and pleasure of meeting. It is an honor to have the chance to meet them and I wish all of us could do that. Here again it is because I am the one that has the direct contact but I am there representing you and what you do to make it possible for us to do for them what we do.

Last month it was Cpl. Jessup Burton of FL/Morrow that I had a chance to visit with for a couple of hours when he was visiting his Grandmother, Juanita Burton. He did manage to get around to visit with several, I hear, during his limited time in town. Jessup is only back in the States for a couple of months for additional training. His Unit is home to stay but he has volunteered for a special mission and will be put back on our mailing list at that time.

Sgt. Jacob "Jake" Peck is another of our HEROES that Lynn and I had the opportunity to have dinner with, Jake and his lovely girlfriend, Megan. Lynn and Jake hit it off right away, as they have several interest. Jake was raised in Northern KY but now lives in Loveland. Jake is a Guardsman so he is home to stay. He plans to return to college in August. He is a Demolay interested in joining the Lodge (and he caught Lynn out without a petition) Lynn plans to contact friends in the Loveland Lodge for him. Now all this put him in good with Lynn right away. There is third HERO home on leave, Kenneth LeSeur. Ken was raised here in Morrow and has a baby almost a year old now.

OTY DEVERTS A DISASTER

The other night I received an email from Chaplain Scott Kennaugh in Afghanistan that the subject line read, "Please help Chaplain Fischer" I opened it expecting info about another project he thought we could supply items for but it was much more important. He had heard alarming sounds coming from the Chaplains office and went to see what he could do. There sat Chaplain Fisher, better known as Pinkie with an empty peanut butter jar in her hand and a very distressed look on her face. She told him she had just finished her last jar of Skippy Creamy peanut butter

and didn't know where she was going to get more. He told her he had some friends that could take care of her. He emailed me with her sad tail. I answered right away that come morning I would put a box full in the mail and suggested maybe peanut butter Girl Scout cookies might hold off her withdrawal pangs till the box arrived.

I love this job! Takes so little to make some people happy! Another request won't be as easy to fill – probably. I contacted a new young man from down around Sharonville and he said they have often wished for a student type microscope to study the rocks of Afghanistan. Now this costs a little more than a few jars of PB and a box of crackers to go with them but I am working on it. If anyone has a connection to something like a microscope let me know. God keeps opening doors for OTY maybe He'll open one with a microscope behind it.

TROOPS CALLING HOME ON OTY

Chaplain Kennaugh ask for help with a Father's Day project for the about 200 father's in his "flock". They were working on a mug with their Company logo on it with a phone card inside so the fathers could call their families. Something on the same idea, except with stuffed bears was being worked on for Mother's Day. I went over to Kroger to purchase about \$500 worth, probably 50 cards (he had sent the request to another group as well) with \$10 on the card. Remember I keep telling you about God's doors – well, He did it again! Kroger had the cards for \$6.90 with 100 minutes. Okay, the 50 would not be as costly as I had thought. That was good because I was stretching the funds a little. Then the girl says, "There are ringing up, buy on get one FREE". She had someone else check them on her register. Sure enough that is the way it came up. Well, with a bargain like that I bought all they had about 125 or 130. No, I didn't send them all to Scott. I found out the other group had sent a bunch. I saved some to mail to those I know are fathers and I sent a big stack to an other Chaplain in Iraq. The fathers in Iraq will like to talk with their family on Father's Day as well. About 30 were sent along with a personal letter from me so about all of our HEROES will receive a card so he/she can call and talk to their family on OTY.

SOLDIER REQUESTS MAIL

BACH, Justin
A-TRP, 4-73 CAV, 4th BCT
82nd ABN
APO, AE 09354

This HERO doesn't need care packages. He is at a very remote location and doesn't have access to the internet and he is BEGGING for cards and letters!!!!!!!!!!!!!! He is, literally, begging for mail to read.

SOCKS, SOCKS, AND MORE SOCKS

A few weeks ago I was dropping off packages at the post office and a very nice lady named Norma Davis was there in line behind me and heard me talking about OTY. Later in the Family Dollar Store she came over and was asking about getting involved and what she might do. She said she thought what we do is such a good idea and she had felt God had been leading her into doing something for the troops and when she got home from a trip she would be in touch. I had

mention that one very large request item from the soldiers is socks as many wear them then toss them – don't have laundry facilities out in a Hum-V. About a month later I got a call from her telling me she had taken the sock idea to her church, Full Gospel Church of Christ in Lebanon and they had held a Sock Drive. She ask if I could stop by and pick them up – 540 pair! Yes, you read that correctly, 540 pair!!!

Debbie McCray had taken the idea of "Basket of Love" to the Ridgeville Community Church up on the other side of Lebanon. She had ask for a list of the 10 most requested items. These items are also now in good supply. This is not the first time the people of Ridgeville have had a special donation effort. Back at Christmas, beside the Christmas cards with messages for the troops they donated a car full of all sorts of items for the soldiers.

To both of these ladies who carried special ideas to their churches I extend great appreciation. And to the church members who got involved and showed their love to our soldiers I say **THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES SHIPPED

Just after the first of the month we were able to ship Girl Scout cookies to ALL our soldiers and then some. We had 250 cases of cookies donated to us by the Girl Scout Council of Cincinnati. I think I told you we knew we would be getting about 200 cases (12 boxes to a case) in the last news letter. That figure grew. There was no way we could afford at \$10 a case to ship all of them so I called on a friend who works with the VA Hospital and gave him about 100 cases his first trip and probably 50 to 60 the second time and the VA was delighted to get them. So they all want to our soldiers. After all were packed and shipped to all the names on our list (\$483 in shipping) I had 9 cases left and was just ignoring them hoping they would just go away when I received a call asking if I had any cookies left. A young man was working on his Eagle Badge and was preparing 65 care packages for the Guard unit from out in west Cincinnati now deployed in Kuwait. On Memorial Day the scouts will help him pack those 65 boxes and ALL our GS cookies will be on their way.

OPERATION: THANK YOU REPORT TO DATE

Working with 50 contacts from 50 units in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan
Number of volunteers involved in some way 182
Packages shipped to date since first of year over 550
130 phone cards shipped \$6.90 each buy one get one FREE

Total donations since first of year \$4,511.78

Total Postage/shipping \$2,094.72

**Operation: Thank You is Proud To Serve Our Military
One Person Joining With Many to Do Good Work**

Thank You ALL for being part of OTY