

# Quilts of Valor Foundation

QUILTING HONOR & COMFORT FOR OUR WOUNDED

## JOB UNWANTED: SUNDAY DESTINATIONS...

Catherine Roberts is the Founder and Director of the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF).

I want to be out of doing my *Sunday destination job*. I figure one way this will happen is when you are consistently finding your own *locally wounded warriors*. I wonder if you are finding that it is taking active and persistent involvement on your part to find your wounded. Maybe you are finding some of these conditions.

### Condition #1: A warrior will rarely admit he or she is wounded.

Recently I had an ‘ah hah’ experience when one of my points of contact insisted that their QOVs were only going to be awarded to purple heart recipients. Period, end of discussion. It dawned on me that it is not in a warrior’s make-up to easily accept the term “wounded” as anything other than physically wounded by enemy fire. It seems this definition is inculcated in warriors from day one. Warriors themselves present obstacles in being considered for a wartime quilt of valor. They consider standing in harm’s way and all that inherently goes with this as “just doing their job”. They leave the safety of their camp to do their patrols not knowing whether they or their buddies will return. Even if they return, they may have come under fire or had to use fire. Given this, don’t expect those within the military ranks to identify servicemembers/vets without physical wounds as meriting a quilt of valor. In other words, they don’t see them as wounded.

### Condition #2: Most civilians think you must be physically injured to be considered wounded.

Those of us who have never stood in harm’s way have lots of opinions about warriors, war and who is “wounded”. In fact, many of us consider ourselves “pundits”. The truth is unless we have had first hand experience in harm’s way, there is much we don’t know. The bottom line is if we *only* look for physically wounded, we are overlooking *hundreds of thousands* of war wounded.

### Condition #3: Inertia is more powerful than good intentions. Therefore nothing much gets done.

Visible war wounds are easily identifiable and therefore validated. To date, unseen wounds can not be medically quantified. As such they are subject to much second-guessing and maybe labeling that the warrior may have “failed”.

How do you quantify the sorrow, anger and loss you feel when one of your buddies has been vaporized by an IED before your very eyes? You don’t; professionals can’t and warriors won’t.

### Take Home Lesson: If someone has deployed in harm’s way, they most likely are wounded.

These three conditions amount to 3 obstacles for identifying our war wounded. Now that you know what

## IN THIS MONTH’S ISSUE:

<b>Opportunity Knocks for Quilting Designers</b>	<b>p.2</b>
<b>Black Hawk Hockey Team Skates for QOV</b>	<b>p.4</b>
<b>Notes from Journal Guru Susan Slanika</b>	<b>p.4</b>
<b>Needed: Events Coordinator</b>	<b>p.5</b>
<b>Did you know?</b>	<b>p.5</b>
<b>Quoteable</b>	<b>p.6</b>
<b>Contact us , etc.</b>	<b>p.7</b>

## STATISTICS

2.17.08	Iraq	Afghanistan
Killed	3963	483
Wounded	59402	7795

Date	QOVs Awarded
Feb 7, 2008	15000

to expect when looking for your war wounded, you can use your own good judgment. When you hear there aren't any wounded among your locally returned warriors/vets, you will know better. You'll ask, "How many, where are they" and plan accordingly. The only question you will need to ask is: "Did you stand in harm's way?" If they answer in the affirmative, they most likely merit a QOV.

Remember with *only* 1% of our nation is stepping up to the plate and standing in harm's way, *many* of our deployed have seen multiple deployments and extensions in theater. They are bone-tired, emotionally drained and weary. My vision is for all of you to don the *mantle of a wartime quilter, knitter and/or embroiderer* for as long as it takes to accomplish our mission of covering all our wartime wounded!

Finally, I look forward to only having a few quilts to assign on Sundays. (I still have requests worldwide for our QOVs.) Send your numbers of quilts delivered. Our community would love to see your photos and hear your stories. You can upload your photos via our website or submit a link to your photos. You can share your story via the Quoteable section.

