

# Quilts of Valor Foundation NEWSLETTER

*Quilting to Honor & Comfort Our Wounded*

A Monthly Newsletter

February 2011

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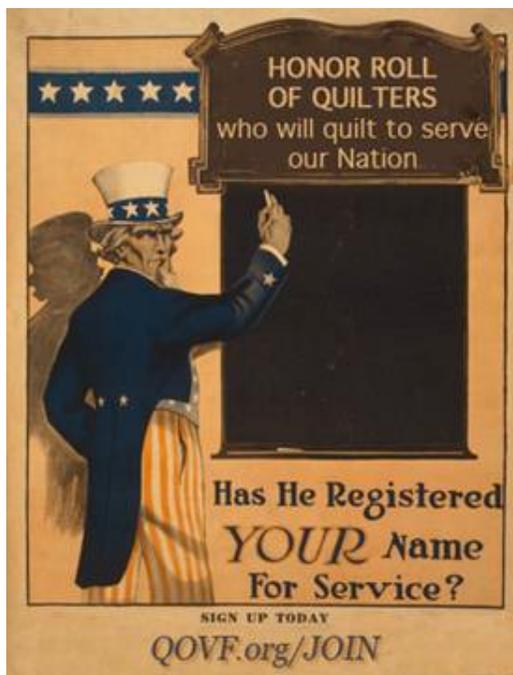
*Please visit our Blog for  
more articles and  
Regional Information  
[QOVF.blogspot.com](http://QOVF.blogspot.com)*

## Under Our Wings - Visiting Hours 24/7

Last month, we announced the birth of our new and exciting program, [Under Our Wings](#) (UOW) which resides on our QOVF.org website. UOW invites and enables each and everyone of you to participate in [national service](#). We see making a Quilt of Valor for someone who has stood in harm's way and been touched by war as participating in national service.

In less than a month, we have had over 110 quilt shops register to be an official [UOW Quilt Shop](#). These shops are a resource no matter where you are on the quilting scale. If you quilt and want a Rookie but can't find one, they will help you find someone to take under your wing. If you don't sew and want to make a QOV, they can partner you up with your own Quilt Coach. If you aren't the sewing type but still want to do something, they can put you to work.

So please come and learn about our new program Under Our Wings either at your local quilt shop or online. When you get involved with UOW at your local level, you are participating in national service and



supporting your local quilt shop. You are also part of the shaping of this new program. If your local quilt shop hasn't registered yet, encourage them to do so. It's free and easy for them to sign up.

In the upcoming months, we will have stories of how you are reaching out in your

communities and working your own UOW program. We also have fun UOW products in our shop you can order.

And this month June Moore, Director of QOVF, and I will be traveling through Washington, Oregon and as far south as San Diego, spreading the word about QOVF's Under our Wings program. If you or your group have an interest in hosting us, please contact June [june@QOVF.org](mailto:june@QOVF.org). And on May 21st, Lori Kutch, Deputy Director of QOVF, June and I will be traveling to Lewiston/Clarkston to celebrate Under our Wings Workshops around the country.

Come on, everyone! National Service is here to stay. Join us in making it a part of your day. By doing this, we can be assured that everyone who has stood in harm's way and been touched by war, will be covered by their very own Quilt of Valor.

Catherine C. Roberts  
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## Which Camouflage should YOUR quilt wear?

By Tink Linhart, Proud Mom of a 1/3 OPF/OIF Marine.

### Things to Keep in Mind When Using Military-Themed Fabric in Our QOV

I have learned a great deal since becoming a Marine Mom in 2002 (our son is retired, Dick and I consider ourselves to still be active duty). The first lesson came as I kept seeing references on the Marine Parents website about "EGA" and couldn't figure out why all the references to Embroiders Guild of America. I can laugh about it now, but then I was looking to for a rock to crawl under. EGA is Marine-speak for "Eagle, Globe, and Anchor" - the USMC emblem!

While we, as civilians, sometimes snicker about the rivalry between the service branches, it is serious to members of those services and their families. Thus another lesson: never, ever co-mingle service-themed fabrics and/or camouflage in one quilt. If you have a camouflage print and you're not sure whose branch of service it belongs to, do not use it. The same holds true for the fabrics printed with the Army or Marines or Navy or Air Force or Coast Guard and showing different vehicles or airplanes or weapons. Don't even think about it. Service members do recognize and immediately identify what is their equipment and what belongs to another branch.

This also holds true for some of the other war memorial themed fabrics on the market today. We all recognize the iconic Iwo Jima statue, but do not use that in a quilt unless you mark that quilt for a Marine. Those are Marines and one Navy man raising that flag and it is "their" monument. That was driven home recently when a Marine told me about visiting the grave of an Army friend who had died in Iraq. This young man requested a Gold Star quilt from a friend, to present to the family whom he would see when he visited the cemetery. The mother, thrilled to tears to be thought of and presented with a quilt, immediately noticed the Iwo Jima monument and commented that it was not Army but it was okay because one of her son's uncles had been a Marine. She was not being



rude or unappreciative, she simply recognized what was Army-related and what was not.

