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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:  
PENNY HALGREN – (619) 992-6791

## **While Helicopters are Shot Down in Iraq, Quilters in North America are Shooting Love Arrows to the Troops...and Now Canadian Soldiers will Benefit**

As an expression of love and support for American and Canadian soldiers fighting in Iraq, quilters are making tiny but powerful quilts. These postcard-size quilts tuck easily into a soldier's pocket, reminding them of home and the freedom they are fighting for.

"It all began on Memorial Day 2006, as the US honored fallen servicemen," explained Penny Halgren, quilter of more than 25 years who heads up Penny's Postcard Posse. "It seemed like we should do something for soldiers who wonder every day whether they will return home safely."

Since World War I, quilters have sent quilts to wounded soldiers and families of fallen soldiers. Sending full-size quilts to Iraq seemed quite impractical, and with the current popularity of fabric postcards, those tiny quilts seemed like the perfect solution.

In three Roundups last year, Penny's Postcard Posse sent more than 1,136 fabric postcards to US soldiers from Camp Pendleton and Mountain Home Air Force Base serving in the Middle East.

For Valentine's Day 2007, Penny's Postcard Posse is taking a slight departure to include Canadian soldiers from Alberta, Canada. "Several quilters from Canada asked whether we could send postcards to their troops, and since Canadians are the second largest group in our online quilting community, it seemed like the perfect thing to do."

Donna Mansell, of Sherwood Park, Alberta answered the call when Penny asked for a Canadian who would handle the delivery. Rushed by FedEx, the latest Roundup of more than 210 tiny quilts are on their way to Canada and beyond.

For more information, call (619) 992-6971; to participate Penny's Postcard Posse's next Roundup, visit [www.Fabric-Postcards.com/troops.shtml](http://www.Fabric-Postcards.com/troops.shtml)

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