



From the Executive Director

According to Wikipedia, **TIME** is the indefinite continued progress of existence and events that occur in apparently irreversible succession from the past through the present to the future. That's quite a statement, isn't it? It's



*Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director*

hard to believe that just a year ago the QOVF exhibit at the National Quilt Museum was being taken down and the quilts awarded. Since that time, 20,000 more quilts have been awarded and we are rapidly approaching the 150,000th

QOV to be awarded early next year.

This would not happen without the dedication of each of you, the volunteers who give of their time, talent, and resources to create these beautiful awards. In this month of giving thanks, I am humbled and thankful for each of you and your contributions. Thank you, thank you for your past, present, and future contributions.

National Sew Day will be February 4, 2017. I know many of you are already making plans for your group to get together. Reserve a spot now at your local quilt shop, senior center, American Legion or VFW Hall, your church, or your community center. Look for the online registration information elsewhere in this newsletter.

First there was Black Friday, then

Cyber Monday, now it's #Giving Tuesday—a global day of giving observed on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. It kicks off the charitable season when the focus is on giving. Plan now to make a donation to your local QOVF group or to the Quilts of Valor® Foundation at <http://www.qovf.org/donate/>.

The Annual QOVF Conference will be held on June 5-6, 2017, in Colorado Springs, CO, at the Hotel Elegante Conference and Event Center. Registration information will be available soon at <http://www.qovf.org/events/>. Everyone is welcome to attend. Mark your calendar now to make sure you're able to join us.

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

NURSING CLASS OF 1966 RECEIVES QOVs

By Charlene Benson of Grateful Hearts Quilters

A 50th class reunion for the 1966 graduating class of St. Mary's School of Nursing in Rochester, MN, was the occasion for awarding several of the class members with QOVs. On Sept. 10, 2016, one event of the reunion celebration was a lunch at Victoria's restaurant. At that luncheon, we surprised ten of the 14 veterans in the class with QOVs.

The Grateful Hearts Quilters of Anoka, MN, donated all ten of the quilts for the women who served in the Vietnam era. It was a tearful and wonderful presentation, and the first time that our group had made a QOV presentation to all female recipients.



As part of their 50th class reunion festivities, ten members of the 1966 class of St. Mary's School of Nursing in Rochester, MN, received QOVs.

COME TOGETHER ON NATIONAL SEW DAY

By Debra Kaldenberg

I spend a lot of time on the computer; both at home and at work. As I spend time online, it's apparent that many are struggling in our communities, states, country, and globally to see eye-to-eye on much of anything. I read posts on the QOVF Facebook page that sometimes have us at odds with one another. I want to challenge us ALL to put our differences aside . . . not just on National Sew Day on February 4, 2017, but for all the days leading up to that day.

Let's begin each day with a purposeful goal of making National Sew Day a true community event, one that transcends guilds, quilt shops, groups, towns, cities, states, and even countries. There is power, solidarity, and peace in coming together for the good of others.

In joining forces in person, as well as in spirit for a common purpose,



FEBRUARY 4, 2017

we cultivate a spirit of healing, love, and community as we intertwine the selection, preparation, stitching, cutting, planning, and act of quilting. The transforming power of a QOV doesn't stop when a quilt is presented to a veteran. The impact continues far beyond the day of the presentation.

If you don't believe me, just read some of the stories—stories from the veterans, the family members, the people who present, those who witness a presentation, those who sew and quilt, and those who simply hear a story about a QOV.

As volunteers, we are part of an organization that is so much more than ourselves. As your Special Events Coordinator, I am committed to you as I write this article to make National Sew Day a priority, to help bring us together in spirit and action on February 4th. I would love to hear your ideas on how we can make this National Sew Day a day to remember. Happy Quilting!

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

SPECIAL APPRECIATION FROM QOV RECIPIENT

Information provided by Laurel Braunstein

Special thanks to all the coordinators who have sent QOVs in the past and to those who continue to assist us in providing QOVs to the Port Mortuary. We certainly could not cover our Port Mortuary personnel as effectively without your help. It's always nice to hear how much a QOV means to a recipient. That's why we're sharing the following note that Lenny Truitt and I received. Thanks to all.

Dear Folks with the Quilts of Valor Foundation:

Just a note to say thank you for the extraordinary work and blessing your foundation is! I just recently retired as the US Army Family Support and Liaison Chaplain for the Dignified Transfer Mission, Dover Port Mortuary, Dover Air Force Base, DE, and was the recipient of one of your beautiful works of art—a quilt!

The handiwork and attention to detail speak of the spirit and love from the hands and hearts of your organization. I was the Army Chaplain for a total of four years, and met and greeted thousands of family members of the fallen and walked through the unspeakable tragedy of the loss of a loved one and their dignified repatriation to American soil. It has been a sacred mission and a high calling over this recent period. My retirement was effective October 1, 2016.

