

# Quilts of Valor Foundation

## June 2008 Newsletter

### How Many POCS (Points of Contact) Does it Take to Cover Our Wounded?

by Catherine Roberts

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#### *Catechism Class All Over Again*

You know our mission statement, *right*? Can you tell the person next to you what it is? If we were in catechism class (for those non-Catholics, this is religion class) we would say in sing-song unison, “*Our mission is to cover all our war wounded whether physical or psychological with our wartime Quilts of Valor.*” Sister Mary Charles Leonard would smile and say “*Good, children!*” and we’d go on to the next question.

Now, I know as kids we didn’t understand what the answers meant but we sure knew what Sister Mary Charles Leonard wanted. Sometimes I have that *deja vu feeling, all over again* about our mission statement. We say it without *really* understanding what it means.

#### *Point A to Point B*

Typically to get our quilts from us the quilters, to our wounded, we go through a **Point of Contact** or *POC*. If you go through me, I am your POC. I, in turn, have my own POCS located in the US and abroad. For example, when I first began this program in 2003, my POC at Walter Reed Hospital was Chaplain Kallerson. I would assign your quilts to

Chaplain Kallerson. Once they received your wartime quilts, he and his staff would then award them to their war wounded. Pretty simple setup especially in a hospital setting where the wounded are there.

Since then many of you have found your own local POCS. They tell you how many quilts are needed for the wounded they know about and you supply them with the wartime quilts. Again this seems pretty straight forward...or is it?

#### ***“WE HAVE ENOUGH CONTACTS”***

In my Memorial Day email, I chose a quoteable from a military spouse who lives outside Fort Bragg, North Carolina. She observed since the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne’s return from Iraq, she was seeing many as being in “deep mourning with the hurt apparent in their eyes”. The reason? They lost a great many of their men while deployed in 2007.

This young spouse wanted to know if there was a POC at [Fort Bragg](#). If so, she wanted to work with them or, if there wasn’t one, she would serve as a POC herself.

I must have ruffled a few feathers because not long afterwards, I received this email.

***“WE HAVE A CONTACT THERE AND THEY DO NOT NEED QUILTS!!! They [the contact] have 2 groups working with them and very few wounded.”***

I find this interesting because Fort Bragg is home to several airborne units in addition to Special Operations. As of August 2007, there were more than 48,000 soldiers assigned to Fort Bragg with over half having gone to war, or 24,000.

No matter how you slice it, one or two or four POCS at Fort Bragg are not enough to find all the war wounded.

### *Who me?...a POC...a Scout?*

This is where this young woman and possibly YOU enter the picture. You can be a *scout* or a *POC*. A *scout* finds the wounded and then hands this information off to someone else like a *POC*. A *POC* can be a *scout* but more importantly, they figure out the logistics of getting the quilts from you to the war wounded.

Over 1.5 million men and women have stood in harm's way and many with multiple deployments under their belts. The point is this. Our war wounded are **EVERYWHERE**. Just look around you.

They are among our local police and fire departments. They are our teachers. A small number are in our prisons and some even homeless. Typically these warriors do not bring attention to themselves. They see their wartime service as "just doing their job and nothing to write home about."

In my humble opinion, if you served in theater and had your boots in the sandbox, you merit a wartime quilt.

In order to identify them all, we need as many scouts and POCS as we can get. I say 'the more the merrier'.

Remember, your wartime Quilts are *essential* for the healing process to begin. They say unequivocally a stranger cared enough to take the time and effort to acknowledge *their* service to our country

during wartime (while the majority of eligible citizens 'fiddled as Rome burned').

If this approach in identifying our war wounded is too liberal, inclusive or not legitimate enough, then don't use it. Use what works for you. **BUT DO SOMETHING.**



For myself, I will continue to have QOVs in my car trunk and award them *prn* (as needed) as I have done at shopping mall parking lots, recruiting stations, Arlington National Cemetery and flea markets.

### *Now, what about you?*

Still at war; still quilting and (I guess) still ruffling feathers :)

[Catherine Roberts](#) (2/10)  
Founder/Director QOV Foundation

## Shipping Relief For APO/ FPO Addresses

*After one of my Sunday destination sessions, Karen Hancock, a first Naval Construction Regiment Ombudsman, emailed telling me about shipping APO/FPO. Here is what she said.*

I am one of the folks that just received your email about sending our QOV's to Germany. Since this is an APO there is a special flat rate box just for shipping to APO's that is CHEAPER than a normal box.



