



# QUILT OF VALOR FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

QUILTING HONOR & COMFORT FOR OUR WOUNDED

June 2010

I HAD THE PERFECT DAY TODAY. It started with a visit to the Pentagon. Now if you have ever tried to park at the Pentagon, you are wondering how I thought this could be the making of the perfect day well it was like this; Catherine Roberts was in DC for a family occasion so we were off to visit the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps . After much to do that involved one discussion with a police officer, a situation with a siren (and yes it was intended for me), two “phone a friend “calls, and about 35 minutes of endless driving looking for a space, I arrived at the front of the big building where Catherine R. was waiting. We went in and Catherine quickly took over the daily briefing to discuss QOVF to the Pentagon (pictured above) The crowd loved it! We should expect many new quilters but please send cards to Catherine Roberts C/O DOD Police Dept. She should be out in a few months on good behavior.



We were able to see Sergeant Major Kent and his staff for a while and catch up on the happenings since Catherine had seen them last. We were able to make sure our quilts are going where they are needed and that there are enough. We got better points of contacts where we felt we were lacking and overall took care of everything needed. Sergeant Major Kent is an outstanding Marine, which is no surprise. He is the rock star of the Marine corp. As we were leaving he gave me the amazing honor of presenting me with one of his coins. I am so honored. It is one of my most treasured possessions (pictured left.)



Now skipping forward to the last meeting of the day; Catherine R and I

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### Statistics

*These are the latest statistics as of 05/30/2010. It is difficult to get an accurate wounded number as it is for quilts awarded.*

Total QOVs awarded 25,665  
 \*Iraq/killed (US) 4,718  
 \*Afghanistan/killed (US) 1,086  
 \*Wounded Many  
[icasualties.org](http://icasualties.org)

visited a small school in DC. It is run by our friend Anna Bernanke. We met her at the Marine Commandant's home last year when she told us of her school. Her students are very young girls (ages 5, 6, 8 and 12) that are learning how to sew and make quilts that will one day become Quilt of Valor. When we arrived we met all four but for one, we'll call her Sunshine that was so shy she reached around Ms Anna to shake our hands. We were able to sit, sew and talk with the girls for hours. They even shared their pizza with us. Sunshine learned to sew by hand and with only one mishap with the pin she did great. We loved spending time with Mrs. Bernanke and Mr. Darling they are so committed to these girls. They worked with love and commitment with every child. It is wonderful to know we have teachers that truly love our children and want the best for them.

At the end of our sewing date Sunshine gave me a string of beads as a gift. I was not comfortable taking anything from this little girl but she insisted. I later asked Anna and she told "Sunshine gave them to you we encourage the children to give of themselves." So, now I have a new necklace that I will treasure (see picture page 1.) The class ends its time in a grateful circle. We were asked to join in, how great was that!

The reason it was the perfect day is not only because I received two great gifts - both priceless and irreplaceable - but the true gift was spending the first part of my day with someone that spent his entire life serving his country and the last part of my day with someone just learning how to serve. What an Honor for me to be in their company! I had a great day!

Catherine Snyder

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S POSITION CHANGES  
OR  
ELLEN MOVES TO WARMER LANDS

My dear friend and quilter Ellen Patton is on to another adventure. As any great Military spouse does, she is taking it in stride as her husband has orders for a remote assignment to Bagdad. She is making plans to move herself and her family to another state and set up where they will have a support system to best embrace the next chapter in their book of military life.

As part of those changes Ellen will no longer act as the Deputy Director for QOVF. She will however, continue on as the destinations coordinator, quilter and longarmers for our mission. I know we will all wish her and her family a very safe and happy move to Florida. Mark, her husband, will be along with all the men and women

serving in arena, in our thoughts and prayers.

**Thank you Ellen for all your hard work** with the regional coordinators, I know they will miss the regular contact they have had with you.

To take over with in her place June Moore has agreed to step up into the role has Deputy Director. She will be working with the regional coordinators so if you have any questions please contact her at [June@QOVF.org](mailto:June@QOVF.org). You can still reach Ellen at [Ellen@QOVF.org](mailto:Ellen@QOVF.org) , she may be leaving but she isn't leaving.