Still at War, Still Quilting,



Catherine Roberts (o/ro)

## **OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS FOR QUILTING DESIGNERS**

Submitted by: [Page Johnson](#)

The Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOV) is a national non-profit foundation with a mission to provide a quilt to ALL wounded and injured servicemembers from the War on Terror. Machine quilted, lap size quilts are presented to our War Wounded as a thank you for the sacrifices they have made in the defense of the freedoms and liberties we all enjoy. The QOV Foundation was established in 2004 and to date has presented over 15,000 quilts.

Piecing groups or "toppers" are springing up all over the United States. These local groups are making numerous quilt tops. The fact is there are far more piecers than there are quilters. The QOV Foundation is always striving to have the "Quilters" keep pace with the "Toppers". We would like to offer these quilters more assistance in the quilting process.

Determining what to quilt on a top can be a very time consuming task. It can be very frustrating for quilters to be constantly searching for designs that are fast and easy, fit their quilting machine, as well as suitable for a Quilt of Valor.

The QOV Foundation would like to extend to designers a unique opportunity to *showcase your work*; we only ask that you come up with one or more designs suitable for these wartime and historical quilts. These designs will be offered to quilters free of charge to be used on Quilts of Valor.

If you choose to join us in this cause, your designs will be publicized to quilters throughout the country. You will retain the copyrights to the designs and control how the designs are released.

### **Designers can help out by following these steps.**

1. *Create designs* suitable for a Quilt of Valor. Many quilters are looking for "sets" with blocks, boards, triangles, sashes and/or corners. It could also be an edge to edge design.

2. The *traveling displays* will be promoted in as many quilting related venues as possible. Some current plans are the many online chat lines, notices sent to guilds, and press releases in several

quilting magazines, the first of which is **Unlimited Possibilities** March issue. There will be a page on the national web site [www.QOVF.org](http://www.QOVF.org) providing and information and space for the designs as well as links to the designer's web sites. If you don't have a website, we will post your design on the QOVF.org website with your info. We ask that you would include Quilts of Valor in your link section.

3. *Make a sample* using your design on red or blue fabric with white thread or unbleached muslin fabric with red or blue thread. If you feel your design would show better in piecing, feel free to create a pieced quilt that would fit our parameters. The mini quilt should measure 18" by 24" and be bound with a patriotic binding.

4. *Mini Quilts will be donated* to the QOV Foundation and will become part of a traveling display for QOV booths at quilt shows throughout the country. We would like to have as many as four traveling displays in order to reach as many people as possible.

5. *Label your mini quilt* with your name (include maiden name) and web site/contact info as well as the name of the quilting pattern. Labels should be on the lower right corner and approximately 1" x 2" in size. They can be legibly printed onto photo transfer fabric.

6. *Supply us with a PDF file* that can be printed out or a copy of your design on an 8.5" x 11" paper. The design should include information such as your web site and the formats for the design. Your information sheet will be included in a book to be displayed along with the mini quilts at quilt shows. If you don't know how to make a PDF file, contact [Catherine](mailto:cath@QOVF.org) at [cath@QOVF.org](mailto:cath@QOVF.org).

7. *Designs are needed to fit all machine types and skill levels.* There is a growing number of home quilting machine users. These quilters will also need designs. Please provide designs in as many formats as you are currently offering your customers.

8. *Anyone who stops by our booth will be supplied with a list of participating designers and their web sites.* They can view the mini quilts and take note of the ones they would like to use.

9. *Legal Stuff.* Quilts of Valor will not be responsible for the distribution of the designs. Designs remain the property of the designer. Quilters who wish to use the designs need to visit your web site for information on receiving the "COMPLIMENTARY" designs.

10. We would like to *debut this exhibit* at The Machine Quilters Exposition in New Hampshire April 14 - 20. Please strive to have your quilts ready for this show. Anyone who can not make that date for completion of their quilt and design are welcome to provide it for the next show on the tour.

**Contact info and mailing address.**

For all who are interested in rising to our challenge, please contact Page Johnson [page@QOVF.org](mailto:page@QOVF.org) 651-423-5727 for more information. Mini Quilts and printed information may be sent to:

Jackie Dudek  
6 Easterbrook Dr. East  
Horseheads, NY 14845  
(607) 562-3286  
[jackie@QOVF.org](mailto:jackie@QOVF.org)

Thank you so much for helping us with our efforts to support our troops. This is not a political statement but more a humanitarian one, to show respect and gratitude for all they and their families have sacrificed.

