

Mid-Feb update 2005 or Egg on My Face.

2/16/05 8:55

After I sent out my last newsletter, I have rec'd some interesting responses and some unsubscribes.

Folks, we have hit some turbulence. Seat belts please.

I founded this group to make the best qovs for our wounded. As a 'mama bear', I only want the best for my cubs. I do not pretend to have all the answers and that's why I am sharing with you responses I have recently rec'd. I am actively listening. If you don't like where I am headed, you are free to embark in your own direction. You have my contact list and I will be happy to keep you updated. But one thing I will not back down from is what this qov stands for. Quality and excellence. Maybe these qovs are like the Marines. The Few and the Proud.

1. Fabric: Quality and snobbishness.

I do not mean to denigrate anyone who shops for their fabric at non-quilt shops. IF I have offended any of you, please accept my apology. I shop at JoAnns and Walmart. I know their fabrics. JoAnn's has a higher quality selection and very reasonably priced. Walmart less quality and even more reasonably priced. Quilt shops basically all excellent quality and by and large overpriced for the average pocketbook. What to do? I want to support the local quilt businesses. But, if you don't have a local shop OR your local shop refuses to give you a discount, then what? Well, this is America and we have choices. What I really would like to see for those of us don't have a qov-friendly quilt shop is a place where we can shop for quality and selection at a price that won't break the piggy bank. There is EBay, online shops etc. I think this would be an excellent opportunity for someone who already owns a quilt shop to step in and creatively fill this void. I also understand our shop owners need to make a profit so they don't have to apply for foodstamps.

2. Wartime QOVs or What's in a Name?

Someone mentioned I had changed the name from qovs to wartime qovs. Nope. Just wanted to make us all aware that these quilts ARE wartime quilts. Perhaps I am preaching to the choir. Americans by and large are ignorant or choosing to be ignorant re: our wounded troops and that we are at war. I'll take another look at how I use this wording "wartime qovs" on the website. I DO want them to wake up from their lethargy!

3. QOV pillowcases

This subject brought up the majority of responses from "go jump off a cliff, I am already doing too much for this qov project" to "great idea but MINE (qov case) will match (unlike mine)."
I am standing resolute on this matter. Think about this. What does Valor mean? Here is the dictionary definition:

valor

n : the qualities of a hero or heroine; exceptional or heroic courage when facing danger (especially in battle); "he showed great heroism in battle"; "he received a medal for valor"

See the word 'exceptional or heroic courage when facing danger'? To me, my quilts of valor bespeak of these exceptional acts of courage. When the chaplain presents/award them, I want the wounded kid to KNOW without one ounce of doubt that they are receiving an exceptional quilt WITH its own case. It's all about presentation! Go to a fine restaurant. Isn't the food presentation on your plate part of this whole fine dining experience? For goodness sakes...look at how watches are sold today..all in their cleverly designed boxes.

Since I sit at this \$%^&^* computer 8-12 hours/day dedicated to this project, I think I can say what a quilt of valor is and is not since I coined the term and am now trade marketing it. All of you are free to do whatever you care to do re: the cases. But, MY standard for qovs is they all will have a qov case. There, I have jumped off the cliff and am enjoying the free fall. (BTW, for those of you who are qov-challenged-case, I am planning on asking the sewing groups on yahoo if THEY want to make the cases.)

4. Pettiness, Backstabbing and Women.

I have heard from several of you that others are jumping on the qov bandwagon and saying THEY have done X,Y & Z... when in reality they have just jumped on the wagon and grabbed the microphone. If there is anything I despise more it's someone who takes the credit from the little guy. THIS war is about the little guys. It's the little guys who are getting wounded. It's us little guys who are making them their qovs. As a little guy, I will tell you this. I KNOW who has been doing what. IF any of you want MY endorsement, just yell. I know in the end it's about getting qovs to our wounded. But, in-between now and the end, I can put my two cents in.

5. Marine Award's Ceremony in May and Patriotic Colors and Fabric and Egg on my Face

We have a new hospital on our list: Bethesda. After I spoke with CH Dillman and explained our program, he invited us to participate in an award's ceremony for 25 Marines (all with amputations) from Bethesda Naval Hospital. They will be honored at a gala affair outside of Washington DC mid May. These 25 Marines will be accompanied by their wives and/or parents. Their guests will include their respective Governors/Lt.governors, sports figures like Cal Ripken and others, Oprah and someone HIGH in the government. After hearing this, I said we'd love to make 25 qovs for these marines. We continued talking and somewhere I mentioned that we weren't specializing in patriotic red, white and blue qovs. I noted a slight harrumph at the chaplain's end. I electively chose to ignore this. It was only at the end of our conversation that the Chaplain politely told me *his* Marines LOVE patriotic quilts. (I had to laugh at myself. I told him it would be NO problem. So, Ladies and gentleman, I stand before you humbled but a little wiser. Your selection of fabrics, patterns are yours. Just let me throw this out for consideration. I think maybe the soldiers would prefer more non-patriotic fabrics than perhaps the marines. But, this is totally an unscientific observation. Just a hunch.)

For this special awards ceremony, I am requesting the crème of the crop for these 25 patriotic qovs. For the quilt-topper, this means your best piecing, appliqué. When you're top is done, ask some of your buddies who call a spade a spade what they think of your work in light of this particular event. If they give you the thumbs up, then I will request a longarmer who can do custom quilting. How does this sound?

Hey....I'm even inspired to do a patriotic top! See?

Conclusion.

If I have alienated you and you want to go your separate way, then I wish you the best. My intent is/was not to insult you. I am finding communicating exactly what I want with words extremely challenging. Maybe we won't play in the same sandbox but the playground is HUGE.

Catheirne

2/16/05 9:44am

OK. The goal of getting qovs to the soldiers is far more important than having qov-cases. Forget the cases.
C

2/17/05 5:52am

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to **all** of you-subscribers and unsubscribers. Without **all** your voices, things would remain stagnant. We are growing into the high heels of a national need to honor, protect and love our wounded by making our qovs. Pillowcases are fluff. What classifies as good enough for a qov? I found the answer yesterday by reading and talking to you. It's more than good enough if it comes from your HEART. In fact, it's excellent!

So enough about egg masques. Let's get to work. And, for my unsubscribers, this will be your last email. I just wanted you all to know I appreciate your desire to help our wounded. I hope you continue.

Catherine

2/18/05

Just a follow up. Most of my group has stayed and are very supportive. Eleven went their own way. I found this whole episode a learning lesson. Perhaps the qov-case door with OUR group has closed but I see another one opening with the sewing/serger groups. Life has a way of consistently pulling the rug out from under me.