Thank you both for all the work you have done and continue to do on behalf of the Men, Women and Veterans of the Armed Forces every day.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION  
GIVEN TO MOPH

Catherine Roberts and I had the pleasure of visiting the office of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation (MOPH) to award a plaque as a symbol of our gratitude for their generous grant of \$4,500.00. We were delighted to meet with James Magruder (pictured below with CR) and his staff. The grant allowed us to pay for the Pellon Batting and Superior Thread that can be used to make our QOV's.



We are very thankful to this Foundation for allowing us this grant as it helps our quilting community cut it's costs so that we can continue to cover the men and women

touched by war. We would also like to send a very special thank you to

Marcia Stevens who has spent an enormous amount of hours throughout this process to facilitate this deal for us. She and our June Moore have been working at this for months. We want to thank all of them for their hard work, generosity of spirit and time. When you see them, please give them a hug or a hand shake and say thanks.

Please also remember to send your letters of thanks for your QOV supplies so we can show the MOPH how much good their money can do when they send it to the QOVF.

You can email the letters to [cs@qovf.org](mailto:cs@qovf.org) or mail QOVF P O Box 14, Ruby, VA 22545-0014

Catherine Snyder

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Donna Dickinson  
3771 Milford Harrington Hwy  
Harrington, DE 19952

Dear Editor:

Each newsletter from QOV is read by me, cover to cover, so to speak, for suggestions and quotes, and new ideas that abound. However in the last newsletter, I was stumped by an article in which a group stated that they didn't want to use leftover fat quarters and other fabric pieces to make their "museum quality" Quilts of Valor. Let me begin by saying that I have a different philosophy - if you have fabric fat quarters that you don't want to use, my address is listed, and I would WELCOME help with the financial aspect of making QOVs. Also, some of my most beautiful QOVs have been made with fat quarter groups. I just made a Thimbleberries pattern with a Civil War group that was awesome and difficult to

send on because my husband and I loved it so much. Also, I save pieces from fabrics that I have used in bags and frequently go to these bags to make another QOV. I feel that it brings more of the soldiers and myself together because the fabrics that I have used in a QOV for one, I also use in another for another soldier, bonding us all!

Regarding quality, I believe that QOVers always strive to make the best quilt that they possibly can, but if you are not an award winning quilter...that's okay!!! I would never say that QOV's must be "museum quality"! I would say, do your best and fill the quilt with love and send it on to a deserving soldier. He or she will greatly appreciate and love it forever, because you have put your time, money and talent to good use for them as well as sending it with love!!

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Please, QOVers, continue all of your good work. Do not let the ideas of anyone color your commitment to the QOV community. You are all so special and individual. You are the best because you are showing our soldiers your level of commitment and empathy with them. You are thanking them for their service and sacrifices. Think of our history of soldiers who have gone before. My Dad was a decorated Marine pilot in WWII and proud to have served his country.

Thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,  
Donna L. Dickinson

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

### JUST AS A REMINDER...

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.

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### Registration of QOVF Groups Needed

If you are a new QOVF group or one that has met for many years, **we need you to register your information on the website under "register your group"**. 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? Your regional coordinator is there to help you. If you are not sure about who your regional coordinator is please email [June@QOVF.org](mailto:June@QOVF.org) for more information

## 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!

## MEET THE QUILTER

BARBARA WINKLER



Barbara's love of quilting began when her Southern California home needed a little sprucing up. "I wanted to decorate my home [but] had no money, so I made a quilt," Winkler says. "And I'm frugal so I had to use the leftovers."

As with many quilters, one quilt became two, which turned into a lifetime love of quilting.

"It's relaxing for me," Barbara explains. "It's fun to see the colors come together."

But for Barbara, it also became a way to help others. From her involvement in Quilts of Valor Foundation to her volunteer work with her local school district to organizing a QOVF-inspired "Make A Difference Day" once a year, Barbara uses her love of quilting to give back and help others.

Barbara creates between forty and fifty quilts a year for QOVF, all while organizing events to get quilters together.

"Everyone teases me about when I sleep as I'm usually planning another event or talk or making another quilt top," Barbara says.

This year, Barbara's dedication to organizing a QOVF "Make A Difference Day" is going beyond just her Southern California area. She's working with QOVF to get quilters in every region of the country to participate in making blocks for the troops. Created by USA WEEKEND Magazine, "Make A Difference Day" is held in partnership with Hands On Network and is supported by Newman's Own. It is a day that encourages people to volunteer, however they so choose. For Barbara, that means showing our troops that we are thinking about them.