---

## FROM THE QOV COMMUNITY

Submitted  
by: [Donna Hansen](#)



**Black Hawk Hockey Team, Cedar Falls IA**

Keepsake Quilters Guild is in Cedar Falls IA. We have approx. 100 members. Our community service project is called "Quilts To Share". We have made quilts for Hospice patients for 10 years. In 2005 we added making quilts for QOV to our Quilts To Share project. We have made a total of 357 quilts and sent to military hospitals since we began making QOV.

A WW2 veteran heard of our project for veterans so periodically donates \$100 to help with the shipping costs.

Last November Craig White, a Vietnam Vet, working with the local Black Hawk Hockey team held a fundraiser to help five groups who do things for veterans. The hockey team held an auction to raise these monies.

In December the hockey team presented our quilt guild with a check for \$750 to pay for the shipping costs for our QOV!!!

Craig White is very active in veteran affairs in our county. Craig is truly an angel. He works very quietly but gets much done. He is also a Hospice Volunteer and serves on the County Board of Supervisors.

The Black Hawk Hockey team is made up of young men who would someday like to play hockey in college or professionally. The hockey team has fundraisers several times during their season. They pick projects they feel are worthwhile in the community and support them with donations such as they gave the quilt guild."

---

## NOTES FROM THE JOURNAL GURU

by: [Susan Slanika](#)

As you know, I have asked that our readers share with me on email successful tips about the journals you all are writing as part of your QOVF efforts. As we share with each other, hopefully our QOV quilters will continue to journal as well as quilt for our wounded. Katherine has been so encouraged by how much these journals mean to our service personnel. I am so pleased that some of you have been thoughtful enough to share your ideas with me so that I can pass them on to our readers. Many thanks to Maureen McNamara who shared the following email with me and agreed that I could include it in my column this month.

"Yes, I found that journaling was the hardest thing to do also, since I didn't know the personality of the recipient...but then it dawned on me. I do know their personality! I am a retired military female whose husband was a Vietnam Vet, whose father and brothers were also full time Air National Guard members as was I. I have lots of alumni brothers and sisters in my realm of friends...and therefore I do know their personality.

I usually write the journal as a memoir type letter, adding in that my cat "Ringer" has added to the quilt. Every time that I turn around, he is laying on my material or the quilt, so many loving cat hairs could be part of this quilt. I also send a picture of Ringer and I and also one of me at my sewing machine. I'm a new quilter so I always

apologize for any small mistakes someone finds....but that's just the added LOVE I send with the quilt.

I always do something backwards as my signature, so I tell them about that also. It might be a pattern that is turned around or a color that is added in one block. I'm sure that it's fun for them to figure that out.

Thanks QOV for giving me a way to keep on fighting with my brothers and sisters.

PS to Catherine: You are not wrong on how you decide who gets the QOV....Every service person that has gone overseas has been hurt in one way or another...trust me, I know!!!!

.....

---

FROM [JUNE](#)

**Event's Coordinator Needed!!!**

**Job description:**

Maintain list of major shows and the contacts for them.

Maintain a list of those in charge of the QOVF booth at these shows and be a contact person for them.

Coordinate the shipment of Designer Samples and QOVF banners from show to show.

Maintain and update a list of suggestions/ideas/equipment needed for shows. Information from Jackie Dudek, Marcia Stevens, June Moore and Evelyn Garland would be helpful and available)

Maintain contacts with manufacturers to secure quilting machines to use at machine quilting shows.

If interested, please contact [June](#):  
[june@QOVF.org](mailto:june@QOVF.org)

---

**Did you know....**

Our website is *interactive*. It is designed with *you* in mind.

For instance, if you can't find something, type the keyword in the search field which is found right below the header. It says "**I am looking for**". Just type in your word(s).

For example, you are wondering about the tax benefits of making your wartime quilt. Insert words "tax benefits" and hit enter. You'll see 3 results with #2 being the winner. Click on the hyperlink and it will take you to the page and information.

