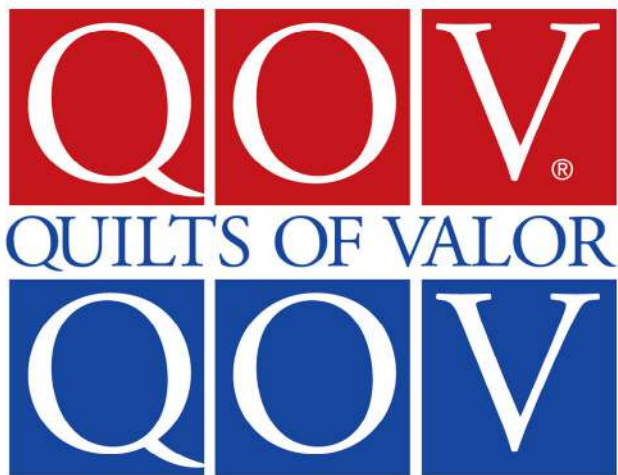




SEPTEMBER 2021

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threads
NEWSLETTER

REMEMBRANCE AND HEALING

by Allison Fentriss,
Assistant Executive Director

re·mem·brance: have in one's mind or be able to bring to one's mind an awareness of someone or something that one has seen, known, or experienced in the past.

heal·ing: the process of making or becoming sound or healthy again.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of September 11th. There are certain moments in our life that we can always recall in minute detail, and September 11, 2001, is likely one of them. For some of you, it was the day that cemented the decision for you or a family member to enlist and serve.

Amid the current events, news reports, and anniversary, we want to take a moment to say, "thank you." To all those who served or are serving, to the spouses and children who sacrificed at home during deployment and after separation, it matters. We see you. We hear you. We are grateful for you.

To those who lost comrades, to those who suffered injuries, to those who carry the scars of your service - you made a difference. You may feel that the world is conspiring against healing, but you can't have healing without remembrance. It is hard and painful. But the world and our nation are safer because of you. History is a long game, and you deserve to be proud of yours.

September is Suicide Prevention Month and September 10th is World Suicide Prevention Day. If the end



SEPTEMBER IS
NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
MONTH



of the mission in Afghanistan or the September 11th anniversary are triggering anxiety and mental health issues, whether you served, are a family, friend, or caregiver, please know that resources are available, including the 24-hour **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255**. Check in on your buddies, family, and friends.

I want to thank everyone who

has contributed to the success of our mission. We began this organization almost 20 years ago because of one mother's worry. We find healing through the quilting process and our recipients find comfort being wrapped. Our mission hasn't changed: to cover all Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

UP AND COMING

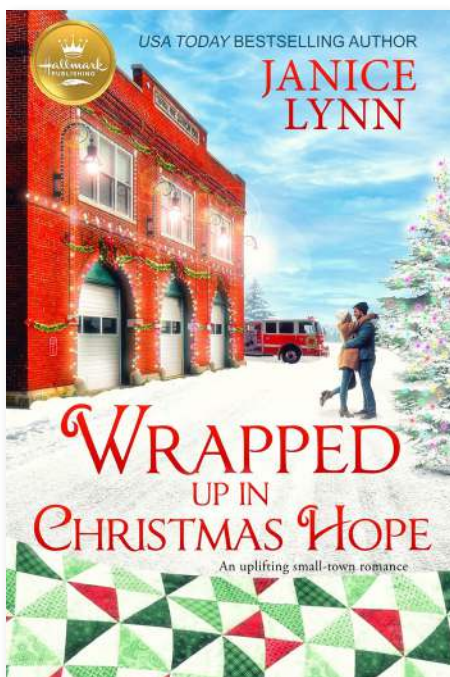
by QOVF Marketing

September—the month of World Suicide Prevention, the Vernal Equinox, and the official start of Fall and pumpkin spice season.

- ★ COVID is still on the rise. We want you all to remain healthy! Please be cautious while getting back into the swing of presentations and meetings.



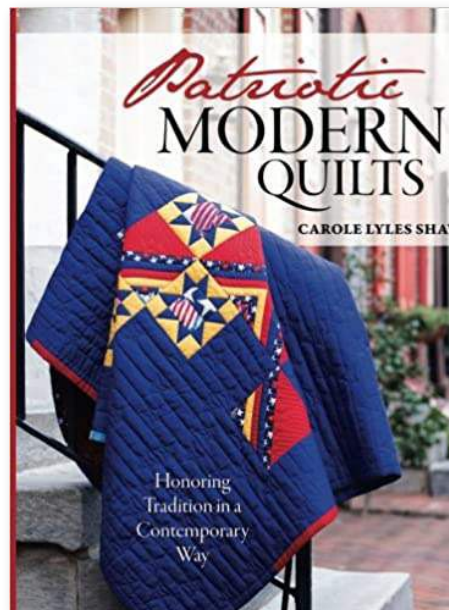
- ★ **SAVE THE DATE!** November 6th is our Annual Take 5 Run, Walk, Block event. Our Inaugural Event was a great success last year, and we want to make it an even bigger success this year! Keep a lookout in your inbox for full details and your registration link.
- ★ We all need a little Hope, and you can get a helping of Hope on our website: [Wrapped Up in Christmas Hope](#). Our Hope Quilt Challenge winner wasn't the cover quilt, but the winning pattern will be revealed on October 26, 2021, when the book is released.



