

June 18, 2012

Dear Quilter:

I write this letter of recommendation as one of Ms. Camelia Elliott's former students in a quilting workshop she held in November 2010. I have sincerely enjoyed getting to know Ms. Elliott over the past four years and recognize her as a very talented and creative individual.

At the time of this workshop, it had been over 30 years since I had even considered putting together a quilt. However, as I learned more about the four-day workshop and how she was offering a special class on a new technique whereby a picture is woven with complimentary threads to make the center medallion of the quilt, I was intrigued. Camelia was very patient with me as I learned new techniques and to use the new quilter's tools such as the rotary cutter, cutting mat, and see-through plastic rulers of all sizes and shapes. Her instructions were surprisingly easy to follow and she was careful to point out the safety concerns associated with using the rotary cutter many times during the workshop. She was very patient with all the ladies in the workshop and she was very good at recognizing each individual's level of expertise and providing the necessary encouragement and complimentary evaluations of each individual's work so each person felt their project was interesting and worthwhile although very diverse.

I was appreciably impressed by the knowledge and expertise with which Ms. Elliott taught the special class. The project I chose was a photo taken at the Grand Ole Opry while on vacation several years ago. After ironing an adhesive fabric to the backside, I cut $\frac{1}{4}$ " horizontal strips, leaving the area around the two focal points (the performer on the large screen and on the stage). I then strung contrasting thread vertically loom style using pins and a padded graph board. The strips of fabric were woven through the vertical threads and the back side was ironed onto adhesive fabric before sewing the individual quilt pieces to this center medallion. She very patiently helped one of the ladies who struggled to complete the weaving process without error. Once the quilted wall hanging was finished, Ms. Elliott enthusiastically encouraged me to submit it in the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) American Heritage competition the following spring. Both of us are members of this organization and she was well aware of the possibilities. I submitted it in January and learned in March that it won First Place in State and then I learned in July it had won First Place in Eastern Division and Second Place in the National competition in the machine quilted wall hanging category.

As her website indicates, Camelia "feels the history of a quilt is important and upcoming generations should have information and history about the person who designed and created each quilt. . . ." This was a new concept for me since I had grown up viewing quilts as simply bed covers to keep you warm in the winter. However, I now add a label to every project with information such as the title of the project, when it was started and completed, and any other information I feel may be of interest about the project for future generations.

In summary, I felt Ms. Elliott's knowledge of various quilting techniques, her easy way of communicating those techniques and processes, and her leadership style during the workshop was encouraging and supportive yet allowed each workshop participant the freedom to explore on their own and to be creative. I felt everyone gained significantly from the overall experience while having fun learning and sharing with the other participants.

Sincerely,

Linda A. Haney