



From the Executive Director

It is indeed the “dog days of summer,” when heat and humidity join forces to create sultry and dreamy days in many parts of the country. Few of us want a heavy quilt on our lap to add another layer of unwelcome heat. That said, few of our military personnel who served had any choice but to do so in stifling heat or unbearable cold, and so I think of them and give thanks for their service and sacrifice when working on a QOV in these days of high summer.



*Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director*

Soon we will be turning our thoughts towards Veterans’ Day, November 11, a day to honor all who served. I know there are many QOV award ceremonies being planned for that time, ranging from individual awards to large group ceremonies. Each is special in its own way and it’s hard to distinguish who is more thrilled, those awarding QOVs or those receiving them. Remember to report those awards on the Quilts of Valor website at qovf.org.

There are many more requests for quilts than there are quilts available and people to award them. How can we resolve the disparity? With your help! If you are interested in becoming a coordinator for your area (or in some cases, your state), your help would be greatly appreciated. The volunteer

hours and resources of our member leaders and coordinators mean so much to those we serve. To find out more about volunteering for a state or local coordinator position, please contact Ginger Fondren at ginger.fondren@qovf.org.

Finally, as you’re making plans for Fall and filling up your calendar for those cooler days and nights ahead, don’t forget to turn the page on your calendar and add National Sew Day to it. National Sew Day is set for February 4, 2017. Reserve your meeting space now! Think how great those warm and cozy QOVs will feel in February as we work on them together.

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

WOMAN TO WOMAN— VETERAN TO VETERAN

Information provided by Dianne S. Collins

In November 2015, Dorthea Eldridge, 92, a US Navy WAVE (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) in Italy in WWII, awarded a QOV she pieced and quilted to Linda Phillips, the 50th female pilot/instructor ever to serve in the US Air Force. The presentation was made at a meeting of the Merced, CA, chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

In her presentation before the group, Ms. Phillips spoke of the challenges of being a woman flight instructor in a field dominated by men. She recounted her love of flying, “wingtip to wingtip,” in her fighter jet. Her determination



Former pilot/instructor in the USAF, Linda Phillips is wrapped in her QOV as quilt maker Dorthea Eldridge looks on from the right. Dianne Collins of the DAR chapter (where the presentation took place) is at left.

Continued on page 2

and tenacity showed throughout the commentary that went with her slide presentation. She brought her helmet and flight suit for her audience to see.

Linda was the Strategic Air Command's first female KC-135 instructor pilot. During DESERT SHIELD, working seven days a week, she scheduled as many as 48 aircraft for more than 60 daily sorties for the 65th Pacific Tanker Task Force located at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam, while eight months pregnant. Later, at Carswell Air Force Base in TX, she helped develop KC-135 simulator profiles and other training courses.

"Growing up to be a female Air Force Pilot was not in my dreams, as it was not a career option for women," Phillips said. "I was just lucky to be in the right place at the right time to live a dream all kids have the opportunity to have today."

Dorthea's daughter, Roberta Day Idzorek, recalls her mother sharing that she wanted to enlist after seeing "Uncle Sam wants YOU" posters at the movies. Dorthea's mother wouldn't allow her to enlist, so she waited until November 1944 to do so, just a month after turning 21 years old.



Former US Navy WAVE Dorthea Eldridge is wrapped in a QOV. Standing beside her are Dianne Collins and Linda Phillips.



Linda Phillips in her flight suit standing next to a T-38.



A 1940s photograph of Dorthea Eldridge in her WWII uniform.

Dorthea did some training at Hunter College in New York City, and then was sent to the WAVE's training facility in Milledgeville, GA. She later served at the Oakland Supply Depot in CA as a Storekeeper, Petty Officer First Class. She left the Navy WAVES in June 1946.

She continued to serve veterans as a member and officer of the American Legion for more than 50 years. Dorthea also participated in an honor flight to Washington, DC with other veterans of the era.

Though sewing and quilting were skills Dorthea learned as a child and honed as a young woman making clothing for herself and her family, it wasn't until age 75 when she took up quilting again. Many years and dozens of completed quilt projects later, she answered an appeal by making a QOV.

That same QOV is how the lives of these two extraordinary women connected and their paths crossed—two women with histories of great service to their country. And yes, Dorthea also has been the recipient of a QOV. "She is very proud of that quilt," Roberta says. "And she was honored to be recognized."

VIDEO SHARES THE QOV SPIRIT

Information provided by Cheryl Collins.

Experts cite video as the most important trend to watch in social media for 2016. Increasingly, videos are what capture the attention of Internet browsers today. To capitalize on that trend, the QOV group On Eagle Wings of Gainesville, GA, recently created a video for their chapter in hopes of increasing membership. The video, produced by Jitterbug Media, shares how the group began and what they continue to do together today. To see it, click on the line [here](#).

One of the group's members, Cheryl Collins, adds, "Please feel free to download and tag this video for your social media purposes. I'm not only a member of QOV, but I've also received a QOV. I'm a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and I continue to serve to this day in the Navy Reserve."

Kudos to the members of On Eagle Wings for sharing the mission of QOVF in an inviting, captivating video.

