

“Welcome Home” is County’s 149th Barn Quilt

The pattern for Shawano County’s 149th barn quilt, called “Welcome Home,” was designed by Traci Zenk, daughter of Peggy and Steve Zenk. The quilt is now on display on the Zenk property at W2457 County 22, Cecil. Traci and her brother, Curt, sponsored the quilt for their parents.

“Since our dad served in the Vietnam war, we wanted to have a quilt pattern that showed how proud we are of him and all others who served or are serving in the military,” Traci said. “It’s also a way to say ‘Welcome Home’ to the veterans of the Vietnam war.”

The flag that serves as the backdrop in the pattern is the Vietnam Service Flag. Those who served in Vietnam were presented with a pin that is a replica of the flag. The green in the flag represents the jungles of Vietnam. The yellow is for the Welcome Home the Vietnam vets never saw. The red is for the blood our brothers and sisters shed. And the black is for the pain and darkness many Vietnam vets still carry today.

The “Z” in the quilt pattern represents all the Zenks who live in the area, most in Shawano County. It is painted in red, white and blue as a tribute to the American flag. Finally, the wheels in the corners of the quilt pattern are for all the Harley Davidson and Jeep lovers like the Zenks who like to ride!

“We are extremely proud to be part of the Shawano County barn quilt project,” Traci said. “The quilts really speak volumes for our area as they add a real friendly, welcoming ‘down home’ feel to Shawano County.”

The Zenk quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put up by LeRoy Raddant and Bruce Teetzen of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

Anyone who would like to participate in Shawano County’s barn quilt project can contact project coordinator Jim Leuenberger at 715-524-5685 or via email at jamesmleuenberger@yahoo.com. You can also contact Patti Peterson, tourism manager at the Shawano Chamber of Commerce at 715-524-2139 or tourism@shawano.com. A link on the Shawano Chamber Web site includes photos and information on every quilt on display in Shawano County. Just go to www.shawanocountry.com and click on the barn quilt icon.

#