



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Lori Thompson

It's hard to believe the holidays are here. It's really one of my favorite times of year. I am looking forward to spending time with friends and family and enjoying the beauty of the season.



Lori Thompson
Executive Director

Christmas is a simple affair for our family. We'll be home in Colorado this year and our plans include lots of good food, time together, and a competitive board game or two. My plans also include a cozy quilt, my favorite tea, and reading Janice Lynn's new book, "Wrapped Up in Christmas Hope." If you don't know about her book, you'll have to check it out on our [QOVF website](https://www.qovf.org).

I hope your holiday plans include time with your loved ones. I also hope you are planning some downtime after a busy QOVF award season. This year all of you did an amazing job continuing to wrap our veterans and service members with QOVs! As of November 2021, you have comforted 291,505 recipients. That's a lot of fabric, stitching, and love right there! Please take a minute during this busy holiday season and pause for a moment and think about all the recipients you wrapped this year and the comfort and recognition you have shared with each of them.

Last month, I had the privilege of attending award ceremonies in my area and sewing with local groups. It was very moving and inspiring to be a

part of these special events! I attended ceremonies hosted by Front Range QOV in Castle Pines, CO, and Smoky Hill Quilt Club in Broomfield, CO. I also enjoyed some fun sewing time with the Windsor Gardens Denver group, piecing quilt tops. The best part was meeting everyone and hearing about their experiences, both from veterans and quilters. I am looking forward to connecting with more QOV groups and volunteers across our country next year.

As we celebrate the holidays and the end of 2021, I am also excited and hopeful for the new year. Our QOVF Executive Staff and Board are busy making plans for 2022. We're still in the early phases of planning for next year, but I'm hopeful QOVF will be able to offer more volunteer resources, tools, and opportunities to better support you and your QOV groups. Many of you have given me good insight and feedback about what would be helpful,

which is appreciated. If you have an idea you'd like to share, feel free to reach out to me at executive.director@qovf.org.

One of the things we are now planning is National Sew Day. You'll want to save the date, Saturday, February 5, 2022, to sew and take part in this fun event. We're looking for volunteers to help us come up with fun activities and content for the day. If you have a great idea or are interested in helping, please check out the information in this newsletter or email me at the address listed above.

As we close this year, I want to thank you for all that you and your groups have done for Quilts of Valor and the recipients we comforted this year. This was not an easy year due to the unique challenges of the pandemic. Yet so many of you have continued to make a difference. Thank you for your perseverance and commitment!

Happy Holidays!

HOW THE QOV BELLES TAKE 5

by Lauren Byrne

Editor's Note: The QOV Take 5: Run, Walk, Block is officially over and was a great success! We hope everyone had fun finding ways to Take 5. We posted all the pictures of the event. One of our recent notes was from the QOV Belles. They had a fun time and found a bunch of ways to Take 5. Thank you to everyone who supported the Event!

My feet hit the floor at exactly 5 AM. Excitement was in the air. The QOV Belles of the greater Chattanooga, TN, area met to participate in the Take 5

event. We met at the Sew and Quilt Studio in Chattanooga, led by our fearless leader, Fran Randolph, who does more than 5 people put together for Quilts of Valor.

I am part of the QOV LongArmy. My personal goal for this challenge was to quilt 5 quilts in 5 days. Yahoo!! I did it. I brought them to the event to have our wonderful ladies who love to bind complete the quilts.

We planned 5 awards for the day. QOVs were awarded to an employee of the quilt shop and two relatives of the managers of the shop. QOVs were

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also awarded at a local restaurant called Mission BBQ to one of their employees and to another veteran who was a customer of the restaurant. Mission BBQ is a wonderful restaurant that treats our military and veterans with respect and honor.

Our group consisted of about 25 (that's 5 x 5 by the way) of the 30+ members we have in QOV Belles. All were working hard on their challenge of 5 and I asked for a report from them. On the day of the event, we had many "Fives" to celebrate:

- We had 5 new members show up for the event.
- We put the binding on two quilts in 5 hours.
- We made 5 nine patch blocks.
- 5 people walked 5 miles that week.
- We had 5 stations set up with 5 different kinds of blocks to work on during the day.
- One member quilted 5 quilts in the month.
- We made 5" blocks.
- 5 quilt tops were completed in November.

