

Quilts of Valor Foundation NEWSLETTER

Quilting to Honor & Comfort Our Wounded

A Monthly Newsletter

July 2010

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There were over 500 non-profit organizations that contacted the USOC to provide donations and services for this event. Quilts of Valor Foundation was the ONLY offer that was accepted.

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Please visit our Blog for more articles and Regional Information

qovf.blogspot.com

QOVF Standards

Our Mission

Our Mission is to cover those touched by war as Chaplain Kallerson so aptly put it, with the best comforting, healing, usable quilts we are capable of making. These quilts called **Quilts of Valor** are what I like to call our Granny Purple Heart Awards. They are for those who have stood in harm's way and as a result were wounded; physically or psychologically.

Why We Want the Best

Granny Purple Heart Award (GPHA). Equating our QOVs with a GPHA raises the bar much higher than most charity or service quilts. In addition, the letters "QOV" are well known both in the military and quilting world. In other words, QOV has name recognition. That branding has come to mean QUALITY and it's a package deal.

What We Want

We want QOVs which will COVER and COMFORT, & also DELIGHT at least two senses...sight and touch. Seems like a perfect 'Granny Purple Heart' Quilt to me.

Our Package Deal

- Finished size 55" x 65" as of Jan 2011. (This is changing because many QOVs end up too small even though the top measured 50 x 60".)

- Use of quality fabrics
- Have pleasant pieced pattern and quilting.
- Label which says it's a Quilt of Valor
- Presentation Case
- Journal/letter accompanying QOV



Tootsies Want to be Covered

An average American male, can't comfortably cuddle with a QOV that is 48" x 58". His tootsies will be sticking out! And what if you use some cheap scratchy backing? Even if you wash it, it still won't be as soft as a fabric that is better made. The same goes for cheap batting, cheap thread, poor workmanship.

It All Comes Out in the Wash

Know the saying, "It all comes out in the wash."? This literally holds true for our quilts. If you use CHEAP anything, your quilt's lifespan will be considerably shorter, less colorful and coming apart.

Too Much to Expect?

Absolutely not! What the Quilts of Valor Foundation is doing is advocating for those who have been touched by war. We want the recipients to have their own quality QOV which will last a lifetime and then some. Keep in mind, we are dealing with some recipients who think that they don't deserve this award. If we present them a substandard quilt, we will be unwittingly reinforcing that erroneous belief.

Imagine a Son or Daughter or Wife or Husband

Make your QOV as though your son, daughter, husband or wife would be awarded it. If you can't afford quality fabric/batting/threads, **ask for help!** Petition your local VFW's, American Legions and service clubs. People *want to help* our warriors. But unless you give them a way to help, they won't.

"War is hell." General Sherman.

War may be hell, but I have observed over and over again that our QOVs bring a little piece of heaven into the lives of those whom war has touched. Come join us in bringing comfort & honor to these deserving men and women.

Catherine C. Roberts
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Warrior Games

Warrior Games were held May 10 - 14, 2010, a joint effort between the US Department of Defense and the US Olympic Committee. Over 500 non-profit organizations contacted the USOC to volunteer donations and services for this event. Quilts of Valor Foundation was the ONLY offer that was accepted.

2010 Warrior Games - 200 seriously wounded, ill and injured athletes from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard met at the Olympic Training Center to compete against one another in events ranging from shooting, swimming, archery and sitting volleyball to cycling, track, discus, shot put and wheelchair basketball. Each athlete received a quilt sewn by the volunteers of the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

Warrior Games was created to inspire recovery, capitalize on physical fitness, and promote new opportunities for growth and achievement for wounded, ill or injured service men and women.

"Part of competing in the games is having an opportunity to meet other Wounded Warriors and share our stories," said CSSN Judy Boyce. "Knowing we each leave here with a Quilt of Valor is another experience for us to share."

Lt. Melanie Monts de Orca is pictured above wrapped in her QOV. More information can be found on the Navy Safe Harbor Facebook page.



Make a Difference Day

Volunteers with Quilts of Valor Foundation are coming together for one special day to see how many troops they can cover with special wartime quilts.