This is a new thing at the post office. It's been out about a month or so. It's slightly larger than the old flat rate boxes. The box says "flat rate" and "APO/FPO" right on it. If you don't get that box they will charge a couple of extra bucks instead of giving you the discounted rate!

I am an ombudsman for a soon to be deployed unit and have already scouted out these boxes for our families to use during deployment. All post offices should already have these. The boxes themselves are free.

Thank You,

[Karen Hancock](#)

## QOV-UM Continues Its Efforts To Locate Wounded War On Terror Veterans.

*by Marcia Stevens*

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Quilts of Valor - Upper Midwest consists of QOV Coordinators in North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin ([www.QOVF-um.org](http://www.QOVF-um.org)). To date we have had two "official" coordinator meetings where we discuss and share ideas to promote and facilitate the construction and distribution of Quilts of Valor. There are 5 coordinators in Minnesota so we have divided that state into three sectors based on the location of the coordinators. That makes it easier for us to stay on top of issues relating to the 87 counties in the State of Minnesota.

About a year ago we implemented a program of **QOV Drop Off Spots**. Each coordinator is responsible for quilt shops within their territory. Sometimes it requires a phone call or visit by the coordinator to explain the program and let the shop owner know who their QOV contact person is. We provide them with a file of information that includes a QOV poster that they can display, handouts for people interested in QOV, quilt submission forms that will be attached to donated quilts and a supply of quilt labels. A cover letter outlines the mission of QOV and provides suggested ways for the shop to get involved, such as including QOV information in their monthly newsletters and perhaps scheduling QOV work days. We leave one of our QOV business cards with the

shop owner so they can contact us whenever they have questions or quilts that need to be picked up. We don't expect the shops to ship the quilts but generally we have some means of getting the quilts to a coordinator.

As time passes and the word about QOV spreads, we try to match up longarm quilters with a shop that is receiving QOV tops. Our ultimate goal is match up a local QOV group with a local quilt shop and local longarm quilters. As the quilts are completed, the QOV group makes sure they are bound, labeled and has a pillowcase. If their quilts are not needed in their area, they contact a Coordinator to find out where they might be needed. More on that in a moment...

We're finding the **best way** is to find and distribute QOVs to wounded War on Terror veterans is through our local *County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO)* and/or the *Family Assistance Centers (FAC)*. CVSOs have a record of every veteran within their county, including their deployment and discharge dates and medical histories. Our FACS are very active.

They contact every service person who returns from a conflict to assess their physical and mental needs. They work closely with CVSOs.

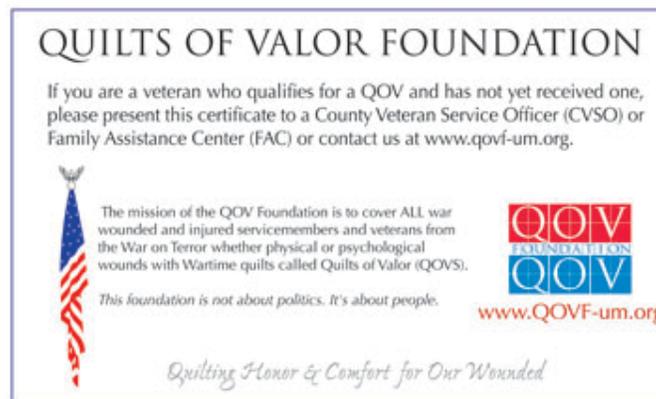
Last fall a couple of us attended the Minnesota CVSO Fall Conference. We

found out about it too late to be put on the agenda but we did have a table of information and a display of quilts at the conference and prepared a letter for each of the 87 Minnesota CVSOs. Fortunately we were able to distribute most of them personally and explained our mission. We provided them with their QOV Coordinator's name, phone number and email. As weeks passed, the response was not as good as we had hoped it would be so we started making phone calls to the various CVSOs. Some were very enthusiastic about the program and would order 5-10 QOVs to have on hand to distribute as they came in contact with a qualifying veteran. Others didn't understand the benefit of the program or were just too busy to respond.

