



**From the Executive Director**

December offers many holidays and reasons to celebrate—however you celebrate, I wish for you and yours the very best of times. December 31 is traditionally a day for reflection and resolutions. It is also “Make up your Mind Day.” Yes, there’s a day for everything anymore, but



*Ann Rehbein,  
Executive Director*

I’m making up my mind that day to be a positive person, to see good in others, to do the best that I can at whatever I’m doing. What will you make up your mind to do?

You have been doing awesome work across our nation. The beautiful photos of QOVs that have been awarded and the resulting thank you letters from recipients are a testimony to you, the volunteer. The 150,000th QOV will have been awarded by the time you read this. Thank you so much for what you do for this organization to make awarding quilts possible.

Are you looking for a last minute gift? A donation to QOVF in someone’s honor is a great gift, and monetary donations are tax deductible! ☺ Just click on the blue [Donate](#) button at [QOVF.org](#) to make it happen. If you’re shopping online, Amazon Smile returns a small portion to QOVF. You can access that opportunity [here](#).

May the coming New Year bring you health and prosperity, all the fat quarters you desire, and time to be creative. I personally wish for you peace and happiness with the knowledge you are making a difference.

**NATIVE AMERICAN VETS & HONOR FLIGHT NEVADA**

*Information provided by Marsha Strand, Group Leader Comstock Lode Quilters*

Honor Flight Nevada returned November 13, 2016, to Reno Tahoe International Airport with 43 veterans from its first-ever all Native American veterans flight. At no expense to the veterans, Honor Flight Nevada flies participants to Washington, D.C., to visit their respective memorials.

The Native American veterans on the November flight were from many local tribes in the Great Basin area and were recognized early in the Veterans Day ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial wall, as they placed a wreath at the memorial for Nevada service members killed in Vietnam.

They also visited the National Museum of the American Indian and learned that funds are being raised to place a memorial to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian



*Surrounded by his family, veteran Jimmie Katenay shows his QOV award. In the background, veteran Allen Mike is being wrapped with his QOV.*

veterans at the facility on the National Mall.

Once the honor flight returned to Reno, the veterans were welcomed by a procession of tribal leaders, drums,

and dancers while large crowds lined up to cheer them on. A small ceremony of welcome with Native American songs preceded a warm welcome home

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by Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval. Comstock Lode Quilters then awarded each veteran with their QOV. As they were wrapped in their QOVs and given their quilty hugs, smiles and tears combined with excitement. Photos were taken, many with family members, and the QOVs were folded and placed into presentation cases.

Following the presentations, a powwow was held in their honor with dancers in Native American dress performing songs and special blessings.

Comstock Lode Quilters group was formed in December 2015 with its primary mission to provide QOVs to all Honor Flight Nevada participants, as well to fulfill requests received for northern Nevada veterans. The impetus for the group came as a result of Group Leader Marsha Strand accompanying her father on an honor flight out of Oregon. Upon their return, QOVs were presented to the veterans. Marsha returned home to Reno and with six of her friends formed the group. It is said that Marsha was the spark, but her six friends were the fire. Today, the group has taken off with a growing number of dedicated volunteers.

When Comstock Lode Quilters first volunteered, Honor Flight Nevada had two flights a year with a total of about 75 veterans. In February 2016, Honor Flight Nevada announced the addition of Vietnam veteran flights to the WWII and Korea flights already underway. Comstock Lode Quilters made and presented 199 QOVs to five flights in 2015 and 216 QOVs to six flights in 2016. More than half the QOVs presented so far have been to Vietnam veterans.

The many stories and thank you notes from veterans who have received QOVs are heartwarming to the group's members. It is clear the love, gratitude, and healing power of each QOV is deeply appreciated in many ways by these wonderful heroes.



*Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval, the Comstock Lode Quilters, Civil Air Patrol Cadets, and Girl Scout Troop 1091 all participated in the QOV Awards Ceremony presentations.*



*Vietnam veteran Harvey Moreno shares a moment with his family following the QOV presentation.*



*Veteran Kenneth Paul is a proud QOV recipient immediately following his quilt wrapping. More recipients are proudly draped in their QOVs in the background.*



*Following the QOV presentations to a group of Native American veterans, a powwow was held in their honor with Native American dancing and songs.*

## COMPLIANCE COSTS: PROTECTING OUR 501C3

*Information provided by Marianne Fons and Michelle Leonard*

When QOVF began rapid growth a few years ago, the various forms required by each state to conduct legal nonprofit fundraising overwhelmed BOD Treasurer (at the time) Joyce Lundrigan. Fees ranged from reasonable to high, renewal dates were different in each state, and the paperwork was complicated.

Ann Rehbein, current Executive Director, was a new friend at the time. As an active, lifelong member in American Legion Auxiliary, Ann put QOVF in touch with American Legion Auxiliary headquarters in Indianapolis, IN. The ALA pointed us to Copilevitz & Canter, a Kansas City law firm specializing in the non-profit sector.

Though resources were slim, QOVF immediately engaged the services of Copilevitz & Canter so Joyce and other board members could rest assured that the foundation we serve is conducting fundraising in compliance with state laws.

According to current QOV Treasurer Michelle Leonard, "Copilevitz & Canter does an excellent job of helping QOVF manage compliance with state regulations. The fees states charge can range from \$25 to \$500 or more. The combined state fees and legal services cost QOVF approximately \$10,700 per year, but keeping up with the proper filings and the accompanying fees is critical for maintaining our 501c3 nonprofit status and the ability for groups to raise funds locally."

