

New Volunteer Connects Beacon To Andover's Military Families

By Sue Christiansen
Beacon volunteer

A while ago I saw a note that the *Beacon* was looking for someone to report on news of Andover military personnel. I, like others, thought that someone would step forward and answer the call.

It's now months later, no one has come forward, and I have decided I should answer that call. It will be nice to find out more about the people of Andover who are currently serving or have served in our armed forces. It will also be a way to bring our close community even closer in supporting those who serve and in honoring those who have served.

My husband Bill and I have two grown sons, John and Alex. We are

camp and wondered if he was warm at night? If he had friends to do things with, or if he is being left out? Well, this is that ... only on steroids." I don't share this to complain, but to pass along what every parent of a deployed troop feels like. I can't help but wonder how it feels to be the spouse when your loved one is deployed.

We live in a great time to communicate; phones, e-mail, Face Book, and instant messaging to name just a few. How did our military parents and grandparents manage with regular mail that, once it arrived, was already old news? As much as I miss my son, I have it so good in comparison to when my father was in Okinawa and his parents were in Northern Vermont!



Sue's son Alex recently deployed to Iraq.

lucky to live near our older son, John and his wife Marianne, here in Andover.

Bill and I live on Route 11 in East Andover. You may have seen the yellow ribbon outside our house. Our youngest son, Alex, is currently serving near Ramadi, Iraq, and we will have that yellow ribbon up until his safe arrival home to East Andover in approximately 12 months. This is his first deployment, so that means it is also our first.

Recently a friend asked me what it was like to have one of my children so far away and in such a dangerous location. I stopped and thought for a minute. I remembered sending John and Alex off to a week of summer camp in New York when they were young.

"Have you ever sent your child off to

There is much support for the military family in the form of Blue Star Mothers and Fathers, Family Readiness Groups, and other military families. Another such group is the Prayer Warriors for Our Warriors, of which I am a member. We have no magical powers; what we do have is the desire to pray for our troops and their families and meet needs where we can. E-mails are sent to me at BlueStar.PrayerWarriors@gmail.com

and the e-mails are shared with a list of 160+ people around the world who pray for our troops and their families.

When our brave men and women know that we support them, the joy is apparent. As the parent of a troop in harm's way, it is a real blessing!

The Beacon could be another source of support for our Andover military personnel and their families. If you are currently serving in the armed forces or have a family member who served or is serving in the armed forces, please contact Sue Christiansen at Military@AndoverBeacon.com to share news or photos, arrange for the Beacon to be mailed to an APO address at no charge every month, etc.



This Andover town logo, featured on the town flag, was designed 20 years ago by then-AE/MS-students Jeff Miller and Justin Freeman. The drawings honor (left) covered bridges in Andover, (top) the first Academy building, and (right) the Halcyon train station. Surrounding the drawings are hames, once manufactured in Andover and famous all over the world.

Staff photo: Heather Makechnie

Andover Town Flag Given To Historical Society

By Heather Makechnie
Beacon staff

When Jeff Miller and Justin Freeman were eighth graders at Andover Elementary/Middle School, they painstakingly designed a logo they thought would make a fine town flag. This design was presented at Town Meeting on March 13, 1990 as Article 2: "To see if the Town will vote to adopt an official Town Flag in the pattern and colors displayed at this meeting."

Article 2 was moved and seconded. Principal Higgins talked on the article and introduced Jeff and Justin, who explained the significance of the various elements, or "fields," of the design. Article 2 was adopted, and Andover had a new flag design.

It was not until 2009, nineteen years later, that the flag was actually cre-

ated. Heather Makechnie was able to reconstruct the design from the actual sign board displayed at the 1990 Town Meeting. The board had been kept by Jeff's mother, Sherrie Miller.

The flag was presented to the town at the Fourth of July festivities last year and headed the parade that day.

Then it rained on the parade. The flag was not built with rain in mind. The colors ran. The flag was not salvageable.

Linda Barnes, of The Constant Quilter in Andover, voluntarily provided her professional advice to create a new version of the flag. Twenty years after its adoption, a new flag was displayed on the grandstand at last month's Fourth of July festivities. After the celebration, the flag was donated to the Andover Historical Society, to be placed on display.



New this year - 3 1/2 acre
Corn Maze!
Opening in August -
stay tuned for details.

Monday - Friday 9:00-6
Saturday 9:00-5:30
Sundays 9 - 4

Thanks for supporting
Local Agriculture.



37 Main St.
New London, NH 03257
603-526-6253
www.springledgefarm.com

Fresh from the Farm
Tomatoes, Sweet Corn, Carrots, Greens,
Cucumbers, Squashes, Micro Mix, Blueberries,
Beets, Swiss Chard, Herbs, Raspberries, Cut
Flowers, Beans, Scallions, Lettices...
PYO Cut Flower garden.
Fresh Annuals & Perennials on sale.



23 Switch Road, Andover

COLDWELL BANKER

4 BR, 3.5 BA, in-law suite, near the rail trail! \$274,000

STACEY VIANDIER • Coldwell Banker Milestone Real Estate • 526-4116 • www.CBMilestone.com