Early this year I attended a

conference at a Veterans Hospital that was attended by many of the CVSOs. I was given 15 minutes on their agenda which was more than enough time for me to again explain the QOV program and read to them one of the thank you letters that we received from a veteran. I had filled my small car with QOVs hoping some of the CVSOs would take some back to their counties. Within 5 minutes all the quilts were claimed and I had requests for many more.

Last month (April 2008) we attended and were put on the agenda for the Spring CVSO Conference. Again we explained the program and provided contact



information for the officers. This time several of the CVSOs commented in front of the group how wonderful it was to distribute these quilts and the gratitude they received from the recipients. We distributed over 125 QOVs during that conference and took orders for many more. There are still a few counties that are not participating so we'll continue to promote our cause whenever we have the opportunity.

As we make strong contacts with CVSOs and area QOV groups, our ultimate goal is to match the groups with their area CVSOs. It will make the efforts of the group much more personal and will keep the quilts as local as possible. As Coordinators, we will make sure the excess quilts are sent where they are needed.

Several Welcome Home events are scheduled in our region this year. We have made arrangements to have a display of QOVs at these events. Because it would be awkward to distribute quilts at a venue like this, we've come up with a QOV Certificate. These certificates will be distributed to all veterans and they can claim a QOV from a CVSO or FAC.

We have all of the above information and handouts on our Upper Midwest website [www.QOVF-um.org](http://www.QOVF-um.org) and you are welcome to use it.

[Marcia Stevens](#), QOV Coordinator – Upper Midwest

## NE Oklahoma's QOV Efforts.

*by LeAnn Weaver*

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When I purchased my longarm three years ago, I began asking for quilting assignments from Quilts of Valor Foundation. A year later my longarm business was picking up, and I found I couldn't keep up with binding all the Valor quilts. I turned to longtime friend, Mary Ellen Thiets, of Tulsa, for help. We worked as a team for almost a year, before we realized we needed more help to keep up, and also wanted to involve the community. Our local newspaper ran a story about Our endeavors and how the community could help. Soon other quilters were offering to piece, quilt, and bind more QOV's.

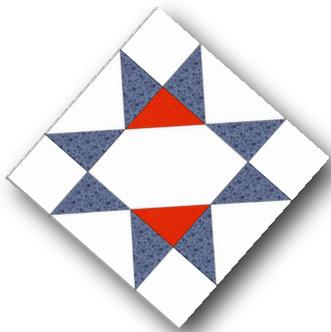
Mary Ellen works for a local quilt shop, SewFlakes (Formerly Cyrilla's Artful Needle) in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. The owner, Chris Fornell, offered use of the classroom one Saturday a month, and as a drop off and pick up location for volunteers. Soon the sewing machines were humming, and our little group was growing. Volunteers would stop in to shop, pick up any binding projects or QOV kits, or drop off quilts or tops for the next volunteer to work on. The second Saturday of every month would find Mary Ellen, myself and other QOV friends, Linda Rasure, Helen Freeman, Sue Woods, and other volunteers enjoying fellowship and sewing. Another longarmer, Mickey Sherman, would stop in and pick up tops.

Although the group made approximately 80 quilts in 2007, we felt the need to do

more. Mary Ellen started a quilting group at her church. Linda enlisted the help of her daughter, Hannah, who had recently enlisted in the Army. Hannah made two quilts this spring!

I started promoting Quilts of Valor on my website, [www.persimmonquilts.com](http://www.persimmonquilts.com), and asking visitors for help. Although I received several inquiries and some participation, I knew quilters would do more if given the opportunity, and the right project! I wrote a QOV mystery, and started promoting it in internet forums and local guilds and quilt shops. Local quilters were encouraged to do the mystery project, then bring their top by the QOV booth at the Quilt Daze Show in Tulsa, June 6-7, 2008. I have received hundreds of emails from quilters who are doing my 6 week project! I have written another 6 week mystery that will begin June 15<sup>th</sup>.

