

## Erdmanns Sponsor 99<sup>th</sup> Shawano County Barn Quilt

Jerry and June Erdmann have sponsored Shawano County's 99<sup>th</sup> barn quilt as part of the ongoing countywide project started by local Shawano photographer Jim Leuenberger. The pattern the Erdmanns chose for their barn quilt is a patriotic one that includes stars and stripes, along with a purple heart that represents the Purple Heart Jerry was awarded after being injured in Viet Nam. They call the pattern "Stars and Stripes Purple Heart." The quilt was painted by members of the Shawano Country barn quilt committee and was put up at W15416 Fair-Morr Road, just north of Tigerton, by LeRoy Raddant and Bruce Teetzen of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

"We have loved the barn quilt project since it began," June said, "and are proud to be part of it. As we see the quilt each day, it will remind us of how proud we are to be Americans."

The homestead where the Erdmanns live was purchased from the U.S. government by George Burrows on August 10, 1872. Over the years, the farm changed hands several times. The barn is believed to have been built in 1910.

June's grandparents, Herman and Marie Westfahl, bought the farm from Walter and Violet Loken in 1937. June's parents, Ruben and Dorothy Westfahl, then purchased the farm where they lived their entire lifetimes. Jerry and June purchased the farm from Ruben in 1975. Ruben lived there with Jerry and June and their son Jeremy until his death in 1996.

While serving as a squad leader in Viet Nam, Jerry was seriously wounded in combat, for which he was awarded the Purple Heart, thus the reason for the "purple heart" quilt pattern.

Jerry is very active in presenting Veteran's Day, Memorial Day and 9/11 Freedom Day speeches throughout Shawano County and Wisconsin. He is a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans and is a member of the Tigerton American Legion. He has been a Shawano County Board supervisor for seven years, including board chairman the past two years. June has lived on the farm her entire life, except when she attended college. Jerry has lived there for the past 42 years after marrying June in July of 1970.

Being conservation conscious, the Erdmanns have planted over 25,000 evergreen trees along with apple and pear trees on the farm. They have also constructed several wildlife ponds.

To see photos and information on all barn quilts now on display in Shawano County, go to [www.shawanocountry.com](http://www.shawanocountry.com) and click on the barn quilt icon. A downloadable, printable map is also available on the site.

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