

Quilts of Valor Foundation

NEWSLETTER

Quilting to Honor & Comfort Our Wounded

Newsletter

July 2011

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QOVF BLOG

Please visit our Blog for more articles and Regional Information
QOVF.blogspot.com

Songs of Summer

While "School is out for the summer" and "Summertime, and the livin' is easy" may not describe your summer plans, it is for many of us, a time for a change of pace. The QOVF Newsletter is going to take a break until late August. All the news and events will continue to be posted on the QOV Blog.

I plan to spend less time on the computer and more time at the sewing machine; to make and award QOVs; to travel to quilt shops; to sit in the shade with a cool drink and a good book..... (Please insert your own dreams here.)

Our QOV family continues to grow with new volunteers, new quilters and more quilt shops joining in. Check out your state by going to [Local QOV Groups](#), checking the boxes, selecting

your state from the drop down menu, and hitting "search".

What??? Your group isn't listed? You are not listed?? The solution is simple: Find the blue words above the map and click "Add a Group". This will take you to the page where you can register as an individual or a group.

How many shops in your state have signed up???? Are there others in your area making quilts? Is there a Regional Coordinator in your state? Which state has the most groups signed up???? Explore and learn.

Wishing you a wonderful summer filled with quilts, friends, family and fulfillment,



June D. Moore
Director, QOV Foundation
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Staff Changes

Ellen Patton, who has been serving as Destinations Coordinator for QOVF for over 18 months has handed off that job to Marcella Pirner-Cornier. [Ellen, we are all so thankful for the outstanding service you have provided to Quilts of Valor, especially during the time your husband has been deployed.](#)

Several people have volunteered to act as Coordinators for their state or region in the past few months. We are delighted to welcome Marie McSwine, ME; Lynn Carrier, VT; Kerry Barnes, NY; Robin Laino, NJ; Rita Pennington, IL; Margaret Rose, AL; Claudia Mielinski, FL; Alycia Carmin, CO; Gloria Uehlein, UT; Sharon Ledbetter, ID; J. Marie Norris, OR; Linda Kau, AK; and Carol Olsen, Region 2, WA, OR.

Myths, Urban Legends, Misconceptions & Rumors

Have you ever played that game called “Gossip” where you whisper a sentence into someone’s ear and by the time it gets passed from person to person around the circle by the time it gets to the last person it is so distorted it is not even close to the original sentence. Some days it feels like we are playing that game in the QOVF Community.

I answer lots of e-mails and phone calls with plenty of questions about guidelines, size requirement, what kind of fabric and batting is suitable, starting a local group, fund raising and so much more. I get asked about all sorts of things people have seen or heard. As I share information with volunteers I can’t help but wonder where this crazy stuff comes from.

Some of the Urban Legends I have been asked about are:

No flag fabric because it has to be handled like a real flag. No fabric with words on it because it might say something someone would take offense to. Only patriotic quilts are suitable to be a QOV. Quilts only need to be washed if they are going to a hospital. It is not necessary to have a presentation case. All quilts have to be sent to a long-arm quilter you can not quilt them yourself. You can not present a QOV locally. All the monies you raise on a local level have to be sent to QOVF.

These statements are all false.

So what can we do to ensure we are getting the right information and doing the right thing? We have all the answers at our finger tips www.QOVF.org. With a couple clicks

you can find all the information you need to get and stay on track. If you hear or see something that seems a bit off, you have a great clarification resource your website.

Links:

Basic QOV Requirements: <http://www.qovf.org/content/basic-qov-requirements.html>

The Team: <http://www.qovf.org/content/the-team.html>

Fabric & Patterns <http://www.qovf.org/content/fabric-pattern.html>

Piecing & Stuff/Making a QOV <http://www.qovf.org/content/making-a-qov.html>

Backing and Binding <http://www.qovf.org/content/backing-binding.html>

Getting a long-armer <http://www.qovf.org/content/getting-a-longarm-quilter.html>

Labels <http://www.qovf.org/content/labels.html>

Presentation Case <http://www.qovf.org/content/presentation-case.html>

Journals <http://www.qovf.org/content/journaling.html>

Final Destination <http://www.qovf.org/content/destinations.html>

You also have a wonderful team of QOVF-Staff volunteers available to you. You can contact your Regional Coordinator, contact information is available here:

<http://www.qovf.org/content/destinations.html>

Other Staff is also available to you their contact information is available here:

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

So let’s not waste time perpetuating rumors and falsehoods; let’s use our clarification tools and resources. We have lots of work to do so let’s get

back in the sewing room and get busy sewing “honor and comfort for those touched by war.