Woo-Hoo. That's a bunch of 5's.

Our group has a wonderful time honoring our military and veterans with Quilts of Valor. We meet once a month at Fran's home in Trenton, GA, to make quilts, eat, laugh, and share our lives and prayers. The most rewarding time is when we get to see the faces of those who are the recipients of our labor of love. There is a warmth in the air and tears are flowing on many of the faces; those receiving and those giving. It is a beautiful picture of how we can bless others with the wonderful gift of quilting. I am honored to be a part of this organization.



UP AND COMING

by QOVF Marketing

December—a time when we think of friends, family, and snuggling up to a warm fire. As you give thanks and celebrate the season, please remember our active duty men and women who are away from friends and family for the holidays, some of them for their first cruise or deployment. To our membership, volunteers, and supporters, thank you for sharing your time, talent, and energy in 2021 and helping us offer comfort and healing to those touched by war. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

- National Sew Day is always the first Saturday of February and is right around the corner on February 5, 2022. See further details in this newsletter.
- March 29th is National Vietnam War Veterans Day; don't wait until the last minute to order lapel pins for any ceremonies that are in the early stages of planning!
- A new milestone is on the horizon! We hope that in the first quarter of 2022, the Total Quilts Awarded count will exceed 300,000!
- Here's to a happy and healthy 2022.



NATIONAL SEW DAY

by QOVF Marketing

Hard to believe but our 9th Annual National Sew Day is just around the corner! Save the Date for Saturday, February 5, 2022! We're working on plans for the day and want to hear more from you:

- How did you manage during COVID and keep your groups going?
- What are some of your favorite sewing projects for National Sew Day?
- Do you do awards during your event?
- How may your in-person plans be different this year?
- Do you have ideas for projects or speakers that you would like to see or things National could offer to help?
- What's the best piece of advice you would give to a new group hosting their very first National Sew Day?
- Why do you participate?



- What are fun things you do if you take part from home?

We want to hear your ideas. If you would like to volunteer to help, we would love that too. Send your ideas, suggestions or questions to us at marketing@qovf.org.

THREE MILITARY NURSE CORPS REPRESENTED

by Sandy Lazaroff,
Front Range QOV group leader

QOV award ceremonies often include recipients from multiple branches of the Armed Forces, but things were just a little different and special for the

quarterly award ceremony held by the Front Range QOV volunteer group. The ceremony held September 11, 2021, included a special event. Nurses from all three branches of the military were present for one award. US Air Force and US Army Nurse Corps veterans awarded a quilt to a fellow US Navy Nurse Corps veteran.



Allison F. (US Army veteran/QOVF volunteer) and Sandy L. (US Air Force veteran/Front Range QOV group leader) award Marjorie B. (US Navy veteran) her QOV quilt.

2021 OPERATION GRATITUDE AWARDEES

by Sue Reich, QOVF Board President

In 2019, your QOVF Board of Directors began a program called *Operation Gratitude*. Our Quilt of Valor Foundation's mission is all about showing gratitude to our veterans and service members for their commitment to the peace and security of our nation. However, expressing thanks to those who accomplish that mission day in and day out is also important. QOVF has so many unsung heroes. Much like our veterans, our quilting volunteers often pass off recognition for their service to others in their groups. As we end 2021, and the extreme conditions of a pandemic and quarantine, we would like to showcase a few of you so dedicated to honoring our veterans and service members. These volunteers are representative of our membership, and sincere gratitude goes out to all of you for employing your sewing talents and your love for our veterans and service members to fulfill the mission of QOVF.

The purpose of *Operation Gratitude* is two-fold.

