

Quilts of Valor

Quilting Honor and Comfort for our Wounded

A Monthly Newsletter

January 2007

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“2007 QOV” Challenge

Catherine Roberts is the Founder and Director of the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF). cath@qovf.org

Our nation is still at war. The US Casualties continue to rise. Well over one million servicemen and women have served in “theater” (Iraq/Afghanistan). Total number of wounded for both theaters is around 53,000. This number includes non-combat wounded. Whether you take only the combat wounded or both, the fact remains that there are many servicemembers out “there” without a comforting quilt.

We need a huge influx of quality made quilts of valor. And what better motivator is there than a challenge?

I am challenging you to make at least 10 Quilts of Valor in 2007. That is less than one top a month or one quilting a month. I know you can do that. I asked Darla Brink who I

thought was heading a group how it was she made so many QOVs herself. She responded, “Someone has to do it.”

In 2006 we completed 4,000 QOVs. Ten thousand is not that much more to aspire to. In fact, it is very do-able.

Sacrifice and being at war belong in the same sentence. Take the QOV Challenge and comfort our wounded. Besides you know it means you will need MORE fabric! And, to sweeten the pot, we will have a raffle for two exquisitely pieced and quilted queen sized quilts. Raffle tickets will be \$5 a piece. A completed QOV will get you 2 raffle tickets! Marcia Stevens will tell you give us more details with pictures of the quilts in an upcoming email.

Finally, remind people we are at war. Wake them up from their stupor. Invite them to comfort our combat wounded with making quilts or donat-

ing funds to help YOU with your expenses.

Still at war; still quilting,



Catherine Roberts, Founder and Director, QOVF

Statistics

For much more information regarding the statistics from Iraq and Afghanistan, go to [The Iraqi Coalition Casualty Count](#). You will not only be presented with objective data, but learn of the contributions made by coalition members.

1/15/07	Iraq	Afghanistan
Killed	3,024	357
Wounded	47,657	5,994

Date	QOVs Awarded
1/15/06	7,804

“Quotables”

This month’s “Quotable” is an excerpt taken from a QOV letter submitted by Beth Mazzella of Hot Springs, South Dakota.

I’ve been asked to tell the story of this quilt. It has had its own journey before reaching you. It has been delayed, lost, found, moved, and finally, finished and mailed.

The quilt began in February, 2006. It is a Log Cabin quilt pattern. The tans, golds and browns brought to mind the colors of Delaware beaches and winter landscapes. The blocks were set to emphasize the swirling breezes of fall. I felt that this was a good top for a Quilt of Valor, not patriotic in a red-white-and-blue sense, but certainly one that would express the love of country—the land, the seasons moving over the prairies.

At this point, March ’06, I found that my husband and I would be moving from our home in DE to a new job and home in SD. So I hurriedly packed the quilt and mailed it to Jo Roman, the long-arm quilter in WA. We always let each other know when we send a quilt off via email. Within the next week, Jo had talked with her mail carrier everyday to no avail. No package. I checked the delivery confirmation and verified that it was in WA. Jo finally went and personally scoured the post office to find the package. There it was on a shelf, forgotten behind a bigger box. Jo then proceeded to move, deconstructing the quilting machine in the process. The quilt spent a summer in WA enjoying beautiful days while the contractor finished up. When Jo

got to put the quilt in the frame, fall had arrived—apropos to the colors and the feeling of the quilt. In designing the quilting pattern, Jo said the quilt told her that it needed the vines and swirling leaves of autumn and the icons of harvest, apples. So she did what it asked, it had become its own personality.

Jo mailed the quilt back to me the day before I moved, again, into our new home. I deconstructed the sewing room in the process and then had to reassemble everything in the new house. I could now add the binding, finishing the quilt. The next phase was creating the label and telling the quilt’s story. As you can see, it has had its own journey.

I should let you know that I am a retired Public Health Service Officer. I deployed in relief of the Haitian Refugees in ’81, Hurricane Hugo in ’89, and Hurricane Andrew in ’94. I also was responsible for sending PHS officers to the refugee camps during the Gulf War; to care for Rwandan children; and, to care for Bosnian refugees. I fully appreciate the commitment and sacrifice that your service has meant; and, that your family not only supported you but this Nation through their efforts. I can only say thank you on behalf of the Nation. May this quilt convey the love and concern we all have for you at this time and be a gentle reminder that we do appreciate what you have given us.

QOV Renewal

How does one keep inspired to “keep on keeping on” especially when this “keeping on” has been going on a long time? You’ve heard me say umpteen times ‘we are a nation at war’ or ‘still at war; still quilting’.