Using the annual "Make A Difference Day" as their inspiration, QOVF is challenging our volunteer quilters in every part of the country to plan an event for Saturday, October 24, 2010. Not sure how to start? Contact your regional coordinator. The more events, the more troops we can cover. The goal is to see how many blocks we can create on this day, and then piece together, longarm and bind into beautiful quilts.

Make A Difference Day is the most encompassing national day of helping others -- a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Everyone can participate. Created by USA WEEKEND Magazine, Make A Difference Day is held in partnership with Hands On Network and is supported by Newman's Own, which provides \$10,000 donations to charities selected by each of 10 national honorees. If we as an organization are chosen, we could get that donation. But we need your help! Let's see how many events we can have planned by August!

Continue reading about Make a Difference Day at www.usaweekend.com/section/MDDAY



QOV Marathon 2010

Suzie Haas has organized two weekends of sewing and fun in Illinois and Missouri to honor our service members and veterans. 100 Quilts of Valor are expected to be completed in two weeks time, visit Suzie's website for further information.

Join Suzie Haas at the first Quilts of Valor Marathon, to be held September 9th - 11th in O'Fallon, Illinois and September 16th - 18th in West Plains, Missouri.

The Kick-off Party will be held at the Drury Inn & Suites from 6am until midnight. The hotel graciously donated a large meeting room for the three day event. Participants will be able to sew presentation cases and piece quilt tops, and are asked to bring all supplies necessary to finish their quilts.

The following weekend, Gammill Quilting Systems in West Plains, Missouri will open their show room for the Continued Party, where longarmers will be able to come together and finish the quilts.

Volunteers needn't come to both parties, or even for all three days to each event. Drop by for an hour or two, whatever your schedule can accommodate. Remember, every little bit helps!

Further information regarding this event can be found at www.amazinggracefulstitches.com.



Quilts of Valor on Mt. Rainier

The young man pictured received a Quilt of Valor from Sheryl Anderson of Steilacoom, Washington last year after she learned of his experience in the Service.

He wanted to do something special to acknowledge the wonderful gift and decided to attempt to climb Mt. Rainier and bring his QOV to the summit. The weather kept him from reaching the top (-5 degrees to -9 degrees and 20-30 MPH wind chill,) but he did make it as far as 11,175 feet.

As the clouds parted this photo was taken of him holding a QOV quilt top. He will make another attempt later this summer with another QOV quilt top in his pack. We wish him good luck!

NOTES FROM DOWN RANGE

BY KAREN FREDRICKSON

Down Range, the words refer to those military men and women serving in a geographic area of conflict, a combat zone. I have asked three amazing women to write the Down Range columns the summer QOV newsletters. I hope that these columns will inform, educate, and personalize the experiences of military families.

This month's article was written Kathy Godwin, Gold Star mom of Cpl. Todd Godwin. You can contact Kathy at kgodwin27@columbus.rr.com

As I begin writing this column, Memorial Day is upon us. Although the original purpose of Memorial Day has diminished over the years, initially it was established as a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. But for those who have lost a loved one in military service, every day is a day of remembering. The sacrifices the members of our military have paid for freedom is never far from the minds of the loved ones of a service member who fell during active duty - nor is it far from the minds of those who served with them. I write this column as a Memorial to those who have given their all, and for their loved ones who must find a way to go on without them.

I am in a position in which I never thought I would find myself. I am the mother of a Fallen Marine. Like some of you reading this, I grew up in the era of the Vietnam War. I had a brother, brother-in-law and other acquaintances go to Vietnam. It was common to see images on TV of flag draped coffins being carried out of airplanes. I thought then to myself that it must be one of the saddest things in the whole world. I could not imagine the horrors of losing a child at war. Nor could I imagine leaving your loved ones and the comfort of familiar surroundings behind to go to war and not return home. I found myself thinking at the time, I sure hope there is no war going on when I have children! But that time seemed so distant, so far away, that I tried to quickly dismiss it. But, before I knew it, I too was a mother.

