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

Paganella: Baccio family again shows they care

By **Nick Paganella**/ Daily News Correspondent
Sunday, October 1, 2006

Along with a group of volunteers, Lisa Braccio and her husband Matthew of Southborough are planning their fourth care package event to collect donated items to the troops serving overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Braccio contacted www.anysoldier.com and obtained Sgt. Matthew F. Fenton's address so she could send along items for the deployed military. Sadly, Sgt Fenton had been fatally wounded by enemy insurgents the very same day his package was boxed and shipped. Consequently, the Braccios have named this upcoming care package collection the Sgt. Matthew F. Fenton Memorial Holiday Care Package Drive. It will held Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Cordaville Hall, 9 Cordaville Road on Rte. 85 in the town center across from the Woodward School.

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The drive will have an impressive patriotic launching ceremony of color guards, a vintage airplanes flyover, a bagpiper and Sgt. Fenton's former supervisor from Fort Devens. Sgt. Fenton's mother Diane and his sister Courtney from New Jersey will make the trip to Southborough also.

Braccio's mother, Eleanor Diamond of Orlando, Fla., said she "adopted" a soldier and kept in touch with him by correspondence until he returned home to New Mexico. Now, she has to adopt another one.

"If my son was there, I would hope somebody would do that for my son," said .

Last May during their third care package drive for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, Diamond said "I think this is awesome." Diamond will be in Southborough again this weekend to assist along with other volunteers to aid in what should be an extraordinary event.

Just a few items from a large list that you can donate are: Fruit Roll-Ups, Beef Jerky, protein bars, air fresheners, crackers, Kraft Easy Mac, microwave popcorn, Swizzles licorice, Crystal Light, Kool Aid (sweetened), microwave soups, body lotions, deodorant (male and female) and lollipops and hard candy for soldiers and war-torn children. Monetary donations to defray the expensive cost of mailing are also welcome. Send checks to Lisa Braccio, at 13 Oregon Road, Southborough, MA 01772. Thank you on behalf of those "over there."

This column extends from east to west (Wellesley to Shrewsbury) and north to south (Concord to Millville). Anyone in MetroWest and the Milford area is encouraged to send veterans news to antrim@rcn.com or call or fax 508-872-5895.




Framingham resident Nick Paganella is the president of the Korean War Veterans Association of Massachusetts.

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