



THE POWER OF PERSEVERANCE

by Allison Fentriss,
Assistant Executive Director

per•se•ver•ance

: persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.

We receive the same question often from members, group leaders, district coordinators, and state coordinators: How many times or how long do I attempt to schedule a request before we close it? There's no right or wrong answer here, each request is different. Sometimes you can reach the recipient, but they keep cancelling on you; sometimes you can't reach the recipient, only the nominator; and sometimes no one at all will get back to you.

In the SC meetings, we talk about emailing, calling, sending a letter, and then sending one more attempt with a deadline, letting them know you're

closing the request. In that last letter, you can provide the request number and inform the recipient and nominator that they can reach out to us anytime when they're ready. None of us want to close a request, we want to wrap the recipient in their Quilt of Valor—our Quilts equal Healing after all! And, sometimes, that one last attempt with a deadline is what clicks.

We had a nomination where the nominator wanted to remain anonymous but knew this veteran's story. Our veteran lived in a tiny village that helped homeless veterans. He led a good life in the Army, but his transition to civilian life was difficult, to say the least. One bad decision led to another, which led to another, etc., etc. However, something happened that made him stop short, look, and work on turning his life around. That is how he got off the streets and into the tiny village. Sadly, he felt like his bad decisions would always define his life. He would always have the stigma of being a homeless man.

The group assigned to the request could not reach him. After many, many months, and multiple attempts, they turned the card over to the SC to cancel it for lack of contact. The SC asked me about it and gave me the background. I asked her to call just once more and leave a message that says who you are trying to reach and that, if this was the wrong number, to please tell her that also. I suggested that the message left for the veteran explain that we merely wanted to thank him for his service and for serving his country and that, if we didn't hear from him by the end of the week, we could close his request.

A few weeks ago, I had a new note from the SC. Our veteran called her back and upon understanding why we wanted him to have his Quilt of Valor, he "cried like a baby." We all have moments in our life when we need to be reminded of the good—in us, in family, or in strangers—and our Quilt of Valor had perfect timing.

Quilts = Healing and "perseverance" made the difference.

UP AND COMING

by QOVF Marketing

The last month of summer is upon us. So far, we've already had National Friendship, Watermelon, Root Beer Float and Purple Heart Day, not to mention Happy Birthday to the Coast Guard! August 10th is National Lazy, S'mores, and Spoil Your Dog Day—which sounds like a perfect combination. Whatever your day is, August is always a perfect day for a Quilt of Valor Presentation Day!

- ★ The Delta strain of COVID is on the rise. There are still so many unknowns with the virus, and we want you all to remain healthy! Please be cautious while getting back into the swing of presentations and meetings.



- ★ Looking for something quick to do to help? Don't forget we have our [National Block Drive](#). Use those scraps and sew up a block or two. Your contribution helps areas that have a larger demand for QOVs than they do quilt makers, which means our recipients are the winners!
- ★ The quilt shows are coming back. Guilds are rehosting local events and the big shows are booked for 2022. Contact the show coming

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to you—most of them will give you booth space. Bring a donation jar, blank white squares, and finished QOVs. This is a great way to show your community how we recognize and give back to our military community, gather names in the community to be awarded QOVs, and raise a few dollars for your group.

- ★ We continue to look for Volunteer Leadership. We have regions and states looking for Coordinators; Group Leaders are moving and looking for someone to take over for the group. Do your talents lead to logistics and coordination? Do you know someone in your community



that can help? No sewing required! We need people to help keep the nominations moving forward, helping local members with their

needs—whether finding presenters, fabric, batting, or money for shipping. Spread the word that we are looking for help.

- ★ Don't forget the [2022 Quilts of Valor® Cruise](#) with our wonderfully talented partner, [Nu-Blu](#), sets sail on January 23, 2022. Departing from Galveston, TX, you'll visit Mexico, Key West, and the Western Caribbean. Join the fun with Mary Kerr and Nu-Blu! #QOVFCruise2022.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