Lori Kutch
Deputy Director
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3 Things to Make Your job Easier!

After a few months on the job as Longarm/Topper coordinator I’d like to address ways in which we can make one another’s jobs easier. I seem to handle the same few questions and concerns each month on an individual basis so I thought I’d share these with you as a group. Some of these things will be obvious to those of you who have been doing this for awhile so please pardon the redundancy. We are fortunate enough to have new volunteers joining us regularly and hopefully this will be helpful to them.

These items pertain mostly to our toppers and in my next article I’ll address items for our longarmers. In order to do that I need to hear from the toppers about things our quilters can do to help them.

Let me start by saying I see some photos of some beautiful quilts and you continue to amaze me with your beautiful work. Here are a few ways in which you can help get those quilts completed and to our veterans and soldier quickly:

1. Sending your longarm partners more quilts than have been assigned. A good number of our longarmers are in business and work hard to quilt our tops around their customer commitments. They love to do it and are honored to make the contribution but are overwhelmed when they receive more than they can handle. Each has indicated how many they can take each month and return to you within 30 days, please don't ask them

to do more than that. I have other longarmers available to take those extras if you'll just let me know the need.

2. Quilts sent to quilters that don't fit into the QOV size requirements.

This puts the longarmer in a difficult situation; they know the requirements. Please don't send quilts that aren't between 55"-72" wide and 65"-92" long. My instructions to them going forward will be to send them back to you unquilted and this is a huge waste of time and resources for everyone.

3. Quilts are not ready to mail out when a Request for Longarmer is made.

Please wait until your quilts are completely ready to go before requesting a partner. If they're not everyone's schedule is shot! I will continue to assign additional quilts to the longarmers based on the date of the previous assignment which results in them receiving multiple quilts at the same time.

Thank you very much for your help with these few items and please contact me if I can do anything to make your job easier. You all do an amazing job of covering our heroes and it is an honor to work with you.

Judie Yates
Longarm/Topper Coordinator
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Dover AFB QOV Ceremony

On February 23, 2011 I was invited to attend and participate in the awards ceremony at the Dover Air Force Base Port Mortuary at Dover, DE. Ten service members had completed their rotation at the mortuary and were in line to receive their Quilts of Valor. I was told by the Commander that most

consider receiving their QOV to be the highlight of their service. One individual told me, "It was the thought of this gift that kept me going during the tough times of this position. You put aside your feelings in order to show compassion to the families of the fallen. This has been the most difficult job in my life. Now I can go home, wrap s around me and hopefully heal".

During the presentation each member would approach me in a formal manner, shake my hand, was presented with their QOV and a photo was taken. One young woman was unable to stand still during the ceremony and each time she caught my eye, she would discreetly point at a particular QOV. When she came forward to receive her QOV I made certain she got the one she was indicating. Her approach was very different than the others. She almost ran to me, gave me the biggest hug and said "I can't believe I got this"! After the ceremony, all gathered around to read the labels, journals, and admire the quilts.

Much as I hate to have my picture taken, I was proud to be a part of the ceremony. While at the mortuary, plans were made for a QOV Make a Block Day with members of the mortuary actually sewing blocks. More on that later.

Respectfully,
Lenny Truitt
QOVF Bookkeeper& assistant helper
to Reg. 9 coordinator Laurel Braunstein

30 Quilts in 30 Days

I was just getting started as a Regional Coordinator for Washington and Oregon when I received an email requesting quilts for a Heroes Welcome for Navy personnel in Everett, Washington. They wanted 30

quilts, and they wanted them by May 2nd. It was the end of March. A month? I had a few quilts that were finished and I had already contacted the destination coordinator. What to do?

I managed to contact some friends and get them started making quilts. One of my friends had a couple quilts that hadn't received their bindings yet and she had a couple tops that could be quilted. Friends offered to hand sew the bindings, make pillowcases, and sew on labels. I started carrying around quilts that needed some handwork done in my car. Whenever someone asked if they could do something, I shoved a quilt in their hands. There was incredible support from everyone that was contacted.

