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1,000 Black River cranes hang at Peace Memorial in Hiroshima



Contributed/Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
 A worker in Hiroshima, Japan, handles paper cranes sent there by students at Black River Public School.

By **STEPHEN KLOOSTERMAN**
 The Holland Sentinel
 Posted Jun 17, 2009 @ 04:30 AM

Holland, MI —

One thousand origami paper cranes from Holland are hanging at the Peace Park in Hiroshima, Japan. Black River Public School social studies teacher Marguerite Stephens had students in several classes and after-school groups fold the cranes during the past year. Stephens strung the cranes together and sent them to Hiroshima. There is a Japanese legend that making 1,000 origami paper cranes will grant a person's wish. Strings of folded cranes have become a sign of peace since a girl from Hiroshima folded more than 1,000 of them in the 1950s. The girl made the cranes in an effort to cure her leukemia, thought to be caused by residual radiation from the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in World War II. She

died at the age of 12.

"I received an e-mail from Hiroshima, and the cranes did arrive," Stephens said. "They took a picture of the cranes with a worker just before they hung them at the base of the Children's Memorial in Hiroshima Peace Park and e-mailed me the picture."

In the letter, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum Director Koichiro Maeda thanked Black River.

"We appreciate your donation of cranes, each one carefully folded, for the desire for peace and reflection of the A-bomb experience it represents," Maeda wrote. "Please do not forget what you have learned and what motivated you to hold these cranes."

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