1. The BOD was charged with an outreach effort connecting with State Coordinators a few times through the year via email or phone.
2. Identify members of QOVF whose outstanding contributions accomplish our mission: to wrap service members and veterans "touched by war" with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

To end 2021, there are a few members we would like to recognize and honor for their service and generosity as we fulfill the mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

1. **Ginny (aka Gypsy Ginny) Musgrove, Conway, Arkansas.** Ginny has been a QOVF member since 2014. She likes to embroider the labels with name, service and dates and make the pillowcases. For Vietnam veterans, she includes "Welcome Home" on the label. Ginny is the Group Leader of "A Second Tour." She is grateful to everyone within her group for



Jennifer Wilson

their dedication to the Quilts of Valor mission. A great organizer, Ginny keeps her group informed of sew days, award ceremonies, fabric trips, and special events. Award ceremonies are one of her favorite aspects of Quilts of Valor. She arranges road trips to reach veterans that do not have member coverage in their area, thus explaining her charming nickname of "Gypsy Ginny."

2. Jennifer Wilson, Arizona.

Providing comfort and healing are not new to Jennifer Wilson, the State Coordinator for Arizona. Jennifer served as a surgical nurse with the Army in Vietnam before her career in nursing education. Fast forward to 2014 - Jennifer was wrapped in a QOV which led to her joining the local chapter, later assuming the role of State Coordinator in 2015. Jennifer



This picture was taken in the fall of 1969 when Jennifer was in Vietnam as an Operating Room nurse at the 3rd Field Hospital. She is sharing it because her affiliation with QOVF has roots in this photo. Jennifer came to QOVF as a veteran who was awarded a quilt and knew that she needed to share that experience with other veterans touched by war. In Jennifer's words, "I don't think we can ever minimize the opportunity to say a truly heart-felt 'Thank you and Welcome Home' to veterans who have been touched by war."

became a "road warrior," covering Arizona to award deserving veterans and service members. She has been able to build a strong network of local groups and members to successfully cover the state. In Jennifer's own words "Some of the groups are on fire!" Wrapping a QOV recipient is the most gratifying aspect of her role which she doesn't get to do as often as she wishes. Jennifer deserves a round of applause along with the local groups and QOV members in Arizona.

3. **Donna Brookings, Gorham, Maine.** As a nurse and a Hospice worker, Donna Brookings' entire life has been dedicated to the service of others. A highly motivated, self-starter, Donna approaches her missions with passion. QOVF is just one of the beneficiaries of Donna's volunteer efforts. About five years ago, Donna became the State Coordinator for Maine. She



Ginny Musgrove

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Donna Brookings

immediately embarked on the path of her current success. Donna and her Vietnam veteran husband and fellow quilter, Rex, travel all over Maine representing QOVF and awarding quilts. She works closely with Wreaths Across America each December, awarding quilts as its caravan traverses Maine on its way to Arlington National Cemetery. Recently, Donna assumed another important role as the QOVF liaison with the Vietnam War Commemoration Project.

4. **Shirley Jenkins, Belle Vista, Arkansas.** During the past year and a half, the Calico Cut-up Quilts of Valor group of Bentonville, Arkansas, has a member who pieced over 80 quilts. Her name is Shirley Jenkins. Although Shirley is in her 80s, she still loves to sew. She began asking for fabric when COVID hit because she couldn't get out to do the things she loves. She personally keeps track of the recipients of her quilts. Shirley also helps with the binding on quilts. In August of this year, Shirley and her husband had a bad car accident. Despite a brief time away, she is readying herself to get back to quilting for the QOVF.



Shirley Jenkins

VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER

by Donna Brookings, Chair

The Quilts of Valor Foundation has partnered with the Vietnam War Commemoration Program. The program was created through the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act to honor all those who served during the Vietnam War. By presidential proclamations on May 25, 2012, and November 20, 2017, the Commemoration extends from Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025. Congress articulated five objectives for this Commemoration:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war, or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine

related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, nine million Americans served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the period of the Vietnam War; approximately six million are living in America and abroad today. Many of us have awarded Quilts of Valor to these veterans.

The program has a protocol for recognizing the service of these veterans with a lapel pin. Our partnership is designed to help reach the six million, thank them and pin them. Both the award of our QOV and the presentation of the pin are solemn events. To ensure the goal that both missions are met, we have a written [Vietnam Lapel Pin SOP](#) available on the member dashboard. The SOP outlines how you can order pins and supporting documentation given to the recipient and how to do both the award of the quilt and pinning ceremony to these veterans. For more information about the pin, please read the [Lapel Pin Fact Sheet](#).