Access to our Form 990 tax returns is available [here](#).



Executive Staff members and QOVF's Board of Directors pose on the steps of the Madison County Courthouse during a break in the group's two-day, face-to-face meeting in Winterset, IA. Front row, from left: Assistant Executive Director Ginger Fondren, Board Chair Sue Reich, Secretary June Moore, Treasurer Michelle Leonard. Back row from left, Executive Director Ann Rehbein and board members Walt Davis, Marianne Fons, and Renelda Peldunas-Harter.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS FACE-TO-FACE MEETING

By Marianne Fons

Members of QOVF's Board of Directors met last month in Winterset, IA, the foundation's national headquarters. (Physical headquarters is on the top floor of the Iowa Quilt Museum, which for a nominal annual fee provides a small office for document storage.)

Executive Director Ann Rehbein and Assistant ED Ginger Fondren participated in much of the two-day meeting, which included strategic planning led by new board member Renelda Peldunas-Harter. The meeting was the board's second in-person get-together this year. Board members serve without compensation and

travel to in-person meetings at their own expense. Learn more about your board members [here](#).

With the foundation's financial solvency, an outside audit completed this summer, a growing membership, and over 150,000 QOV awards recorded, QOVF is poised to seek national funding from outside the organization to help support our membership and pursue our mission. Read more about the BOD position available below.

*(Marianne Fons serves on the QOVF Board of Directors. Her passion for QOVF and the mission we serve is evident in her writings and her actions. Contact Marianne at [Marianne.fons@qovf.org](mailto:Marianne.fons@qovf.org).)*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEEKS FUNDRAISER

By Renelda Peldunas-Harter

The QOVF Board of Directors is looking for an energetic, service-oriented individual to serve. This member will assist the BOD and ED with fundraising efforts beyond the foundation and the quilting industry. Below is the position description:

"This board position supports the efforts of the Quilts of Valor Foundation by providing mission-based leadership and strategic governance.

While the foundation's day-to-day operations are managed by the QOVF Executive Director (ED), the board and ED relationship is a partnership, and the appropriate involvement of the board is both critical and expected."

If interested please contact me for the position's Basic Duties, Specific and General Responsibilities at [Renelda.Peldunas@QOVF.org](mailto:Renelda.Peldunas@QOVF.org).

*(Renelda Peldunas-Harter is a member of the QOVF Board of Directors. Contact Renelda at [renelda.peldunas@qovf.org](mailto:renelda.peldunas@qovf.org).)*

## NATIONAL SEW DAY: THANKFUL TOGETHER

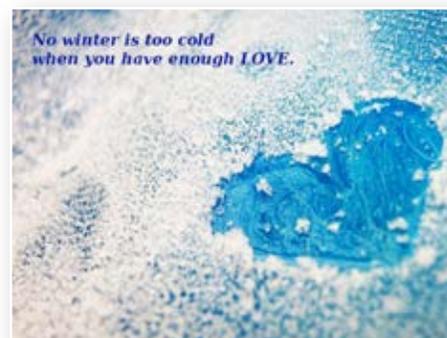
By Debra Kaldenberg

As the season of autumn comes to an end and the cold of winter approaches, may the blessings of Thanksgiving be more than enough to warm your heart and sustain you through the long winter days ahead.

QOVs have warmed the hearts, souls, and physical beings of more than 150,000 honored veterans. This is an amazing accomplishment of love, respect, and honor, and a humbling and empowering organization with which we all get to be connected! I invite you to share your ideas on how we can make National Sew Day on February 4, 2017, a continuation of the QOVF mission and a celebration that will be talked about all year!

As you and your groups make plans to gather together, please visit the QOVF website to [register](#). If you have National Sew Day ideas, I'd love to hear from you. I will be sharing ideas and details in the January newsletter on how we can build on what began in 2014. Also, follow us on Facebook and keep an eye out for the resurrection of the QOV Blog.

*(Debra Kaldenberg is the QOVF Special Events Coordinator. She invites you to share your ideas with her via email at [debra.kaldenberg@qovf.org](mailto:debra.kaldenberg@qovf.org) or by phone at (515) 468-1757.)*



## QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

Welcome aboard to our newest members of the Certified Quilt Shop Program. As of November 2016 these shops have completed the registration requirements.

Inspired to Sew	Cedar Rapids, IA
The Quilt Shop	Wakefield, NE
Quilting Delights	Happy Valley, OR
Granny B's Quilt Shop	Dickson, TN

We have over 30 shops certified, so let's keep the number growing. The website content in the Certified Quilt Shop Program section is updated. Contact Myra Coddens at [myra.coddens@QOVF.org](mailto:myra.coddens@QOVF.org) to receive a copy of the new single-page flyer describing the program.

(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:** 18,044

**Total: 150,761**

(as of 30 November 2016)

*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

**QOVF Founder and Board Member Emeritus**  
Catherine Roberts

**Board of Directors**  
Sue Reich, Chair  
June Moore, Secretary/Historian  
Michelle Leonard, Treasurer  
Marianne Fons, Quilting Industry  
Walt Davis, VP and Military Affairs  
Renelda Peldunas-Harter, Member  
Eric McCarty, Emeritus

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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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