

April 2005 Ruffled Feather's QOV Newsletter

1000th QOV Just Around the Corner

Can you believe it? This week, we will have reached our 1,000th QOV mark. Here are our impressive stats as of 4/14/05:

Data as of 4/14/05	
Casualties Killed in OIF 4/14/2005	1,548
Official DoD wounded 3/16/05	11,442
Total Quilt-toppers	488
Total Longarmers	133
QOV's	
Total for 2004	348
Jan 2005	137
Feb 2005	169
March 2005	233
April 2005	89
Total QOV's to Date	976
Estimated Money Spent On 976 qovs.	\$146,400

I am so proud of each and every one of you. I hope you realize you have made an impact in a wounded servicemember's life. Thank you thank you thank you! Oh...the lucky 1,000th qov will get some special recognition and fanfare. Maybe it'll be you!

Business Items

I was scolded this week for being late in answering emails. And, it wasn't just one time. The person noted their frustration of wanting a longarmer/hospital destination and no response. I know there have been other requests that have gone unanswered.

Yep...I realize I need help with the drudgery portion of managing this project. Anyone interested? Just so I don't have a collective uprising among the masses, let me try and explain what goes on here. I get over 100 daily emails. Not all are from a barrister in Nigeria. When you ask for a longarmer, I put your name down in my notebook. When you ask for a destination-it also goes in the notebook. I have another notebook for my longarming volunteers. Things run fine until I get interrupted. Then, I lose my place in the emails. I believe it's at this point you mite get overlooked. It is by no means intentional. I try and go back over emails but after hours in the saddle, my butt is sore and all emails look the same. So, I get up and let the dogs out.

In addition to this, my older daughter is due with my first grandchild any day now. She lives in RI which means when I get the "call", I have to drive slightly over the speed limit to get there before Jack is born. My son Nat and his company are finally out of Iraq! He is expected to come home for two weeks in about five or six days. My younger son and baby, Everett (almost 17) is finishing his year as an exchange student at a local high school in Beijing China and spending his monthly allowance in about two weeks. He wants to go to half day at his Chinese high school because he's bored but the Chinese say NO. Hannah, my younger daughter is finishing her year at NAPS and soon to be a plebe at the Naval Academy. She's basically on auto-pilot. My dear husband is so supportive of me and this project but raises his eyebrows when there's no food in the house, no meal, or the fact that he's tripped over the vacuum cleaner twice in one day. And, the two dogs? Rudy, my two year old boxer is a love but escapes the yard if he doesn't have his shocker collar on. Tory, a 5 year old atypical Jack Russell is as sweet as anything until she gets outside when she turns into the best darn mole catcher in Sussex county. She pretends she's deaf when I call. My nursing license is soon to expire unless I catch up with my continuing education by the end of April. We have our trawler named Black Swan in our little marina which needs new curtains, a good wash and waxing, etc. Get the pix?

Possible solutions:

- In the subject line of your email, please put what you are requesting. ex. Need longarmer. Need gov destination. If it's your second time requesting, put need longarmer SECOND notice. (That shld get my attention.)
- Realistically, I can not guarantee an immediate reply. How about giving me a three to four day range in which to answer your email? If you get impatient, send another email or call.
- When I know I will be without internet access for more than two days, I'll send out a general email.
- Volunteer who wants to learn the ropes.

501c Pending

It's official. We are a 501c pending non profit foundation. It's called the QOV Foundation. If you have any financial requests from the foundation, please email me. Dee Givens is the secretary and will handle the monies, books and deal with our volunteer accountant Mr. Fourney. Behind the scenes, several members are working on corporate sponsors for shipping, supplies. We hope to have all our shipping handled by UPS or Fed-ex.

I am finally polishing up our mission statement which will be posted on the website. One arm of the foundation will be education of youth re: sewing skills. If there isn't a concerted effort to teach sewing, who will make gov's when we are long gone?

Chaplain Contact List

If you don't hear from your gov destination site in a timely fashion, please email the chaplain and ask. Also bear in mind that we are dealing with the military and the wounded. Both of these entities are fluid...meaning "change" is their first name. Our

marine contact in Hawaii is still processing his men returning from Iraq. He is juggling 3,000 things and quilts are probably the last thing he wants to think about. Yet, I handed him one more plate to juggle. Please be patient.

Houston International Quilt Show

We have an opportunity to have some space at this primer Quilt Show next Nov. I am asking for two to three **'drop dead gorgeously pieced and/or appliqued and quilted'** qovs which will be our representatives for our group. Anyone interested?

No End in Sight

There's almost a feeling in the air that our troops are safe and coming home soon. Even if they all came home today, we still have a huge order of qovs to complete. Sometimes I think we are a fickle nation only able to digest 10-20 second sound bytes. I am praying we don't forget our wounded servicemembers who fall off the radar screen all too quickly. All of you who are reading this haven't forgotten and I sincerely am grateful to you for this.

Catherine

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