



GRATITUDE

by ED Tammany McDaniel

I am so grateful for sewing machine repair shops and caring instructors. The machine I spoke about in the last issue of *Threads* just needed a little TLC. Many of you reached out with tips and videos that helped me make rail fence and 9-patch



Tammany McDaniel
Executive Director

blocks. Everyone has been so kind, and we have all shared some laughs. We all have gifts—and several of us have decided that my gift is definitely in administration. As you can see, I produced a few blocks. We will be laying them out, according to the instructions, in the next week or so.

If I haven't said it lately—I am grateful for your service in fulfilling our mission. I was pretty sure that quilting

is exacting; I know it now! The 269,000 QOVs you have made and awarded are priceless treasures for our service members and veterans.

Operation Gratitude

Our Board of Directors (BOD) has been working with me to ensure that we contact our volunteer leaders in 2021. At any given time, there are over 800 member volunteers who perform some level of the administration in this organization. There are three full-time and one part-time paid staff—all the rest are YOU! So, if your State or District Coordinator received a call from one of our BOD members, hopefully they had an enjoyable conversation about the business structure of our non-profit. If they haven't been contacted yet, please give us a few weeks to get those contacts completed.

If, during your conversation, it wasn't all 'excellent ratings' for staff or the organization, please know that we want to do better. If you are familiar with a systems of excellence approach—

we want to continuously improve efficiency and effectiveness. When we fail, we use that as a way to review gaps in our systems with the aim of closing those gaps and improving for the future.

Contest—Where in The World is Tammany McDaniel?

Although I have limited travel, there have been a few things I had to get done in person. I had to go out on Saturday to meet with a Board Member traveling within 100 or so miles of where I am staying. Reminder—I am spending the winter in Florida.

Since the BOD and I had to adjust our schedules, I am going to allow two answers as correct. And, since there are two possible correct answers—well, there will be two prizes. My hints: Racing circuit, IMSA, Hertz, Porsche. Can you tell me where I was? The prize for the winners—1 bolt of blender fabric (up to 15 yards) from one of our partner providers.



UP AND COMING

by QOVF Marketing

It's tax season. If you haven't filed, you better get going! We have a few updates for you:

★ April is National Volunteer Month. We love all of our volunteers and appreciate everything you do to fulfill our mission. In addition to those who sew, quilt, and award our Quilts of Valor, there are hundreds of you who also fill other volunteer staff roles—local and state leadership, customer service, IT support, and mailing donation letters, just to name a few. We wouldn't be able to wrap our military community with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor without YOU.



- ★ Purple Up for the Month of the Military Child! Since the debut of the original Month of The Military Child in 1986, there are a growing number of activities both on military bases and in local military communities. This is a great way to partner with other organizations in your community that support the military. To learn more about Month of the Military Child, or find events, visit this article in [Military Benefits](#).
- ★ Nominate a Veteran. You may have noticed that we removed the printable form from the general public location of the website. An email went out at the end of March with more details and we published a post on the website for members. The form is still available on the member dashboard as a tool for you to use.

★ The updated date is now set for our next cruise! The official [2022 Quilts of Valor® Cruise](#) with our wonderfully talented partner, [Nu-Blu](#), sails January 23, 2022, from Galveston, TX, to Mexico, Key West, and the Western Caribbean. Mark your calendars to join the fun with Mary Kerr and Nu-Blu! #QOVFCruise2022



★ And last but not least, a reminder that the QOVF store is and has been open, it just hasn't been available online. The Group Wholesale Order Form is on the member dashboard, updated often, and right now we have everything in stock that is shown on the list, including brochures, seals, and award covers. If there is something you wanted that is not listed, please email marketing@qovf.org and we'll see what we can do.

OLD INFORMATION COSTS US MONEY

by QOVF Marketing

Our members are the best: dedicated, caring and always putting the Mission first. We love our members and would not be where we are today without you.

We need you to do one more thing for us. Log in and update your membership information. It may seem silly - you get emails, or your group knows your new address because they came to your open house. But there is a cost to the Foundation when you don't keep your information current.

Let's use membership pins as an example. While it didn't help that COVID hit everyone, including the post office, we expected to spend \$3,000 for shipping membership pins in 2020. To ship efficiently, we ran a report to get the addresses, automatically created labels, and then



shipped the pins out. Roughly half were lost in the mail or returned for a bad address. Now you are disappointed, and we went through the budget—and then some.

- We want to do more to acknowledge you. We thought we could start with birthday emails—that's an easy one, right? Well, it would be, if we had your birthday in the system. We promise not to look at the year, only the month and day.