I then asked internet quilters across the nation if they would make an Autographed Star Block, from a pattern I designed on my website. Soon blocks



started filling my postal mailbox! The group has now started making kits with these blocks available for SewFlakes shoppers to take home, make, and return. These kits included blocks from many states, all autographed with the maker's name, city, state, and words of comfort or a verse. I encourage quilters

to check the website often for new Autograph blocks and mysteries.

What started out as two friends working on a common goal, has turned into many friends across the country working together. For more information visit [www.Persimmonquilts.com](http://www.Persimmonquilts.com) or contact me at [leann@persimmonquilts.com](mailto:leann@persimmonquilts.com).

## Ellen Patton Meets President Bush In White House Ceremony

*by Ellen Patton*

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When Catherine told me that she was nominating me for an award that the President of the United States was going to be giving to one military spouse from each service in honor of Military Spouses' Appreciation Day because of my volunteer service I was extremely honored. Of course I know that all military spouses volunteer in one way or another and so I knew that to be picked as the Navy spouse representing all Navy spouses was a long shot. Imagine my astonishment when the White House called to ask if I would be willing to be just that person! Of course my answer was yes, but there had to be many other men and women who do way more than I do. Cindy, the lady from the White House, countered with the argument that it wasn't about who does more, just about who they thought would be a good representative for the spouses in my husband's service. Wow, that's a pretty tall order I thought! I was, and still continue to be humbled that first Catherine nominated me and that second I was chosen!

So, on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 I was honored to meet the President and be acknowledged by him in front of everyone. I am thrilled to say that at the same time he acknowledged Quilts of Valor and the wonderful work we all do! Meeting the President was a bit nerve wracking at first. One of his aides presented me to him, I shook his hand and presented him with a quilt (of course, what else would I give?!) while he presented me with a beautiful lapel pin. He really puts one at ease immediately so it was very easy to turn and introduce

taken to their reserved spots on the White House's South Lawn. The President told us to follow him and off we went. The marines opened the door and as we walked out behind the President I remember the announcer saying, "Ladies and Gentlemen, the President of the United States accompanied by the 6 recipients of the President's

Volunteer Service Award: Ellen Patton...." I was so amazed that my name had just been announced that I didn't hear anything else! Up to the stage



him to my husband, Mark, and our oldest child, Erik. Erik was the only one of our 4 children to be able to make it that day. After all the official pictures were taken he chatted with my guys and even apologized to Erik for not being the speaker at his graduation this month--Erik will be graduating from West Point on May 31st. Before we moved on he presented them with his Presidential Coin in the correct military manner of passing it during a hand shake! After each of the other honorees and their families were introduced and had pictures taken with President Bush it was time for the ceremony to begin. Our families were

we went to our assigned seats and as the National Anthem began we turned to face the flag. To hear our National Anthem being sung as I stood right next to the man who leads this country was amazing! When that was done we sat and the President began his speech. As he finished speaking about each of us he asked us to stand and be recognized. For a person that likes to work behind the scenes, it was very humbling to stand in front of 1200 people that were cheering for me!

When the speech was over we followed President Bush to a picnic table in front of a stage where Phil Vassar performed 3 of

his songs for us. Again we sat in predestined places and, as luck would have it, I had been put to the President's immediate right. So of course I felt obligated to talk to him! We chatted through the whole performance. I asked him if he were nervous about his daughter's upcoming wedding and if he was going to miss "all of this" (I asked that one after I took in all the surroundings and felt in awe about where I was and whom I was with!). He asked me about Erik's graduation date and if I knew "this guy"--the performer. Luckily for me, my family likes country music so I did recognize Phil Vassar!

Before long the songs were over and President Bush went to greet the crowd while we were escorted back to our families. On the way there I was pulled aside and told that we had to have pictures taken and that my husband and son were waiting for me. I guess we didn't take a very good picture the first time so we waited for the President to come back into the White House where they had us waiting. He arrived in short order and again we posed for the formal pictures. He chatted with us the whole time and then personally looked at the camera to make sure that all the pictures were good! After some more chit chat he said a final good-bye and was gone. From there we were sent on our way to tour the White House! It's hard to believe that from start to finish only an hour had elapsed but I know that that time will be in my memory forever!

