



Rebecca Fakeri

## CCA puts the mail in chainmail fashions

**A**bout a year and a half ago, Sun City, AZ Branch 6156 member **Rebecca Fakeri** was attending a Renaissance fair and saw some wares made of chainmail—small metal rings linked together in a pattern—that a vendor had made. She liked them a lot and thought to herself, “I can do that.”

Fakeri grew up in Hertfordshire, England, surrounded by the history of the Middle Ages and medieval times. “I’ve always loved chainmail armor and decided to learn how to make some of the many different styles from around Europe and the Middle East,” she said. “These include European, Persian, Helm, Byzantine and so many more.”

After watching a couple of videos and talking with chain mailers, Fakeri quickly acquired some new skills.

The third-year letter carrier, who moved to the United States eight years ago, works as a city carrier assistant (CCA), so the time she can devote to her hobby depends on how much time she spends delivering. That can vary wildly. “I’m in a very small office, so I get months where I’m working con-

stantly,” she said, while during other months there can be a lull.

She has set up shop at an occasional craft fair when her work schedule allows, and posts on her Facebook page to drum up interest. Fakeri also has a page on Etsy, the e-commerce site dedicated to handmade goods, where she can sell directly to consumers.

Her chainmail shop’s name is “NakedArts.” “I just thought of it out of thin air,” she said, and received a good reaction from those she sought opinions from.

The carrier has been selling her wares online since late 2017, when she took her first big order. Fakeri ships her product via USPS, of course. She has received multiple orders from anywhere from Tennessee to France. “I take them to work with me” to mail them, she said. The carrier hopes to use internet sales more in the future, though at the moment, she mainly sells her chainmail goods in person.

Fakeri says it can be time-consuming to post photos and descriptions of inventory, so marketing her items by wearing them seems to be one of the best forms of advertisement.

People will stop her while she’s out and about and compliment her on items she’s wearing, and she’ll explain that she made them.

That sometimes results in a sale. “I usually wear things I’ve made and people want to buy them from me,” she said. “People will buy things straight off me.”

Fakeri works on pieces for a couple of hours each evening at home, or will

work later when necessary to finish an order.

The amount of time it takes to make each piece depends on the materials used. A byzantine-style bracelet will take 45 minutes or so to put together. Aluminum is light and pliable, so it doesn’t take as long as steel or titanium rings, which are stronger. Aluminum also allows her to add color into the mix, and she incorporates crystals and gemstones into some pieces to add sparkle.

Pliers are her main tool, and she uses them to open and close jump rings that make up a chainmail design without scratching any of the pieces. “One ring at a time, I will turn this all into beauty,” Fakeri wrote in a recent social media post showing a tableful of supplies.

Jewelry isn’t all she makes, either. “I’ve kind of branched out to other stuff, too,” she said—including chainmail candle holders, armor, bags, bras, bookmarks and Christmas ornaments. Prices for her standard items depend on the materials used, but range from \$10 for a chainmail bookmark to \$140 for a necklace- and earring-set. More complicated orders can fetch higher prices.

Fakeri receives mostly custom orders online via Etsy, and she gets many requests for items influenced by the popular HBO TV show “Game of Thrones.” Dragons in particular are popular motifs. “If I tag my items as ‘Renaissance fair,’ people will find them,” she said.

This past spring, the carrier was commissioned to make a 51-inch steel



belt and shoulder armor with scales. It took her 36 hours spread out over just a few days. A potential customer once requested that Fakeri make an entire suit of armor. She had to turn it down because she says it would have taken “about a year” to make.

Another recent custom order was for chainmail bracelets for autism awareness that include a puzzle piece design, which is the primary symbol for autism, in the center. The assignment was close to Fakeri’s heart because her daughter has autism. She donated part of the proceeds to the Center for Autism and Other Related Disorders to help with therapy and research.

Fakeri has become involved with a project with chainmailers from around the world. “We are making the largest chainmail quilt,” she explained. The 8-inch-by-8-inch square that she is working on depicts a Union Jack, the United Kingdom flag. Participants have a deadline of February, and the 150 volunteers worldwide already have submitted 40 pieces. Her chainmail flag contribution is halfway complete and already includes thousands of rings.



The carrier also is inspired by her postal career, creating little “chainmail mailmen” keychains for people in her office. “I actually sold my first one to my union steward,” she said.

