

## Family's Military Service Honored in 373<sup>rd</sup> Barn Quilt

Shawano County's 373<sup>rd</sup> barn quilt honors members of a family who have served in our military, including one who paid the ultimate sacrifice. The quilt, named Love of Service, is on display at the home of Jim and Beth Karlson at N2861 Rustic Drive, Clintonville.

"Ever since I saw the beautiful barn quilts going up around Shawano County, I wanted to get one," Beth said. "And now that we do, it makes my heart flutter every time I look at it."

Beth procrastinated for a few years, until her granddaughter, Leah, "took the bull by the horns" and contacted Jim Leuenberger about how to go about getting the quilt. Jim worked with Beth on the pattern for the quilt, which has special meaning for Beth and Jim. Jim served with the Marines in Viet Nam, their son Matthew Hansen was an F18 mechanic in the Marine Corps, son Pete is a fire fighter, and their third son, Warren, served in the Army.

Warren went into the Army in 1986, right after graduating from high school. He served until November 15, 2003, a day the Karlsons will never forget. That morning, while patrolling in a helicopter with 11 other soldiers in Mosul, Iraq, the helicopter behind them was hit by a Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG), which caused it to crash into the helicopter Warren was in. Then Warren's helicopter was hit by an RPG causing both helicopters to crash. Warren and 11 of his comrades were killed. Only five survived.

"When something like this happens, the family gets through it, but they never really get over it," Jim Leuenberger said. "It was an honor to do this special barn quilt for them."

The Karlsons' barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy Raddant and his grandson, Keenan, both of whom work for Raddant Electric in Shawano.