At lunch we talked about how amazing it all was and how many things had to fall into place in order for me to have been on that stage standing and sitting next to President Bush. And of course it all started with me asking one of my friends exactly what she meant when she

referred to some of her quilts as qovs (Sara do you remember that?!). I hope now that many people who heard the President's speech now consider joining us in our mission to cover the wounded. That would truly be awesome! After all, we are still at war and I, for one, am still quilting!

## “Quoteable”

*Karen Fredrickson is the marine mom of the marines*



*from the one-eight. Think of any adjective that describes a mom who goes to bat for her kids and this is Karen...and then some.*

*by Karen Fredrickson*

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On behalf of the Marines and Sailors of 1st Battalion 8th Marines, particularly the men of Bravo Company, I would like to thank all of you for your support of our military men and women.

Your gift of gratitude for their service to our country is a tangible reminder that Americans do realize and remember the sacrifices that they have made for our country.

Our family learned early on that when our nephew enlisted in the United States Marine Corps our family essentially

enlisted as well. Once a Marine Always a Marine, Once a Marine Family Always a Marine Family; those are not just words, they are a way of life.

The family bond between the Marines, Sailors, and families of 1/8 was firmly cemented during the fight for Fallujah in November of 2004. As I type this the faces of 13 Marines, members of 1/8 Bravo who lost their lives in Fallujah, look down at me from a framed display of photos given to us by the family of one of those Marines.

Our Marine Support Network strives to make sure that these Marines and others who lost their lives while serving in 1/8 are not forgotten. We strive to benefit their families in any way that we can. And we strive to make sure that our Marines and Sailors who came home know that we are proud of them and that we will not forget them.

Your gifts, your quilts, go a long way in assuring each of them that America is proud of them and that America will not forget them.

Thank you so much,

[Karen Fredrickson](#)

[http://www.msnusers.com/  
TheSamNetwork](http://www.msnusers.com/TheSamNetwork)

## Wartime Quilter Blog You Should Know About

Hi all -

Yesterday was our big Quilt of Valor delivery. I know a lot of you contributed to our delivery and the chaplain was VERY impressed! I have the details on my blog, and have decided to blog one soldier (or two) at a time, so if you are interested

you can go read about our delivery and the importance of quilts to these courageous Men and Women!



Thanks for all the help!

Alycia



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<http://alyciaquilts.blogspot.com>

## QOVF Website Working For You And Others...but You Have To Use It

### Free Patterns for You

Please check out the latest free patterns donated for you from both toppers and machine quilters. They are located on the left hand column under **PATTERNS**. Thank all of you who have contributed.

### More Locals are Needed to Register

I need **more people to register** as being a contact in their respective state. Why? Last week, I had someone in the VA system ask where our wartime quilters are in Arizona. I know we have LOTS of

quilters in that remarkable state so I went to the local section and found NOTHING. This case in particular pointed out how potential POCS in your state can find who is out there for them so they can be contacted. BTW, our Arizona POC receives her wartime quilts from a QOV'er in Hawaii!

Right now, I have standing orders for quilts at Walter Reed, Bethesda, Landstuhl, Iraq, Afghanistan, Los Angeles, Tucson. The Los Angeles VAMC could take all the quilts I have to assign and then some.

We are working on adding Canada and the UK to our 'local' map.

### **Challenge Achievers for 2008**

For those of you who have met my challenge to complete 10 QOVs in 2008, you now can add your accomplishment to the site.

## **Emails To The Editor**

### *Quilt Requirements*

Read this on your web site. I thought this was a charity project and that anything from the heart would and should be accepted. Your website states that if you cannot do more than stitch in the ditch or wide meandering please have it professionally quilted. I do not consider quilts to me mine unless I quilt them. My skills are still building. I am sorry that I cannot contribute to your project with my skills at the level they are. SG

### *QOV Bag Prototype*

I don't have a design to submit as yet but I wanted to comment on the categories. I Fully Support and Praise the work that is being done by QOV and I see that as a category that supports all those who are

willing to live their lives defending this country in military situations. However, I don't support, in any way, a designation of WARTIME -- suggesting that wartime is an relentless unavoidable ongoing cycle and that it is appropriate to glorify it by selling grocery bags with a logo that keeps proclaiming that WAR is an acceptable way of life.

