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For immediate release

Menlo Park Veterans honored by Quilts of Valor

Edison, NJ – Seventy-five residents received hand-made quilts during a ceremony at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park in Edison, New Jersey, Jan. 24, 2023.

The quilts, some taking months, and even years to construct, were made by 22 members of the Turtle Creek Peacemakers, a central New Jersey Chapter of the national Quilts of Valor Foundation.

The quilt makers created a theme for each quilt, selecting materials and personalizing through patterns, embroidery, and other embellishments. The quilters affixed a label to each quilt detailing the recipient's name, location and date, along with the names of those who pieced, quilted, and bound the individual quilt.

The project was the chapter's largest since its establishment in 2003. Honoring both the quilt recipients and the quilt makers were State Assemblyman Robert J. Karabinchak; Sharon McGreevey, Veterans Advocate for State Senator Joe Vitale; Mayor Sam Joshi, Township of Edison; Robin Goodrich, New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park Advisory Council member; Vincent Solomeno, Acting Deputy Commissioner of Veteran Affairs, along with Department of Military and Veteran Affairs staff.

"These quilts reflect not only the sacrifices of our military community, but the incredible heart of these volunteers who donated their time, quilting skills, and financial resources," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner for Veterans Affairs. "The hours and care placed in every stitch reflect tremendous dedication to our Veterans and country."

Ten representatives of the Quilts of Valor visited the home to present the quilts personally.

“It is our honor to present these Quilts of Valor today to these deserving Veterans and service members. This Quilt of Valor is an expression of gratitude meant to thank and comfort you,” New Jersey State Quilts of Valor Coordinator, Sharon Rendfrey told the home’s residents. “We honor you for leaving all you held dear to serve, whether in time of crisis, or in time of peace.”

U.S. Navy Veteran William Campbell, a submarine rescue chief petty officer who served from 1952-1956, compared the experience of receiving one of the quilts to that of receiving a medal.

“I’ve never seen anything like it,” said Campbell. “I feel proud, I want to cry...really it’s so nice to be recognized.”

Photos are currently available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/100064262846315/posts/pfbid022zCL4Veyi5cYqTRvs9QK521S1m7o448jsysW6t3c2UcAnqq7T38wNri2HpmRdETPI/?d=n>

And will soon also be available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/njdmava/albums>

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