We're very excited about this partnership. Any questions can be directed to me at donna.brookings@qovf.org. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity to help our government say, "Welcome Home" to our Vietnam veterans.



WALK A MILE, OR 100

by Allison Fentriss

As quilters, we stretch pennies into miles of thread and yards of fabric. On November 11, 12, & 13, Mike, Brian and Todd walked 100 miles—39, 39 and 22—for Quilts of Valor. Thank you, gentlemen, for your tireless efforts, and to your friends and family for all their support and hard work to make this a great success (and to make your sweatshirts). Thank you to local QOV members for meeting up and walking the last mile to celebrate this accomplishment. Thank you [Heather Stokes Photography](#) for taking these wonderful photos and allowing us to use them. To see all the pictures and read more, please visit the original [Facebook](#) post.

Words can never express our gratitude to all of you.



NEW GROUP SPOTLIGHT THE SEWING HOUSE QUILTS OF VALOR VOLUNTEERS

by Selena Silvestro

When my friend Jennifer Reith decided to open The Sewing House quilt shop in Collierville, TN, she told me one of her priorities was to give back to veterans through Quilts of Valor. In May 2021, she asked me to help her with social media and newsletter emails to her followers. She announced the shop's grand opening for June 4-5, 2021, and began this outreach by emailing quilt guilds in May, asking for newsletter subscribers and postings about QOV. We called it the "100 blocks in 100 days" challenge! It was a beautiful thing when we opened the doors on June 4th for the Grand Opening, and the first several ladies in line were holding patriotic QOV blocks!!! We took photos of every volunteer who brought blocks during the grand opening and we started a basket to gather the blocks. We set a deadline of September 30 to turn in blocks and asked for four volunteers to be Team Captains.

After wondering how to best manage volunteers, I decided it would be helpful to form a private Facebook group. Interested volunteers could request to join. I put some filter questions on the page for security and reached out to National for additional advice. We realize not everyone uses Facebook, but about 90% of our volunteers have joined the group. We have been successful with email, website information, and social media outreach.

The Google Drive Form that changed the game!

As a busy quilt shop owner working long hours, Jennifer had no way to track or manage volunteers for these team captains! I made a Google form for people to sign up to help. We met in person with the four team captains at the end of September, and they divided up the donated quilt blocks. I gave each

team captain a spreadsheet of assigned volunteers to contact. The four team captains took it from there and set up their times to meet. We asked that all quilts be returned by November 1.

Community partners and awesome volunteers!

A local roofing company owner (and US Army Ranger) was asked if he could donate \$500 through our group's QOV donation link to help us purchase fabric and batting. He was very generous! We had our team captains and volunteers come to the quilt shop and pick up fabric. After the quilts were put together, Jennifer started to longarm some of the quilts at the shop. We quickly realized she was so busy with customer orders that we would need help longarming too! We posted in our Facebook group and several awesome longarm helpers came to the rescue. We ordered the QOV labels off the recommended Spoonflower site, filled them out, and attached them to quilts the night before our very first presentation.

November 9, 2021—The first quilt

I heard that a WWII POW, Olin P., was coming to speak at a local Rotary Club luncheon, so I reached out to get his contact information. Since I am a VFW Post 5066 Auxiliary board member, I asked our auxiliary president Teresa to join me at the luncheon. Teresa presented the QOV, and we took pictures and video clips. Olin is 100 years old and has told his story 86 times as a guest speaker. It was the first time his story has been recorded. We were honored to capture his experiences on video and award our very first QOV.

Later that same day, we presented a QOV to Ramsey L., a WWII and Korean War veteran. His children joined us as he suffers from Alzheimer's. His son pointed out that while his dad may not be aware of everyone and what is going on, when he saw that QOV he lit up. His father was the VFW Post 5066 commander for over 40 years and served as the State of Tennessee VFW

Commander in 1988-89. His whole life was dedicated to serving our country and serving his fellow veterans! Ramsey's son was also a Vietnam veteran.

A press release was prepared inviting the news stations to cover a QOV event we scheduled for November 14. On the morning of Veterans Day, the station called asking for interviews for a story to be aired that SAME DAY. The families of the two veterans were contacted and we asked any volunteers who could attend to meet up at The Sewing House.