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



- ★ Do you like modern quilts? Then check out [Patriotic Modern Quilts](#). Author and quilt teacher Carole Lyles Shaw has created quilting projects that will appeal to all types of quilters.



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

WHAT ARE FLAG QUILTS?

by Allison Fentriss

Many of the questions we receive at National are cyclical. Questions related to “Flag Quilts” are on the rise the past few weeks.

The American Flag is the epitome of patriotism and respect. This is true for civilians and military alike. One thing to remember: the only time a Veteran or Service Member expects to be wrapped in a flag is when it drapes their coffin.

So, does it mean we can't make a quilt that looks like a flag? Material with flags? Flag panels? Section 8.02 of our Policies & Procedures discusses the subject, but we mean a full-size quilt that mimics or is a replica of the flag. You also can't use pieces of a flag incorporated into the quilt, including flag seconds from manufacturers that many of us receive and use for cases or remembrance cards.

Here is a two-step process to help you make a decision about your quilt pattern:

1. If you are questioning whether a pattern looks like a flag, don't use it! There are thousands of other wonderful patterns out there to use.
2. Mentally replace your quilt with the flag in this image. If the visual closely resembles this picture, don't use that pattern.



We trust you to use your best judgment, and we know that all the quilts you make are done so in love and thankfulness for our Service Members and Veterans. If you have a specific question or concern, please reach out to leadership who are happy to help or guide.

13 FOLDS?

by QOVF Marketing

Did you know that each of the 13 folds of a flag have a specific meaning that varies depending on the organization or group involved in the flag folding? Different organizations have slightly different scripts that they use to symbolize the 13 folds and recite at ceremonies. The following is one often used.

1. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.
2. The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.
3. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.
4. The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.
5. The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."
6. The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
7. The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our



- country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.
8. The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.
9. The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.
10. The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.
11. The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David

and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

12. The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

by the ITRewiewTeam

It's all about the Attachments and Hyperlinks

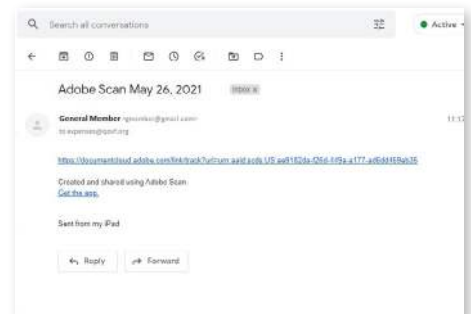
As we mentioned last month, spam is on the rise all around. The rules used to be "don't open an attachment from someone you don't know" (and that's still true) but as technology evolves, so do the spam methods. Hyperlinks are the new wave of the computer virus. We

have had users click on the links which installed malware on their computers.

We know you wouldn't purposely send us a virus, but we must mitigate the risk to the Foundation. We have many volunteers using their own computer to help us do the work of the Foundation. Some of you send in your documents, such as expense reports and receipts, using a hyperlink. We won't be able to click those links. Please send your documents as an attachment—take

a picture and attach or scan and send the PDF.

We thank you for your understanding!



MEMORABLE MOMENTS - THANK YOU

We all receive thank you notes, and we want you to share them with us! We want to feature a few in Threads and continue to add them to our Memorable Moments page on our website. We thought these were wonderful.

Dear Missouri River Quilts of Valor—Words cannot express how much it meant to our family when you presented my husband, David G., with one of your quilts on 8/7/2021. What a beautiful gift that he will always treasure!

I wanted you to know how much we enjoyed the well-organized program including the history, patriotic music and making it extra special when our 8-year-old daughter got to help with the Pledge of Allegiance! Dave has struggled with PTSD for 15 years and at times, this is a lonely journey.

God Bless all the volunteers who bring joy and light to this dark tunnel our Veterans face. We are so honored by your kindness!

Much love and thanks from
David, Pam, Ellie & Thomas



Hello Carolyn,
On behalf of myself, the American Legion, and as President of the Unit 12 American Legion Auxiliary, I wanted to thank you once again for the lovely Quilts of Valor Ceremony. My husband, as one of the veterans, was very touched to be awarded such a beautiful quilt.

I hope you will pass this on to the dedicated quilters in our community and elsewhere to let

them know their hard work is appreciated. I was told by a quilter once that the quilters take this very seriously and perform their work with a sense of honor. I hope they know that the veterans and their families receive it with the same feelings.

Thank you again and I hope your organization is able to spread beautiful feelings to many more veterans.

