



MARCH 2020

From the Executive Director

by Tammany McDaniel

Last month, QOVF welcomed two new vendors who will work with groups to defray upfront costs for fabrics. Thank you to Midwest Textiles & Supplies and Winline Textiles. We appreciate their support of QOVF Groups.



Tammany McDaniel
Executive Director

We also launched a "QOVF Label" Design Challenge. For more details, please reach out to designchallenge@qovf.org. Why all the changes? You might recall that a new QOVF logo was announced at the 2019 Annual Conference. Since that time, our organization has worked to ensure a steady transition from the old logo to the new one. We made a commitment to those groups and individuals with tangible items such as banners, signs, and clothing with logos that QOVF would allow the use of the old logo through May 2021. We also have a responsibility to ensure that as old logo items are depleted from inventories, items featuring the new logo are brought in. By changing our labels, stickers, certificate seals, and more, we are making a visible distinction between old marks and new. We do want to honor the products that are time-tested, so many of them will be coming back with the new logo throughout the summer and fall.

Watch for more design challenges to come throughout the year. We are

Continued on page 2

NEVER TOO YOUNG TO VOLUNTEER

by Pam Williams

It was a much-anticipated day for the ladies of the Bare Bones Quilters club and their friends. With her tireless work in the background to pull together the events of the day, Charlene Roche assembled a fun group of women and one child (eight-year-old Lucy Weeden) at the Dover, NH, Comfort Inn/Suites for QOV National Sew Day on February 1.

The ladies joined forces to make a total of 29 Windmill blocks, 29 flag blocks, and 19 Double Star blocks. Lucy's contribution was two Nine Patch blocks she sewed on her Hello

Kitty Janome machine. This was Lucy's second QOVF National Sew Day. She enjoyed the 2019 Sew Day so much that when her grandmother told her about this year's event she was eager to go. She had a fun time seeing everyone's work and the ladies enjoyed sharing their work with her. Lucy belongs to 4-H and her attendance at this year's event will count as a community service requirement.

In addition to blocks sewn at the event, a donation of 57 Nine Patch and Double Star blocks was received. Two bound quilts with flanges were returned, four quilts had their bindings completed, and six quilts were sent for longarm quilting. All in all, the day was a big success!



Lucy Weeden shows one of her completed Nine Patch blocks at the Bare Bones Quilters' QOV National Sew Day event in Dover, NH.



Sewing on her Hello Kitty Janome machine, eight-year-old Lucy was the youngest sewing volunteer at her location on QOV National Sew Day. This was her second year to participate, attending with her grandmother, Pam Williams.

excited to see your creativity and how you would incorporate our new logo.

Does your group need fabric for QOVs? QOVF has fabric still available from the Missouri Star Quilt Company-Missouri Star Cares donation. Please contact executive.director@qovf.org to

make a request while quantities last.

We are so appreciative for the donation that funded rent for the new Winterset, Iowa, QOVF offices this year. We have moved in and are enjoying the space.

If you are a Certified Quilt Business Member, please consider joining our advisory team discussions. We want to

attract more quilt business members and determine the best ways to collaborate. Please contact cbqadvisoryteam@qovf.org for more information.

Thank you for your work to change the lives of our service members and veterans touched by war.

NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIANS OFF TO A QUICK QOV START

by Rebecca Orlowski

In early November, 2019, members of the Pennsylvania Quilters Guild attended a QOVF presentation given by PA State Coordinator, Billie, and Columbia County QOV leader, Bonnie. After hearing their stories, it became apparent to several guild members that starting a local QOV group was a must. After several weeks of strategizing, a plan was developed to determine when, where, and how the group would come to be.

On January 2, 2020, eight members of the NEPA QOV Group met for the first time at the American Legion, Post 644, in Swoyersville, PA. Work began on their first QOV. The recipient would be a veteran from Lackawanna County, PA. For three hours, the rotary cutters and sewing machines were rolling and whirring. Before the night was over, two QOV quilt tops were in progress.