Just prior, the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations Center Commander, COL Dawn Lancaster, presented the quilt on behalf of the mission and the prayerful spirit of a nation for my period of service. This quilt is, and represents the comfort of your organization, and our nation, for one whose ministry and work was the comfort of so many others. I am very much aware of the tremendous, and often quiet witness of goodness that is resident in your outreach and quilts.

Again, deepest personal appreciation,
and blessings for your on-going work,

Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel-Retired) John C. Wheatley, Ed.D.
Former Chaplain, US Army Family Support and Liaison Chaplain
Casualty and Mortuary Affairs
Dover Air Force Base
Dover, DE 19902

UNDER OUR WINGS TAKES NEW FLIGHT

By Saundra Chambers

QOVF's Under Our Wings (UOW) program was launched a number of years ago but took a back seat when other goals (Policies & Procedures, website redesign, Board of Directors recruitment, etc.) understandably took priority. Fortunately, with renewed attention, the program has been refreshed and revitalized with new direction and vision.

New UOW energy will focus on America's youth through Girl Scouts, 4H, and Future Farmers of America. These groups will work on QOVs as community service projects, with a mentor to lead each young person through the steps of making a QOV. Kids will learn the art of quilt making and at the same time experience the privilege and satisfaction of national service that honors local veterans and service members touched by war.

Other community youth groups can also benefit from a partnership with QOVF, such as church youth groups or high school seniors needing a community service project for graduation. Partnering with groups and clubs is another avenue for UOW to explore. For example, a QOV is a great project for a local fraternal or veterans' organization. Anytime we can excite people of any and all ages about making and awarding quilts, we grow as a foundation.

Reaching out to both youth and adult groups via UOW brings us new exposure, promotes an understanding of



the sacrifices made by our veterans and service members, and keeps the art of quilting growing!

We are in the process of recruiting a State UOW Coordinator (SUOWC) for each state who will serve as my direct contact. I'm excited already by the response from State Coordinators (SCs) and the many men and women that have stepped up to fill these posts. We still need UOW volunteers in many states. If you are interested, please contact your State Coordinator. Find your SC [here](#).

We continue to work on many of the details of the revitalized UOW program. We will share more as they become available. In the meantime, look around your communities and see what groups or clubs you might be able to take under your QOV wing.

(Saundra Chambers is the QOVF Under Our Wings Coordinator. She invites you to share your ideas with her via email at Saundra.chambers@qovf.org or by phone at (828) 287-8901 with questions, suggestions, or comments.)

A QUILT OF VALOR IS AN AWARD, NOT A GIFT!

By Marianne Fons

The day I met QOVF Founder Catherine Roberts for the first time, she described her hopes and dreams for Quilts of Valor Foundation. Her words struck a chord, and thus began my journey of service that continues today.

"These quilts are awarded, she said, not handed out like some door prize or token. A Quilt of Valor represents the deep gratitude of the civilian toward the veteran or service member whose sacrifices have been many."

Recently, an editorial letter in *Fons & Porter's Love of Quilting* magazine contained misinformation about Quilts of Valor. Others write these letters nowadays—the messages are generally a simple overview designed to enthuse the reader about the quilts that fill the issue. The November/December letter, however, called a Quilt of Valor "a special gift," one that would be perfect for Christmas.

Early QOVF volunteers spent many hours helping the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps—the legal branch of our military—understand that a Quilt of Valor is definitely not a gift. Were QOVs designated as "gifts," many active duty service members would be prohibited by military ethics regulations from receiving one.

Each time we have the opportunity to award a Quilt of Valor, let's all make sure we create a ceremony as meaningful as possible, even if it is a very small gathering of the recipient and one or two other people. Let recipients know we value them and that we appreciate their service more than words can say.

If you subscribe to or purchase *Love of Quilting* on the newsstand, you'll see a correction on the editorial page in the January/February issue. We have received apologies for the misinformation and assurance the foundation will be consulted in the future before information about its policies is published.

Many thanks to all of you who pursue the worthy mission of QOVF every day, and most of all to Catherine Roberts, whose vision for Quilts of Valor still guides us.

Quilts Reported

2012: 6,169

2013: 12,314

2014: 17,373

2015: 18,772

2016: 14,960

Total: 147,677

(as of 31 October 2016)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Number of Groups—387

Individual members—701

Registered Quilt shops—33

Total membership—7,028

(as of 21 October 2016)

QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

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

Capital Quilts	Gaithersburg, MD
Country Fabrics	Brainerd, MN
Stitches Fine Fabrics & Notions	Cassville, MO
Cotton Boll Quilting, Inc.	Schertz, TX
Sandy's Fabrics & Machines	Kennewick, WA

The website content in the Certified Quilt Shop Program section is updated. Contact Myra Coddens at myra.coddens@QOVF.org to receive a copy of the new single-page flyer describing the program. Let's continue getting the word out and encourage shops to participate. We look forward to having this number 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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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

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