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Katie O'Neill/The Eureka Reporter

The Eureka Federation of Republican Women present boxes of goods for care packages to American soldiers in Iraq, and a check for postage. Left is Lisa Pulver of the Sirens and right is Lesley Craig, president of the Eureka Federation of Republican Women. Standing behind the women are staff Sgts. Daniel Sage and David Young of the Marines.

Locals create care packages

by Sharon Letts, 10/30/2006

The Eureka Fire Department "Sirens" are sending custom care packages to soldiers in Iraq. Recently, the Eureka Federation of Republican Women donated goods and funds to the Sirens for care packages the Sirens are putting together for American troops in Iraq.

Sirens spokesperson Lisa Pulver said their group is comprised of wives and those affiliated with firefighters, and while they hold no political affiliation, they were appreciative that the Eureka Federation of Republican Women wanted to donate to the cause.

"Looking at some of the old scrapbooks, we saw that the Sirens were together in the '70s for some years," Pulver said from her post as fire services officer in the headquarters of the Eureka Fire Department. "We talked about forming the group again about a year or so (ago), and this was the first project we've worked on so far."

Pulver said the Sirens are able to support each other within the often stressful world of being part of a firefighter family.

"If there's an incident, we'll pull together emotionally, but also in providing child care and whatever help anyone needs," Pulver added.

Pulver said the Sirens found a helpful Web site when looking for American soldiers in Iraq to whom to send care packages. Anysoldier.com is a Web site that links people who would like to send care packages to the men and women overseas.

According to the Web site, the Any Soldier system was begun by Marty and Sue Horn, parents of Brian

Horn, who was a soldier stationed in Iraq in 2004. The Horns realized that in sending their son care packages, he was sharing contents with others who didn't receive packages. They began marking boxes "Any Soldier," thus letting their son know to pass that box around to others.

Pulver said the site has proven to be invaluable in helping them to know exactly what to send, and to whom.

"We've been able to correspond with soldiers directly, and can customize care packages — like lotions and magazines for female soldiers. We all got together and made polar fleece throws for them, and were able to use more feminine colors for the women."

Eureka Federation of Republican Women President Lesley Craig said that in the past the group has put together care packages for U.S. soldiers, but decided to donate to the Sirens and support their efforts.

"This year we've donated personal care products, playing cards and teas," Craig explained. "Each year the federation has a tea at a member's home, so we decided to get tea bags together for the packages."

The Eureka Federation of Republican Women is under the umbrella of the National Federation of Republican Women — the largest all-female political organization in the world.

Craig said the group also gave the Sirens funds to be put toward postage to mail the packages.

For more information about the Sirens, phone Lisa Pulver at 707-441-4005. For information about the ERWF, contact Lesley Craig at 707-445-0828. For information on Any Soldier, visit its Web site at www.anysoldiers.com.

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