

For Immediate Release

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## **“Wounded Soldiers Receive Donations from AOC”**

AOC patient, Nolie Rife recently learned that injured service members in Iraq are recovering from their wounds in just a hospital gowns. So, Rife organized the Wounded Soldiers Project, a project that allows our injured service men and women dignity while they're recovering from their wounds by providing them with clothes. They collected donations of T-shirts, socks, sweat pants, and monetary contributions to purchase these items.

With AOC staff and patients who have family members who have been or are currently deployed in Iraq, we were anxious to support this project and collect the needed items.

Nolie Rife says, “I am thankful and amazed by the amount of response we have received in support of this project. On behalf of the wounded soldiers, I want to say thank you to all of those patients of Dr. Wei’s who donated to this project.”

Becky Gillis, clinical staff nurse at AOC who brought this project to our attention says, “When I first read about this project I was appalled to think that wounded soldiers did not even have proper clothes to wear as they recuperated. This was especially touching for me as I have a son currently stationed in Iraq.” She continues, “I am very pleased at the great response we have gotten from our patients as well as others in the community. Regardless of how people feel about the war, they give generously from their hearts for the greater good.”

Dr. Wei is a board-certified rheumatologist and Clinical Director of the Arthritis and Osteoporosis Center of Maryland, a nationally respected arthritis research facility, located in Frederick, Maryland.

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