People said we had the two million dollar family - two boys and two girls - the boys came first and then the two girls. As we home schooled when they were in elementary school, the boys were inseparable. Aaron, the oldest, was a protective and helpful big brother. He and Todd, our second child, shared many interests. Todd was funny and good natured with big brown eyes. I was thrilled when our two sweet, beautiful daughters, Sarah and Anna, came along. Our family was complete. I thought I was the most fortunate and blessed mother. When we were raising our kids, the thought of them joining the military did not occur to me. I assumed they'd go off to college. All of that changed when Todd came home and said he wanted to join the military. (continued on QOVF Blog)

Please visit QOVF.blogspot.com to read this article in its entirety.

Pellon Batting

The Pellon company is making it possible for those who quilt an average of 2 or more QOVs per month to purchase 60 yd rolls of 60" Legacy 80/20 batting at cost (\$66) plus the distributor's shipping costs.

This means than the participating Legacy Longarm Distributors make zero profit on these rolls. Therefore, they want to be sure they are selling it to verified QOV quilters. They are doing that by emailing me to see if you are signed up as a longarm volunteer and actively quilting QOVs.

If you have not signed up as a longarm volunteer, even if you signed up for the longarmer email list, I do not have you on any of my active quilter lists. Sign up now!

If you are a local group who wants to purchase the batting for your quilters, you must be registered as a local group and report your donations of QOVs if you are not going through Destination Requests on the website.

Questions? Please contact June at june@QOVF.org

Thank You's

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

Dear Ms. A-

My name is SGT R M. and I received one of your quilts at the Warrior Games in Colorado Springs.

Words cannot express the gratitude I (and my fellow Soldiers/ participants) have for you and all the people that made those quilts. The comfort those quilts bring is indescribable. I'm sure my mom already told you, but receiving a handmade quilt is like receiving a hug from someone.

Even when we are all alone all around the world, the gift of a handmade quilt brings incredible comfort and often, if even just for a moment, a sense of not being alone.

They are beautiful, patriotic and comfy! I hand carried mine back overseas and it now covers my bed in a foreign country. It reminds me of an incredible experience in Colorado; it reminds me of those who are standing behind us and supporting what we are around the world doing; it reminds me of what I continue to fight for.

Thank you, again, from my entire heart, for the beautiful quilts, the dedication of you and all the quilters that made it happen, and for your continuing support for the Troops.

Sincerely,
SGT RM.

I want to say a very "heart felt" THANK YOU for my quilt. I was one of the participants and received a beautiful pink quilt. I will be sending a thank you note to the creator of my quilt. It has been laying over me comfortably since I came home from the games. Thanks Again, MSgt K Ret USAF

Dear Ms R-,

On behalf of all our Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, and Sailors of the United States and fellow Coalition and Special Forces, and the nurses, doctors, and corpsmen who care for them, I wish to extend my sincerest gratitude for the gorgeous quilted blanket you have bestowed upon us. We had just received it about a week and a half ago and we gave it today to a young soldier who was involved in an IED attack. His first name is Jamie.

Not to worry though, Jamie will be just fine after some more time. In fact, he will be back on duty after returning to the States for further repair and convalescence. He was exceedingly grateful for your precious gift and it made him smile through this rough time.

We here at the frontline of caring are so grateful for the Quilts of Valor program. It is no small thing to receive such a warm and comforting gift from your hearts reminding our warriors they have the love and fidelity of the people back home. I thank you personally for your service and devotion to our country. Please know that your hard work and devotion is greatly appreciated. Thank you again and may God Bless and keep you always.

Most Sincerely,
Captain P
Nurse Corps, United States Navy
Intensive Care Unit



Quilts of Valor Foundation

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

Statistics



Iraq Statistics

Killed - 4,408
Wounded - Many

Afghanistan Statistics

Killed - 1,139
Wounded - Many

QOV Statistics

Total QOVs Awarded - 28,227
Awarded this week - 125
Awarded last month - 500
Requested last month - 700

We need significantly MORE QOVs. Please keep up the good work and we'll keep covering our nation's war wounded.

Format Changes



In hopes of making our newsletter more reader friendly, we are trying out a new format.

All potential articles should still be sent to newsletter@QOVF.org. We love receiving pictures and hearing your stories and opinions, though we ask that you keep your articles and information brief, 300 words or less. And please don't be upset if something you've submitted has a "chunk" taken out of it to accommodate our new shorter look.

