



**From the Executive Director**

March is, of course, the third month of the year; it has 31 days and hosts the beginning of spring. “March” can also mean, “to advance in step in an organized body.” That is exactly what happened on February 4th when over 2000 members joined together for the common cause of National Sew Day to make QOVs. Judging by all the pictures you posted on the QOV Facebook page, a great time was had by all, and much work was accomplished.



*Ann Rehbein,  
Executive Director*

Another way we can all work together is to make a block or two for the 2017 Block Drive. What a fun way to try out a new pattern! You can find the directions by following the link on Page 3. Thanks, Karen Demaree, for taking on this project again this year.

Have you heard about the QOV book that will be published next year? We are very excited about the project, which will contain one quilt from each of the fifty states. Sue Reich explains it more fully in her article on Page 2.

Marching along together, joined together in a common cause, we work to enhance the lives of service members and veterans. You have been doing a great job—as evidenced by the numbers of quilts that have been recorded already this year. We receive many thank you letters that express

the deep appreciation of the men and women who receive Quilts of Valor.

In an effort to help groups continue to do such a great job, a [Go Fund Me](#) page was established. The monies raised through the Go Fund Me campaign will be distributed back to those groups who meet the criteria established. This is a great way for folks to contribute to a great cause. Please help to spread the word about it.

Our Annual Conference will be June 5-6, 2017, In Colorado Springs, CO. Check out the Events page at [QOVF.org](#) for details about it and the “Old Glory Quilt Exhibit” curated by Mary Kerr that will be on display at the conference.

Until next time, quilt in peace and happiness, knowing you are making a difference.

**STAR QOVs—BLOCK, BY BLOCK, BY BLOCK**

*By Carol Cricenti*

I was introduced to QOVF by my friend Penny Barnes, who taught me patchwork via Skype (she lives in Iowa, and I live in New Hampshire).

I began posting photos of my red, white, and blue quilts on Facebook, and many responded saying they’d love to make a QOV but didn’t have the funds for an entire quilt. The idea struck me that most people can afford to make a block; if they sent me blocks, I could set the blocks together into quilts. The resulting QOVs would be a team effort.

Thus began the Quilts of Valor Stars Facebook Group. In three years it has grown from 20 members to over 700, with participants from almost every state. The postman brings me everything



*A recipient receives a QOV produced by participants in Carol Cricenti’s Facebook group, Quilts of Valor Stars.*

from very simple stars to complex paper pieced ones. In 2016, we completed and awarded more than 100 quilts.

All blocks still come to me, but several other ladies now help put tops together. I still do much of the machine quilting, but others help with this as well. Sometimes we use a panel in the center and arrange star blocks around it. Recently, I had a bolt of panels and challenged the group to design a top using the panel and six stars. I thought I would have five or six participants but 24 signed up!

In November, we organized a Veterans Day block drive with a goal of 650 Disappearing Nine-Patch blocks. One of our participants used donated fabric to make up kits with enough pieces for four blocks.

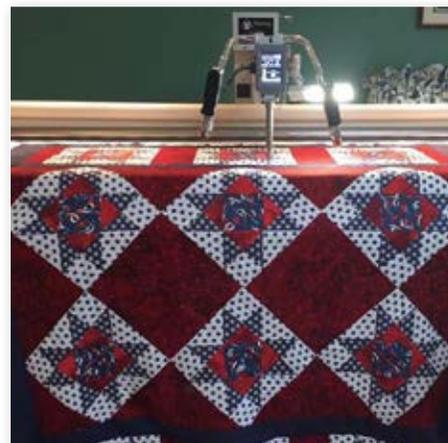
*Continued on page 2*

The way we select awardees is simple. A person who sends in a block gets to submit a name along with it. If you send six blocks, you can submit the same name six times. When a quilt is completed, we draw a name from the hat, and the person who submitted the name receives the quilt to award. That person also handles the binding and the award ceremony.

We've all heard the adage, "Many hands make light work." Quilts of Valor Stars is proof! If you'd like to get involved, click [here](#) and send a request to join the group.



Every day is "mail call" day at Carol Cricenti's house.



Assembled star blocks made by Carol Cricenti's Quilts of Valor Stars Facebook Group "under the needle" on her longarm machine.

## DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR QOVF BOOK

By Sue Reich

Next year, 2018, will be a banner year for QOVF. It will mark the 15th anniversary of our organization and the publication of the first book about our grass roots, patriotic effort to wrap our military in quilts. Comforting our nation's soldiers with quilting is a time-honored tradition that dates to the Revolutionary War. For centuries, immigrants brought this custom to America, as well. Some early examples of war quilts from other regions include the Tristan and Isolde Quilt in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, England, and the Intarsia quilts from across Europe and Australia. The former is a 14th Century quilt



Detail of a patriotic quilt dating to the World War I years. The pattern name is unknown, but Pinwheel Star might be an appropriate choice.

depicting stitched, stuffed, and corded battle scenes on land and sea. The Intarsia quilts from across Europe were composed with many pieces of woolen fabrics from soldiers' uniforms.

In late 2016, the criteria for the upcoming QOV book were announced. The book will include the history of QOVF, a quilt representing each state, and 10 to 12 patterns (in a variety of skill levels) to encourage more quilting for our soldiers.

QOVF has been working through the State Coordinators to reach out to all members. In mid-April, the photos of three candidate quilts from each state are due to the book committee for consideration. The committee will be meeting in Colorado Springs in June to finalize selection of each state's quilt. Important to note: To meet the finished manuscript deadline agree upon with the publisher, Schiffer Publishing LTD, staying on track with the schedule between now and December 1, 2017, is critical.