(Does your QOV group have a video or idea you'd like to share with other QOV groups around the country? If so, please send details to THREADS newsletter managing editor at Jennifer.Keltner@qovf.org for potential inclusion in a future issue.)

FLORIDA FOURTH GRADE LEARNS ABOUT FREEDOM

By Evelyn Christy, Florida QOVF Member

At Bushnell Elementary School in FL, Mrs. Perry's fourth grade students read and discussed the historical novel, *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry, which takes place during World War II. The book discussion included the topics of freedom and the veterans who fought to give Americans the opportunities we have today.

I spoke on behalf of QOVF, and the students quickly became excited about creating a QOV themselves. Due to time constraints, the students created a custom backing for a QOV top rather than a patchwork quilt. Each student

designed a picture, drew, painted, and stamped the design on the large piece of fabric. The dedication, pride, and enthusiasm with which the children worked were impressive; so was the finished product.

When the quilt was finished, students prepared speeches and presented it to the Brooksville Detachment of the Marine Corps League in Hernando County, FL, to use in their Hospice House. Later, one of the Marines told the teacher how well the students behaved and said, "Those kids are what makes America great!"

Mrs. Perry and I have discussed future projects with students and ways to incorporate Quilts of Valor and patriotism into students' lives.

Quilts Reported

2012: 6,169

2013: 12,314

2014: 17,373

2015: 18,772

2016: 10,763

Total: 142,180

(as of 31 July 2016)



Students proudly gather round the QOV they helped create, posing for a photo with the local Marine Corps League members to whom they presented it.

QUILTS OF VALOR STORE RE-OPENS

By Ginger Fondren

Thanks to Mike Fondren, whom many of you met at our National Conference in May, we have re-opened our QOV Store— and we are excited to announce the relaunch has been a grand success! In the first month alone, more than 40 orders for merchandise were fulfilled.

Mike's experience in fulfillment processing has been a tremendous asset to the project. The new process provides

faster delivery of your purchases. To visit the store, log in to the member site (accessible from the drop down menu beneath the Membership Button on the top red bar at qovf.org). On the right hand side of the page, select QOV Store from the drop down menu beneath "What Would You Like to Do?"

Currently, you'll find tote bags, pins, patches, quilt labels, window clings, and more for sale in the shop. Almost any of the items would be suitable gifts as a token of thanks or appreciation to someone making a donation to your group. To purchase, click on the individual item to view the

description and add it to your "shopping cart" and indicate the quantity being ordered. Shipping and handling will be automatically calculated based on your total purchase amount after you click the shipping/handling button, then the CONTINUE button. Payments will be processed thru the QOV PayPal account. An email confirmation of your order will be sent, and your order shipped within 24-48 hours. Shop 'til you drop!

(About the author: Ginger Fondren is the Assistant Executive Director, QOVF. Contact Ginger at ginger.fondren@qovf.org.)

QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

Thanks to many involved, the Certified Quilt Shop Program is up and running. As of July 15, 2016, these shops have completed the registration requirements. Congratulations and welcome aboard!

Absolutely Fun Sewing	Clarksville, TN
Creative Union Fabrics	Port Townsend, WA
Loving Stitches	Fayetteville, NC
Marietta Quilt and Sew	Simpsonville, SC
Patches & Petals	Belleville, WI
Patchwork Plus	Wood River, IL
Sew Bee It Quilt Shop	Hebron, NE
Stitch'N Quilt	Mableton, GA
Sylvia's Quilt Depot	Wasilla, AK
Woodside Quilting	Des Moines, IA

There are other registrations in process, so we look forward to having this number continue to grow and grow!

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

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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Executive Staff
Ann Rehbein, Executive Director
ann.rehbein@QOVF.org
Ginger Fondren, Assistant Executive Director
ginger.fondren@QOVF.org

Jackie Dudek, Director of Membership
jackie.dudek@QOVF.org

Elayne Gassett, Longarm Coordinator
elayne.gassett@QOVF.org

Karen Weber, Destination Coordinator
karen.weber@QOVF.org

Debra Coppa, Coordinator of Individual Requests
debra.coppa@QOVF.org

Jeff Thorne, Director of Donor Relations
jeff.thorne@QOVF.org

Suzanne DiCarlo,
Information Desk Coordinator
suzanne.dicarlo@QOVF.org

Debra Kaldenberg, Special Events Coordinator
debra.kaldenberg@QOVF.org

Jennifer Keltner, Managing Editor
jennifer.keltner@QOVF.org

Myra Coddens, Coordinator of Quilt Shop Relationship Development
myra.coddens@QOVF.org

Dawn Gifford, IT Director
dawn.gifford@QOVF.org

Ginger Fondren,
Director of Software Management
ginger.fondren@QOVF.org

Under Our Wings Program Coordinator
[Position Open](#)

Mailing Address:
Quilts of Valor Foundation
PO Box 191
Winterset, IA 50273

For more information about QOVF, see 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

Ann Rehbein, *Editorial Director*
Jennifer Keltner, *Managing Editor*
Tony Jacobson, *Graphic Designer*

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