**QUOTABLE**

*The following is an excerpt from an email sent from J. Jan Thomas in Golden, Colorado ~www.rmqm.org*

I'm a volunteer with the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum in Golden, CO. We currently have an exhibit in gallery 1 on quilts made by men. One of those was made by a 6 year old boy for Quilts of Valor.

The museum has placed a journal by the quilt so members and visitors can sign and write messages to the soldier who will receive it. Tomorrow at 5:00 MT Colby will be at the museum for a press interview. I have created a fact sheet with the Foundation web page and your e-mail address in case there are questions for you. I'm so touched by this child's generosity that I wanted you to know what he did on behalf of your amazing creation.

In Colby's words, "I made this to give to an injured soldier for the Quilts of Valor program...I made it sitting on my mom's lap. My favorite thing was pushing the fabric thru...I put it in the Weld Co. Fair and won a blue ribbon...I did it myself ...I like being a quilter because you can make designs, mix colors up and I get to play with machines."

---

**QOV RAFFLE TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE!!**

You can still get/sell tickets for our two beautiful opportunity quilts. They will be raffled off in April at MQX. Both of these quilts are spectacular! Linda McCuen machine quilted Rose of Sharon and our own Marcia Stevens did Winding Ways. Please click on the following link to find out more: [QOV Opportunity Quilt Details](#). You can buy the opportunity tickets in our shop.

---

**QOV STORE**

Please visit the [QOVF store](#). Refrigerator magnets are available. **We also have QOV Wartime Grocery Bags - a great way to help the environment while supporting the Quilts of Valor Foundation. We are down to our last bags!!** There are also two DVDs available (they're great to take with you to shows and fundraising events). And don't forget about the QOV Lapel Pin - stylish and affordable. We here at the QOV Foundation appreciate your patronage and continued support. If you have an idea for new QOVF merchandise let us know, we love hearing from you!

## VOLUNTEER STAFF

CATHERINE - Founder/Director of the QOV Foundation. [cath@QOVF.org](mailto:cath@QOVF.org)

JUNE - Machine Quilter Coordinator. [june@QOVF.org](mailto:june@QOVF.org)

KATY- Coordinator of Local/Regional QOVF groups. [katy@QOVF.org](mailto:katy@QOVF.org)

MICHELE - Newsletter Editor. [michele@QOVF.org](mailto:michele@QOVF.org)

LENNY - Handles the books & answers tax donation questions. [lenny@QOVF.org](mailto:lenny@QOVF.org)

LEZLEY - Coordinates QOVF efforts in Canada. [lezley@QOVF.org](mailto:lezley@QOVF.org)

ERIC - In charge of raffle numbers for QOVs sent between April 2007 & April 2008. [ej@QOVF.org](mailto:ej@QOVF.org)

*Please Feel Free to Contact Your Volunteer Staff With Your Questions/Comments/Concerns*

## HOW TO DONATE



Since the QOV Foundation started out in November of 2003 as Quilts for Soldiers, we have run on a shoe string budget. Staff members work on a voluntary basis. The monies we received are directed back into the Foundation and used to increase our visibility.

The thousands of members in this group give of their time and money. To date, we have collectively spent over \$2,700,000 dollars in making QOVs.

When you make a monetary tax deductible donation, you can request where it should go. The various choices are: administrative, fabric, shipping and printing handout literature.

You also can contribute fabric, sewing machines, batting and quilting threads. if you would like to go this route, please email [Catherine](mailto:Catherine@QOVF.org) at [cath@QOVF.org](mailto:cath@QOVF.org) or call 302 236-0230.

Please help us keep this project alive and well with your **tax exempt** donation, visit [www.QOVF.org](http://www.QOVF.org).

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the QOV Foundation is to cover ALL war wounded service-members whether physical or psychological with wartime quilts called Quilts of Valor (QOVs). The wounded service-members from the War on Terror are typically considered first unless the quilter requests otherwise.

The second mission is to teach our children how to sew QOVs. This skill will teach sewing skills in addition to encouraging civic involvement and volunteering for the betterment of our nation.

When all is said and done what we are doing is providing a means by which our war wounded will have a tangible reminder that Americans do care and appreciate their service, sacrifice and valor for serving our nation while we are at war.