In total, we presented QOVs to 17 veterans and service members in November 2021. Two for WWII veterans on November 9, thirteen QOVs on November 14, and two on November 28. We have five quilts ready to present as nominations come in. This gives us a small inventory to tide us over until we can gear up for the summer 2022 Quilt Block Drive.

We don't want any older veterans to wait for a quilt and hope to award them quickly—especially if any are WWII or in poor health. We thought our group would be able to make five or six quilts but making 22 was just incredible! We received eight fully finished quilts from the Millington Quilting Guild and two finished quilts from other volunteers. Twelve were made from individually donated blocks. We attribute our successful launch to the partnership of The Sewing House. Having a quilt shop owner who is committed to serving veterans is so important. Jennifer's vision is the heart of this group, and I am honored to help her implement the plan! She's the "idea lady" and I'm the "boots on the ground" details person.

QOV group leaders are welcome to request to join The Sewing House Quilts of Valor Volunteers Facebook group to see how we launched and how we've been posting to keep our team informed and engaged. Feel free to email me at ShoptheSewingHouse@gmail.com for copies of our forms or further explanation on any of the ideas and processes we've used.



PARTNERS CORNER

AccuQuilt has something each week—check out the different events:
[12/14—In the New Sew-Fashioned Way](#)
[12/16 PM Show—Limited Series: Holiday Gift Guide Vol. 3](#)
[12/21—https://events.accuquilt.com/aqlivestream122121/QOVN](https://events.accuquilt.com/aqlivestream122121/QOVN)
[12/28—https://events.accuquilt.com/aqlivestream122821/QOVN](https://events.accuquilt.com/aqlivestream122821/QOVN)
[12/30 PM Show—https://events.accuquilt.com/aqlivestream123021/QOVN](https://events.accuquilt.com/aqlivestream123021/QOVN)

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](#)

WAYS TO SUPPORT

by QOVF Marketing

We receive requests throughout the year from other groups, military affiliations, or the public, asking for use of our logo or name in some way. Many times, it is in conjunction with something they want to make or sell, but many times it is to help promote the Foundation.

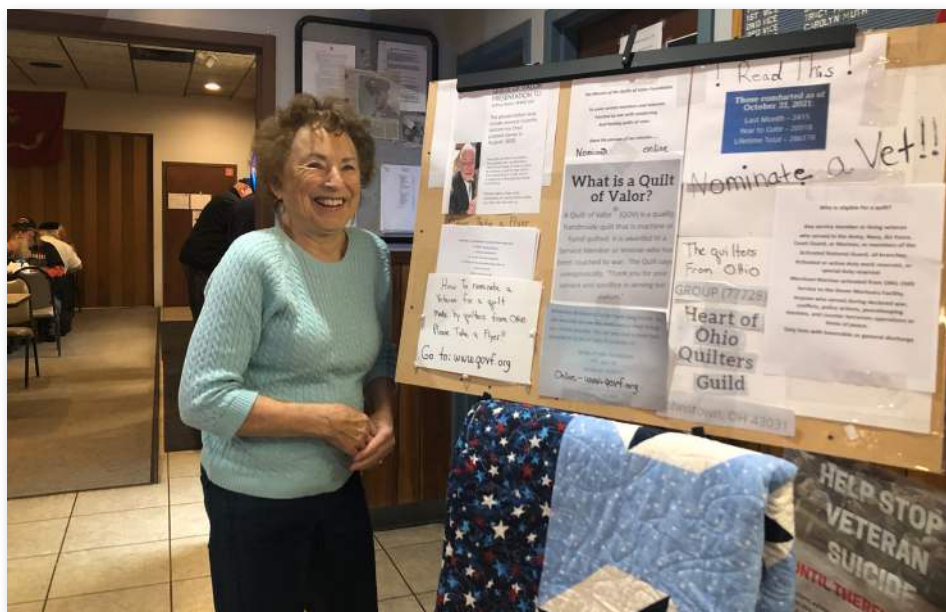
We received this request from Kathleen M.:

Greetings from Mansfield, Ohio!! My Dad, Arthur K. (now deceased), my husband Ralph, and my good friend Larry, have been recipients of a quilt from your organization in the past 2 years, and I would like to know if I may publicize your organization and display the quilts this Thursday, Veterans Day, at our local Amvets hall, post 26, to give out information to those families who may like a quilt made for their veteran.