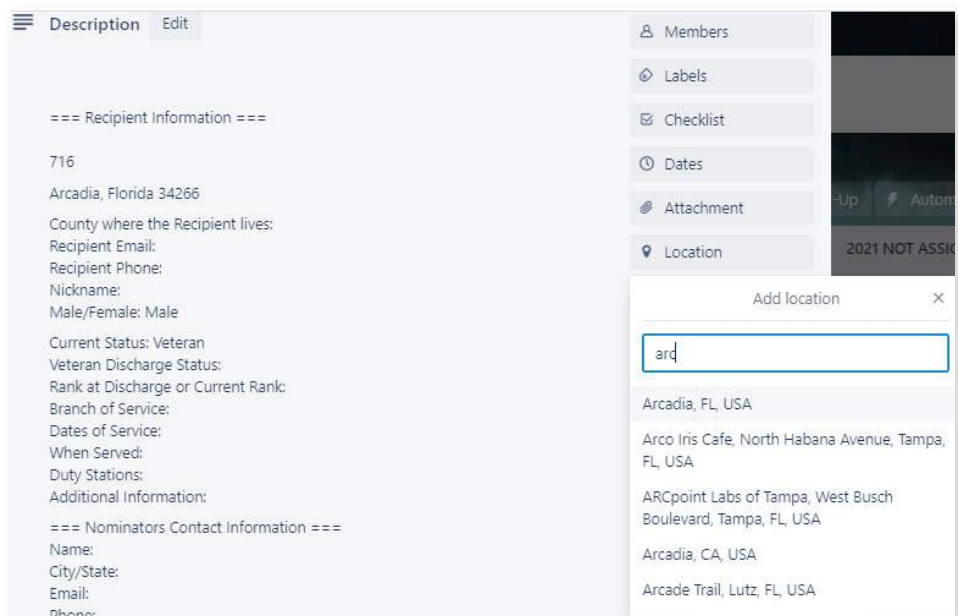
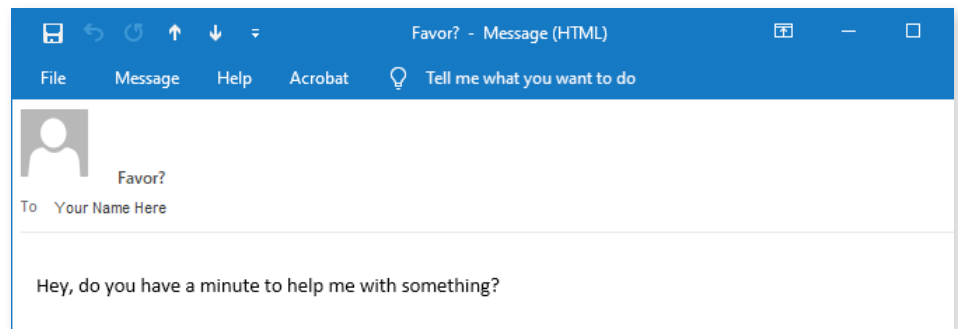
by the ITRewiewTeam

Can you do me a favor?

In case you haven't received an email like this yet, we want to make you aware of this scam. You may receive an email from a friend that is brief and says, "Can you do me a quick favor?" This email probably isn't from your friend. Your friend's computer has likely been compromised. Once you reply to the email, you get an email back with some version of a story that they need your help buying an Amazon gift card. The stories vary, the amounts vary, but one thing is consistent: this is a scam.

The malware will send the email to any email address it finds on your computer—sent or received, not just your contact list. If a friend calls or emails you that your computer has been compromised, we strongly encourage you to change the password on your computer and email account(s) immediately, then ensure your antivirus and malware software are up to date. Let your close friends know that you didn't send the email and to not answer it.

Your best defense: keep up with your computer updates, including the operating systems. Older versions might not be updated by the vendor, so you wouldn't be protected.



Where in the World is...

There is a new feature in Trello called "Location." When you open a card, you can click location, add the recipient's address, and it will add a map feature for you. Using that in conjunction with the Who's In My

Area map on our website is a great tool for all Trello users. SCs and DCs can now quickly see where the recipient is located in their state to help determine the closest group; and GLs can use it to quickly access the location of the recipient and the driving time.

VETERANS AWARDED QUILTS AT HISTORIC MEDORA

*Submitted by Arlene Meissel,
Missouri River QOV*

It was a hot and windy day, but it did not deter the Missouri River QOV group from awarding four Vietnam veterans with Quilts of Valor on Sunday, July 11, 2021. The awards were held atop a bluff at the Tjaden Terrace Pitchfork Fondue, overlooking the scenic view of the Badlands in the historic town of Medora, ND.

Each year the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation holds a Military Appreciation Day for veterans and service members. The Medora Musical recognizes those that served in our Armed Forces every day, but has special programming and activities for them on Military Appreciation Day, including free admission to the Medora Musical.

