



SEPTEMBER 2016

From the Executive Director

This month marks the end of my first year as your Executive Director. It has truly been an enjoyable and meaningful "job." Together, with the Executive Staff and the Board of Directors, QOVF has accomplished much in twelve months. There is a new website at www.QOVF.org where you can find all the official information about Quilts of Valor. There, you can



*Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director*

locate state coordinators, groups, or quilt shops in your area supportive to QOVF and much more. Check it out!

Our quilt shop program is up and running, the Under Our Wings Coordinator position has been filled, and the UOW program reinstated on the web page. Also, Jeff Thorne is now the Marketing and Public Relations Director. Coming soon will be a way for anyone to honor a veteran in a very special way. It is called "Generations of Service." Details to come! In addition, we're also working on a program that will track quilt requests from beginning to end. If you have questions about these or any program, please contact us

for the latest information. Contact info is on the last page of this newsletter.

As fall approaches, I know many of you are planning award ceremonies in your communities. We cannot thank you enough for what you do in honoring the veterans that are close to you. We also ask you to honor the requests you may receive from a state coordinator to award a quilt to a veteran in your area. They may live a town or two away, but please try to find a way to cover all of our veterans with a comforting and healing QOV.

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

QOVF ON PARADE AT 2016 NORDIC FEST

Information provided by Julie Lukes

Nordic Fest in Decorah, IA, draws visitors from all over the country each July for a weekend of fun and celebration. For the event's 50th anniversary this year, the Decorah QOV group showcased QOVF.

Twenty-seven awardees were given adequate notice so they could invite family and friends to ceremonies on Friday and Saturday. Co-group leader Julie Lukes and her team made a float for the Nordic Fest Parade—a little red convertible covered with QOVs and signage promoting the Saturday ceremony. A Vietnam War veteran who received a quilt at last year's fest rode in the passenger seat; he received cheers, applause, and "thumbs-up" signs from parade-watchers along the entire route.

At the middle school gym, a QOVF booth attracted many fest-goers, who



QOV recipients display their quilts following a gymnasium-packed award ceremony in Decorah, IA, during Nordic Fest.

watched cutting, sewing, and binding demonstrations. Booth workers shared the foundation's mission statement, answered questions, and handed out brochures. Quilts gathered for the

awards were on display for all to see, along with photos of the awardees in uniform, a real crowd pleaser.

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The Decorah QOV Group's "float" looking spiffy in Saturday's parade.

Both ceremonies began with an Honor Guard and Presentation of Colors, courtesy of Decorah's VFW chapter. After the National Anthem and the story of QOVF, one by one, each veteran was acknowledged and came forward to receive his QOV. "After the ceremony, we invited the audience to

come up and shake the hands of the recipients," Julie commented. "We loved watching both old and young say to each, "Thank you for your service."

"Making QOVs is a labor of love for each of us," added Julie. "The QOVF provides us an opportunity to quilt with a purpose!"

SHIPSHEWANA QUILT SHOW— PATRIOTIC SEW DAY

Information provided by Flo Schneider

It was a flurry of activity leading up to Friday, June 24, 2016. Our QOV group, String-A-Long Stars & Stripes (SALSS), of Chesterton, IN, was asked to organize and participate at the Shippshewana, Indiana, Quilt Show with Marianne Fons. All the planned activity took place outside Yoder's Department Store for the day. More than 5,000 quilters attended this four-day show.

During the planning stages, so many questions and ideas were running through our minds—what do we sew that allows everyone to participate? How do we set up? Can we display our QOV quilts? Decorations? Fabric? Sewing machines? Notions? Can we host a QOV quilt presentation to veterans? Volunteers? And so much more!

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Working Wonders Without Taking A Single Stitch

Information provided by Carol Olsen, WA QOV representative and Bob Thomas, MSgt. (Ret), Puyallup, WA.

Carol Olsen, WA, QOV representative, lives some 65 miles from the Tacoma, WA area, which is where many WA individual QOV requests come from. (Nearby Joint Base Lewis-McChord is an Army and Air Force base with many veterans and active duty personnel.) Carol closes the distance gap by working with QOV member Shannon Hildreth, who is not a quilter, but volunteered to take care of area requests. Shannon was moved to join the organization after her boyfriend received a QOV a few years ago.

"Shannon has been a dynamo in getting our individual requests handled in that area of WA," Carol says. "I am so thankful for her involvement."

She adds this advice for other coordinators. "If you have non-quilters who want to get involved in QOV, this is a great way to do it."

Wonder how big a difference volunteers like Shannon can make? The following note and photograph were received after her most recent QOV presentation:

We'd like to thank the QOVF for awarding the certificate and QOV to Retired veteran Elbert Lang of Deliverance Bible Church on Sunday, August 15th. He served in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. He's married to his beloved wife of more than fifty years, Yvonne Lang. The members of the Deliverance Bible Church cannot express our appreciation of what Elbert Lang has done as a soldier, husband, and father to represent all Americans here in the United States and abroad!

