

THE BEANIE NEWSFLASH

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April Highlights:

970 beanies received this month

1320 beanies shipped to Iraq

24 new Beanie Angels



The purpose of our Beanie Newsflash is to highlight events and give recognition to special people. I visited one of those special people: her name is Elisa Kappeler of Fountain Valley, California, who is among the first Beanie Angels and, at age 85, also one of the oldest (even though you wouldn't believe it seeing her and talking to her). When Miki asked Elisa to help her making beanies for our service members, Elisa gave it no second thought. You see, this isn't the first time she is doing something for our service members. Elisa was born in Rennes, France, close to where the Normandy Invasion took place, and during WWII she worked in Le Mans, sewing medical supplies for the American Hospital there. That is also where she met her husband, an American soldier, who was a paratrooper in the Normandy Invasion. They got married after the war and she joined him in America in 1946 after the birth of their first daughter. In 1947 they moved to California where she has lived ever since, raising their 3 children. Elisa did not speak any English when she came to this country, and took her first job as a waitress without knowing the language. But she taught herself and worked her way up to being controller of a construction company and was able to support herself and her children. Elisa loves to knit and crochet for her children, 6 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. She has also donated a lot of yarn and time to making beanies. Over a period of 3 years she has knitted more than 600 beanies and in the early years she was among the first volunteers who would meet at the Huntington Beach Library Park with other volunteers, teaching anyone who was interested how to knit and crochet, and getting the word out about ***Operation Beanies for our Service Members***. Elisa is very thankful to the American soldiers and to this country, knowing that she would not be here were it not for the sacrifices of our American soldiers. Making beanies is just a small way to give something back and show her gratitude.