By the second meeting on February 5, the membership of the group grew to 20 members. The first and second QOVs were in the final stages of completion, and members arrived with additional completed quilt tops and yards of material to begin several more QOVs. Enthusiasm and generosity is spreading. It won't be long before other area quilters join us in our efforts.

The members of the NEPA QOV Group all live in northeast PA, in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area, a region with beautiful mountain chains and rich in history. Once known for its abundance of anthracite coal, this region of Pennsylvania is also rich in culture, arts, sports, and most



With great enthusiasm and teamwork, members of the NEPA QOV group completed two QOV tops (above and below) in their first two meetings.



importantly its people. The Wyoming Valley region where our group meets has been referred to as the "valley with a heart." This sentiment can be seen by the countless acts of generosity shown by the QOV members thus far.

This willingness to help others is what drove us to start a chapter of QOV. There's no better way to say thank you to the veterans in our area that have given so much. We have the privilege of living our lives in a free country thanks to the sacrifices made by those service members. Our hope is that our group will continue to grow, continue to prosper, and bring happiness to deserving veterans one QOV at a time.

SEWING TO THE NINES FOR QOV

Information provided by Carole Carter

The quilting and crafting blog From My Carolina Home (frommycarolinahome.com) hosted a Quilts of Valor Sew-In at Beginnings Quilt Shop in Hendersonville, NC, for QOVF National Sew Day on February 1, 2020. The all-day event to make blocks and tops for QOV was attended by a small, but determined, group of sewing enthusiasts.

FromMyCarolinaHome.com announced a block drive in early January, prior to National Sew Day, and blog readers sent in 96 star blocks for a head start on the day. Door prizes were awarded for in-person participation, mailed-in blocks, and participation on the Friends of From My Carolina Home Facebook group page for sharing QOV sewing in readers' local areas.

On the day of the event, stations were set up in two classrooms for assembly-line construction of the tops. The day began with cutting squares to make Nine Patch blocks. As the squares were cut, stacks of nine squares were made and then handed off to a volunteer at one of six sewing machines. As blocks were assembled, they were handed off for the seams to be pressed. From there, using three design walls, the blocks were laid out in five-by-six block rows ensuring a nice mix of prints and stars. The resulting quilt centers were 60 x 72 inches. Adding borders later brought them to the minimum requirement for a QOV.

At the end of the day, two tops were fully assembled and ready for borders and quilting. Three more tops were in progress, with three participants volunteering to finish them at home. Parts and pieces for more blocks were enough to make two additional tops. In the end, our National Sew Day will net a total of seven quilts for our local group. All blocks and tops made during this event went to the Blue Ridge QOV chapter for Veterans in the Western North Carolina area.



Design walls were integral in helping volunteers position Nine Patch and star blocks artfully to complete "To the Nines" quilt tops during QOV National Sew Day events in Hendersonville, NC.



"To the Nines" quilt pattern is available for download on the From My Carolina Home blog [here](http://frommycarolinahome.com).

HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO?

Information provided by Patty Livingston, Forget-Me-Not Quilters of Alaska QOV Group Leader; and written by Claire Priebe

Many volunteers go the extra mile to make sure a QOV award can be delivered, whether it is a timing issue or an out-of-the-way location. But just how far they are truly willing to go might surprise you—how about 45 minutes in freezing temperatures on a snow machine?

There are many sayings about Alaskans. One of the most fitting: Alaska, where only the strong survive. For many Alaskans, there are huge challenges to deal with daily, including awarding a QOV.

Talkeetna, AK, is a small community of about 400 year-round residents situated approximately 115 miles north of Anchorage. The number of residents grows during tourist season. Talkeetna is well known to the climbers of Denali, the tallest mountain in North America, because all flights to base camp on Denali originate in Talkeetna.

