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Meet Your Neighbor: Peggy Kane, pen pal to the troops



Peggy Kane is honored in Sacramento for her commitment to keeping in touch with soldiers abroad.

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CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Peggy Kane, 73, has just been honored by state Senator Tom Harman as the 35th Senate District Woman of the Year for her passion for community service.

Peggy Kane and Senator Tom Harman in his office

Courtesy of Senator Tom Harman's office

Peggy Kane

City: Fountain Valley

Age: 73

Job: Caregiver, troops supporter

Fun Fact: Is an avid Angels fan.

The Fountain Valley View caught up with Kane to talk about her honor, commitment to our troops and life in the city.

Q: You've just received a prestigious award?

A: I was surprised! I felt very honored and proud to be selected. I had a wonderful day in Sacramento, and was one of 40 in California chosen.

My selection was because of involvement and support of our troops. I've written cards, letters in the thousands, and sent about 1,000 packages to service members in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Over the last year, I've sent over 4,000 to 5,000 cards, letters and care packages to Army and Marine units.

Q: Why are you so committed to our troops?

A: They are in harm's way every day. I have no family, so these men and women beautifully fill in as family members.

I started writing to sailors during Operation Desert Storm in 1990 and picked up again in 2003. I've met many in person, at LAX on their stopovers, at Camp Pendelton.

Our local post office in Fountain Valley knows me well, and they're very accommodating. When you exchange letters, you get to know each other very well, so when you meet face-to-face, it is such a wonderful feeling. I love what I do!

Q: How often do you send packages and cards?

A: I try to make sure something goes out each week. When you're away from home, hearing from someone at home brings a big smile.

Q: What else keeps you busy?

A: I am a live-in caregiver to a developmentally disabled woman, now 64. I started this in 1994 and have taken care of her 24-7, 365 days a year.

Diane is 64 but has the mentality of a child. She attends a work program at California Elwyn in Fountain Valley, so during the day while she is away, I keep busy! I belong to Fountain Valley Women's Club, and also try to be a part of our community activities.

Q: What is something people may not know about you?

A: I enjoy gardening and do mini-landscaping in small gardens for my friends.

Q: If others want to get involved in writing to the troops, how do they start?

A: Visit www.AnySoldier.com or www.AnyMarine.com.

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