

Still at War; Still Quilting

QOV Newsletter-September 2006

Last Wednesday night while I was doing the laundry, the phone rang. I heard a deep raspy voice with one of those thick southern accents that can mesmerize a yankee introduce himself. "This is Mr. McL. I just want to tell ya' how much I appreciate my quilt. I'm gonna fold it up, put it on a shelf and never use it. Just want to look at it."

You know the caller from a previous newsletter. Over a year ago, I received a phone call from a Vietnam vet who had read about our group from the Order of the Purple Heart magazine. This South Carolinian was an Army ranger, wounded three times during his one tour and as patriotic as they come. He wanted to *buy* a QOV. I told him they weren't for sale nor were we making QOVs for the Vietnam vets. I did tell him to call back in about a year.

After the newsletter went out, several of you wanted to make a QOV for this gentleman. Unfortunately I did not get his contact information. But what did happen shouldn't surprise any of you. YOU opened the door for Vietnam vets by requesting that your QOV go to them. One of our Chaplain contacts requested the first Vietnam QOV for his father. I asked if he was wounded. He replied, "No ma'am. Shot down 2 times and crashed a third, but never wounded. Not bad for a year's work." This was a no-brainer. "That qualifies", I emailed back.

Since then, we have seen others *specifically* request Vietnam vets for their QOV destination. One woman targets World War 2 veterans. Another woman, Joy, challenged to herself to find a VN whom she could make a QOV for. Catherine E. indicated on her destination form she wanted her QOV to go to a *woman* Vietnam vet. I found her recipient right here in our local ER. This nurse served in Vietnam at China Beach .

This past Tuesday, I met with a very receptive Delaware Commission on Veteran's affairs to tell them about the QOV program. I asked where our wounded Delawareans were. After the meeting, a Vietnam vet came up and told me his nephew had been wounded in Iraq. I assured him his nephew would be awarded a QOV. I added that one day I foresee the day when our Vietnam vets will be the recipients of QOVs. He looked at me and said, "We don't need that. We just have to take care of these young guys." I didn't say anything noting this sentiment seems to be universal with our VN vets. They are *always* watching out for *others* because they don't ever want them mistreated, spat upon, called baby killers and neglected as they were. I know in my heart of hearts, they will be QOV recipients, but not now. Their time WILL come. For me, they exemplify the true character of Americans-giving without expecting anything in return.

So if you feel inclined to make a qov for a Vietnam vet, a WW2 vet, a Korean vet, let me know. Those of you who [with reason] worry that our mission is being diluted should know that 99% of our QOVs are being awarded to OEF-Afghanistan/OIF-Iraq combat wounded warriors. Rather than diluting the mission of this group, I see our branching out as maturing. Our main focus is our newly returning combat warriors. Their need is acute. But this does not rule out making one of your healing quilts of valor for those from other wars. It seems one of the legacies of *any* war is living with your war demons.

Still at war; still quilting,

Catherine

MEET OUR Volunteer STAFF

I want you to meet again those who are behind the scenes.

Catherine cath@govf.org

Catherine is the founder/director since the beginning. She started with one QOV and now barely has time to sew, or cook, or clean house because of the time it takes directing this non-profit Foundation. She recently was asked to write a business proposal for a company that is interested in helping put our wounded on our nation's radar screen 24/7. This helped her see where the Foundation is going. If any of you are interested, you can email her for a copy.

June june@govf.org

I think all of you know June, our longarm coordinator. She has been onboard for over a year. I don't know how this organization would run without her holding up the longarming end of things. She recently retired from teaching and now is jumping into the longarming/Statler world full force. Here is a message from her.

Quilt-toppers: We love quilting your tops. But please only contact me when you are ready to MAIL your top/backing/binding. Many of my longarmers are squeezing your tops in-between paying customers. This translates into them having a very limited time to do your top. IF you delay getting them the top, they may not have the time nor inclination.

Barb barb@govf.org

Barb is our kid's coordinator. Barb has two children, pet rats and other and asundried pets. At first I didn't believe the rat thing, but it's true. Shortly after this, a friend of mine told me his time in college with his pet rat. Am I missing something? Barb is a resource for those who have questions and/or projects with children. If you want your kid's project on the web, email Barb so you can get things ready to the world wide web.

