

NEWSLETTER

Notes from Catherine...

Semantics? Wartime vs. Charity Quilter

by: Catherine Roberts, QOVF Founder cath@QOVF.org

Besides being a QOVF traffic cop, I also get to compose the polls for the website. Most questions have been lightweights. The results from one of the questions took me by surprise. The question was:

“How would you describe yourself when making a Quilt of Valor?”

1. A wartime quilter
2. A quilter who makes charity quilts

Number one won by a small margin 58% vs 42%; that is 58% say they are wartime quilters while 42% say they are making charity quilts. How would you interpret these numbers? Here is my take.

My impression:

Many quilters put making a wartime Quilt of Valor in the same category as making a service or charity quilt (Linus project, quilts for battered women, etc).

My observations:

1. For several years now, I have heard from frustrated quilters across the nation that their quilt guilds aren't really interested in making QOVs. The guilds either say that they are *already* involved in making charity quilts or they have *already* made QOVs.

2. My daughter Hannah, a second class midshipmen (junior) at the Naval Academy wanted to come home for the week-end to do laundry. If she wanted to come to a talk I was giving at a quilt guild. Really wanting clean clothes, she said she'd come along.

After the talk, Hannah reflected on something I had said. “Mom, how can you say we are a *NATION* at war when only 1% are serving? To me, that isn't a *nation* but rather a small minority *within* a nation. Nation means *lots of people*. 1% isn't *lots*.”

3. Sacrifice does not seem to be part of our national lexicon albeit

Statistics:
As of March 28, 2008

IRAQ	
Killed:	4,005
Wounded:	59,402
AFGHANISTAN	
Killed:	491
Wounded:	7,795
QOVF	
Quilts Awarded:	15,000

For much more information regarding the statistics from Iraq and Afghanistan, go to [The Iraqi Coalition Casualty Count](#).

some of us have memories of victory gardens, rationing and relatives who served in the military.

4. There is no day-to-day evidence that we ARE a nation at war. Unless you have someone in the military to remind you, it's business as usual.

Discussion:

NOTES FROM CATHERINE CONTINUED...

We have sent over 1.5 million servicemembers in harm's way and many of these have deployed multiple times. As of March 25, 2008, 4,491 have died. Department of Defense (DoD) wounded now number over 60,000. This number will surely increase as more are properly diagnosed with the two hallmark injuries from this war: Traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Though we *appear* to be a nation NOT at war, we *are*. We must be vigilant to stay motivated for our warriors. Our warriors merit our support pre and post deployment. For us fiber artists, this means donning the mantle of a wartime [quilter, knitter, embroiderer, weaver, spinner] until the job is done. Do NOT underestimate the healing power of your wartime quilts *nor* the journals that accompany them. They are a legacy that will live on for generations to come.

I close with this recent request for a QOV from a marine mother for her son. Perhaps her words will touch and inspire you to take on the mantle of a wartime quilter.

This time away was very hard on him and all of us. Prior to leaving, he lost a friend in a training accident. While he was in Iraq, he lost two more buddies that we know of. He rarely discusses his time over there and since his return, often has a difficult time sleeping. A warm quilt to snuggle with may be just what he needs to help get his sleeping back in order, that and a lot of prayer; which I, his mom, do often. Thank-you for your precious time and dedication to our fine men and women who serve.

Still at war; still quilting,



Catherine Roberts, o/10

CONNECTING THE THREADS BETWEEN QOVF QUILTERS AND RECIPIENTS

NOTES FROM THE JOURNAL GURU
BY: SUSAN C. SLANINKA

“My name is T. I’m in the Army and I was injured while serving in Iraq. I will spare you the details of my wounds, but one of the things that makes it easier for me is the quilt you have made for me. I received the quilt while I was in Germany and it has been with me ever since. It not only keeps me warm when I’m cold; it comforts me during my difficult times. I’m twenty-four, a husband, and a father and this may seem childish, but when I get scared with memories of the war, I curl up in the quilt and everything goes away. It helps me and the hundreds of wounded from this war to know that

there are people in the states that care about us and what we do.”

