

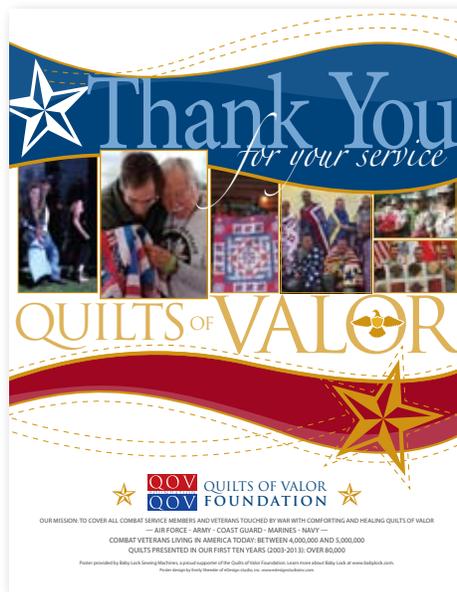


**“THANK YOU”
POSTERS AVAILABLE**

By Marianne Fons

Beautiful, heavy-stock, 14" × 18" full-color posters printed for our community by Baby Lock in support of QOVF are now available from Laurel Kindley if you are a registered group, quilt shop, or individual. Check whether your group is registered at <http://www.qovf.org/localqov-list.html>. If it is not, use the “Register Local QOVF Group” link to register a group or an individual. Shops register at <http://www.qovf.org/content/uow-register-first.html>

The only cost for up to five posters rolled in one USPS Flat Rate mailer is \$10 to cover shipping, tape, and paperwork. To order 1–5 posters, send a check for \$10



made out to Quilts of Valor Foundation, with “posters” and the number (up to five) you’d like on the check memo line. Mail your check to:

Laurel Kindley
108 Wollard Blvd.
Richmond, MO 64085

You must supply Laurel with your name, mailing address, email address, and phone number. Laurel is our Missouri State Coordinator: laurel.kindley@QOVF.org

A poster can say “thank you” to many people—businesses, service organizations, or individuals. Be sure to keep a poster for your sewing room to say Thank You to yourself!

**FROM THE
LEADERSHIP CIRCLE**

By Sharon Ledbetter

I was surprised recently when someone called me a Big Dog. It got me thinking, “Who are the QOVF Big Dogs?”

Answering the question didn’t take long—our Board of Directors, our Executive Director, Director, and Deputy Director, Destination Coordinator and Longarm/Topper Coordinator, State Coordinators, and every individual quilting to honor, comfort, and heal those who have stood in harm’s way to protect us—every one of us is a Big Dog.

Think of us as the QOVF “pack.” The lead dog sets our course and the rest of the team must stay in position to keep the sled moving at a steady pace. When part of the team falters, it affects

the entire pack. None of us can function without the others. We are not “I.” We are “we.”

If you haven’t been to www.QOVF.org, in a while, spend some time there soon getting to know the rest of the pack. Look down the left side of the home page past the blue boxes and into the white section—a link to a list of your State Coordinators (SCs) is there. Find your coordinator and connect with her or him (yes, we do have him and they are great assets to our Foundation). SCs are all here to answer questions, clarify information, and give you an atta girl (or atta boy).

Next, check out the red line across the top of the home page. Find “Local QOV Groups,” click on that link, and follow it. If you haven’t registered as a QOVF group or individual, please do. Why? It affords interested people

in your area the opportunity to find and join your group. It gives your State Coordinator the opportunity to ask you to present a QOV in your area should the need arise. SCs often receive donated fabric, sewing supplies, and even machines to be passed along to someone quilting for QOV, so if you are registered you might be contacted by our Info Desk and offered some goodies—just sayin’!

In the end, we are all Big Dogs. A strong pack makes a strong team. GO DOGS!

(Editor’s note: Sharon is QOVF Director and formerly Idaho State Coordinator. Her email address is sharon.ledbetter@QOVF.org.)