During WWII we were really at war to defend our lives and our way of life. I remember buying the red stamps to put in a book so that when it was full I could use it to buy a warbond to help the effort. Today the world is much different than then. The battle we are engaged in seems questionable. What real good are we bringing about.

I am a strong believer that both as individuals and as a nation that - -what we focus on, is what we experience - . For that reason I encourage all to focus on things good and on Peaceful experiences. I believe that we can Fully Support our wonderful troops without focusing on war. I also believe that we can accomplish much more by peaceful means.

Thanks for your letter.

That's my soapbox for the day.

HAVE A GREAT WEEK ! JH

We welcome your comments. Send to [comments@qovf.org](mailto:comments@qovf.org)

## Contributors

### Karen Fredrickson

Originally from Wisconsin, Karen Fredrickson now lives in northwest lower Michigan. She has been married to Charlie for 28 years. Karen's mom, mother-in-law, and brother and sister-in-law live within easy driving distance. Karen graduated from Northwestern Michigan College's Medical Assisting program and worked in that field for almost 30 years. Now retired she keeps more than busy with family and friends and the United States Marine Corps. A self described news junky, her other interests include the Green Bay Packers, NASCAR, the freighters of the Great Lakes, their pet cats, and the nature that surrounds the small towns of Wisconsin and northern Michigan. Observing the birds and animals that share Charlie and Karen's woods is a beautiful diversion from the serious side of life. You can email Karen at [karen@QOVF.org](mailto:karen@QOVF.org).



### Ellen Patton



Ellen Patton was born Buffalo, NY and grew up all over upstate New York and Columbus and Bowling Green, OH. She is a 1982 graduate of Hood

College in Frederick, MD where she earned a Bachelors of Arts in Retail Management. Married to Mark Patton, a Naval officer, she has lived in 17 different locations, had 5 children, volunteered in many wives' clubs and various military and civilian organizations. She began her own long arm business in early 2003 and has managed to keep it going as she moves from one duty station to another. For the last several years she has volunteered with Quilts of Valor. She is currently preparing for another move to the DC area this summer. You can email her at [ellen.patton@mac.com](mailto:ellen.patton@mac.com).

### Catherine Roberts

Catherine is the founder and director of the non-profit Quilts of Valor Foundation. She started it in the autumn of 2003 as a way to keep sane while her older son, Nat deployed to Iraq in the 630<sup>th</sup> MP Unit for 12 months. A native Californian, she now is moving from the East to West coast after being an easterner for more than 28 years. Catherine, Chris, her husband of 24 years, Everett second son, 20 and Tory Lynn (jack russell) will be making the trip westward within three weeks. Catherine can be reached at [cath@QOVF.org](mailto:cath@QOVF.org) or by honking as she passes by.



## Marcia Stevens



Marcia Stevens, longarm quilter, teacher, former publisher of Unlimited Possibilities Magazine, and founder of the Machine Quilters Showcase has now put her considerable legendary talents, zeal, drive and dedication into covering our war wounded. The QOV Foundation would not be what it is today without her involvement. Marica and her husband Tom live in MN and travel whenever they can. You can email her at [marcia@QOVF.org](mailto:marcia@QOVF.org).

## Le Ann Weaver

A previous quilt store owner, Le Ann now has a longarm business in Claremore, Oklahoma. She also designs and writes quilting books and patterns. Her new book, *"Loose Change: Quilts from Nickels, Dimes & Fat Quarters"* by Martingale & Co is set for October 2008 release. Le Ann, husband Scott, and their son, Mitchell live on a small acreage, enjoying the country life. You can email her at [leann@persimmonquilts.com](mailto:leann@persimmonquilts.com)



## Upcoming Projects

We have several projects in the works. One is our QOVF second generation grocery bag. It is made in New England vs China and is primarily constructed from recycled cotton.

Translation = green times 2.

This whole *smaller carbon footprint* may be new but it's actually something we have been doing for awhile by finding our local wounded. Even though our new grocery bag will cost more, it's worth every cent.

## Requesting Articles For Upcoming Newsletters

Send your article, how to to's, news to [newsletter@qovf.org](mailto:newsletter@qovf.org). If do-able, please include a "what I would have done differently" section so we all can learn from your experience.

## Mission Statement

Well? Do you know it? If not, check [here](#).