“My name is C and I was wounded while on a mission to Iraq. I was one of the lucky ones; I survived. Much of my unit did not. Sometimes I feel guilty that I survived and they didn’t. When I was told that I was going to receive one of the Quilts of Valor, at first I refused it. I didn’t feel like I was “wounded”; after all, I was just doing my job. The nurses on the unit convinced me that I did deserve to receive a quilt and shared with me that it might help me heal. Well, I have to say this big Marine cried like a baby when they gave me my quilt. Thank you to all of you who are sharing your talents and love

with us in this way. It is so appreciated by those of us who have been overseas. Just knowing that someone cares is so important.”

These quotes are just a sampling of the many quotes seen on the Quilts of Valor website. Some quotes are from recipients and others are from family members, health care personnel, or chaplains who share their feelings about the Quilts of Valor. There is no question that the quilts are making a difference in the lives of the wounded service men and women.

I suspect that each of us would have a different reaction to these two quotes, but I have to say that one of the things that came to my mind is how much pain these young men and women have gone through in this conflict and continue to experience when they return home. I found myself responding as a “Mom” to their quotes and want to write them to let them know that someone indeed does care about them!

Yes, that’s what the journal is all about. Take some time each day that you work on your quilt to share your life with the person who will be receiving the quilt. Catherine tells me that the journals make as much of a difference as the quilt does. Through reading our journals,

these military men and women are able to picture us working on their quilts. Reading the journals helps them connect with the person “who cared enough about them” to sew and send them a quilt. I know that we all have busy lives and that even finding the time to make a quilt is difficult, but take that extra minute for a guy like “T” who is scared at night and might be comforted by your journal or “C” who cried when he received his quilt and journal.

QOVF’S WEBSITE

No matter where you are reading this, please consider registering yourself or your group as a contact for others interested in learning about making wartime quilts. [Katy](#) reported that we have 72 registered contacts nationwide.

Also, go to Quoteables and read what recipients/fellow quilters are saying. If you ever want inspiration, this is the place to go.

And who doesn’t love to see pictures of wartime quilts? You can upload your pictures easy as pie. For a “how to” go [here](#).

LABELS AND SECURITY

Recently someone emailed a suggestion that personal information not be included on

the label or mailing package if mailing to an individual vs. point of contact. The reason behind this thinking is that we do not know who it is we are sending this information to. In all likelihood, the individual is fine. But there may be a chance that this person is not.

Here are my suggestions. If you are sending your quilt to an individual recipient who you do not know, you can put the QOVF post office box number as the return address. As far as including a stamped self-addressed postcard/envelope for receipt of quilt, I would suggest you give your email. If you don’t have email, then ask a friend for theirs.

QOVF address:

QOVF
PO Box 1003
Seaford, DE 19973

What do I put on my labels?

My name, age, town, email. Catherine Roberts, 58, Seaford, DE, cath@QOVF.org.

QOV RAFFLE TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE....

You can still get/sell tickets for our two beautiful opportunity quilts. They will be raffled off in April at MQX. Both of these quilts are spectacular and not your average raffle quilt. Linda McCuen machine quilted Rose of

Sharon and our own Marcia Stevens did Winding Ways. Please click on the following link to find out more:

[QOV Opportunity Quilt Details](#)

QOV STORE

Please visit the QOVF store <http://www.qovf.org/shop/products>. Magnets are available! Advertise for QOV while you drive. **We also have QOV Wartime Grocery Bags - a great way to help the environment while supporting the Quilts of Valor Foundation, but we are down to our last bags!! After they are gone, that's it. Get them while they last!!** There are also two DVDs available (they're great to take with you to shows and fundraising events). And don't forget about the QOV Lapel Pin - stylish and affordable. We here at the QOV Foundation appreciate your patronage and continued support. If you have an idea for new QOVF merchandise let us know, we love hearing from you!