The book committee is eager to see your needlework skills as you honor our nation's military. This long-overdue book is also a way to thank our membership by highlighting your dedication and benevolence through making QOVs.

(About the Author: Sue Reich is Chair of the QOVF Board of Directors and encourages you to contact her at [sue.reich@qovf.org](mailto:sue.reich@qovf.org) with any questions.)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: 2017 QOVF NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Information supplied by Ann Rehbein

The QOVF Annual Conference will be held on June 5-6, 2017, at the Eleganté Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO. Each day begins with an award ceremony, followed by speakers and breakout sessions. Author, speaker and web pioneer Aliza Sherman will share ideas from her 11th book, *The Happy, Healthy Nonprofit*, about the essential need for self-care among those who are driven by a passion for an important mission. She will also have a breakout session to answer questions about social media and share tips for communicating effectively online. Additional breakout sessions cover a variety of QOVF-related topics. The QOV store will be open for business and there are possibilities for optional paid workshops.

The cost for the Conference is \$100 for QOVF members and \$125 for nonmembers. Lunch will be on your own each day. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about QOVF and to share your ideas and suggestions. For more information and to register for the Conference visit our [website](#).

## ANDOVER DESIGNS LABELS JUST FOR QOVs

By Marianne Fons

Andover Fabrics, manufacturer of quality, 100% cotton fabrics for independent quilt shops, introduced their "Patriotic" collection several years ago, and has been adding new prints to the line periodically. The latest addition includes labels designed specifically for Quilts of Valor.

Head designer Kathy Hall requested and received input from Executive Staff members and others in creating the beautiful label print.



The labels are arranged so fat quarters with nine different labels can be cut from the bolt. All labels have lines printed on them to make customizing for recipients easy. There is

both a cream-background and a blue-background version. These new fabrics have now shipped to quilt shops from coast to coast, so ask for them at your favorite independent shop.

Andover, a great friend of QOVF, shares a small amount of revenue from each sale of "Patriotic" with our foundation.

*(About the Author: Marianne Fons is a board member and liaison to the quilting industry for Quilts of Valor Foundation; contact her at [marianne.fons@QOVF.org](mailto:marianne.fons@QOVF.org).)*

## NATIONAL QOV SEW DAY: AN ALASKAN AWARD

Information supplied by  
Linda Kau, Alaska State Coordinator

Quilters around the state of Alaska, as well as the entire nation, gathered in groups or sewed at home on February 4, 2017, to celebrate National QOV Sew Day. In Wasilla, Alaska, the Forget Me Not Quilters gathered at Sylvia's Quilt Depot to sew and complete several QOVs.

The highlight of the day, however, was when we surprised one of our local veterans with the award of his own QOV. Dustin Heger's wife and daughters helped organize the surprise by telling him one of his daughters needed to stop and meet someone at the quilt shop. Dustin's wife shared that she had never been able to pull off a surprise like this before because her husband served in military security and is always alert. His response after receiving his surprise award, "I guess I'm getting rusty."

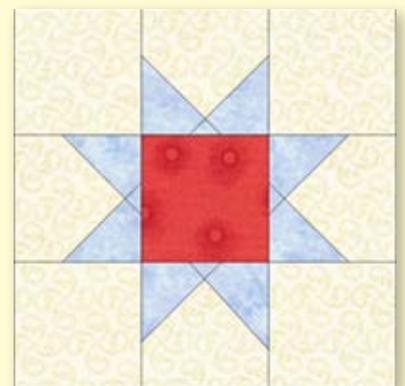
Later in the day Dustin posted the following on the QOV group's Facebook page:



*The Forget Me Not Quilters were proud to surprise Dustin Heger with his QOV award.*

"You wonderful ladies really touched my heart today with this quilt and I am completely humbled by this gift. I took a nice little nap this afternoon with my quilt and it felt like arms of love were wrapped around me. I will think of you all every time I look at this beautiful quilt. May the blessings I received today be returned to you all tenfold!"

The 2017 Block Drive is now underway. Snowball and Floating Star blocks are being collected by Karen Demaree, Wisconsin State Coordinator. For more information, see <http://www.qovf.org/events/>.



## CALLING ALL LONGARMERS!

Information supplied by Elayne Gasset

Are you an experienced longarmer and member of QOVF? Have you registered with the Longarm Coordinator to quilt for our toppers? If not, you're encouraged to do so. We need YOU! Please fill out the "Volunteer to Longarm" form found under the "Take Action" tab on the QOVF.org website. Please direct any questions to the QOVF Longarm Coordinator at [Elayne.Gasset@QOVF.org](mailto:Elayne.Gasset@QOVF.org).

## QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

Welcome aboard to our newest members of the Certified Quilt Shop Program.

Remember Me Quilt Shop	Mountain Home, AR
Fabric Smart	Gulfport, FL
Piece Works Quilt Shop	Winterset, IA
Huckleberry Patches	McCall, ID
Stitched	Alexandria, LA
Buttons and Bolts	Salem, WI

We've had a great start to the year. Thanks to all shops for supporting QOVF.

(Myra Coddens is the QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program Coordinator. Contact Myra at [myra.coddens@qovf.org](mailto:myra.coddens@qovf.org).)

## Quilts Reported

**2012:** 6,169

**2013:** 12,314

**2014:** 17,373

**2015:** 18,772

**2016:** 19,051

**2017:** 1,502

**Total: 153,270**

(as of 28 February 2017)

*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

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For more information about QOVF, see [www.QOVF.org](http://www.QOVF.org)

For more information about the BOD, the QOVF staff, and how to contact your State Coordinator (SCs) go to <http://www.qovf.org/content/about-us.html>.

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### Newsletter

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