"We need to let the military members know that we appreciate what they are doing for us, and we, as a nation, care about them," Barbara explains. "A quilt is a small token of appreciation."

*Meet the Quilter is written each month for the QOVF newsletter by Julie Leslie. If you or someone you know would like to be spotlighted in this section, please email [press@qovf.org](mailto:press@qovf.org).*

## NOTES FROM DOWNRANGE

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, women I know well, to write the Down Range columns for the June, July and August QOV newsletters. I hope that these columns will inform, educate,*

*and personalize the experiences of military families who also serve "Down Range".*

This column was written by Cheri Caiella. You can contact Cheri at [cwcjudges612@gmail.com](mailto:cwcjudges612@gmail.com)

May 19, 2010

Marines are known to be the BEST. Whenever people see a Marine dressed in his or her uniform, known as "dress blues" a pause, either physical or mental is given in admiration and respect. Marines are also known to be the "first to fight." When our son entered the United States Marine Corps, my husband, a deputy sheriff for 26 years, had what is called a TIA or a mini-stroke and was hospitalized briefly. The stress of knowing that his son was entering the Corps was a source of much pride as well as much anguish especially knowing our GREAT nation was at war. Our son's dreams were being realized and most parents I know couldn't ask for anything more for their children. Our son, turns out, had desired to be a member of the Corps since he was a small boy.

Upon graduation from boot camp @ Parris Island, our son's platoon was the Honor Platoon and he scored a perfect PFT(physical fitness test). His SDI, Senior Drill Instructor, told me, "I'd like to keep that one" meaning our son had all of the

makings of a fine Marine. No parents could be prouder of their child!! After what seemed like no time at all, our son was preparing for Iraq as a sniper in a scout-sniper platoon. Was my son really going to be sitting in the "sandbox," as Iraq was called, with only 5 other guys? Was this really happening?

Our son's deployment was considered part of what President Bush referred to as the Surge. War is never pretty, in fact, war is hell. Families get drafted into the chaos. Ten days after our son left for Iraq, our doorbell rang at 2:46 am. That is correct, that was too early in the morning to be answering the door. This time was different, as now my husband and I were terrified of the news awaiting us on the other side of our door. We raced frantically down our hallway each trying to beat the other in answering it, only to discover that it was a taxi driver who had rang the WRONG bell. It was at this point, that I realized that this would be a very long tour. There were many more sleepless, anguish filled nights as well as days. Many times, I would get the overwhelming feeling that something was wrong and that feeling would become so intense that all I could do was pray.

Technology being so advanced, I would be able to "talk" to my son via the Internet chat. We "spoke" more while he was there than when he was living at home. Whenever I would ask questions, such as, "where are you?" "have you suffered any losses?" or anything about his day-to-day life over there, he would not discuss it. The only mention of anything of any difficulty was an aborted mission that he and his team had, three of the six team members had suffered heat stroke with the temperature reaching 140`+. The mention of his heat stroke would be of importance in the future.

Soon, the moto mail, an email type mail that prints off the letters sent within 24 hours in theater, was no longer allowing letters to be sent. That meant that his unit was getting ready to

come back stateside. They left March '07 and would return the following September. Time couldn't move fast enough; normal breathing could resume. Once we knew that he was on the main base of Al Asad, Iraq, we felt as though we were home free. We had all survived this deployment. Homecoming parties could get organized and life could resume as "normal." The words, "happy" and "joy" took on new meaning!!!

Our family had reserved a lodge on Onslow Beach, about 10 minutes or so from the main base of Camp LeJeune, NC. We would be able to meet our son's fellow warriors, feed them, take care of them, and enjoy life. We felt we were ready to help our son with the transition from battlefield to home should the need arise. Little did we know!!!

Time after he came home moved quickly. The holidays were coming and we were all very excited as we would all be together. He was denied leave for Thanksgiving and offered us no explanation. To this day, we still do not know why that leave was denied. Christmas came and our son came home and with it an observation that something with our son was "amiss." He drank most days of his leave; as a matter of fact, he was "sober" about three days his entire three week leave. When he returned to Camp LeJeune, my husband and I looked at each other and decided that THAT was out of control and could not happen again. Upon his return to Camp LeJeune, we had sporadic contact with our son. Periodically, we noticed very upsetting messages being left on his facebook page and we had serious discussions as to what we should do. Should we contact his chaplain, his OIC, (officer in charge), his commander? We decided that we would let our son sort it out as he was a Marine who survived Iraq. Certainly, he could navigate through his life back at base. Our involvement may only complicate his life and leave him angry and bitter at our involvement and intervention.

