## Artist of the Month: Claudia Moriarty

Claudia Moriarty is an amazing woman who has suffered great loss, including losing her home twice. But with nothing but the clothes on her back she had the courage to rebuild her life never wavering from the things that she holds dear, such as her family, her art, and our soldiers.

A native South Floridian, Moriarty picked up her first paintbrush at the age of nine and quickly learned from family camping trips in the Everglades that her art was a way to preserve the beauty of the old Florida landscape.

Moriarty has won numerous awards for her art and she is a member of several art organizations. She uses various mediums to bring life to canvas. You can see her art online at www.ClaudiaMoriarty.com or first hand at the Key Largo Art Gallery, at mile marker 103, bayside. For more information call 305-451-0052.

On the last Friday of each month the Key Largo Art Gallery artists throw a great party for the public. You can nibble on delicious snacks, and enjoy a glass of wine while you meet and mingle with a gathering of the finest artists in the Upper Keys.

When not at home working in her studio or mingling with her



Claudia Moriarty with her art at the Key Largo Art Gallery, MM 103.



Buy a raffle ticket to win this quilt at the Tradewinds First State Bank.

Proceeds benefit wounded soldiers.

fellow artists, Moriarty can be found at the Key Largo Library where she has worked full time for 15 years and currently serves as the Senior Library Assistant.

While Moriarty is known for her art and work at the library, what she might be most known for is her lifelong active support of our troops. In addition to collecting goods and sending care packages overseas, she organizes trips for Wounded Warriors. Twice a vear she works with the Wounded Warrior project to bring veterans together in the Florida Keys for dive therapy. She raises money, schedules hotel rooms, arranges dinners and makes sure the men and women enjoy themselves. Right now she is working on a group that is coming in May.

If you want to help Moriarty and our troops stop by First State Bank at the Tradewinds Plaza and purchase some raffle tickets to win a beautiful American-themed, handmade quilt. The proceeds will help with the expenses of the wounded soldiers' travel.

Moriarty is the proud mother of a son in the Marine Corps.

Thank you Claudia Moriarty for all you do to make the world a better and prettier place.



## Biking for Charity



On December 10, International Volunteers for Heron House (from left) Chris Ball, Lauren Ince, Mark MacDonald, and Ria Ball rode bikes from Key Largo to Marathon to raise money for Christmas gifts for residents of the facilities. Centennial Bank branches along the route hosted the volunteers providing snacks, water, and bathroom facilities.

Heron House is supportive housing for men & women with chronic mental illness in the Florida Keys.