Bob Thomas, MSgt (Ret)
Puyallup, WA
(Sent on behalf of Mr. Sherman Wilder, Sr. and the members of Deliverance Bible Church)

(Does your QOV group have a photo or story 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.)



QOV volunteer Shannon Hildreth presents veteran Elbert Lang with his award certificate and QOV, which he also wraps around his wife of more than 50 years, Yvonne Lang.

As they say “What’s meant to be will be.” When the big day arrived, each of the “things to do” was done with a sense of joy, happiness and accomplishment.

Joy was apparent as we watched a diverse group of volunteer sewers sit down at brand new Bernina machines and each sew a 7” string block—a six-year-old girl with her grandmother, a woman who hadn’t sewn for 50 years, a husband who had never sewn before joined in while waiting for his wife (who was shopping), and quilters from California to Ohio to Canada and other states. By the end of the day, 147 string blocks were completed.

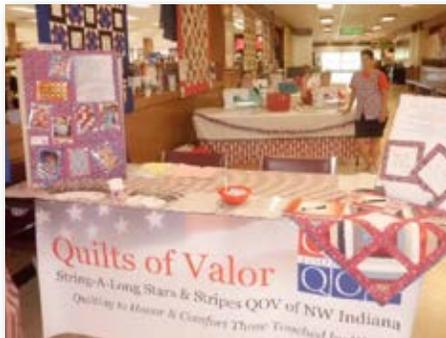
Happiness abounded as we met other QOV quilters and heard stories of their QOV quilting involvement. There were smiles on the faces of all of our volunteers assisting the sewers as they made their string blocks and, more so, on the faces of those same sewers as they held up their completed blocks. Even more smiles abounded when guests had the opportunity to pose for a personal photo with Marianne Fons. It truly was one of their quilt show highlights. Thank you Marianne for being with us.

A special joy was knowing four QOVs, made by our SALSS volunteers, hung outside Yoder’s all week promoting QOV to all passersby. And the biggest and best accomplishment we saved for the afternoon—presenting eight QOVs, made by our SALSS volunteers, to veterans from the local American Legion. Christine Clifford-Hurley, Indiana State Coordinator, and Marianne Fons made QOV presentations. Each veteran treasured the moment of being thanked for his or her service and comforted with the quilt.

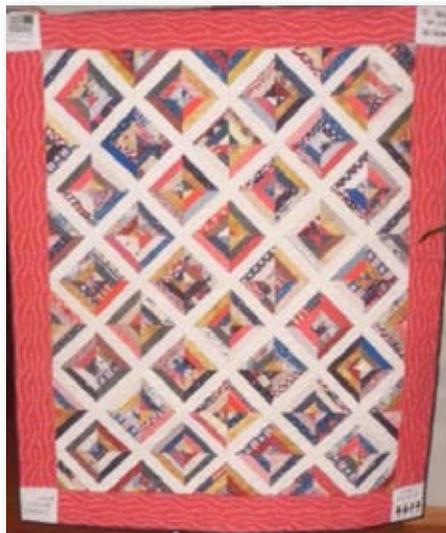
As we put our time into preparing for the event, our members never asked whether or not the effort would be worth it. Without a doubt, we knew it would be. QOV means so much to each one of our volunteers. Teaching someone how to make a quilt block, connecting with other QOV volunteers, presenting quilts to honor veterans, and interesting others in becoming members of QOV all added up to make this a picture perfect patriotic sew day!



QOV recipients proudly hold their quilts following an award ceremony in Shipshewana, IN, during the quilt show.



A display table gave members of the String-A-Long Stars & Stripes QOV group an opportunity share the mission of QOVF and encourage others to join.



String quilt blocks, like the ones shown in this quilt, gave sewers of any skill level an opportunity to try their hand at quilt making.

NEW WORDING FOR AWARD CERTIFICATE

By Ann Rehbein

Over the past few months, several have written to me about updating and improving the wording on the certificate we often present to Quilts of Valor recipients at award ceremonies. The new wording went through several revisions and was approved recently by the QOVF Board of Directors.

You can access an MSWord version of the certificate on the member’s page and customize it if you wish. If you’re not a member, it’s easy to [join](#).



The Quilts of Valor® Foundation wishes to recognize you for your service to our nation.

We consider it a privilege to honor you. Though we may never know the extent of your sacrifice and service to protect and defend the United States of America, as an expression of gratitude
We Award You This Quilt of Valor®.

QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

Welcome Aboard to our newest members of the Certified Quilt Shop Program. As of August 12, 2016, these shops have completed the registration requirements.

Calico Annie's Quilt Shop	Fullerton, NE
Calico Cottage	Hastings, NE
Hidden Quilts	Platteville, WI
Quilter's Window	New Hampton, IA
Satin Stitches Sewing & Embroidery	Columbia, MO
Sew and Sew	Lone Rock, IA
Sheep Camp Quilters	Shoshoni, WY
The Fabric Shop	Springfield, TN
The Quilter's Cottage	Kearney, NE

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.)

Quilts Reported

2012: 6,169

2013: 12,314

2014: 17,373

2015: 18,772

2016: 11,223

Total: 143,940

(as of 31 August 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

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Catherine Roberts

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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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