Of course, we said, “Absolutely! Send us pictures!” She had a few days before the event, knew the impact the quilts made to her family, and wanted to help spread the word. She didn’t ask for anything, other than permission to promote us.

Most everyone forgets us once they have permission, but not Kathleen. She sent us an update, said the day was a great success, and remembered to send pictures! A marker, printer, and imagination allowed us to receive nominations for veterans we may otherwise not have reached.

Thank you, Kathleen, for sharing the passion of our mission to offer comfort and healing to those touched by war.



Kathleen's aunt, 91 years young, that has 2 sons of her own who served in the military.



Ralph Mullins, QOV recipient, standing next to picture of Kathleen's father, also a QOV recipient.

NEW HOBBY BENEFITS VETERANS

by Nancy Landrum, Murrieta, CA

I just recently started quilting as a major hobby, subscribing to a couple of quilting magazines and watching quilting shows on TV where I learned about the QOVF. After making several quilts for myself and family members, plus multiple table runners, making a quilt to honor a veteran was my next step. I chose a stunning quilt pattern that I found in one of the quilting magazines. While the QOV was being quilted, I joined QOVF, inquired on how to get the required label, and asked if I could nominate my son-in-law for a QOV. Carolyn from Carlsbad, CA, and Kathleen from Myrtle Beach SC, supplied the answers I needed.

I awarded the QOV to my son-in-law Greg, who didn't want a formal presentation. Greg was a medic in



Vietnam and must have seen the worst of the worst in combat, as he still suffers from some PTSD symptoms. We decided to award it to him when his kids and grandkids would be present for his birthday. I shared my memories of a high school acquaintance who was

killed in Vietnam, and a good friend who suffered severe PTSD. I told Greg and the family how proud I am of his service, how glad I am he came home alive, and how grateful I am that he has been faithful to his family all these years. I had tears in my eyes, and everyone was silent during my little speech. Greg was obviously touched by my words and the QOV. He left it in the family room for all to enjoy, but his wife recently told me he couldn't stand to see their dog lay on it, so he moved it to their bedroom! Since then, I have completed two more quilts that are ready to drop off with the local QOV representative and have started on a fourth.

I am a relationship coach and advertise and author occasional articles for a local newspaper. When I learned the paper was going to feature a local veteran couple and their business in the November issue, the editor agreed to tie in my article with their Veterans Day emphasis.

THE STORY OF THE QUILT “ONE NATION”

by Lynn Busenbark

Editor's note: Many of us write notes and attach them to our QOVs sending thanks and a little history about our groups and our thanks. We all have a quilt or two that is special to us in some way, one we've named, and sometimes we share a note about the quilt itself. Just like it takes a fleet or army to support those deployed, sometimes it takes a village to make the QOV. On October 30, 2021, General Paul was awarded his Quilt of Valor at Ft. Knox. This is the letter that accompanied his Quilt of Valor.

The label on your Quilt “One Nation” suggests that two people were responsible for the quilt—the “piecer” and the “quilter.” That is not accurate. Here is the real story.

As quilters are wont to do, author and designer Nancy Brenan Daniel had a spare star block that never made it into a quilt. She donated it to the Friendship Village Quilt Guild. To me, it looked as if it needed to be the foundation of a Quilt of Valor, so I took it, but without an idea for a final design.

Several hours and books later, I

found a photo of a quilt by Marianne Fons. The quilt [[Lady Liberty Medallion](#)] was designed for an exhibition celebrating the bicentennial of the Statue of Liberty. It had a center medallion, a square-in-a-square-in-a-square configuration, meaningful text, paper-pieced blocks, and a complex border. It was the perfect design inspiration.

The only problem was—I didn't know how to paper-piece. My neighbor and fellow guild member, Juanita, spent a very long and patience-trying day teaching me that skill. I learned, but one should not look too closely at those blocks.