A special treat was having Joe Wiegand, who portrays Colonel/President Theodore Roosevelt, as part of our ceremony. Teddy Roosevelt, in his boisterous voice, introduced our group and assisted in the awards. In addition, SC Lou Ann Lee made the five-hour trip across ND to be part of the awards. As Lou Ann said, she was there to keep us grounded, literally, as it was very windy atop the bluff! The veterans receiving QOVs and representing three branches of the military were:

- Joseph F., who although at times had difficulty walking and standing, insisted he stand for his award. Joseph served in the U.S. Marine Corps with one year in Vietnam, where he saw a lot of combat action and received a Purple Heart and a “chest full” of medals, badges, and awards.
- Russell D. served in the U.S. Army with the 327th Infantry under the 101st Air Borne Division while in Vietnam. Russell also received a Purple Heart and several medals and badges.
- Patrick W. served in the U.S. Army, with one year in Vietnam. Patrick served in an artillery unit Fire Direction Center, taking small arms fire many times but unable to return fire for fear of giving away

their positions. Patrick has a 100% disability from hearing loss resulting from an enemy rocket explosion near their position.

- Ronald D. served with the U.S. Navy, with two years in Vietnam. Ronald was an Aviation Crew Chief for F8 Crusader Fighter jets. Ronald served on the Midway and Kitty Hawk aircraft carriers and saw two of his comrades blown

off the carrier by a jet blast during flight operations. They were never recovered!

At the completion of the awards, Teddy Roosevelt recited one of his own quotes and ended the program by leading the crowd in singing an emotional “God Bless America.” Veterans and service members were then able to attend the Medora Musical. A perfect way to end the evening.



Medora Musical Amphitheatre



Joe W., aka Teddy Roosevelt, leading off the program.

CAMO GREEN CAN OFFER COMFORT AT THE RIGHT PLACE

*Submitted by Myra Coddens
Wisconsin Volunteer with Janet Andre*

This story begins with my dear friend Janet asking me about constructing and awarding a QOV to her stepfather. I asked her what type of quilt might suit him best. Bright red/white/blue? Muted red/cream/blue? A panel in the middle? Her response was, "He likes Army green." So, while I set out to match fabrics and a pattern, Janet began planning the award ceremony. Her stepfather Peter now lives in North Fort Myers, FL, so she contacted the local AMVETS organization where Peter is a member.

Fast forward a few months to May 1, 2021. With about 100 people present, many dressed in uniform, Kevin Butwill, AMVETS District Commander, and stepdaughter Janet awarded Peter his QOV at the AMVETS & Auxiliary Post 81. During the award ceremony, Janet included the history of the QOVF. Many attendees were not aware of the Foundation, some didn't know its history, and most had never seen a QOV or attended an award ceremony.

Peter was born in 1930 and inducted into the military in 1947, serving with both the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army until discharge in 1975 at the rank of SFC E-7. During his military career, he



was stationed in Vietnam, Germany, Austria, Alaska (before it was a State), and several areas in the United States. His most memorable experiences were during his Vietnam service. Peter had received the Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with four Campaign Stars, and National Defense Service

Medal, to name a few, during his service. After retiring from the military, Peter worked 13 years for the U.S. Customs Service, followed by 15 years as a volunteer at a VA hospital in NY.

How was the Army green quilt received? Well, Pete said, "It looks like camo," and he left it over himself until the meeting ended. Now it is on his bed doing as intended—offering comfort.

PARTNERS CORNER

AccuQuilt has something each week - check out the different events:

[8/17](#): Pickle Dish is Back...It's a Big Dill!

[8/24](#): Mix & Match Series: Mix it Up!

[8/31](#): Trunk Show Series: Simply Scrap Happy!

[AQS Quiltweek](#) is back for 2022! Take a look and mark your calendars for the show closest to you.



Katie Mae Quilts has released a QOVF approved pattern. Check it [out](#).

[Northcott 10th Anniversary Collection](#) is coming to a store near you very soon! That's right, we're about to celebrate our 10th Anniversary of partnership with them, and they have fun things in store to help celebrate. Let your favorite fabric stores know what you want!

MY JOURNEY WITH QOVF

*Submitted by Lynn May
Valor Quilters of St Paul's*

In the summer of 2019, my sister and I went to Pennsylvania to visit our parents. Five of the six siblings were able to come, and I thought how wonderful it would be to honor our father and brother with Quilts of Valor. Both Marines, my father and brother live together. My father, not in great health, is 94 years old and served in WWII and my brother served in Vietnam. I submitted the nomination forms and heard from a member of a local QOV group right away.

It was so wonderful to award my father and brother these QOVs. They were very touched that the QOVF would award QOVs to them. So moved by the sincerity and honor that the QOVF has for veterans and service members, the following year I formed a new QOV group called the "Valor



Quilters of St Paul's" in St Louis, MO. Our new group has awarded a number of QOV and we are busy making more quilts to be awarded. Thank you to the



Pennsylvania group that honored my family with these quilts and that helped me begin my journey with QOVF.

