

Peg O'Donnell



I retired from the Department of Natural Resources in February of 2005 from the pre-retirement home located on Williamson Street with 38+ years of service.

The best part of my job was getting to know and spend time with the operators who run our water and wastewater facilities. The operators are a tremendous asset to this state and its waters.

Before I retired, I started volunteering at the Habitat for Humanity Restore on

Madison's east side. I continue to volunteer there because it keeps so many usable items out of landfills. The monies raised by selling the donated items are used to build homes and hope for people less fortunate. I continue to do "home improvement" projects on my own house but ran out of things to do.

So a year ago, for 3 months, I helped a friend build a log home. I learned more carpentry skills than I will ever need but it was a great learning experience for all involved.

I continue to have a love love relationship with my 3 grandchildren, whom I see frequently. It's so much fun to be a grandmother because you can send them home when you're tired but they are not (which doesn't take too long)! They are the apples of my eye and I love spending time with them.



Since my son Shane's death, I have acquired a "Marine" family who are near and dear to my heart. We meet annually, at my house, over

Memorial Day weekend. We attend the Memorial Day ceremonies held at the DeForest Park and also at the Golf Company Headquarters in Madison. I'm always transported by these gentlemen on the back of one of their motorcycles to these events. I sold my BMW before I had children. The rides sure bring back that sense of freedom that cannot be found anywhere else. Oh, the wind on your face and the bugs in your teeth (never could wear a full face helmet).



I am on the Board of Directors of Operation Never Forgotten. From their website "The concept for Operation Never Forgotten (ONF)" began in November of 2004 by a blue star mom, Linda Kelly. While she was paying tribute to LCPL Shane O'Donnell,

one of 13 fallen Marines among her son's Company, Shane's mother, Peg O'Donnell stated, "We want recognition and remembrance." This memorable statement motivated Linda to use her lifetime career in



award-winning graphic design and photography to develop national awareness campaigns for fallen heroes, wounded warriors, deployed troops and their families."

[for more information on ONF](#)

If anyone would like to donate some time to this organization please get in touch with me or Linda Kelly (see website) Grant writers, computer geeks and publicists are especially needed but your talents would be matched to the organizations needs and the amount of time you'd like to donate.

I serve as Treasurer - Brick Coordinator on the DeForest Veterans Foundation Board which has an amazing Veterans Park in Deforest. If you have never seen it, you should check it out.

I have more time these days, so I continue each year to make many quilts. I love the process of making the quilts as well as the challenge of designing your own patterns. Too much fabric, not enough years to make it all into quilts - but I'm trying.

I designed a special quilt for my son Eric's recent marriage.





Spring means traveling to some Caribbean country with a group of friends who are divers. Two of those friends are from the DNR and, although I don't dive, it's always a fun trip. One year I took Eric along when we went to Ambergyis Caye in Belize. We both dove for the first time. He loved it, but me not so much! I love lounging by the Caribbean with a good book and snorkeling all day long. Of course, the rum in the late afternoon is an added bonus.

My philosophy is to "Live life everyday because you don't know how many days you have".

Important words for life that were found on an Irish tombstone:

"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal."