



MY FIRST MONTH

by ED Lori Thompson

My first month here at the Quilts of Valor Foundation has been very inspiring. I have had the privilege of meeting many of you involved at different points within our organization—local members, state coordinators, the QOVF team and Board, and more. My favorite part of meeting everyone has been seeing the passion and commitment you all have for creating these beautiful, meaningful quilts, and honoring as many veterans as possible.



Lori Thompson
Executive Director

The actions that our QOVF community takes to honor veterans reminds me a lot of the quilt making process. It takes many steps to make a whole quilt. There's the cutting, piecing, quilting, and the binding (one of my

favorite steps!). Great care is taken at each step—deciding on fabric, design, matching up those quilt block points as best as possible, choosing a quilting design that compliments the quilt, and more. No step is more important than any other. It takes care and attention to each step to create a beautiful quilt.

I see this same care and attention reflected in the actions of the QOV community. I've heard stories of members going the extra mile to connect with veterans and making sure that during the quilt presentation the veteran is honored in the best way possible. I've heard of the work groups do to fundraise, maximize their resources, and work together to create as many quilts as possible. I've witnessed the leadership the state coordinators, executive team, and board have demonstrated to continue to support members. Everyone has an important part to play. No part is less important than another. The more people I meet and the more I learn about the Foundation, the more privileged I feel

to be a part of this great organization.

I'm excited to experience more and support our different events. I "walked" in the morning and "blocked" in the afternoon for the QOV Take 5 event. I invited my quilting friends to also join in the fun. 100% of our Board and executive staff participated in the event, and it was fun seeing all the posts and ways everyone completed their Take 5.

I'm also attending an awards ceremony in my local area for Veteran's Day. This year Veteran's Day has a more special meaning to me as I think of how hard QOV groups and individuals have been working to honor veterans at this significant time of year. I'm looking forward to sharing the moments when the quilts are wrapped around the veterans, and connecting with those who shared their time and talents to make the quilts.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out and welcomed me! I look forward to working with all of you and doing what I can to support what you do for Quilts of Valor.

UP AND COMING

by QOVF Marketing

November is officially the last month of fall (or if you're in Florida, the first month!), and has a few important days to remember: National Family PJ Day, National Personal Space Day, and Thanksgiving. For the Foundation, it is Military Family Month and Veterans Day, where we recognize all those who have served in the US Armed Forces.

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Happy Veteran's Day to all of you reading who served. We thank you for your service and sacrifices.

★ On October 26, 2021, [Wrapped up in Christmas Hope](#) was released. In case you missed the announcement, the entry Stars of Hope by Volusia County Quilts of Valor was our quilt challenge winner! The group



received signed copies of the book from Janice Lynn, and she's planning to come to the Daytona AQS show to meet the group and help present the winning Quilt of Valor. We want to thank all the groups that submitted an entry. It was a difficult decision for Janice Lynn and Hallmark Books, and our recipients are the real winners!

- ★ Looking for a little something this holiday season for your favorite quilter? Here's a little something at the QOVF store that may be just perfect! A Quilt of Valor screwdriver tool and keychain. Great to put in your purse or sewing kit to have handy when you need to make an adjustment or change out a foot.
- ★ Our Quick Reference guide is now available on the Member Dashboard! This is a great tool for all members with tips and examples for quilt making and presentations.



- ★ GivingTuesday is November 30. Social Media is an **easy** way to raise funds for your group or state. Log into the Member Dashboard and download the GivingTuesday guide.



PARTNERS CORNER

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

[11/9: Trunk Show Series: Friendsgiving Frenzy](#)

[11/16: Shooting Stars](#)

[11/23: Steals & Deals](#)

[11/30: Coming Soon](#)

AQS 2022 Quiltweeks are just around the corner! [Look at the schedule](#) and mark your calendars for the show closest to you:

[Daytona, FL: February 23-26, 2022](#)
[Branson, MO: March 23-26, 2022](#)
[Paducah, KY: April 27-30, 2022](#)
[Grand Rapids, MI: August 17-20, 2022](#)
[Des Moines, IA: September 14-17, 2022](#)

Northcott's [10th Anniversary Collection](#) is coming to a store near you next month! 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!

Partner Spotlight:

Are you looking for a new label design? Look no further than our Etsy partner, [April Cobb Designs](#). April has been a long standing QOVF partner and donates a portion of the



April Cobb Designs

sale of all Quilts of Valor labels to the Foundation. Her newest labels are designed by Tracy Miller and include Checkered Patriotic, Bald Eagle and Star Corner Stripe.



NOTES FROM THE LONGARMY

The National Quilts of Valor LongArmy is over 200 volunteers strong. These are the volunteers who quilt for national requests (we have another 290 that quilt specifically for their groups!). These volunteers do an amazing job of longarming the many national requests that come in each day. Our LongArmy Coordinator recently sent a survey to them asking what made their job easier. Overwhelmingly the longarmers felt that the toppers did an excellent job of preparing their tops for longarming! A special thank you to all the LongArmy volunteers. Your suggestions were so appreciated, as is your talent and time you donate to support the Mission!

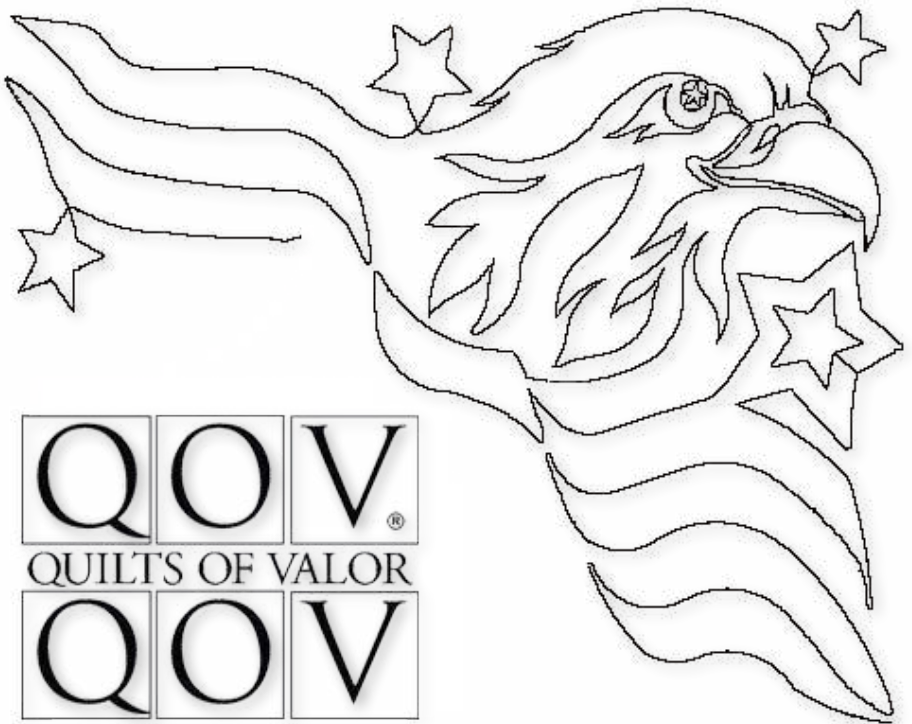
Here are some of the key things LongArmy volunteers appreciate when you send your tops and why they are important:

Borders

- Be sure your quilt top lays flat. Cut borders on the lengthwise grain, so they don't stretch and aren't "friendly" and wavy. It's very hard to work in the extra fullness as the top is being quilted.
- When applying borders, follow best practice: measure, cut, pin and stitch one side at a time. Sometimes, no amount of starch, water or heat can shrink those borders so the edges do not wave.
- Border seams: Make sure any seams on the border are secure. If your design has a pieced border or the design goes to the edge, take the time to sew a 1/8-inch line of stitching around the border. It is difficult to sew a quilt back together that comes apart after it is loaded onto the frame.

Clipping Threads

- Get rid of all the strings sticking through the seam allowances to the top.
- Remove stray threads from both the front and the back of the top. Stray threads on the front will get caught up in the stitching, and stray threads on the back might show through. Remember, dark threads show through light fabrics.