We hope that these changes will be well received. As always, please let us know your thoughts.

Regional Information



In an effort to keep our Monthly Newsletter well under its usual 20+ pages, we've decided to send the Regional Happenings and Information to the QOVF Blog!

Please visit us for more articles, Regional Stories and information there QOVF.blogspot.com/

Register Your Group



If you are new to QOVF or are a new QOVF group, or even if you've been around for years, we need you to register your information on the website under "register your group." www.qovf.org/index.php?page=localgov

Please note that you can also register as an individual. It will only take a few minutes and is an important way to get and share information.

Still deciding if a group is right for you? Why not register and see what happens? You might be surprised by the benefits you receive!

Trivia Question



Quilting is a tradition that has been around for a long time, and has been popular all over the world.

Which country is the oldest known quilt from?*

- a. Colonial America
- b. Egypt
- c. China
- d. India
- e. Incan Peru
- f. Scotland

*The answer to this month's trivia question will be posted in next month's Newsletter. If you have a great idea for a trivia question, please email it to newsletter@qovf.org.

QOVF STAFF

Let us know how we can help you...

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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 www.qovf.org/index.php?page=cmspage&id=63

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

www.qovf.org/?page=cmspage&id=8

June Moore

Is a multi-tasker who currently wears the hat of Longarm Coordinator and Deputy Director of the Quilts of Valor Foundation.
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Sajal K. Soni

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Nate Beal & Connie Jensen

Both volunteer at Quilts of Valor Foundation as graphic designers.
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Joyce Lundrigan

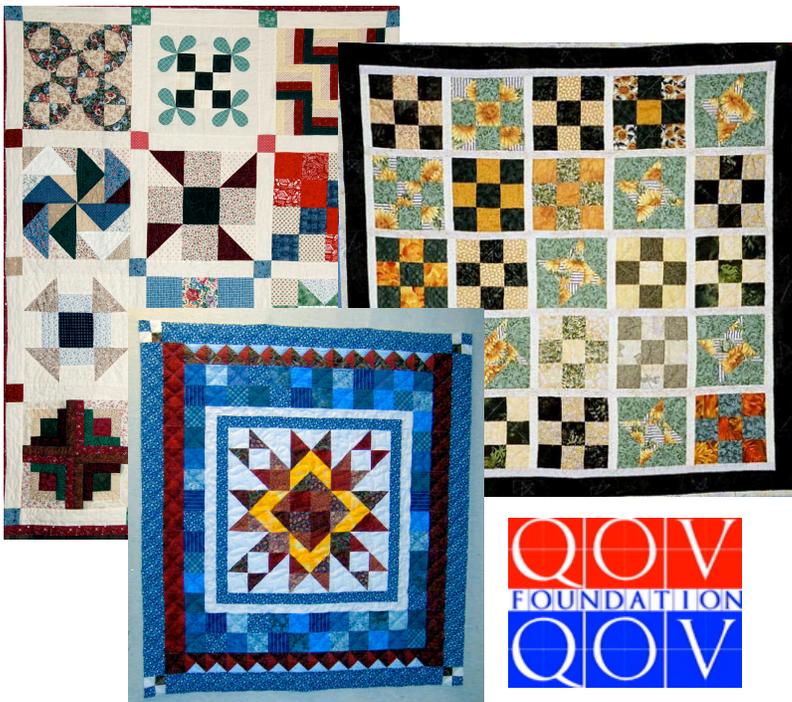
Is the keeper and manager of the Quilts of Valor Foundation Shop.
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Andrew Jackson

Works on QOVF Website Maintenance and Support.

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...

All images and articles sent to Quilts of Valor Foundation become property of Quilts of Valor Foundation. We are not responsible for the return of items. Quilts of Valor Foundation does not necessarily share the opinions and views shared in the articles and images in this newsletter. Quilts of Valor Foundation reserves the right to edit and or delete submissions to the newsletter. By submitting to this newsletter you agree to these terms.

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. We welcome your input and thoughts regarding the topics that matter to you most.

Donations

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