Nedra nedra@govf.org

Many of you know Nedra. Nedra is the type of person who can walk into a room of strangers and by the end of the day will be best friends with everyone. She also is organized and knows how this organization works. Nedra has taken on the newly formed position of my secretary. I say this with the utmost respect. It is her job to keep me on track and remind me what page I am on. Many of you email me with wonderful ideas. I say "let's do such and such" and then nothing happens. It isn't because I think your idea/request suddenly turned sour. It's simply becuz I got side-tracked or didn't write it down.. If you email me and I say "let's do this or that" with your idea, I'll forward it to Nedra. She will help keep your good idea alive and implemented (if that's the case). And, if you hear nothing after I say "this or that", email me back.

Judy Laquidara and Nancy Miller

Lots of you know our QOV Mystery Queens. They both are very talented and giving of their time in order to inspire others to make QOVs. I love it when someone tells me their QOV is from the mystery group. Judy will soon be an author of a quilt book based on her designs of looking hard but easy to make. Nancy continues with her day job. Her passion comes out when she talks about her work with the local rescue boxer group and her own rescued boxers.

Donna Dickinson donna@govf.org

Meet Donna. Donna lives here in Delaware and has been involved making QOVs for sometime now. We got together and I discovered she used to keep books for her husband's business. My ears perked up and now Donna handles the books, talks to our accountant. She will be handling the monies in the organization. Dee did a great job but now needs time to spend with her new grandson, Harley. If you have any questions about tax stuff, donations, etc, contact Donna.

MORE STAFF NEEDED

I admit it. I need help. We are growing and I can no longer juggle all the plates that are in the air. I can promise you your very own QOVF.org email address, a QOV pin and my unwavering gratitude! If you are interested, email me cath@govf.org.

Newsletter Editor. The newsletter needs to come out once/month. You would be in charge of putting it together. This means gathering QOV news, getting calendar information for upcoming shows, etc. You have to be organized, love details, write and know how to edit. I will continue to write my monthly editorial.

Events Coordinator. This job involves receiving and organizing information regarding any QOV event that needs national/regional attention. You have to be organized, be friends with your computer and internet.

QOV Book Editor. This position requires someone who has editing experience in the real world of publishing and who would like to do this voluntarily. Remuneration is on an ethereal scale.

Database Creator Someone asked me to look in my database for such and such. I laughed. My database is my 8"X6" three ring binder with loose leaf paper. I can see the benefits of having a database but I don't have the time to set it up. If anyone out there wants to set one up, I will use it.

POSTINGS FROM QOV COMMUNITY

Looking for CT QOVers (08/30/06)

We are gathering the names of CT QOVers and have an opportunity for any who would like to meet for lunch either Sat or Sun 9/23 or 24 in Glastonbury (center of state). We have found these other 6 folks by serendipity. It occurs to me that you may know of more CT folks and we would be thrilled to extend an invitation to them also. Therefore if you do know any, would you kindly pass along this invitation: We will meet at Panera, in Glastonbury, on the corner of Hebron Avenue and Main Street either Sat/Sun, Sept 23/24, suggested if we all chose a Sat that we plan to meet at 11:30 a.m. And, if we chose a Sunday, that we make it 12:30 -1:00 p.m.

Please pass the word around and vote for a day/time. We've for a Connecticut movement going! Folks can RSVP/vote to me at littleelmo2@comcast.net.

Looking for someone around Globe, AZ (08/30/06)

I am now living in Globe, Az. Do you know anyone in the Globe, Az. Area. I moved and have a new job. I do not make tops. I just want to help out with cutting, ironing or something. I don't have a machine. I do have a quilt top that was new material I got at a yd. sale that I would consider donating to someone who do make quilts for this project. It is all hand sewed. Dorie Muttart. dorie_m_2000@yahoo.com

Looking for someone in Long Beach, CA (08/30/06)

We have a wonderful opportunity to get some exposure for our worthwhile "Quilts of Valor" project by participating in the "Volunteer Village" being presented in Long Beach, CA on Oct 12 from 2-7 pm. If anyone is in the area and can assist me with the booth or provide quilts to show, it would be appreciated. I will also need to have printed brochures available to distribute, so if anyone can help with those, it would be great! I plan to show the DVD, if the electricity is available. Please contact Barbara Winkler 562.925.7673 or email creations4u7@aol.com.

IDEAS YOU CAN USE

Katy and quilting Bee-check website in a couple of days. You can read how Katy has organized a QOV-bee and she's having tremendous success on all fronts (quilts and donations).

Joy and Challenge-check website in a couple of days. Joy's story is uplifting and inspiring.