Sharon Ledbetter
Director

NEWS FROM TENNESSEE

By Dennis Taylor

“Tennessee, the Volunteer State, is living up to its reputation where the Quilts of Valor Foundation mission is concerned,” says Dennis Taylor, Tennessee State Coordinator.

“This is the most fun I have ever had,” Taylor says, as he recites his many activities, beginning with a presentation to a veterans’ mental health support group, Legacy Peers, then awarding a quilt to a veteran of Desert Storm in Bristol. Next on his stop was Greene County Quilters. “I learned they have been making quilts for the VA Hospital in Mountain Home, but none had been recorded. Fortunately, they kept good records, so together we reported more than 70 quilts,” Taylor said.

At the Tennessee Valley Fair, Taylor signed up in the first four days more than 35 volunteers wanting to sew quilts. Two local television stations and a radio talk show host did stories about QOVF.

Taylor also visited a senior center where the director—a Korean War veteran—said a sewing room with a longarm machine is available to residents, but they need a project. Taylor’s wife Doyleen will

train residents. Others who have recently asked Taylor to speak to them about Quilts of Valor Foundation include three church sewing groups, two more quilt guilds, and the North Knoxville American Legion.

“September has been a whirlwind month of activity. I practically exhausted my supply of handouts during the 10 days of the Tennessee Valley Fair,” Taylor said. The week following the fair, he spoke to the Lion’s Club and awarded two quilts. The group has promised a donation.

In October Dennis will award 14 quilts at the Navy Ball in Knoxville and 21 quilts in Dickson, TN, as part of a retreat for soldiers and veterans from Ft. Campbell. “It just keeps going and going,” he said, adding, “Thanks to all of you for the hard work you do to honor the true heroes of this great country.”

(Editor’s note: Dennis is Tennessee State Coordinator. His wife and partner Doyleen is a long armmer and quilter for QOVF and the person who inspired him to become a SC. Dennis’s email address is dennis.taylor@QOVF.org.)



Doyleen and Dennis Taylor staffing the Quilts of Valor booth at the recent Tennessee Valley Fair in Knoxville.

PLAN NOW TO GIVE

AN END-OF-YEAR GIFT!

By Joyce Lundrigan

As the season for year-end charitable donations approaches, remember to include QOVF in your giving. Tell family and friends that they, too, can support our mission with an end-of-the-year donation. Check with your workplace; many companies have a giving program that could include the Quilts of Valor Foundation if requested.

A reminder: for a tax-deductible donation, you must make your check out to: Quilts of Valor Foundation and mail it to QOVF, PO Box 728, Lebanon, NH 03766. To make online donations, go to <http://www.qovf.org/donate.html>.

You can ensure that your donation will benefit a specific group or region by including written information to that effect in the envelope with your check; for online donations, put the name of the group on the memo line on the Pay-Pal form when you fill out the form.

Tax deductible donations must be processed by the Quilts of Valor Foundation national office in order to be properly acknowledged and reported as charitable donations as required under Section 501 (c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service tax regulations.

ROOKIE QUILT PROJECT

AT AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS

Information provided by Donna Karbach, Amador Valley Quilt Guild

The Amador Valley Quilters Guild (AVQ), in Pleasanton, California, launched an ambitious challenge—the Quilts of Valor Rookie Quilt Project—as part of its 2013 biennial show, to introduce non-quilters to the joys of patchwork and to honor local veterans.

Inspired by the Iowa Public Television “Quilts of Valor” documentary featuring Alex Anderson, Amador Valley Quilters’ most famous member, the guild attracted participants ranging from 8 to 80 years old. Their efforts produced more than 25 quilts and presentation cases in the six months leading up to the quilt show, chaired by Audrey Hutchinson. AVQ’s guild members completed an additional 54 Quilts of Valor.

Continued on page 3

Rookie Quilt Project cont.

“One new guild member said she joined just so she could learn to make a Quilt of Valor,” said QOV-RQP Coordinator Donna Karbach.