I understand that most people reading this will find it silly to make these distinctions. It is not a silly distinction to the recipients. If we can take the time to create what Dick and I call a "quilted hug of gratitude" we can take a moment more to be aware of the fabrics we use in our quilts and be respectful and considerate of the service branch of the recipient.

## Ron Olson Finishes QOV # 1,000

Through making Quilts of Valor, Mr. Olson says he's doing his part to to show his gratitude for soldiers whom he hopes feel that America appreciates what they have done.

Olson pieces as well as quilts his QOVs, and says his designs are heavily influenced by Debbie Bowles BQ2; and by Fibonacci numbers (0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8...) for piecing/block dimensions. For further embellishment, he digitized the eagle which is on the back of the quarter from the US Mint site and uses that as a focal point of his quilting design. The ribbons, hearts and stars, also sewn into the quilt, are just his "take" on a patriotic theme. Ron, and his quilts were featured on the first page of his local newspaper in November, 2010. Please visit our Blog at [QOVF.blogspot.com](http://QOVF.blogspot.com) to read the article in full. Many Thanks to Ron for all of his hard work, and the doubtless good it has done for our service members.

## Request for QOVs

There has been a request for 75 - 100 QOVs for a presentation March 11-13 for a Returning Warrior Event in Portland, OR. Several groups from the Pacific Northwest provided quilts last year, and the request for support has been made again.

If you have quilts to send, please contact Lena Tanguay:

LS1 Lena Tanguay  
Logistics LPO/Staff CCC  
Navy Region Northwest RCC  
BLDG 2102  
2000 West Marine View DR  
Everett, WA 98207  
Comm: 425 304-3812  
DSN: 727-3812  
Fax: 425 304-4814  
Email: [lena.tanguay@navy.mil](mailto:lena.tanguay@navy.mil)

As always, thank you for your dedication to our mission to honor and comfort those touched by war!

Submitted by Lori Kutch, Deputy Director of QOVF. [Lori@QOVF.org](mailto:Lori@QOVF.org)

## Quilts of Valor Make a Difference!



Mike B., a Vietnam Veteran, from Clarkston, WA is given a QOV in April 2010. Mike is shown here with his QOV in front of "The Wall". He commented in a letter to the QOV'er, "We can finally begin to heal!" Please visit [www.QOVF.blogspot.com](http://www.QOVF.blogspot.com) for more on this story.

## Granny Geek's Tools and Tips

In each issue, Granny will be announcing a tried and true favorite tip or tool accompanied with a link to a video or illustrated lesson to show how it can be used and why it was chosen. If you have a favorite tool or tip, send info to [grannygeek@QOVF.org](mailto:grannygeek@QOVF.org)

### What should be tool/tip #1?

Since QOVF's Under Our Wings project is all about introducing new quilters to the joys of quilting, I'm going to focus on tools and tips to use when teaching a beginner. I finally decided that being able to sew a scant ¼ inch seam **without stress** is the most important skill for a beginning quilter.

What is so magic about a scant ¼ inch seam??? Nothing really, it simply means that your block pieces and quilt parts will fit together accurately. Patterns and

cutting instructions are written based on this size seam. There are many ways of achieving consistent ¼ in seams, but after years of practice and testing, I have settled on the ¼ inch machine foot with a flange to guide the fabric.

Many machine manufacturers have them available for their line of machines, but the generic ones from Alpha Sew which are available for both high shank and low shank machines are inexpensive and work well. See examples:



Left to right:  
high shank, low shank,  
Pfaff snap on, Viking snap on



## Lamia Afghan Foundation Update

*Jan and John Bradley's Foundation is dedicated to helping children and disadvantaged people of Afghanistan by providing humanitarian aid and resources that empower them to help themselves; and to assisting the military and civilian workers who dedicate their time and effort to help those in need in Afghanistan.*

**HUMANITARIAN AID:** The Lamia Afghan Foundation (LAF) has airlifted over 500,000 pounds of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan in the last two years, including winter relief, medical supplies, nutritional support, and school supplies, in addition to 100,000 pounds of donated soybeans for Nutritional Education International (NEI) Foundation. Aid has been distributed in many provinces including Panjshir, Nangahar, Khost, Helmand and Herat.

**EDUCATION:** The LAF has begun the building of their first school for 400 refugee children, both boys and girls in grades 1 - 6, through their partnership with Mr. Farooq Wardak, Minister of Education in Kabul and Mr. Sherwali

Wardak of the Agricultural Health Development Organization (AHDO).

LAF is partnered with Hoopoe Books to provide books and teacher guides to children throughout the country - in schools, orphanages, libraries and villages. They are working with American University of Afghanistan and many U.S. universities to support educational needs.

