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Valentines for Veterans

Summary: Veterans who reside at the St. Cloud Veterans Hospital will be remembered this Valentine's Day by residence hall students at UMM.

(February 5, 2007)-Veterans who reside at the St. Cloud Veterans Hospital will be remembered this Valentine's Day. University of Minnesota, Morris students who live in Blakely, Pine and Spooner Residence Halls on campus will be creating approximately 230 homemade valentines that they will send to the hospital.

Resident adviser Audrey Nomeland, Osakis, said that 20 women who live on her floor in Blakely Hall initiated the Valentines for Veterans project at UMM after hearing about the project from another college.

"They've [the veterans] done so much for our country, they've sacrificed their lives and their families, so for us to take a couple of hours from our day isn't too much to give back," said Nomeland, who has had grandparents in the military and has friends who are currently serving in Iraq.

The Blakely Hall residents recruited other residence hall students to make homemade valentines and to include handwritten letters of appreciation with the cards. The students first worked through the local Armory. However, due to security precautions, they could not get names of local veterans. They will send their valentines in bulk to the St. Cloud location with the assistance of Carol McCannon of Community Service and Volunteerism in Student Activities at UMM.

If others are interested in helping with the project, they are encouraged to contact Nomeland at [Audrey Nomeland](#).

Photo: Audrey Nomeland, right, presents completed valentines to Hugh Reimers, Stevens County Veterans Administration coordinator.

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