To learn more about Fakeri’s chainmail creations, visit [facebook.com/chainmailleandstuff](https://facebook.com/chainmailleandstuff) or [etsy.com/shop/NakedArtsChainmaille](https://etsy.com/shop/NakedArtsChainmaille). **PR**

## In Memoriam

### NALC offers its deepest sympathy to the families and friends of departed brothers and sisters

Robert D. Dole	Br. 1902	Arizona Merged	James E. May	Br. 201	Wichita, KS	Anthony A. Kleinlercher	Br. 387	Yonkers, NY
Thomas L. Craft Sr.	Br. 399	Fort Smith, AR	Robert E. Walker	Br. 201	Wichita, KS	Harry V. Foust	Br. 382	Durham, NC
Robert J. Gila Jr	Br. 231	Central California	Samuel D. Barber Jr.	Br. 745	Ashland, KY	Curtis E. Wilkerson	Br. 382	Durham, NC
Ines Hidalgo Jr.	Br. 231	Central California	John W. Cunningham	Br. 14	Louisville, KY	George J. Long	Br. 464	Wilmington, NC
Frank Egan	Br. 52	Central California Coast	Edward R. Gabriel	Br. 124	New Orleans, LA	Henry E. Long	Br. 461	Winston-Salem, NC
Melvin Kimlinger	Br. 52	Central California Coast	Roland Voisine	Br. 2394	Presque Isle, ME	Ronald E. Walker	Br. 461	Winston-Salem, NC
Joseph A. Ballek	Br. 1100	Garden Grove, CA	John R. Bahr	Br. 176	Baltimore, MD	Michael Robish	Br. 238	Canton, OH
Robert E. Erbes	Br. 1100	Garden Grove, CA	William J. Byrne	Br. 34	Boston, MA	Sylvester J. Diebold	Br. 43	Cincinnati, OH
Earl E. Miles	Br. 1100	Garden Grove, CA	Alfred J. Lamore	Br. 34	Boston, MA	Robert G. Puthoff	Br. 43	Cincinnati, OH
Earl P. Smith	Br. 1100	Garden Grove, CA	Samuel D. Cameron	Br. 212	Lawrence, MA	Melvin E. Allison	Br. 40	Cleveland, OH
Jeffery L. Coker	Br. 1111	Greater East Bay, CA	Matthew R. Balliett	Br. 46	Western Massachusetts	Dale L. Baker	Br. 78	Columbus, OH
Marie C. Thurber	Br. 1111	Greater East Bay, CA	William E. Simmons	Br. 12	Worcester, MA	Michael J. Lush	Br. 182	Dayton, OH
Alonzo E. Banks	Br. 24	Los Angeles, CA	David A. Radtke	Br. 262	Battle Creek, MI	Don A. Jackson	Br. 458	Oklahoma City, OK
Antone Rodrigues	Br. 133	Sacramento, CA	Arlon G. Maple	Br. 1	Detroit, MI	Christopher E. Adamski	Br. 920	Bux-Mont, PA
Lawrence W. Linn	Br. 70	San Diego, CA	Clifford L. Vincent	Br. 122	Lansing, MI	Russell P. Fox	Br. 920	Bux-Mont, PA
German Y. Buensuceso Jr.	Br. 214	San Francisco, CA	James Mitchell	Br. 256	Mid-Michigan	Oliver C. Simmers Jr.	Br. 920	Bux-Mont, PA
Frances M. Richardson	Br. 214	San Francisco, CA	Barb Parker	Br. 256	Mid-Michigan	James J. Burkett Jr.	Br. 284	Erie, PA
Sherman E. Morris	Br. 213	Stockton, CA	Thomas S. Mc Deid	Br. 90	Mankato, MN	Clarence C. Lee	Br. 332	McKeesport, PA
Phillip A. Morelli	Br. 47	Denver, CO	Leon L. Wyatt	Br. 30	Kansas City, MO	Verlyn P. Palmer	Br. 157	Philadelphia, PA
Burton W. Cochrane Jr.	Br. 32	Bridgeport, CT	Brian K. Gillespie	Br. 343	St. Louis, MO	John M. Zilka	Br. 84	Pittsburgh, PA
Steven W. Fillmore	Br. 20	Connecticut Merged	Daniel J. Noland	Br. 343	St. Louis, MO	Christopher A. Zezenski	Br. 258	Reading, PA