Bonnie O., ALA Unit 12
President, Richmond, Ky.

PARTNERS CORNER

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

9/7 = [Class is Now In Session](#)

9/14 = [Rock the Block](#)

9/21 = [Trunk Show Series: Hit a Home Run for National Sewing Month](#)

9/28 = livestream event TBA

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

Partner Spotlight: National Grange

Are you familiar with our partner, [National Grange](#)? “The Grange is a family, community organization with its roots in agriculture. Founded in 1867, the Grange was formed as a national



2021 National Grange Quilt Block Contest

Sponsored by the National Grange

ADULT, JUNIOR AND MEN'S DIVISIONS
OCTOBER 31, 2021 DEADLINE

*Go to nationalgrange.org
for all details and entry sheet*

Pinwheel pattern

*Block may be any color on white
background, finished at 14" x 14"*

organization with a local focus. The members are given the opportunity to learn and grow to their full potential as citizens and leaders. Grangers attend public meetings, inform themselves of local, state and national issues, and speak for the rights of all Americans.”

Through the direction of National Lecturer Chris Hamp, the Grange has an annual [Quilt Block Challenge](#). The blocks are then given to other Grangers to make into completed quilts. Some are used for fundraising, and many are sewn into Quilts of Valor. Members from across the country gather for the National Grange Annual Convention each November. Quilts of Valor award ceremonies are now a highlight of the convention to celebrate and recognize those who served in the military.

You don't have to be a Grange member to be part of the Quilt Block Challenge—it is open to everyone! Want to do a different block than the 2021 National Block Drive? Then try the Grange pinwheel block and shake things up.

Submitted by Debra Bennett, NBQ QOV
Group Leader

I want to introduce Connecticut's newest QOV Group, Niantic Bay Quilter's Group, established in May 2021. We are a small group of dedicated quilters that currently meet twice a month at our local VFW, Kari-Hill Post 5849.

Our first event was taking part in Niantic's annual Memorial Day Parade. This Memorial Day held so much for so many. First and foremost, it was a day of remembrance for those who sacrificed everything protecting our freedom. Our pride in marching with Post 5849 and their Ladies Auxiliary was accompanied by our strong bond as quilters, and joy



to be out and about in our wonderful town after such a long and often lonely year. We are not only quilters, but we are also friends who come together to provide our gift of quilting to make Quilts of Valor. We are passionate and proud.

Eleven of our new group gathered for our first sewing day on June 7. We



collected four completed quilt tops and spent the day sewing, cutting, and planning more quilts. It was a productive day with friends reconnecting over the worthy cause of providing quality quilts to those touched by war.

By Jenny Caughey, MN SC

It's been an unusually hot, dry summer throughout the northern United States. If only we could save some of those warm days for January, February, and March. But alas, winter's cold is coming and the snowbirds will soon be headed south. Are you one of

them? Lucky you! And lucky too are the communities and states that host you. Your experience, talents, and treasures are needed by your southern neighbors as well.

Maybe you could contact the state coordinator in your winter location to see if she needs help awarding QOVs in the area. If you piece tops while enjoying the sunshine, maybe you could

leave them with a local group or the state coordinator to help honor veterans in your winter state. Perhaps you could transport completed quilts as you travel. We are, after all, a national foundation with the goal to honor all those touched by war, wherever they may reside. Thanks for helping out throughout the US!

val•ue: a person's principles or standards of behavior; one's judgment of what is important in life.

Treating people with respect

We honor all faiths and beliefs,
striving for inclusivity.

Promoting excellence

We put the best possible workmanship and materials into every quilt we make so it will be a lasting award for the person it is meant to comfort.

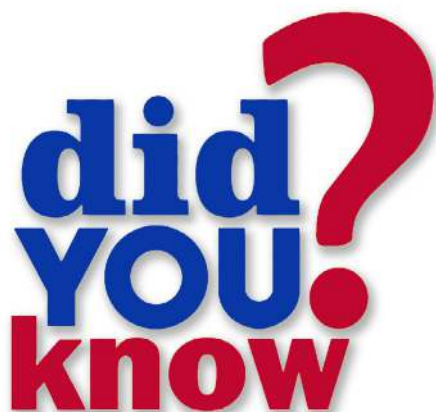
Valuing service over self

Quilts of Valor recipients come first.

Being Accountable

We are accountable for our actions to our recipients, our supporters, our donors, and our fellow volunteers.





- ★ September 17th is Constitution Day, which marks the day that the U.S. Constitution was adopted.
- ★ The first McDonald's Drive Thru was installed to accommodate Military Personnel who could not wear military uniforms in public.
- ★ The cost of all filings related to our nonprofit status, allowing groups to fundraise, is approximately \$12 per group.

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: 15,623

Total: 280,883

(from date of first recorded award through 31 August 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](#)

Newsletter

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Do you have an article, idea or suggestion for Threads? Email it to us at
newslettersubmission@qovf.org.

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