In the end, we had 30 quilts, and on the day before the event, one more was sitting on my doorstep! So a friend, Pat LaFon, and I went over to Everett with a pickup full of quilts to be delivered to the Navy. We had asked to see the ceremony. It was really great! **After the formal presentation, the recipients came up and wanted pictures with us and their new quilts.** One man said he was glad to have the quilt, since he just came back from Africa. We met some really wonderful people, who were so happy to receive the quilts.

Greeting From the QOVF Gift Shop

We have a lot of new items at the shop this year that you really need to check out. There are dog tags, 2 new labels, a new t-shirt, sweatshirt, apron, license plate frames and some great Under Our Wings items for both the Coach and the Rookie!

<http://www.qovf.org/shop/index.php>

Also - the new labels can be ordered in quantity directly from Spoonflower.com. This is a great online fabric site where you can have your own designs printed on fabric. We have two different QOV labels available now - the same ones we have in our shop and have two more in the works. Check it out! A yard of fabric will yield about 36 labels. Another option for groups who would like to order in bulk! Use the search word "QOV"

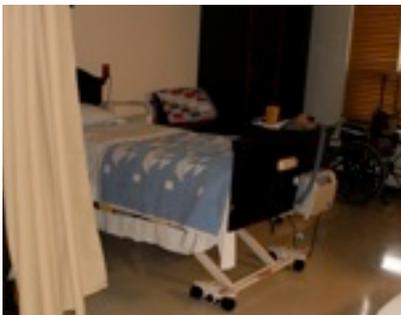
<http://www.spoonflower.com/tags/qov>

Why PayPal..... Many of you have asked if I could take credit cards directly if you called and gave me the information over the phone. While I'm grateful that you feel you can trust me... as a volunteer, I really don't want to be responsible for the safeguarding of your personal information. Nor do I have the IT expertise, computer equipment and software required to do it. This is why we use PayPal - because that is their business. If you don't wish to use PayPal, then we do accept payment by check. I hope everyone understands.

Joyce Lundrigan

Making a Difference

To all of the QOVF ladies that helped with my project at the VA American Lake last Veterans day, I was out at the VA the other night to take care of a quilt concern, and as I walked passed a room, I saw a this QOV covering a patient's bed, and was so moved. I know that one of you made this QOV and I hope you will



recognize it. Thanks again for all of your help with this project.

~Sheryl Anderson

QOVs Begin the Healing Process.

May has been a special month. Three "healings" have taken place. I would like to share each with you, for it is because of our mission to cover those Touched by War, they have happened.

Nearly a year ago, a quilt was requested for a Vietnam Veteran. Made and labeled, I tried to get in touch with him. I left plenty of phone messages with no reply. In April, I informed the Veteran who made the request, of the lack of response from Jim. He said Jim had been having a pretty tough time and had literally "dropped out".

May 14, I a phone message informed me Jim was at a local tavern. A call to the tavern confirmed he was still there. I grabbed the quilt and made my way across town. As I presented his Quilt of Valor, the place erupted in applause. Jim grabbed me and gave me the tightest hug I've had in a long time. There were hand shakes and good will flowing within the walls of the tavern. A call later that evening confirmed what had taken place, "Sharon, you brought him home, you brought him home!"

Well over a year ago, my friend ask that I go with her and present a quilt to a man leaving the psychiatric ward in our local hospital. She had two quilts with her. She said the chaplain's brother was a Vietnam Vet and had suffered greatly, in and out of the hospital. She asked if she could make a quilt for him. The reply back from the brother was, "NO, give it to somebody else. I won't accept anything from anybody." She gave it to the chaplain telling him she hoped Mike would reconsider. Imagine my surprise

on May 24, a call from Mike thanking us profusely for the gift of his Quilt of Valor. He had a special favor to ask. Would I be able to make a special quilt for his buddy, also an infantryman in Vietnam? He had memorabilia that was special to them both and would like it incorporated into a special QOV. When he was in town next time, could he drop it off at my house. The answer, of course, is yes. When I meet him, I have a hug for him. Welcome home soldier, welcome home.