Then it was time to add the text. The challenge was creating the corner arcs for the embroidery. Walt Blackmore, who is an aerospace engineer and wood carver, took the time to make sure the arcs were, in fact, parts of an actual circle.

On to the twisted ribbon border. The red fabric has very tiny eagles in it, so I was determined to use it for the quilt. Unfortunately, as I neared the end of the border, I found I did not have enough fabric to finish the last two sections. The fabric was long since out of production and I didn't know its name or manufacturer. I posted an SOS



and a photo of the fabric on a quilters' Facebook page and within minutes Carol from Sonora, CA, offered me the yardage I needed.

Finally, the top and the back were ready to go to Dianne. She is my favorite QOVF LongArmy member, as she takes the time to customize the quilting both to the design of the top and for the person receiving the quilt. Her skill turned my sewing into a work of art.

There isn't enough room on a label to recognize everyone who helped make your quilt. Here is the concise list: Nancy, Marianne, Juanita, Walt, Carol, Dianne, and me, Lynn Busenbark.

WHAT YOU DO MATTERS

by Barbara Gates, NJ Volunteer,
Hunterdon County Quilting Guild
#16062

Do you ever wonder how the results of your efforts affect the veterans who receive a Quilt of Valor? Here are two touching examples. The backstory is that The Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall® was on display October 15-17, 2021, in Califon, NJ. On a most beautiful October morning, in between the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner", an invocation, remarks by local dignitaries, a moving talk by a surviving Vietnam Purple Heart veteran, bagpipes playing "Amazing Grace", a 21-gun salute and the haunting bugle playing "Taps" to honor the Vietnam War dead, time was carved out of the opening ceremony to recognize seven returning veterans of that war with Quilts of Valor. All seven veterans were visibly moved as each came forward in turn to be covered with a comforting Quilt of Valor, but these two veterans, both Marines, said specifically how their quilts affected them.

From Raymond Q.:

I just wanted to thank you again for the special honor and beautiful quilt presented to me. Having the opportunity to receive this honor at the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall made it extra special (if not emotional). It's been almost 54 years since I was physically in Vietnam but [I] seem to revisit every day and night. Moments like you and your organization offer us vets is, at least for me, therapeutic as it sheds some of the hurt experienced as a Marine who fought for a country that ultimately decided 58,000 plus young men and woman (sic) gave their lives in naught because our politicians at the time cared less about us and more about their political standings. Being the first war we ever fought and lost is a terrible burden to carry. Along with it comes much guilt and shame. And repeated again in Afghanistan recently meaning two decades of warriors have the same sense of abandonment as us Vietnam vets. The warmth I felt when the quilt was placed upon my shoulders felt like the America I loved and fought for really thanked me for my ordeal. That will stay with me now forever. Again,



words can't express how meaningful your quilts are to us vets.

From Arthur L.:

Please allow me to thank you and all the ladies involved with Quilts of Valor. I'm sure you are aware of the positive impact your work and dedication has on the veterans who you have graced with your quilts. Words typed on a keyboard seem inadequate to express the gratitude I feel as I write this email . . . [to those] who labored over the beautiful quilt

that now covers a portion of the wall in my library replacing a print of Winslow Homer's painting, 'Veteran in a New Field'. Winslow Homer's painting was there to remind me to get on with my life; the quilt will help in that ongoing process. I believe that only a handwritten personal note is sufficient to thank all of you who give so much of your talent and time to offer comfort to our country's war veterans and to aid in our healing. God bless you all.

QOVS REALLY DID PROVIDE COMFORT THIS DAY

by Donna Royson, QOV Volunteer

The town of Blythewood, SC, held a Veterans Recognition event on Sunday, November 8, and we were privileged to award eight quilts during a great and moving event. The day was cold and windy, so the recipients left their quilts on during the entire program.



Larry, Army; David, Army; Truman, Army; Roxann, Army; Simon, Army; Chuck, Marines; Ashley, Air Force; and Joe, Navy/Air Force.

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: 27,245

Total: 291,505

(from date of first recorded award through 27 November 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



QOVF Founder and Board Member Emeritus
Catherine Roberts

Board Member Emeritus
Walt Davis
Marianne Fons
Eric McCarty
June Moore

Board of Directors
Sue Reich, President
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