

# A day of thanks — for our GIs



**JERRY  
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Another Veterans Day has come and gone. I'm assuming most of us performed our civic duty Tuesday to recognize publicly or thank privately military veterans for serving our country. And now we can get back to our hurried and harried lives with an eye toward Thanksgiving, right?

Well, sort of, Mike David hopes.

The Valparaiso veteran also has his eye on Thanksgiving, but not strictly for turkey dinner, pigskin games and family reunions. Through the Porter County Pilots Association, he is organizing a "Supplies for GIs" airlift to make the upcoming holiday a little brighter for U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Along with his square-dance partner, Cherie Cope, the two are collecting items again for care packages earmarked for the troops.

"Our last shipment was 216 boxes, and this time we would like to double that amount," David told me.

The dynamic duo is also looking for the names of soldiers who will be stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan over the holidays so they can receive a care package, too.

"It's the least we can do," he said.

This Sunday, volunteers will meet at the Porter County Airport to fill care packages.

The extensive list of items needed to fill those packages include: American flags (5 feet by 3 feet), toiletries, bug spray, canned tuna and chicken, crackers, microwave popcorn, Frisbees and golf balls, books and CDs, and dozens of other items.

To donate items or help fill packages, contact David at 465-6426 or [madavid@peoplepc.com](mailto:madavid@peoplepc.com), or Cope at 663-5661 or [Ccope60@hotmail.com](mailto:Ccope60@hotmail.com). Donations also can be made at any



POST TRIBUNE PHOTO

**Mike David (left) and Cherry Cope hope to pack 400 boxes of supplies for soldiers overseas this Thanksgiving.**

"Supplies for GIs."

Several other readers contacted me about another successful program to add "a touch of home" to soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. It's called "Operation Christmas Tree."

For just \$25, you can buy a 2-foot tall Christmas tree, complete with twinkling lights and seasonal decorations, for soldiers who will not be home for the holidays. This year's goal is to send 7,000 such trees to soldiers, according to organizers, but the deadline to order is Nov. 26, the day before Thanksgiving.

For more information, visit [www.supportmilitaryheroes.org](http://www.supportmilitaryheroes.org) or call (443) 293-7163.

## Lingering languish

Believe it or not, I'm still hearing from voters who are upset, even irate, that Barack Obama beat John McCain, so much so that some of them echo this woman's voice mail message.

"Mr. Davich, Obama will never be MY president," she said, noting that Obama's posi-

tioner. "The wrath of God will now come down on this country and I, for one, will be glad when it's all over."

Seriously? No, really. Seriously?

## Knee-jerk wish lists

What's with all these give-me, give-me, give-me liberal voters and advocacy groups making lengthy wish lists since Obama was elected president?

Dear Mr. President-elect, please address pay inequity for women. Dear Mr. President-elect, please outlaw workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation. Dear Mr. President-elect, please reinstate voting rights for ex-convicts.

Geez, it's been only a week and already people are expecting Obama to reverse laws, veto bills and overrule policies. While we're at it, why not ask him to heal terminal patients, orchestrate peace in the Middle East, and restore the Bears' pass defense?

On the flip side, what's with

enthusiasts who, immediately after Obama won the election, rushed to gun shops to stockpile more firearms?

These gun rights advocates (or do you call them zealots?) are convinced Obama will not obey their Second Amendment right to bear arms, resulting in tough new gun laws.

Relax, folks, from both sides of the partisan aisle, Obama has bigger things on his plate.

The economy is in the dumper, jobs are disappearing like daylight hours, layoffs and lay-a-ways are back, the stock exchange has become an oxymoron, and we're fighting an enemy whose suicidal nutballs are hell-bent on having sex with virgins in heaven. First things first, right.

Then again ... Dear Mr. President-elect, if you could please do something about the deep pothole on my street, I'd appreciate it. No rush. I'll be waiting alongside everyone else I mentioned above.

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