

HOPATCONG BOROUGH SCHOOLS

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Title: **First Grade Class Presents Veteran with Quilt**

Art DiBenedetto, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces-

More than six months ago, while learning about Veterans' Day, the first grade students in Doreen Sciabica's class began signing and designing quilt squares to be made into a Quilt of Honor for a deserving veteran. This simple activity captured the attention of local papers and Channel 12 News. Recently, during their lessons about Memorial Day, these same students completed the 30 squares needed to construct a bed-size quilt. Mrs. Sciabica's mother, Gail Pressimone, and her fellow Quilts of Honor quilters, transformed those 30 single squares into a work of art and heart. That was the hard part of this project. The easy part was choosing who would receive the quilt. Having the honor of teaching both his children, working with his wife, and teaching with his sister-in-law, Mrs. Sciabica chose Major Phil Engle to receive the quilt so lovingly crafted by her students, mom, and Quilts of Valor volunteers.

The lingering possibility of being deployed while his son was in first grade became a reality when his daughter followed in her brother's footsteps and entered Mrs. Sciabica's first grade class. That year her students also learned the meaning of Veterans' Day and Memorial Day by Face Timing with and writing letters to Mr. Engle. "Being privy to the sadness and joy this family experienced and the sacrifice they all made for our country made choosing Major Engle to receive our quilt quite simple."

On June 21st in front of his wife and son, after sharing his story and journey, Major Phil Engle was presented with the finished product by Quilts of Valor representative Gail Pressimone, her daughter Doreen Sciabica, and Doreen's eager and enthusiastic first graders! Mrs. Sciabica's daughters captured the moments you see below!