Last but not least, Lewis-Clark QOV held our Under Our Wings rally and block challenge party on May 21. We had over 85 quilt kits. These kits contain 12-12" finished blocks, sashing, borders and binding. Each kit was put in a 14" pizza box and 47 women came together to stitch as many of the tops together as we could. At the end of the day, we planned presentation of 16 Quilts of Valor to local Vietnam Veterans. I received a call informing me one of our Veterans had been hospitalized the evening before. Bob had pneumonia and some severe blood problems. Following presentation, we went to the hospital and presented Bob his quilt. He asked if we could cover him with it. An email from my friend informed us, "You scored again!" Bob was released from the hospital the next day, he spent 3 days wrapped in his quilt and is as good as new!

I have been privileged to bestow well over 250 QOV's in our local area. It is our stitches of love that begin the healing process. The hugs, the tears and the love pour forth from our Veterans. I always feel there is a little Divine intervention taking place. We DO make a difference in the lives of others.

Honor Air Flights

On Wednesday, Gary Bray, Gary Dills, and Vic Perry presented on the Honor Air flights which escorted WWII veterans to Washington, DC on May 7th and 14th. Ten veterans from the May 14th flight

attended the meeting this week, Albert James, Ray Penland, Nebs Anksorus, James Anderson, Jack Vaughn, Jack Garrett, Ray Welch, Paul Shepherd, Leonard Sinkbeil, and David Watters. We were honored to have them at the Rotary Club meeting to hear about their experiences on the trip. Gary Bray shared some history on the program started in Hendersonville by local businessman Jeff Miller. Mr. Miller started with a group of 100 vets on one flight which quickly grew to six flights with approximately 100 veterans on each flight. Mr. Miller wanted to take the program further but needed assistance to continue and the Rotary Club of Asheville was willing to help. Their club sponsored several flights before the district and our club became involved. Gary Bray and Gary Dills were the first to take on the challenge of organizing a flight for our club and have been at the forefront of fundraising and planning subsequent trips along with Vic Perry. Gary Bray indicated the Honor Air flights were an example of the "the powerful impact of an idea" which has truly enhanced the lives of the veterans, Rotarians, and other individuals involved in each flight. The veterans were presented with a selection of quilts from the Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild as a part of the Quilts of Valor program. As always this was a wonderful and touching program in honor of our veterans who have sacrificed so much and asked for so little in return. The Rotary Club of Franklin thanks all veterans of the United States Armed Services for all you have done and all you continue to do to protect us and our freedom.

Thank You's

We have a long Thank You section this month. Please read them and remember how much your wartime efforts matter!

Dear Ms B,
My son is a SSGT in the Us Air Force and has been working in Mortuary Affairs in Dover. I know how difficult it has been

for him and the others working there taking care of our fallen soldiers. The gift he received of a Quilt of Valor means so much to him, to know his work has been appreciated. As his mother and a retired Home Economics teacher, who has done some quilting in a limited way, **I truly appreciate the work and love that has gone into this quilt. We both thank you so very much and want you to know the quilt will be treasured in our family.** God bless all of you in this work.

As an introduction, I am Brigadier General Rich Simcock and I currently work at the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. I was invited to speak by the Kiwanis International in Potomac, Maryland at their third Annual Armed Forces Day Dinner last Friday. I had a great time and very much enjoyed meeting them as well as about 12 U.S. Army soldiers (wounded warriors) that were in attendance. Kiwanis International is a great organization that is doing tremendous things for our Nation's youth. At the end of the evening, they presented me and the U.S. Army soldiers with quilts from your organization. **They are fantastic quilts. I wanted to write you a letter to the Quilts of Valor Foundation and thank you for all that you do to support our military.**

Again, thank you for all you do for our Nation and your military.

Richard L. Simcock II
Brigadier General, USMC
Principal Director, South & Southeast Asia

Kate Meyers received this from Liz Petty and her doctor husband, Mac, who works helping our Warriors who have PTSD along with physical injuries in Germany..Prior to being transferred to Germany Liz and Mac headed up QOV at Fort Ruckers in AL. The Beach Lovin' Grannies referred to in the note are Helen and her quilting group, from SC. They and have access to free shipping for their

QOV (from a wonderful company on Pawley's Island, SC.) They send their QOV to Liz and it has been a wonderful connection for all of them.