So, again, I ask how do we keep our fire and drive to continue our goal of covering ALL our combat wounded?

I took a page from Chaplain Morris from the MN National Guard. He tends to all his combat warriors needs—from the grunts to the officer corps to their families. One thing Chaplain Morris did with his officers was to take them to Walter Reed Army Medical Center and then to the Gettysburg National Battlefield. He did this so these young officers would know and understand the effects of war from hospital setting to one of our most hallowed national battlefields, Gettysburg.

I would like to offer to you, the QOV community, an opportunity to attend this coming autumn, a two day guided tour of Gettysburg lead by a certified, expert in the Gettysburg battles. The purpose would be to to learn about these three pivotal days in the Civil War.

We will also hear from Jim Getty who is nationally renown for his award winning portrayal of President Lincoln. He will talk to our group in the Lincoln character highlighting the supportive roles that women played in the civil war.

You can read more about Mr. Getty here: <http://www.jimgetty.com>.

Husbands, friends, history buffs are welcome to attend. Please email me at cath@govf.org to let me know if you are interested. Up to 28 can attend. Cost will be under \$200 depending on number. (hotel not included)

Postings from the QOV Community

Have a Heart Postcard Project: Valentines for our Wounded

Deadline: Receive by Thursday, February 1, 2007

To recognize and encourage the many American servicemen and women who have been wounded in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we have created the Have A Heart postcard project, with the goal of sending artist-made postcards as Valentines to our military wounded being treated in Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. A quilt artist from the DC area has generously volunteered to deliver the cards directly to Walter Reed for distribution to the wounded—thanks!

It's very easy to participate in the Have A Heart project.

1. There is no cost to participate.
2. Make 4"x6" fiberart postcards, suitable for framing—one, two or as many as you can.
3. Write some "kind words" on the back to encourage your recipient or just to say 'thanks' from a grateful nation for their service and their sacrifice.

4. Sign them with your initials or your first name only, along with your city and state (and country if you are outside the U.S.). Note: using your full name is not recommended.

5. Mail them to us (one or more in the same envelope) to arrive in Houston no later than February 1. To keep each postcard clean and fresh, please do not mail the postcard itself directly through the mails without its being in an envelope.

6. We'll collect them in Houston and send them on to our kind-hearted artist-volunteer who will then deliver them to Walter Reed, where they will be given to the wounded.

And then, thanks to all of you and your art, wounded soldiers will learn that someone out there who doesn't even know them still cares about them, appreciates their sacrifices, and wishes them well. That's sure to lift the hearts of every recipient and encourage him or her through the rigors of recovery and rehabilitation. What a big accomplishment for such a little work of art!

Guidelines:

- a. Avoid religious symbolism or messages since the wounded are of many faiths, and it would be impractical, if not impossible, for the volunteers to match religions.
- b. It is not necessary to use any kind of Valentine theme; your postcard may depict anything or be completely abstract.
- c. Avoid making political statements since your political beliefs

may not be the same as those of your recipient.

d. Since these will be hand-delivered and will not have to go through the mails as postcards, they can be heavily embellished without concern for their safety—this is entirely your choice. All types of artist-made fiberart postcards will be welcome in this project.

e. For pictures of fiberarts postcards, you can see an assortment of them by going here and scrolling down: <http://home.att.net/~kareyb/PostcardsBattleCancer.htm> Although the project described on this website is over, the pictures still remain to give you an idea of what can be accomplished within the confines of 4"x6". For more ideas, go here: <http://www.art2mail.com/gallery.php> If you need to learn how to make fiberart postcards, please go here for some thorough, easy, and hilarious directions by Deb Richardson: <http://debrichardson.com/blog/2005/09/26/how-to-make-a-fabric-postcard-debr-style/>

Your postcards should be sent—to arrive no later than Thursday, February 1, 2007—to this address:

Have A Heart Project
C/o Quilts, Inc.
7660 Woodway, Suite 550
Houston, Texas 77063
Attention: Amanda

We'd love to get hundreds of these postcards to distribute to our wounded soldiers, both men and women, so we hope to hear from lots of you, the quilt and textile artists of the world! Please feel free to email the link to this page to all

your friends who might be interested in participating, too. This is an outgrowth of the hugely successful Fiberarts For A Cause (FFAC) postcard project that raised more than \$120,000 for the American Cancer Society. However, the Have A Heart project is not a fundraiser—it is a project to raise people’s spirits!

Karey Patterson Bresenhan
 Director, International Quilt Festival—Houston and Chicago

Donors and Donations

Karey Bresenhan and her associate Nancy O. Puentes from **Quilts, Inc.** for the past two years, have graciously donated booth space at the Houston show. This year, they also donated \$1,000 which will be put to good use. Thank you!