Ruth-Ann Rupp and visually disabled.-website. Ruth has put together a comprehensive guide for making QOVs for the visually impaired. This will be under the projects links.

Fundraising ideas. To come. There are TONS of ways to involve your community in making QOVs.

QOV Mystery Quilt

Not sure what pattern to make? Want to help and have fun at the same time? Make a QOV mystery quilt. This Yahoo group has provided hundreds of quilts to our wounded and allowed members to work on patterns as a group, chat, and have fun.

The patterns are made by QOV volunteers exclusively for QOV. To join the yahoo group, just send an email to quiltmystery-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

The next mystery start September 8--**join today!**

Downloads/Store Items

Patterns:

New QOV pattern from Karen Kieppe called *Quilts for Soldiers*. Check it out here <http://qovf.org/free.patterns.html#qfspattern>. Connie's Home Town Pride (<http://qovf.org/free.patterns.html#hometownpride>) will no longer be lonely.

Calling/Business Cards:

There is a new one designed by Stacy. It will be there shortly!

Brochures/Handouts

New Handout-this is a one page handout that you can print up and hand out. I printed mine on stock paper and it came out beautifully. The stock paper makes it stand out.

Shop Things

QOV logo pin

QOV Spring 2006 DVD-it has received RAVE reviews. Great for shows. It's a show stopper.

Stand Ye Steady DVD plus CD

QOV Sterling Silver Pendants

QOV STATS(08.30.06)

Iraq killed 2,641 wounded-19,323

Afghanistan killed 333 wounded 645

Total QOVs made 6,457!!!!

Podcast Show

I am about ready to start podcasting again. I miss doing this.If you haven't checked out the podcasts, treat yourself. The interviewees are great.

Quoteables

Quilts of Valor - by Joan Ballew

First, let me tell you that my son, Logan, is making slow but steady progress from his wounds, incurred Monday August 7,2006 in Iraq. Thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement. A year or two back, I made a couple of quilts for wounded soldiers and donated them through Central Oklahoma Quilt Guild. We were told that they would be given out at Bethesda Naval and Walter Reed hospitals in the Washington DC area. Fast forward to Wednesday, August 9th, 2006. My husband, Arnold, and I were notified that our Marine son, Logan, had been injured in Iraq, was in Germany, and would be flown to DC on Friday. As we flew to meet him at National Navy Medical Center, Bethesda, for a second, I wondered if Logan would get a quilt, but obviously had many other concerns on my heart and mind. Later, after Logan was off the respirator and starting to spend some time awake, I asked the staff if the wounded were given quilts, and they said look in the bathroom of his ICU 'room', as his gear was stored there. On top of his 'camo' backpack and flack jacket was an orange, brown, gold and green quilt. It's autumn colors and prints were a cheery note to long days, mostly spent watching our son sleep. The pumpkins matched his 'red' hair. I was impressed by the free-motion quilted pumpkins. Of course I was curious about where the quilt was made, so I checked the back and there was a label, saying it came from the Cobblestone Quilt Guild, Charleston, SC. I checked the internet, found their website, and e-mailed a thank-you note. The next day I got a response from the CQG webmistress. She had made the quilt that Logan received. What a great surprise for both of us! Let me tell you - first hand - these quilts are appreciated by the wounded and their families. I saw them covering patients, draped over chairs and foot boards, used to create a play tent in the family waiting room by a 5 year-old sister, and wrapped around a 7 week-old daughter, as her father held her for the first time. On behalf of all who

received them, thanks to everyone who's donated a Quilt of Valor. If you haven't made one, I hope you will consider it soon.

Finally

Finally, remember the QOV you made is magical! They help your serviceperson heal. You know how they were made...quilt-topper/longarmer. Lot's of time spent thinking and praying for this person. Your QOV is prayer-logged (like water-logged). Be sure to tell your person that when they are feeling down or having a bad day or thinking their time downrange (in the battlefield) wasn't worth it, they should WRAP themselves in your QOV and they'll feel the gratitude, the love and sincere appreciation you put into its very fibers for THEM. Your QOV is a healing salve like Vicks Vapo-Rub for your wounded serviceperson. Tell them to apply the salve whenever needed. And, there's no co-pay! And you can remind them their QOV is a Warrior's Quilt. They are Warriors. They served, they sacrificed and they did their civic duty. Amen.

Now, spread the word.

Still at war; still quilting,

signature

Catherine Roberts
Founder/Director QOV Foundation