The Army Medic, RB, who works in the mTBI Clinic with my husband Mac, has had a very, very rough time. He has been deployed numerous times but his last deployment was to Afghanistan. Mac said R. saw way too much and it has really affected him. Several months ago, R. had a breakdown and was hospitalized for several weeks. In the meantime, his wife went back to the States and had another baby (they already have 2 children). Mac set up a QOV Ceremony in the administrative office at the mTBI Clinic for R. He was overwhelmed with the quilt. I know you can't see it in the video, but as he's reading the card from the Beach Lovin' Grannies, his hands are shaking very badly. He becomes very emotional and I set over and try to soothe him. After Mac turned off the video camera, he cried. I've put the video out on YouTube for any of you to watch, and I ask that you keep R in your prayers. He is a precious young man. **R stated that he is going to cherish his Quilt of Valor until he dies.** I joking told him that he better not die anytime soon. I'm believing that the Beach Lovin' Grannies love and prayers that went into R's quilt are going to start that young man on a path to heal. I'll let you know what happens!!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyvGumrGM2I>

Dear Ms Rose-

A British military friend recently suffered an unexpected cardiac arrest in Afghanistan and his life was saved by his American running partner that day. He was wrapped in what he assumed were just two blankets after being stabilized enough to be flown immediately, in just the clothes he was wearing and wrapped in what they thought were "just two blankets", to Germany where the

Americans treated him further. His wife still teared up a month later as she told me here, in England, how touched they were when they realized the “just two blankets” were actually a hand-knitted blanket and a quilt with a Quilts for Valor medallion that was made by someone in Buena Vista, Alabama (I hope I got the state right).

As an American living here who is a friend of his and his family, **I was so very moved by this story and by how much a kind person in Alabama had touched the life of someone so far away—not only did the quilter give generously to**

an American, the recipient gave again and helped a British ally. He and his family will never forget the soldier who did first aid on site, the medics who stabilized him in-country, everyone who got him to Germany and treated him and, especially, the quilter in the US who made a lasting impression on a stranger. I know it'd probably be impossible to guess which quilt and quilter gave so much to him, but he and his family will never forget Quilts for Valor.

I made a donation to the website to help your important work. It's obvious from your long service to the country, whether

in the Navy or in retirement, that you embrace the values that make a difference. Despite some “slippage” in how Americans are sometimes viewed, I have had the experience of a French couple on the beach wanting to thank Americans for WWII and now this experience in Britain. It makes me feel grateful that we come from a country whose people are friends in need. **Thanks to you and your group. Your work matters.**

Best,
Trish Johnson

Quilts of Valor Foundation

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

Statistics



Iraq Statistics

Killed - 4,462
Wounded - Many

Afghanistan Statistics

Killed - 1,622
Wounded - Many

QOV Statistics

Total QOVs Awarded - 43,568

Awarded this week - 44
Awarded this month - 431

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

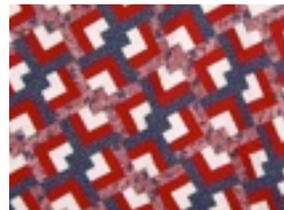


[Under Our Wings](#)

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

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

Longarmer Form



Please take the time to make sure you have read and understood the message at the top of the “Request a Longarmer” form. If you work with a group, please make sure all toppers are reminded.

From the form: Check list to make sure you are ready to send your top to a longarmer:

You have read [Overview of the QOV Process](#) and [The Team](#)

- Your top is pressed, free of odors or pet hair (due to allergy concerns), and threads are trimmed.
- Your backing is 6” to 8” longer and wider than top.
- Any seams in backing have selvages trimmed.

Regional News



Many additional stories including Regional News can be found on our [blog: www.qovf.blogspot.com](http://www.qovf.blogspot.com)

This month's articles include:

- Gulf Coast Honors Marines
- Riley's QOV
- News from Region 1
- Article & pictures from Gwinnett QOVF Quilters
- Links to articles about
- 4H Nebraska's QOV efforts
- Seamstresses in Temecula CA and their QOV mission

QOVF Volunteer 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 <http://www.qovf.org/content/regional-coordinators.html>

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

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



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

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