Walter R. Fleming	Br. 20	Connecticut Merged	Carl F. Klahn	Br. 8	Lincoln, NE	Reginald I. Mowry	Br. 15	Providence, RI
Paul J. Gresh	Br. 20	Connecticut Merged	Frank L. Celli	Br. 38	New Jersey Merged	Francis J. Vincent	Br. 15	Providence, RI
Elwood C. Wotten	Br. 20	Connecticut Merged	William F. Mcguire	Br. 38	New Jersey Merged	Carole R. Vinson	Br. 2553	Greer, SC
Douglas J. Aretz	Br. 86	Hartford, CT	Mary C. Nelson	Br. 38	New Jersey Merged	Frank Caffrey	Br. 491	Sioux Falls, SD
Michael A. Buzzeo	Br. 86	Hartford, CT	Joseph Varrecchia	Br. 38	New Jersey Merged	Harry Daw Jr.	Br. 181	Austin, TX
Bruno T. Lorenzet	Br. 86	Hartford, CT	Yvette Robinson-Johnson	Br. 120	Paterson, NJ	Donald H. Kinsey	Br. 132	Dallas, TX
China M. Cowan	Br. 142	Washington, DC	William A. Vitella	Br. 380	Trenton, NJ	Billy O. Sisk	Br. 226	Fort Worth, TX
Robert J. Kelley Sr.	Br. 142	Washington, DC	Ramon J. Tafoya	Br. 4112	Los Alamos, NM	Darryl R. Thomas	Br. 226	Fort Worth, TX
W. Malcolm Lea	Br. 142	Washington, DC	James J. Moore	Br. 29	Albany, NY	William H. Easter	Br. 283	Houston, TX
Norman L. Hookway	Br. 1091	Central Florida	William B. Alston	Br. 41	Brooklyn, NY	Charles W. Thomas	Br. 283	Houston, TX
Michael Serenelli	Br. 599	Tampa, FL	John S. Wolchok	Br. 41	Brooklyn, NY	Billy J. Grimes	Br. 2589	Lubbock, TX
Paul Grossman	Br. 1477	West Coast Florida	Thomas R. Huefner	Br. 3	Buffalo-Western NY	Billy J. Petty	Br. 4065	Plano, TX
James J. Bell	Br. 1477	West Coast Florida	Jesse A. Lewis	Br. 3	Buffalo-Western NY	Douglas A. Egbert	Br. 68	Ogden, UT
Robert Hutton	Br. 11	Chicago, IL	J.N. Antonucci	Br. 137	Hudson Valley Mgd., NY	Robert J. Correll	Br. 685	Fredericksburg, VA
William L. Murray Jr.	Br. 11	Chicago, IL	James V. Nicoletti	Br. 6000	Long Island Mgd., NY	Wilbert L. Camm	Br. 325	Lynchburg, VA
Curtis L. Robinson	Br. 11	Chicago, IL	Pasquale U. Spinelli	Br. 6000	Long Island Mgd., NY	Ralph Chambers	Br. 524	Roanoke, VA
Anthony P. Vivirito	Br. 11	Chicago, IL	Morris M. Kreppel	Br. 36	New York, NY	Willie H. Debrew	Br. 247	Tidewater, VA
Ronald E. Bruck	Br. 825	Elmhurst, IL	Rudolph J. Krutzler	Br. 36	New York, NY	Dana J. Evanger	Br. 79	Seattle, WA
Rick C. Kelly	Br. 825	Elmhurst, IL	Rudolph V. Sanders	Br. 36	New York, NY	Andrew R. Reetz	Br. 130	Tacoma, WA
David E. Jackson	Br. 1132	Granite City, IL	Audi M. Trinidad	Br. 36	New York, NY	Perry G. Miller	Br. 852	Yakima, WA
David L. Gudgeon	Br. 39	Indianapolis, IN	Robert Havens	Br. 210	Rochester, NY	Noel K. Ford	Br. 822	Appleton, WI
Ray Wittenmeyer	Br. 373	Cedar Rapids, IA	Anthony V. Parrinello	Br. 210	Rochester, NY	James J. Ramsey	Br. 715	Beloit, WI
Jack F. Olds	Br. 506	Davenport, IA	Harry E. Brogan	Br. 134	Syracuse, NY	Sam Cuccia	Br. 507	Madison, WI
Bernard Tschirhart	Br. 5521	Shawnee Mission, KS	Paul L. Phelps	Br. 134	Syracuse, NY	Gerry J. Luer	Br. 507	Madison, WI
Rhonda R. Hinton	Br. 10	Topeka, KS	Patsy J. Deluca	Br. 375	Utica, NY			
Edgar E. Bonar	Br. 201	Wichita, KS	Harold H. Cronk	Br. 387	Yonkers, NY			