- We want to acknowledge our volunteers that are veterans or active duty. We seem to be matching the general statistic that less than 1% of the population have served because we only know 100 of you. That can't be correct, can it?
- You've opted out of emails or declined all communication. We can't send you anything—even a little happy in the mail—if you decline communication. If you are a State or District Coordinator or a Group Leader, you must accept emails from the Foundation.
- We need an emergency contact, especially if you are a volunteer in a leadership role. We need a name and phone number (different than yours) in case something happens. If 2020 taught us anything, it is that no one is immune. There were a few occasions when we couldn't

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reach a member and we had no way to check on them. If you are sick, or something has happened, we promise not to put you to work! We worry about you and want to ensure you are safe.

We are frugal and monitor every penny we spend. We work hard to make the best of what we have so we can invest it back into you, our members. We want to help more—when you need fabric or batting or \$20 to ship a quilt, we want to be able to say yes.

With accurate membership information, we will have a few more of those pennies and will be able to help you. So, help us help you, sign in and give us your latest information!



Charles and Sue C. both served in the US Army during the Vietnam Era, Charles as a Tanker Engineer from 1965–1967 and Sue as a nurse from 1969 to 1972.

A LITTLE RAIN CAN'T STOP THE 2020 DELIVERIES

submitted by Sandy Dallmann

As a veteran and member of the QOVF through the Lakeshore Quilt Guild in Hendersonville, TN, I served as the chair of the QOV committee for 2020. Projects started for our group in December 2019, kits continued into January 2020, and then COVID stopped all meetings. Yet, we somehow managed to complete 43 quilts while in quarantine. Our November 2020 QOV award presentations were cancelled, rescheduled for March 2021, and then cancelled again. So, delivering the quilts in person seemed to be the only recourse—and it was a day to remember.

Torrents of rain beat against my vehicle as I wound down a country road searching for a house, of whose whereabouts only my GPS knew. No road signs out here, no landmarks...just cattle, goats, and woods, all dripping with a deluge of heavy rain. Once in the veteran's driveway, I somehow managed to retrieve the papers with my comments and the quilt, while juggling a giant umbrella that hopefully would keep everything dry. In the downpour I thought "Could there be any worse day for delivering quilts?"

The front door opened and out stepped a Korean War veteran whose eyes had seen more death and destruction than most humans will ever see during their lifetime. But there was also kindness and warmth in his eyes

which reflected a grace given to him over the years, allowing healing and restoration.

I spoke about how "this Quilt of Valor is an award for your sacrifice and service. The price of freedom is high! And we must never forget those that have been willing to pay that price. So, it is my privilege to award you, the military veteran, with this Quilt of Valor for your bravery, your sacrifice, your service and dedication to our freedom."

His tears brimmed on the surface as he gulped down strong emotions. Finally, able to speak, he said, "Oh my, look at that beautiful quilt. You have no idea how much this means to me. Sometimes I feel forgotten, but this quilt is something I will cherish forever. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

All day long the deliveries proceeded. With each one, the veterans responded similarly, with emotions, gratitude, and pride. After eleven hours I sat in my car, my clothing now soaked with the rain that had persisted to flood stage. I wiped rain from my face as my saturated hair dripped. I reflected on the amazing veterans and the selfless, giving quilters that worked so hard to make this all possible. A big smile took over as I said to myself, "Could there have been any better day for delivering quilts! What a huge blessing."

I was just the messenger, but YOU quilters made this all possible! Thank you for all you have done!

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

by QOVF Marketing

We all love the pictures of veterans and service members wrapped in their quilts. In fact, we have a Facebook group dedicated to them. They put a face to our why!

But did you know our website also has a page called Memorable Moments for those pictures? And that page isn't just for pictures, but for notes and cards, too! Many of us who do awards have thank you notes that mean more to us than any picture. They are just as memorable and deserve to be shared.



When we launched the new website, the member dashboard included four new documents: Memorable Moment—Thank You Template 01, 02, 03 and 04. These PDF documents are easy to fill out. Pick your preferred style, fill in the information from your thank you, and send it to marketing@qovf.org. We will make sure it gets uploaded to the website.

We want your pictures, your award stories, and we want to hear some of those cherished thank you notes. Help us build the QOVF scrapbook of Memorable Moments!

THE LOST ART OF A WRITTEN THANK YOU

by Allison Fentriss, AED

My grandmothers used to send me different kinds of gifts—books, name plates, handkerchiefs, and stationery. Some of those gifts received included a Time Life Classic book set of children's books with a "leather" spine, personalized inside with a "this book belongs to" label, with my name in a pretty script; a new jumper or dress made for me in funky fabric, with apples; and embossed stationery. No matter if I liked the gift, it was instilled in me to send a written thank you. There were rules, too.

- Thank them three times, with meaning.
- Use the person's name.
- Thank them for their gift, specifically naming the gift.
- Mention something else about the gift—how you'll spend the money, where you'll read the book, or where



you will hide the outfit—I mean, where you will wear the outfit.