The **Trinity Foundation** from Seaford, DE donated a color laser printer which we will use for our QOV Communities printing needs (brochures and flyers for shows). Nancy Parker is our print maven and next month, she will explain how the printing program will work. You will be able to have your printed materials at cost plus shipping and handling.

Feedback Needed for Website

I need your feedback re: the website. I am ready to take it in the backyard and shoot it. If you specifically want something, let me know. Please email me at cath@govf.org or call 302 236.0230.



Picture Submitted by Laura Nessler of Viola, WI

A Message From June

The heartwarming response of longarm quilters who have pledged to volunteer in the coming year has filled me with hope that the number of Quilts of Valor awarded in 2007 will increase significantly. **Bring on those tops, there are longarmers standing by waiting!!!!** 76 longarm quilters volunteered to do 167 quilts for the month of January, and only 47 slots have been assigned. This means that we could get 120 more done if the quilts get shipped out ASAP.

Going Grassroots

Generally people want to help cover our combat wounded. If you go to your local VFW, American Legion, Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis Club, explain your needs and you’ll most likely get them to support your show.

Calendar of Events

Future Events

If you know of an event that would be of interest to the QOV community, please contact Jacquie at jacquie@govf.org to have it posted online and in our newsletter.

Also, if you have an upcoming quilt show where you will have a booth and need help, please email Jacquie and let her know.

QOV Store

Please visit the store. Magnets are still available! QOV bags are coming! They are beautiful plus functional. We now have QOV sweatshirts, embroidered t-shirts and stylishly embroidered aprons with Lady Liberty cloaked in a quilt. All are reasonably priced.

Final Thought

Many of you thank me for doing my job. I want to thank you. You are my inspiration. We have many more missions to complete before we can call it a day. I am hoping we can really focus on why we are making these wartime quilts and come to see this “job” as important as the job Rosie the Riveters did in World War 2. Thank you again for your continued support of our military.

Joy to you and yours!
 Catherine

Volunteer Staff

Let us know how we can help you...

Catherine
cath@govf.org

Catherine is the founder/director of the QOV program.

June
june@govf.org

June is our longarm coordinator and has been onboard for over two years.

Nedra
nedra@govf.org

Nedra has taken on the much needed and appreciated position of QOV Administrative Assistant. Please contact her if you are hav-

ing difficulties getting in touch with Catherine.

Donna Dickinson
donna@govf.org

Donna handles the books and talks to the QOVF accountant. If you have any questions about tax stuff, donations, etc, contact Donna.

Michele
michele@govf.org
newsletter@govf.org

Please send any information that you would like included in the newsletter to Michele. We ask that you have all

submissions in by the first of the month in order to make that month's issue.

Lezley
lezley@govf.org

Lezley is in charge of coordinating efforts in Canada.

Jacquie
jacquie@govf.org

Jacquie is our Event Coordinator. She will be in charge of receiving and organizing information regarding any QOV event that needs national/regional attention.

Andrew
andy@govf.org

Andy will serve as the QOVF web support person.

Barb
barb@govf.org

Barb is our kid's coordinator. Barb is a resource for those who have questions and/or projects with children. If you want your kid's project on the web, email Barb and she will get it ready.

Judy Laquidara and Nancy Miller

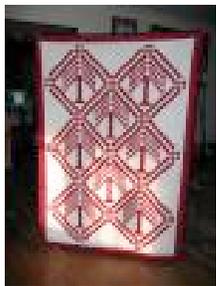
Lots of you know our QOV Mystery Queens. They are both very talented and inspire others to make QOVs.

More Volunteer Staff Members Needed!

QOV Book Editor.

This position requires someone who has editing experience in the real world of publishing and who would like to do this voluntarily.

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. (If you would like a copy of the QOVF's 5 year plan, please email Catherine). This is paramount if we are to reach all our combat wounded with the message that they have a QOV waiting for them.

The thousands of members in this group give of their time and money. To date, we have collectively spent over \$900,000 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@govf.org) at cath@govf.org or call 302 236-0230.

Please help us keep this project alive and well with your **tax exempt** donation, visit www.qovf.org.

Our Mission

The mission of the QOV Foundation is to cover ALL combat wounded service-members whether physical or psychological with wartime quilts called Quilts of Valor (QOVs). The wounded service-members from the War on Terror or Long War are to be considered first and foremost.

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.

A natural extension of our mission will be to link up with our coalition countries and see that their combat wounded are also covered.

When all is said and done what we are doing is providing a means by which our combat wounded can have a better life. This foundation will do whatever it takes to reach this goal.