Members prepared kits and invited people who had never quilted to become Rookies. Coach/Rookie sessions took place at Color Me Quilts & More in Niles, the Masonic Center in Pleasanton, Foothill and Amador Valley high schools, and San Lorenzo Adult School. Since the show, AVQ has worked with VFW Post 6298, Pleasanton Military Families Support Group, Valley Veterans Foundation, and the USS Hornet Museum to schedule presentations to local veterans nominated by the groups and guild members.

Amador Valley Quilters has made Quilts of Valor part of its ongoing community outreach. Some of the QOVs from the show have been exhibited at the Alameda County Fair and on the USS



Amador Valley Rookie Quilt Project Coach Sue Green works with Rookies Carrie Wright and Robin Lloyd at Color Me Quilts & More.

Hornet, an aircraft carrier museum in San Francisco Bay.



Audrey Hutchinson, top center with Rail Fence, Donna Karbach, center right with an eagle on her shoulder (!), and other members of Amador Valley Quilters' Rookie Quilt Project participants.



Left to right, Mrs. Thorne and Mayor Jerry Thorne, Pleasanton (CA), US Representative Eric Swalwell, Pat Frizzell, President of Pleasanton Military Families Support Group (PMFSG), QOV recipient Cody Waller's family members, and Susan Thomas and Marty Miller of PMFSG. Cody's family accepted his quilt for him, as he was not able to be back home in time for the ceremony.

QUILTS AWARDED IN VETERANS' YOGA CLASS

Information provided by Michele Vinbury

A yoga teacher who instructs veterans in yoga had the opportunity recently to award Quilts of Valor to members of her therapeutic yoga class. Marcia Miller said giving the quilts was one of the most meaningful experiences of her life in 30 years of teaching.

The class takes place at Yoga on High, located on High Street in Columbus, Ohio. The studio partnered with QOVF to make quilts available for the five veterans in the class. Michele Vinbury, whose husband Eric McCarty is QOVF Board of Directors President, coordinated the presentation with June Moore and Charlie Rubins.

Yoga practice has proven helpful to veterans for relaxation and as a coping mechanism for dealing with combat-related stress issues that can lead to self-destructive behaviors and habits. Believing that trauma lives in the body as well as in the mind, Yoga on High Foundation, a non-profit operated by Yoga on High, has funded ongoing six-week sessions of therapeutic yoga for veterans in the Columbus area.



Rich Burke and Marcia Miller admire the Quilt of Valor awarded to a veteran practicing yoga for relaxation and stress reduction.

CORRECTION: In our September issue, the story *QOVS Awarded at Highland Games*, stated in the last paragraph, “For the first time, wounded warrior veterans from WWII competed in the games.” World War II veterans did not compete in the games. The event was the first time Wounded Warriors from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq competed at the Maryland event.



The Quilts of Valor Foundation is growing at an amazing rate. Soon we will be awarding our 100,000th Quilt of Valor. In addition to this upcoming event, the leadership team is busy with plans for 2014 and 2015. We are looking for volunteers to help on a national level in a variety of positions. If you have interest please contact Executive Director Susan Gordon at susan.gordon@QOVF.org

STATISTICS

Iraq

Killed: 4,489

Wounded: Many

Afghanistan

Killed: 2,276

Wounded: Many

Suicides to Date:

30,137

Total QOVs Awarded as of 10/15/13

90,716



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Let us know how we can help you ...

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State Coordinators (SCs) are here to assist you establish new groups, help fundraise, establish new points of contact and to maintain QOVF standards. If you have any questions or need guidance, please contact the SC for your state. A full list can be found at <http://www.qovf.org/content/regional-coordinator-overall-view.html>

For more information regarding QOVF Structure and Volunteers, please visit: <http://www.qovf.org/content/about-us.html>

Newsletter

Susan Gordon, *Editorial Director*
Marianne Fons, *Assistant Editor*
Tony Jacobson, *Graphic Designer*

The mission of Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover all those service members and veterans touched by war with wartime quilts called Quilts of Valor (QOVs). Quilts of Valor Foundation is not about politics. It is about people.