

## “SERVE YOUR COUNTRY - MAKE A QUILT”

A small group of dedicated men and women in Frederick, MD have been busy this fall combining their love of history and quilting to make quilts for Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed Medical Center. This service project, called “Serve Your Country - Make a Quilt”, is sponsored by Sisto’s Sewing and Quilting Studio, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, and Ft. Detrick. As part of the ongoing 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, novice and experienced quilters teamed up to make cot sized Civil War reproduction quilts similar to one of the few surviving quilts that were donated to the U.S. Sanitary Commission during the Civil War. The U.S. Sanitary Commission then distributed these quilts to Union soldiers.

The quilters began meeting every Thursday afternoon right after Labor Day in September in a classroom provided by Sisto’s Sewing and Quilting Studio. Some of the participants started out as rookies (beginners) and they were paired with coaches (experienced quilters), so the quilts were made by teams of sewers. Several quilters who could not make the Thursday classes made quilt blocks at home and donated them to this group of sewers who incorporated them into their quilts. On Thursday, Oct. 20, the quilters met at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine for a tour of the museum followed by a work session in the conference room where they used the space to lay out their finished quilt tops and pin baste all the layers together. The first set of quilts are nearly finished, but the participants have already decided not to stop sewing when these quilts are complete. They plan to continue meeting every Thursday afternoon at Sisto’s from 1 - 4 p.m. to make as many quilts as they can finish for the Wounded Warriors. Anyone who has a sewing machine to bring and would like to help, contact Sue Ketron at [ket25@verizon.net](mailto:ket25@verizon.net) for more information.

Some of these Civil War reproduction quilts will be displayed during Frederick’s annual “Museums by Candlelight” on Dec. 10 at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine from 12 noon to 9 p.m. A March 22nd presentation ceremony is being planned by Ft. Detrick and everyone involved in this service project is eagerly looking forward to personally handing over these handmade quilts to the brave, deserving Wounded Warriors.