

# How We Saved Texas Prison Chaplaincy 2011



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*A Resource for the Chaplaincy Profession and Its Defense  
with Staff Chaplain Survival Guide and Audit History*

Michael G. Maness


TDCJ Senior Clinical Chaplain 20 Years

[www.PreciousHeart.net/Saved](http://www.PreciousHeart.net/Saved)



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## Appendix 6 – Maness’ Volunteer Poems

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[www.PreciousHeart.net/Saved/Appendix-6-Maness-Volunteer-Poems.pdf](http://www.PreciousHeart.net/Saved/Appendix-6-Maness-Volunteer-Poems.pdf)



### Volunteer ... Beyond the Call of Duty 2005

#### Volunteer ... Beyond Call of Duty

Volunteer—confident, over the brim, secure; the least needy of appreciation and first to give appreciation;

Volunteer—that person whose hands are ready, whose heart overflows, who looks forward, listens carefully, lifts the broken, cares for the grieving, shares a joy;

Volunteers hold a staff, build a bridge, gather sheep, defend the weak, and go the extra mile.

Truly, the quintessence of *Volunteer* by definition and excellency is that duty is the mere stepping stone, for he or she gives *above* the call of duty—*always* above the call of duty, always *exceeding* the mere dutiful.

And ... adventurous ... sometimes they give all.

*Volunteer*—well ... that was Jesus and you too.

When someone does their duty,  
We call them honorable.

When someone does their duty in the face of danger,  
We call them heroes.

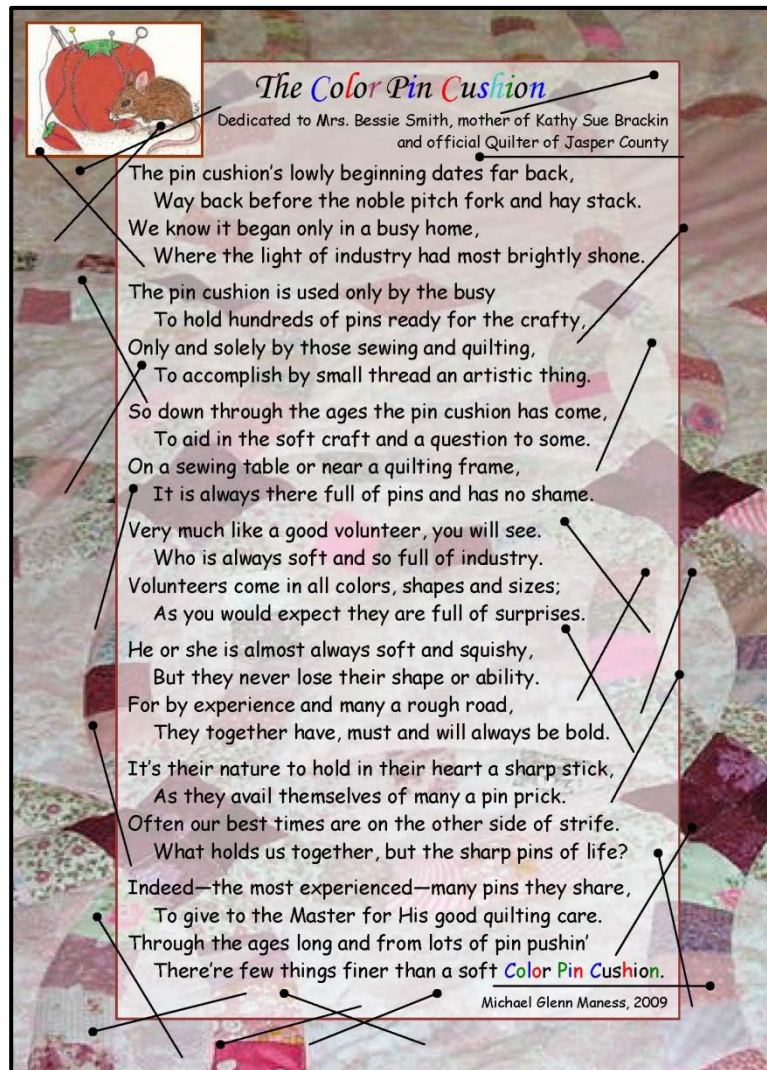
When someone goes beyond the call of duty,  
We call them ... volunteers.

Michael G. Maness, 2005

[www.PreciousHeart.net/poems/Volunteer-Poem-2005.jpg](http://www.PreciousHeart.net/poems/Volunteer-Poem-2005.jpg)



## Winter Pin Cushion Poem 2008



*The Color Pin Cushion*  
Dedicated to Mrs. Bessie Smith, mother of Kathy Sue Brackin  
and official Quilter of Jasper County

The pin cushion's lowly beginning dates far back,  
Way back before the noble pitch fork and hay stack.  
We know it began only in a busy home,  
Where the light of industry had most brightly shone.

The pin cushion is used only by the busy  
To hold hundreds of pins ready for the crafty,  
Only and solely by those sewing and quilting,  
To accomplish by small thread an artistic thing.

So down through the ages the pin cushion has come,  
To aid in the soft craft and a question to some.  
On a sewing table or near a quilting frame,  
It is always there full of pins and has no shame.

Very much like a good volunteer, you will see.  
Who is always soft and so full of industry.  
Volunteers come in all colors, shapes and sizes;  
As you would expect they are full of surprises.

He or she is almost always soft and squishy,  
But they never lose their shape or ability.  
For by experience and many a rough road,  
They together have, must and will always be bold.

It's their nature to hold in their heart a sharp stick,  
As they avail themselves of many a pin prick.  
Often our best times are on the other side of strife.  
What holds us together, but the sharp pins of life?

Indeed—the most experienced—many pins they share,  
To give to the Master for His good quilting care.  
Through the ages long and from lots of pin pushin'  
There're few things finer than a soft *Color Pin Cushion*.

Michael Glenn Maness, 2009

see it in color here

[www.PreciousHeart.net/poems/Pin\\_Cushion.pdf](http://www.PreciousHeart.net/poems/Pin_Cushion.pdf)

“Winter Pin Cushion Volunteer Banquet”

Gib Lewis State Prison, 1-30-09





**In Fiscal Year 2011**

**120 TDCJ Chaplains Facilitated, Cared for 99.8% of  
20,000 Volunteers in their 418,000 visits with  
500,000 hours with an astounding  
4,000,000 prisoners in attendance—plus  
19,602 Critical Illness/Death Notices & more**

from Item 5 above<sup>1</sup>

the year they were cut and saved

Regarding this precious and immeasurably valuable record—a treasure—TDCJ staff Chaplains have been in the *center* of that miracle of human transformation for over a *century* as they help and facilitate and love Volunteers, helping all persons in the Vital Issues of life, laboring *with* the Volunteers to minister and care for *all* inside the prison, even of all faiths, with Christianity by a whopping margin, in that most exquisite of enterprises in Care for the Soul while facilitating the greatest resource for change in human history—*religion*.

*Is Chaplain Professional Equity too much ask for these few humble servants?*



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<sup>1</sup> Item 5, p.72, [www.PreciousHeart.net/chaplaincy/RPD-Dunbar-08-2012.pdf](http://www.PreciousHeart.net/chaplaincy/RPD-Dunbar-08-2012.pdf).

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