Secure Seams

- Check to make sure all seams are secure. If there is a gap from a loose seam and it is not detected when the quilt is loaded, the quilting foot is likely to get caught in it. The result will probably be jammed, bunched stitches, and could also result in a tear in the fabric.

Backing

- Square up the backing.
- Backing needs to be eight inches wider and eight inches longer than the top. That allows for room to load the backing onto the frame. More than eight inches creates extra work for the longarmer.
- If the backing is pieced, piece it across the width of the quilt, rather than along the length. Backs that are pieced perpendicular to the frame's rollers do not load well, due to the buildup of the seams.
- If using directional backing, please let the longarmer know which direction you want the backing to face. Labeling 'top' for quilt top and backing would be helpful. If the back must be pieced, use wide seams and trim selvages if used.

Pressing

- Press the quilt top before sending it to the longarmer. This allows for a final inspection to look for any open areas in seam allowances, spots that need to be removed, or puckered seams. It is not always possible for the quilting to remove or hide puckers.
- Make sure seams are pressed flat and all the way to the seam (no pleats). Poorly pressed seams (and very thick seams) cause the longarm stitches to skip.
- Remember—"flat and smooth" loads better and quilts better.

Feedback

- LongArmy members love feedback! They like to see pictures of the quilts being awarded, and enjoy knowing that the individual who pieced the quilt appreciated their quilting.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS BY QOVF MARKETING

Do you remember our Memorable Moments page? [Memorable Moments](#) aren't always just for the recipient. As QOVF members and presenters, we have moments also. Do you have a Memorable Moment? A picture of an award, of a special quilt, capturing The Moment on a recipient's face, a group

event or a wonderful thank you note you received from a recipient, family, or friend, are just a few of many Memorable Moments we have as members.

We want you to share your Moments with us so we can build our Memories. If you have a Memorable Moment photograph or note that you would like to share, please send it to marketing@qovf.org and we will work with you to have it posted! Please remember for all

photographs, we need a photo release from each person in the photo attached to the email. An email from those in the picture allowing us to publish will work also in lieu of the signed form. If we don't have a release, we cannot post the memory. If it is a thank you note, we will use first names only to remove identifying information.

We are looking forward to seeing your Moment.

VISITORS RECEIVE QOVs IN ALASKA

Submitted by Linda Kau, Alaska State Coordinator

The Forget Me Not Quilters of Alaska hold a 4-day sew-in at VFW Post 9365 in Wasilla, AK, each March and September. The VFW and Auxiliary have supported the group for the last 10 years and offer the use of their facilities for award ceremonies throughout the year.

This September, as the quilters were sewing, some visitors from Pennsylvania paused at the VFW for a break in a long drive between overnight stays. They had left Chena Hot Springs, north of Fairbanks, that morning and

were headed 638 miles south to Homer to spend their final night in the state before flying back home. Wondering what a group of quilters were doing at the VFW caused one of the group to venture into the room and ask. We explained our mission and, knowing someone in the group must be a veteran since they were at the VFW, we asked if he was a veteran. "Yes, 36 years and served in Desert Storm. And the others have also served for many years," he said. We then asked the Veterans if they would allow us to award them a Quilt of Valor.

We awarded quilts to Lt. Colonel Kimber A., 34 years in the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard; her

husband James A., U.S. Marine; Colonel Dean O., 36 years in the U.S. Air Force including Desert Storm; and Denise T. and husband Ricky T., both long serving U.S. Air Force veterans. Colonel Dean introduced his wife who was also part of the traveling party and thanked her for the years she gave her support during his years in the service.

I believe we will all remember that afternoon as one of the highlights of our week. As we bade the group goodbye, we thanked them for many years of service and asked them to always remember Alaska. They promised that they would do that and would spread the word about the Quilts of Valor mission when they returned home.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we
lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!



Walter Wyss was presented a QOV in January 2021 in Mesa, AZ.

Walt was in the Army Air Force before the Air Force became a separate branch in 1947.

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: 21,918

Total: 286,178

(from date of first recorded award through 31 October 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
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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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