- Thank them for their thoughtfulness.
- Close with another thank you.

Most of us are the type of people to give if we are able, no thanks necessary. That's why our mission is so successful, because of your giving hearts. Quilts of Valor may be your charity of choice, but it isn't the only place you give. Like

"shop local," I try to donate when I can to young nonprofits helping the military community. It may not be a large amount, but each of us know how far we can stretch \$5, \$10 or \$15!

Somewhere along the way, sending a thank you became a lost art. I've donated to nonprofits where the only acknowledgement received was the credit card receipt. Part of me understands - they're new, they don't have many volunteers, they're focused on their mission. The bigger part of me says, "well, that is the last donation they'll receive from me."

Technology may have changed things, providing us more delivery methods to send a thank you, but one thing has not changed. When someone gives you a donation—whether through their time, fabric, or money—please send a thank you. The next time they are looking to give, they are going to think of you first because you thought that much of them.

RETIRED WWII VETERAN RECEIVES QOV ON 103TH BIRTHDAY

by Rose Rhoads, Inland Empire Quilting Angels #15270

Major James E. Dinsmore USMC (Ret.) of Placentia, CA, received his Quilt of Valor on February 28, 2021, his 103rd birthday. His quilt was made and presented by Rita Jones, also of Placentia. Major Dinsmore served in World War II, flying TBM Avengers in the Pacific.

According to the National Park Service website: "Throughout World War II, Avengers flew with the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Marines and the Royal Navies of the Allies in every theater of the conflict, successfully carrying out reconnaissance, bombing raids, anti-submarine patrols and contributing significantly to the eventual Allied victory. The Avenger participated in every major air-sea battle of World War II between June 1942 and August 1945, and played a significant role in search-



and-destroy missions hunting German submarines, proving its worth in both night and daytime assignments."

Thank you Retired Major Dinsmore for your service to our country—and Happy Belated Birthday!

THE REAL DEAL

by Tammany McDaniel

In the March issue of *Threads*, I talked about The Real Deal. We want our members to know that companies using our trade or registered marks are authentic and support our mission, not just their own. I promised to provide you with a list of our Real Deal partners. All the organizations listed here are The Real Deal, and as such they have donated dollars, materials, or other support because they believe in the importance and impact of our mission. If you see a company or product that is not on this list, please let me know. Send an email to executive.director@qovf.org and provide the name, item, and website link, when applicable. We do have agreements with some entities that can use our marks, usually in a small, limited way, to help support a group fundraiser.

The Real Deals!

- AccuQuilt
- American Gold Star Mothers
- American Quilters Society
- APQS
- Authentically American
- Baby Lock
- Blank Quilting Corporation++
- BLQ—Brenda Lou Quilts
- Connecting Threads
- Etsy Seller April Cobb Designs
- Etsy Seller Quiltin' With Wayne
- Fons & Porter
- Foust Textiles**
- Henry Glass & Co. Inc.++
- Janome-America
- JafTex Corp.++
- JDX Racing
- Keepsake Quilting
- Mancuso Show Management
- Maywood Studios
- Marshall Dry Goods**
- Missouri Star Quilt Company
- Midwest Textiles**
- MQX Quilt Festival
- National Grange
- Northcott Silk, Inc.
- Nu-Blu
- Original Sewing & Quilt Expo
- Pellon**
- Pineapple Fabrics
- Quilter's Rule
- Quilting Is My Therapy/Angela Walters
- Rivers Bend
- Shabby Fabrics
- Studioe++

- Superior Thread
- Ubora Coffee
- Winline Textiles**

** These vendors provide discounts and purchase plans for our Groups to use.

++ These vendors allow QOVF National only to purchase at near cost to provide kits and free fabric to members.

Coming Soon—Janescolorfulfabric.com

Additional Information

- Craigslist: We have not approved sellers in this system.
- eBay: We have not approved sellers in this system.
- Patterns: We require a pattern maker to contact us in advance for permission. When we grant permission, the pattern maker must use the phrase "Quilts of Valor Appropriate." We have a few vendors selling "Quilts of Valor Approved" patterns but as their stocks are depleted, we are moving to the single phrase "Quilts of Valor Appropriate."

AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!



James F. served with the US Army from 1964 to 1968, serving in Vietnam. James F. is pictured with his wife, Paula.



William H.B., served with the Army during WWII. William was awarded his QOV on his 100th birthday.



James Creaven and James Lynch, Vietnam veterans were awarded Quilts of Valor on March 17, 2021, by Quilters of Alachua County for QOV.

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: 23,356
2021: 3,908

Total: 269,163

(from date of first recorded award through 31 March 2021)

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/about-qovf/meet-us/

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