

Support Our Troops year in review

Charles Runner

To begin with, I want to share with you the holiday activities of the Support Our Troops Elves from our Support and Communications Committees. On December 2, Nancy Tong, Glenda Brown, and Donna Chabot shopped for Christmas stocking items and gifts for 10 military deployed overseas. Our heartfelt thanks to the Robson Ranch Material Girls who again made the Christmas Stockings we included in the shipment. Stocking gifts included handheld electronic games; card games; candies; a puzzle book; a variety of nuts; a sausage pack; and Lil Debbie's Christmas pastries. The shipment was wrapped and packed by Janie Cindric, Lynne Moore, Nancy Tong, Gayle England, Susan Carpenter, Carol Wachal, Glenda Brown, Linda Kurita, Carol Hilton, Carol Pniewski, and Donna Chabot and taken to the Post Office by Don Wood, Tom Cindric, and Willis Cash.

On December 8, Mary Toman, Nancy Thomas, Jack Estes, Carol Wachal, JoAnn Hall, Venera Monahan, and Donna Chabot wrote Christmas Cards to the 55 soldiers currently on our Robson Ranch Military Support Roster. Each card contained a check or gift card for \$100. On December 17, a special unit shipment of 1,744 hand-warmer and toe-warmer packs specially requested by our Combat Zone deployed troops was processed by Norm Napora, Gary Pniewski, and Donna Chabot.

During 2009, 127 individual shipments, some including international calling cards, were made to deployed soldiers. Four hundred fifty boxes of goods were sent in 15 unit shipments to be shared by many. Unit shipments included special requested



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items such as clothing for wounded soldiers at a remote field hospital, brownie and cake mixes for a unit desiring home-baked items at Thanksgiving, and electronic game equipment to help a unit set up an R&R room at their remote location. One unit requested their entire shipment be clothing and comfort items for 60 Afghani children they supported. SOT members greeted over 2,300 soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan at DFW Airport.

One of our stalwart Support Team members, Jan Taylor, is recovering from surgery and we wish her a speedy recovery and return. And a special thanks to the RR Stampers who made hundreds of the beautiful cards we sent to the troops during the year.

Because of the hard work of our membership and generous support by the Robson Ranch community, particularly at SOT events such as our Golf Tournament and Silent Auction, we will have a 2010 Giving Budget of over \$57,000. Again, thank you all for supporting our military. ☀