AN UNFINISHED QUILT COMES FULL CIRCLE WHEN AWARDED TO SON

Submitted by Lynn May, Valor Quilters of St Paul's

In April of this year, the Valor Quilters of St Paul's were approached by another QOV group inquiring whether we could help a woman finish her mother-in-law's quilt that had been hand appliquéd and hand quilted years earlier. Her mother-in-law, Daisy Mai, had designed the quilt, but had passed away many years ago, leaving the quilt unfinished. Some members in our group hand quilt.

When we found out that Bill, her 93-year-old husband, was a WWII veteran, we asked if we could award it back to him as a Quilt of Valor. Bill had joined the U.S. Navy as a 17-year-old in 1945 and served until 1947, serving in the Pacific arena on land and at sea. After the Navy, he went into the business world as an engineer, holding multiple patents for his inventions.



Bill and his wife were very touched when he was awarded the quilt started by his mother years earlier, and now completed by our QOV group. It was

our honor to be with Bill and his family and friends and award this quilt back to him.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Submitted by Harvey Mayhill,

Group Leader of Old Glory Quilters

Story by Jennifer S., who graduated high school at age 16 and was accepted to Duke University 2021.

Although my grandmother has been an avid quilter for years, my experience with sewing projects was limited to her helping me with simple sewing kits back when I was about eight or nine years of age. However, at age 15, I decided to make a Quilt of Valor.

My grandmother had been involved with the local QOV group for a year, and my grandfather had been awarded a QOV, so I knew enough about the organization to know I wanted to take part. I decided not to tell the local leaders that I was going to make a quilt because I was worried they would think I wouldn't know what I was doing and that I might do a poor job, which probably would have been a seemingly fair assessment given my lack of quilting skills.

Quilting experience: None

General sewing skills: Minimal

Willingness to learn: Plenty

Instead, I used some of my grandmother's extra supplies to create my first QOV. Once complete, my grandmother and I went to the organization headquarters to show the leaders. They were impressed with how well my first quilt had turned out and immediately invited me to join the group, providing me supplies for more quilts. I have completed four quilts since then, and I think both my quality level and my impact have increased since I started.

My third quilt hung in Congressman Ralph Norman's office for several months before I awarded it to a Vietnam war Marine who had earned two Purple Hearts. The QOV was awarded in Congressman Norman's office with the Congressman assisting with the presentation.



Jennifer and Congressman Norman awarding a Quilt of Valor to John, a Marine who served in Vietnam and received two Purple Hearts.

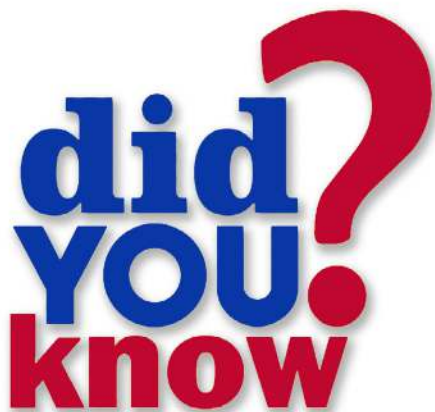
Being able to award that quilt to this incredible hero, who sacrificed so much to protect our country, truly brought the importance of the QOVF to the front of my mind. I had known that what I was doing was valuable, but it didn't entirely register until I saw this veteran brought to tears while surrounded by his family. Finally receiving some of the recognition he deserved was monumental to him, and his family had hoped for it for years.

The gratitude both he and his family showed made me realize how much a token of thanks can mean to the unsung heroism of our nation's soldiers. It also shows that everyone should find a way to improve their communities whether it be as part of the QOVF or some other incredible non-profit. These organizations and the simple generous actions of everyday people can make a huge impact.

That is why I am partnering with the Old Glory Quilters chapter of the

QOVF as a part of the Duke Engage Gateway Program, a program sponsored by Duke University. The program supports incoming freshmen who work with community organizations for 100+ hours during the summer. By taking part in this summer experience, I can dedicate far more time to QOV. I plan to make many more quilts over the course of this summer and increase community awareness of the QOVF.

I hope to increase the younger generation's involvement within the organization. Even though I am not an adult yet, I have found a way to make a positive impact on the community around me. I encourage everyone around me to find a way to increase their impact on their communities, whether it be a large increase or a small one. Every little action will make a difference in the end, and everyone has their own skills and talents, and the willingness to learn new ones, so that they will leave behind a positive legacy.



- ★ Copper door knobs are self-disinfecting
- ★ The "M's" in M&Ms stand for "Mars" and "Murrie."
- ★ While free to you, it costs \$18 to print and mail 100 QOVF brochures.

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: 13,587

Total: 278,847

(from date of first recorded award through 31 July 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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amazon smile [here](#)

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