



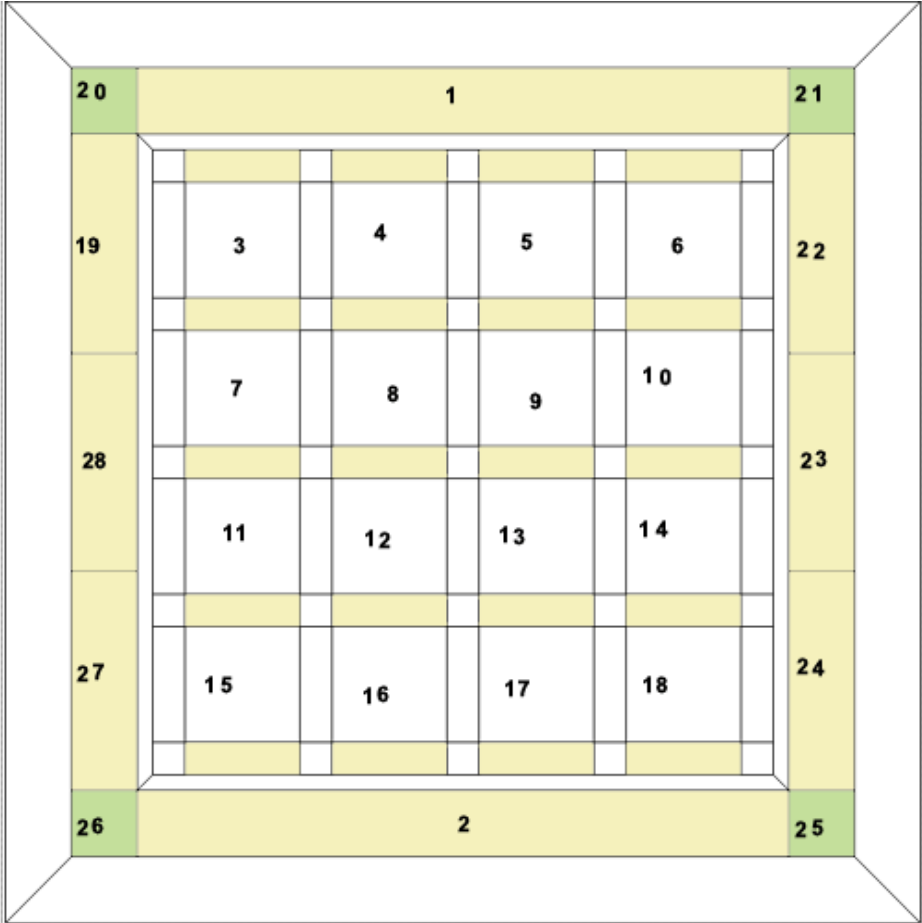
## Guide for Making Your Fallen Hero Quilt

We're honored to be making your Fallen Hero Quilt. We know it will be a treasured heirloom in your family for generations to come as it shares the life of your Fallen Hero.

In order to complete the work, we do need your help in preparing the necessary content. Hopefully this guide will get you started and help you on your way.

### Layout

While your quilt will contain many patches, 24 of them are available for your contribution of content. Below is a numbered layout of the quilt which you can use to direct your content into the proper patch.



## **Outside Border**

The outer border of the Fallen Hero Quilt traditionally features the type of camouflage fabric worn by your Fallen Hero. We currently have three types of camouflage fabric in stock but will arrange to get the one your Hero wore if none of these suit you. If you can let us know early on which fabric you prefer, it will facilitate the production of your quilt.

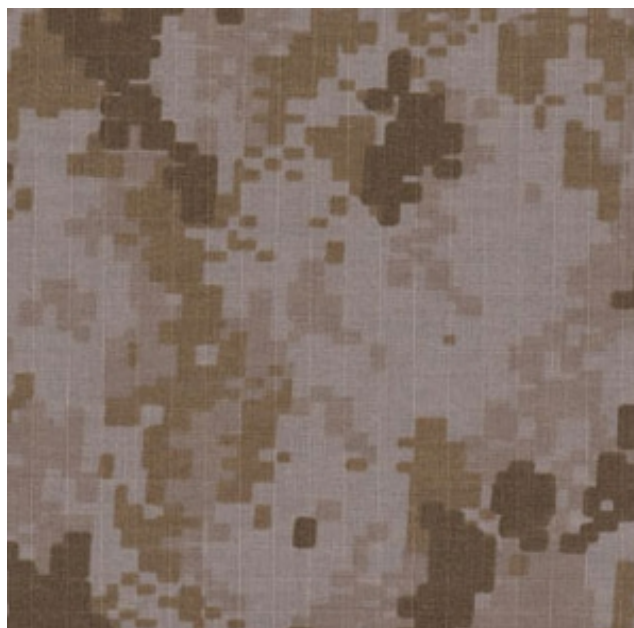
The inner fabrics are chosen by us to compliment the outer border you choose. Each quilt features 4 separate fabrics. The middle border and the backing of the quilt are from the same fabric and the small inner border and photo frame patches are of complimentary colors.

Here are the three most used camouflage fabrics.

### **Army ACU**



### **MARPAT**



## 3 Day Camo



Alternately, if you would prefer to have your quilt made from traditional fabrics, our manufacturer, Patchwork Memorials does have several choices and we can send you graphics of current color schemes. Just ask us and we'll be happy to get them to you.