Just north of Talkeetna is the small remote community of Chase, AK. Residents of Chase are known as people who “live up the tracks” because the main trail into Chase follows the Alaskan Railroad for the first five miles. There are recreational cabins in Chase, but very few full-time residents. Cabins there are definitely “off grid” and not road accessible. Accessibility could be by snow machine, four wheeler, plane, or boat. I live in Chase six months per year and know many residents of both villages. I am also involved with the Forget-Me-Not Quilters Group in the Mat-Su Borough area.

I nominated several residents in the Talkeetna/Chase area for QOVs. Last August our group conducted the first QOV presentation at the VFW hall in Talkeetna. Shortly after that ceremony, the owner of a local air service nominated a Chase resident, Greg Garriss (locals call him Mr. G.).

Mr. G.’s cabin is a 20 mile one-way trail ride from my Chase cabin and not accessible in the summer months. The next QOV presentation by our group was scheduled for October 2019.

Unfortunately, Mr. G. was unable to attend. I assured him that I would communicate the time of the next QOV presentation.

In early December I received word that Mr. G. was dealing with catastrophic medical issues and the request for a QOV presentation became urgent. Unfortunately, the weather was not cooperative. The area lakes and rivers were not frozen. Planes with skis were unable to land on any body of water. The only access to Mr. G.’s cabin would be by helicopter. Several pilots offered a helicopter “drop” when they were out that way, but the idea was deemed unfeasible.

Late on December 27th, I received a text asking me to bring the QOV to the Talkeetna plane hangar on the morning of December 28th. A plane was scheduled to fly out to pick up Mr. G at first light and would be landing back at the hangar around

10:30 a.m. I guaranteed the quilt and I would be at the hangar for the award presentation.

In the dark morning hours of December 28th, I left my cabin in Chase on snow machine with the QOV strapped down on the back. The temperature outside was three degrees. On the frigid 45-minute ride into Talkeetna, I repeated one prayer—please Lord, no moose encounter this morning. I was there to watch the plane land and grew excited. Mr. G. walked in grinning from ear to ear because he knew what was ahead. I was so fortunate to make his QOV award presentation. Both his wife and the nominating person were present at the emotional ceremony. Mr. G. asked me to convey his thanks “to all the quilters, I’ve never been so moved.”

As a volunteer, QOVF has my heart, and I would do it all again for another Mr. G.



Alaska QOV volunteer Claire Priebe drove a snow machine 45 minutes in freezing temperatures to present Greg Garriss with his QOV award. (Photo by Johnny Murdock.)

NEW SPONSOR: BRENDA LOU QUILTS

We appreciate those who support us by joining, volunteering, and sponsoring. Our newest sponsor is Brenda Lou Quilts.

I longarm because I love to do it. I learned early that I could not build enough quilt tops to keep myself longarming every day so I started by volunteering longarm services for Project Linus and QOVF. I am so grateful for quiltmakers who let me experiment and learn on their projects. My skills were fairly limited in my early days, but the ladies were so kind and supportive and let me keep trying until I developed a style. Now, I have the beginnings of a little cottage industry and hobby job that keeps me busy nights and weekends finishing quilts for what are now hundreds of customers.

I have been fortunate to work on some precious family jewels in the form of quilt tops that were dug out of attics and brought to life after generations of waiting for completion. I have stitched together custom quilts for new babies that I hope are used again and again. I have also brought comfort to those who have lost loved ones by designing and building custom memory quilts that serve as a hug, when that special someone is no longer with us. It is my privilege to finish quilts, new or old, with custom free-motion quilting.

For more information, visit <https://brendalouquilts.com/>.

Quilts Reported

2012: 6,169
2013: 12,314
2014: 17,373
2015: 18,772
2016: 19,051
2017: 24,123
2018: 30,745
2019: 33,375
2020: 6,436

Total: 248,921

(from date of first recorded award through 29 February, 2020)

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

QOVF Core Values

Treating people with respect • Promoting excellence • Valuing service over self • Being accountable



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For more information about QOVF, see www.QOVF.org

For more information about the BOD, the QOVF staff, and how to contact your State Coordinator (SC) go to www.qovf.org/meet-us/

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