

Memory Quilts made from Dad's Overalls

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Sheila Carroll, wife of Mt. Pisgah's pastor David Carroll, found herself with lots of overalls when her dad died July 28, 2015. Sheila's father, Jack Davis, was in many ways "bigger than life." He was a large man, with a generous heart and a wealth of stories. His occupation was auctioneer, a career begun at age 13 when the local auction barn in Highlandville, Missouri, would allow him to sell the chickens, fence posts, milk cans—any kind of miscellaneous items sold prior to the livestock sales. In high school he was selling cattle and did his formal training under the tutelage of well-known auctioneer Tony Thornton of Springfield, Missouri. Highlighting a long career, Jack was honored with the Auctioneer of the Year award in 2013 by the National Auto Auction Association in Indianapolis, Indiana. While Jack wore bright oxford shirts and a big cowboy hat when he auctioned, his favorite attire was bibbed overalls when he rode his mules, went coon hunting or traipsed over his farm in Madisonville, Kentucky.

Sheila, the only child of Jack Davis, knew what she wanted to do with all those overalls. She asked the 73-year old organization—Mt. Pisgah Ladies' Aid to turn those overalls into seven small quilts so that each of her grandchildren would have a keepsake of their great grandfather. The six boys, Gideon, Abel and Solomon Warneke; Jackson and Gage Carroll and Lincoln Jones have quilts with the denim blocks embellished with a pocket or two and stars made from Jack's flannel shirts. Phoebe Jones, the only granddaughter's quilt has appliquéd hearts and her quilt includes a bib from one of Jack Davis' overalls.

Sheila was presented with the seven overall quilts when the MPLA met on March 22. She was delighted with the quilts and told of her plans to give them to her grandchildren on Father's Day. She would also like the Ladies' Aid to make aprons out of the oxford shirts Jack wore when he worked auctions. She would like three of those.

Sheila summed up her feelings by saying, "Truly, I am overwhelmed at the talent the MPLA women have. I could not just donate my dad's overalls and flannel shirts. I wanted to do something for his memory to live on to a time I will never know. What a precious keepsake and reminder of the legend Jack Davis was."



Sheila Carroll with the seven quilts made from her dad's overalls and shirts.