EVENTS....

Quilting on the Waterfront (QW - Duluth, Minnesota) - The is "educational only".workshops, lectures, demos. Last year, there were about 100 students involved. I'd say this year will be about the same with 5-6 teachers and a few

vendors. There will be some quilts on display like last year.the teachers quilts - - about 25 of them. Marcia Stevens will be the QOV contact person (Marcia mstevens@brainerd.net).

WHAT HAS JUNE BEEN UP TO NOW...

Hello wartime quilters. I hope you are gearing up for some serious quilt making.

Pairing toppers and quilters

We are right at 200 quilt tops assigned to Longarmers for March and ready to move on to April.

Quilting for local groups

Of course that doesn't count the quilts made and quilted by longarmers who are part of local groups. The three longarmers in my local group have done 10 or 12 this month, and there are many local groups around the country. If your group hasn't registered on the Local Groups page of the website, please do so now, so others can find you and join in.

Introducing Event Coordinator

Debbie Scozzafava from CT has volunteered to be the QOVF Events coordinator. If you have information about upcoming events where you would like to display the Designers' Challenge mini quilts, or plan to have a booth at an upcoming

show, contact

Debbie. Debscozz@aol.com

Check out the website.

Look on the lower left of the homepage for free quilt patterns and quilting designs.

Look on the lower right for links to upcoming events. You can attend and help.

Gearing up for Machine Quilter's Showcase

May 14-17 Overland Park, KS

If you can help at the QOVF booth, contact Gail Belmont gail@QOVF.org or June june@QOVF.org

Carrying the QOVF message everywhere I go...

I am speaking to groups where ever I find them to engage more quilters in this important work.

QOVFChat

Join us here to share ideas, information, pictures and inspiration: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/QOVFchat/>

VOLUNTEER STAFF

CATHERINE - Founder/Director of the QOV Foundation. cath@qovf.org

JUNE - Longarm Coordinator. june@qovf.org

KATY- Coordinator of Local/Regional WOVF groups. katy@qovf.org

MICHELE - Newsletter Editor. michele@qovf.org

LENNY - Handles the books & answers tax donation questions. lenny@qovf.org

LEZLEY - Coordinates QOVF efforts in Canada. lezley@qovf.org

ERIC - In charge of raffle numbers for QOVs sent between April 2007 & April 2008. ej@qovf.org

DEBBIE - Events Manager Debscozz@aol.com

Please Feel Free to Contact Your Volunteer Staff With Your Questions/Comments/Concerns

HOW TO DONATE



Since the QOV Foundation started out in November of 2003 as Quilts for Soldiers, we have run on a shoe string budget. Staff members work on a voluntary basis. The monies we received are directed back into the Foundation and used to increase our visibility.

The thousands of members in this group give of their time and money. To date, we have collectively spent over \$900,000 dollars in making QOVs.

When you make a monetary tax deductible donation, you can request where it should go. The various choices are: administrative, fabric, shipping and printing handout literature.

You also can contribute fabric, sewing machines, batting and quilting threads. if you would like to go this route, please email [Catherine](mailto:Catherine@cath@qovf.org) at cath@qovf.org or call 302 236-0230.

Please help us keep this project alive and well with your **tax exempt** donation, visit www.qovf.org.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the QOV Foundation is to cover ALL combat wounded service-members whether physical or psychological with wartime quilts called Quilts of Valor (QOVs). The wounded service-members from the War on Terror or Long War are to be considered first and foremost.

The second mission is to teach our children how to sew QOVs. This skill will teach sewing skills in addition to encouraging civic involvement and volunteering for the betterment of our nation.

A natural extension of our mission will be to link up with our coalition countries and see that their combat wounded are also covered.

When all is said and done what we are doing is providing a means by which our combat wounded can have a better life. This foundation will do whatever it takes to reach this goal.