## Patches

**Patch # 1** is reserved for the name and vital dates of your Fallen Hero.

Line 1 is reserved for his/her name. How you choose to display it, is entirely up to you. You can use or not use middle names or initials, you can add “nicknames” and you can also add rank and branch of service should you decide. For example you could put

Sergeant Matthew Robert “Skip” Wilson – USMC

or

Sgt Matthew R Wilson – USMC

or

Sgt Matthew R Wilson

You should also include any special forces designations that would be applicable. For example

Navy (SEAL) Lt. Matthew Robert Wilson

Line 2 of Patch #1 is for your hero's date of birth and death. We can also add a hometown if you wish.

**Patch #2** is designed to be a message about your Hero. Here you can create content that is a tribute to your Hero. The content is really wide open here. Just keep in mind that this is where future generations will learn more about your Hero. We can use up to three lines of embroidered text here with up to 139 characters and spaces per line.

## Photo Patches

Patches 3 through 18 are the photo patches. Each patch measures 7" X 7" so you are going to want to choose pictures that will still look good at that size. If you are going to size, crop and upload your pictures to us, you will want them to be this exact size and you will want the resolution to be 300 pixels per inch. We recommend you use the .jpg (.jpeg) format. You can "zip" all the pictures into one file or upload them separately. Use this link to upload them.

<http://fallenheroquilts.org/upload/fhupl.php>

**NOTE:** Please save your photos for uploading using the name of the patch you want them on and the last name of your Hero. This way, we will get the placement of the photos exactly as you want them. For example if you want a picture to be printed on patch #3, save it as "jonespatch3.jpg"

**NOTE: Please email us and let us know once you've uploaded your photos as we don't have automatic notification.**

If you can figure out how to upload your pictures to us but don't know how to size and crop them, don't worry. Just upload them as they are and we will take care of cropping and sizing for you. We'll also get placement straightened out. This is about making your quilt, not a test of your computer skills.

If some, or all of your photos are not in your computer, you have a couple of choices. Either way, it's not going to be a problem. You can take the photos to a photo shop or kiosk where they process and print photos. Many of these places have scanners that will scan your photos and put them on a CD. Then you can simply mail us the CD or use it to upload the files to us. If you mail the CD, we will copy it and return it to you.

Alternately, you can put the photos into an envelope and mail them to us. We will scan them in and return the photos to you. Either way, we will then crop and size as necessary to get them ready for your quilt.

**HINTS:** In addition to photos you have on hand, here are some other ideas you can use to create graphics for some of the patches.

- Take a picture of your Hero's medals. Perhaps you can arrange them together using a sheet or other non patterned surface for a background.
- Scan any document, letter or art and have it printed on a patch instead of a photo. For example, diplomas, awards, certificates, hand written letters or notes or art (like a child might draw to its dad), can add a lot of meaning and will communicate well to future generations who are learning about your Fallen Hero through the quilt.

Just remember, these are your patches and as long as it can be made into a graphic the correct size and resolution, it can be printed on a patch.

## Message Patches

The side patches 19, 22, 23, 24, 27 and 28 are reserved for you to add messages from 6 individuals (or couples or families) you wish to add to the quilt. Here we can add two or three lines of text depending on font size.

Traditionally, you would put the name of the contributor either by their name ie: Mary Smith or perhaps their “title” as in “Aunt Mary” or “Grandpa John Smith” or any way you choose. Then below that would be the content of the message. In this case, the font of the person would be larger than the font of the message. You can see this in the photos on our website.

Alternately, you could put the message first and then, in the same size font at the end of the message, have the message giver's name. This would be similar to quotes you see in books and magazines where someone is quoted, then the attribution follows.

Who you choose to assign these 6 patches to, again, is entirely up to you but some suggestions are Mother, Father, Siblings, Aunts or Uncles or Grandparents, especially the ones that were close to your Hero. You can also use, a meaningful quote from a commanding officer or close friend would work quite well.

Each line of text can contain up to 54 letters and spaces but remember, the more characters, the smaller the font size.

When submitting the messages, please identify them by which patch you want them embroidered on and, if you have any questions, please just let us know.

### **Frame Patches**

As we indicate on our website, the 7”x2” patches that serve as a frame for the photos, are available for grateful Americans to extend their gratitude for your family's sacrifice and to honor your Fallen Hero by having their names and a short tribute embroidered on your quilt as well. These tributes may also help provide a little support for the Foundation. Since we can't expand the quilt itself to provide more patches for your contributed content beyond the 6 message patches we discuss above, should you find yourself in a situation where you have more people wanting to contribute an embroidered message than the allotted space allows, our tribute system does allow for people to direct their personal message towards a specific quilt and those are always given priority. It's been our experience, so far however, that 6 patches are usually sufficient for most families. If interested, you can get more information on the [Tribute Patches by clicking here](#). Since, to date, we haven't actually received many donations, you may or may not have any of these tribute messages included on your quilt.

### **Finally**

We want the process of creating your Fallen Hero Quilt to be a meaningful part of the healing process for your family and not a chore so don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or run into difficulty. We're here to help facilitate the process in any way we can.

You can email us with questions at [info@fallenheroquilts.org](mailto:info@fallenheroquilts.org) or call us at 320-310-0117. We're in the Central Time zone.

Thank you and may God Bless you for your sacrifice to our country.