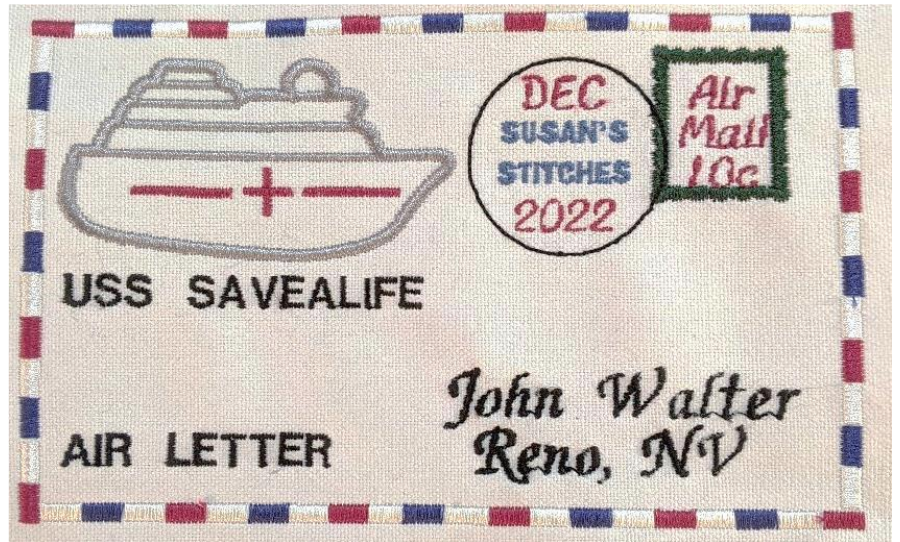


## Holiday Gift Stitching By Susie Gehringer

For me, it is still the season for gifting. I like to create gifts which, at least to me, are appropriate for the recipient. Each year is a different concept or idea while still being personally hand created for the individual. All the handcrafted gifts which were being mailed for this Christmas were completed just in time. Those for local friends were (are) still in process.

Dave and I also wanted to give something personal to John, Kirsten, and Dee Anne Walter. However, time elapsed and I wasn't finished. I easily found machine embroidery patterns for Kirsten and Dee Anne already purchased and in my catalogs of at least a bazillion patterns. (Well, maybe not quite that many.) Hard to compete with Dave's collection of postal interests.

I asked Dave if he knew John's interests, and after considerable discussion and planning, we arrived at the idea which you see completed here. We finally decided on an AIR LETTER or AÉROGRAMME concept. An Air Mail stamp, Postal cancellation, Cachet, Addressee and (the really challenging part) the border.



A test stitching was not done. This is the original. The border is composed of 64 rectangles in three colors. Getting them the same width, length and aligned was challenging. They are close but not exact. I enjoy the challenge of putting my imagination to work and my patience to the test.

After embroidery is complete each stitched square is backed with fabric and lined with insulator and heat reflective material. This one will be 10½" finished to use under a hot plate or mug.

*Susie Gehringer is married to Dave Gehringer, NSSS Director. After seeing the embroidered patch, Susie was asked for a writeup on the project. John Walter collects used U.S. aerograms; Navy hospital ship covers and other used U.S. postal stationery. All those concepts were incorporated in the above.*