

than just helping the troops. It's about helping a woman who made such an ultimate sacrifice," she said. "I'm just in awe of her."

Word of the foundation's closing also drew people touched by its work, including Staff Sgt. Dadmarie Alvarado, 38, of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, who is stationed at Fort Knox in Kentucky. In 2004 and 2009, she received Kenney's packages during deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"You guys do not know what that meant," said Alvarado, who came to Long Island and spoke passionately to the volunteers yesterday. "It was like Christmas."

Also there was John Nystrom, of South Burlington,