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## KINDNESS AND GRATITUDE - ONE STITCH AT A TIME

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Photo courtesy of IDHS

What a better way to spend the holiday season with family, friends, and a great book while wrapped in your favorite quilt. Mary is an inspiration for all of us as well as the Hoosiers she serves.

**As you lived through Indiana's State Emergency Management Agency evolve into the Indiana Department of Homeland Security during your 21 years with the agency, what stands out as the most rewarding for you?**

I think my work in recovery has been the most rewarding so far, as I got to meet so many disaster survivors and was able to help bring them some relief for the life shattering events they had experienced. Out of all those experiences, responding to Hurricane Katrina has probably been the single most rewarding event. All the kindness and gratitude they showed me was amazing to experience.

**Who is your leadership hero? Why?**

I believe my leadership hero would be my first EM Division Director Phillip Roberts. He did emergency management for 35 years for the state and he gave me my first spot in what was then the State Emergency Management Agency. Phil always led/managed with grace, kindness, and respect. He held high standards for his folks, but always was there to support us so we could reach them. His manner was always calm and collected, no matter what craziness was going on around us. Phil was always there to remind of us of our worth and how important what we were doing was. I attribute most of the leadership capabilities I have now to Phil and will always be grateful I had him as my mentor.

**With the incredible book goal of reading one book more each year than you did in the previous year; 50 books a year is quite the achievement! What would be your recommendation for 2021?**

Some of the great books I have read this year I believe other emergency managers may enjoy are:

- Disasterology: Dispatches from the Frontlines of the Climate Crisis-Samantha Montano
- Fire in Paradise: An American Tragedy-Alastair Gee
- The Premonition: A Pandemic Story-Michael Lewis
- Pain Killer: A "Wonder" Drugs Trail of Addiction and Death-Barry Meier
- The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes - And Why



Photo courtesy of Mary Moran

**What inspired you to be a quilter?**

I have always had a love of crafts and I happen to be in a fabric store one day and saw an advertisement for a basic quilting class, so I decided to jump in, and I have been quilting now for over 30 years.

**What is your favorite type of quilt to make? Why?**

I am always learning new styles and techniques, but I think right now I am working on a Double Wedding Ring for my husband, and I really love it because it is such a challenge. Having said that I really love the whole process and all kinds of styles!



Photo courtesy of Mary Moran



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**Does your family have any fun holiday traditions?**

The city I live in has a huge war memorial monument that gets turned into a Christmas Tree and around it is places to visit Santa, take a carriage ride, get gourmet hot chocolate, mail letters to Santa and see reindeers. While my two daughters were young, we visited every year and now we are carrying the tradition on with our grandchildren.

**You can find magic wherever you look, Sit back and relax, all you need is a book.**

**-Dr. Seuss**



Mark your calendar

**NEMA 2022 Mid-Year Forum**  
**Alexandria, Virginia**  
**March 28-April 1**

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