**MEDICAL:** LAF partnered with Healing Hands International, Operation Ukraine and Global Samaritan, all who provide and palletize our medical supplies for distribution in as many as ten provinces, as well as to the Egyptian Hospital at Bagram Airfield and The Malalay Maternity Hospital in Kabul.

They are also working with Solace for The Children to locate children from all provinces who need specialized medical care in the U.S.

**MILITARY:** LAF works to take care of our "boots on the ground." They have airlifted over 8,000 pounds of supplies for Marines in Southern Afghanistan and are in the process of moving more aid.

This is just a glimpse of their work in Afghanistan. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the Bradleys at (615) 783-289 [www.lamia-afghanfoundation.org](http://www.lamia-afghanfoundation.org)

## Thank You's

*Please know that the work you do making these Quilts of Valor is worthwhile and very much appreciated.*

Good evening to you all. My name is April and my husband, Elliott, who was severely wounded in Iraq in 2006, received his beautiful Quilt of Valor today.

What a wonderful work of art. We can tell it was made with love and care. It is now wonderfully gracing our couch and keeping us warm and cozy.

The quilt was made by Jennifer S. of Paradise, TX and Fran P. of League City, TX.

Please pass on our gratitude on to them and to all of you who give of your kind hearts and precious time to put a smile on a stranger's face

God Bless!





# Quilts of Valor Foundation

*News from National. Editor's Corner. General Info. Keeping you in the Know.*

## Statistics



### Iraq Statistics

Killed - 4,432  
Wounded - Many

### Afghanistan Statistics

Killed - 1,448  
Wounded - Many

### QOV Statistics

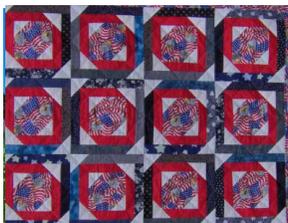
Total QOVs Awarded - 37,993

Awarded this week -  
Awarded this month - 1,563

**We need significantly MORE QOVs.**

Please keep up the good work and we'll keep covering our nation's war wounded.

## Reminders



Remember the **R's**

**REGISTER** as a member of the QOV community <http://www.qovf.org/localqov-list.html>

**REPORT** quilts awarded directly by you or your group <http://www.qovf.org/quilts-awarded-report.html>

**Request** Destination form. If you don't complete it before you submit it, it does not get sent, recorded or received.

**RECRUIT** friends, family and locate organizations to donate time, talent and/or funds.

## UNDER OUR WINGS



What more perfect day to make a resolution than January 1? Near the top of June's list? Serving her nation by taking 10 Rookies under her wings in the [Under Our Wings](#) program.

No Matter what your skills are, you can be a part of this fabulous program. The concept is simple and does 2 things: makes more QOVs; and two, brings non-sewers into our quilting world using American Valor Fabrics for QOVs = supporting local quilt shops.

Please visit the QOV website to register and learn more [www.QOVF.org](http://www.QOVF.org). To find a local UOW Quilt shop in your state visit [www.qovf.org/localqov-list.html](http://www.qovf.org/localqov-list.html)

## Celebrate a QOV'er



*Do you know a QOV'er that should be celebrated for their efforts above and beyond the norm?*

*Send an email along with photo and description of your Q O V ' e r t o [newsletter@QOVF.org](mailto:newsletter@QOVF.org) to get them recognized in the QOVF Newsletter and/or Blog.*

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Remember to stay-in-the-know by checking [QOVF.blogspot.com](http://QOVF.blogspot.com) for more information, stories and Regional News! There are more in-depth articles, links to videos and there is even a place for you to leave comments!

## Road Trip!!



On February 15th, Catherine Roberts, founder and Executive Director of QOVF and June Moore, Director of QOVF, will head south. They plan to spread the word about QOVF's "[Under Our Wings](#)" program to quilt shops and to meet as many quilters as possible.

They will be going as far south as San Diego and back and have roughly 10 days to devote to the trip. **So those of you in Southern WA, OR, CA help us plan our itinerary!**

For more info, please visit [our blog!](http://ourblog!www.QOVF.blogspot.com) [www.QOVF.blogspot.com](http://www.QOVF.blogspot.com)

# QOVF Volunteer Staff

*Let us know how we can help you...*

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**For more information regarding QOVF Structure and Volunteers, please visit:**

<http://www.qovf.org/content/about-us.html>

**June Moore**

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**Marcella Pirner-Cormier**

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**Nate Beal**

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**Regional Coordinators**

RCs 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 RC assigned to your state. A full list can be found at <http://www.qovf.org/content/regional-coordinators.html>



**Lori Kutch**

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## Mission Statement

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



## Please Remember...

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## Contact Us

Do you have comments, questions, concerns about an article you've read in a QOVF newsletter? Please feel free to contact us at [newsletter@QOVF.org](mailto:newsletter@QOVF.org). We welcome your input and thoughts regarding the topics that matter to you most.

## Donations

Please visit our website [www.qovf.org/index.php?page=donate](http://www.qovf.org/index.php?page=donate) for more information regarding Monetary and/or Fabric donations.