There is with all of us a moment or a series of moments when the truth must be reckoned with. For our son, that day came the beginning of March 2008. He called to tell me that he was being kicked

out of the Corps, his beloved Corps. My response was a question, "So, no Iraq?" His unit was scheduled to return there in April. He became angry with me and responded, "NO!!!" I didn't care about anything else, I was relieved that he would not have to return there. Of course, the implications for our son, were guilt, shame, and anguish that his buddies would go and he would be "comfortable" at home. How would he live with himself if something happened to one of them?

The truth of the matter for our son was this, he was getting discharged with an other than honorable discharge (OTH). That discharge, in most cases, implies no VA benefits, NONE! My son explained that upon his return to base after Christmas he was urine tested, which is routine. He tested positive for drugs, specifically, cocaine. He had been confined to quarters on the weekends, half of his pay had been taken, and he was being discharged with an other than honorable. He was told by one of his commanders, that "he was a disgrace to the Corps, the country and his family." He was also told that he would "never amount to anything." All of this occurred, in spite of the fact, that he had, until this point, a spotless record with the Corps.

We were mortified. Cocaine use? Our son, prior to the Marine Corps, was an athlete; drug use did not fit into that lifestyle. My husband and I went down to be with our son the following weekend, in the hopes of getting answers and also to see what, if anything, we could do to help our son. By the time we were told all of this, it was all done. Our son's career as a US Marine was over. We were sad, angry, and confused.

Our son arrived home the following month, April 2008 as did his combat experience. He appeared to still be in combat mode mentally, while physically appearing to be the same old kid. His sister graduated from college the following month and according to her, he ruined her graduation week's activities. While the only thing we were aware of was the police call at 2am. Apparently, he became very agitated and proceeded to overturn a "few"

tables at her Senior Ball. The entire police force in this college town, showed up to quell this chaos. Our son was able to pull it together enough to tell the police that his Dad was a deputy with the Sheriff's Department and as a courtesy, a phone call was made. My husband spoke to the police officer, and to our son, which seemed to quiet the situation. Unfortunately, there were many other various episodes of this nature. The summer of 2008 was a long, arduous, debacle. We, his parents, were beginning to sense that this behavior was more than just a simple failure to transition to civilian life.

As our son was denied any care at our local VA, we turned to the Vet Center. There, we were told our son has severe chronic post traumatic stress syndrome or PTSD. There simply is no easy fix to this. For one, our son, was unwilling to talk much about any of the events in Iraq that occurred. For another, he did not have the problem, we, his parents did. We insisted that he continue going to the Vet Center, telling him he could sit there and say nothing, but going was a condition, if you will, of his living at home.

After much persistence, screaming, yelling, to get our son help, the VA called and agreed to treat our son for PTSD only. This glorious call came December 31, 2008. We would see to it that our son get to his appointments. The puts counselor assigned to our son pushed for him to get sober. She wanted to get him to that point so he could do cpt or cognitive processing therapy. He had five scheduled appointments with her. Of those he attended two. The other three that he missed, he would go out and not come home, or come home intoxicated, missing his appointments. Clearly, another approach was needed.

His Doctor was excellent. He spent a lot of time with our son, as well as meeting with us, his parents, to get a sense of what life was like with our son at home. He also spent a lot of time, educating us on what our son was going through. He began treating his depression and gave him sleep medication, which our son took sporadically. Our

daughter was telling us that our son was not only drinking, which we clearly knew, but was also using drugs. This is one of the tell tale symptoms of PTSD, one, we did not believe. We were opening our home to our son's friends. Our daughter was telling us that we were entertaining drug addicts and serious drug dealers. Again, I would love to share with you that we heeded her warnings, but we were in denial and did not.

Waking up one Saturday morning, in June 2009, I recall doing what I always do; check on each of my four children. When I checked on my son in his bedroom, he was slumped over his computer desk, fearing he was dead, I went to check. Thankfully, he was not. I began talking to him as I was trying to help him into bed. As I came closer to him, he suddenly grabbed me and began to choke me. A struggle with me at 5'4" and my 6' son ensued. I "won" in that I was miraculously able to get out of his chokehold and get him into his bed. When I told my husband what happened, he grew instantly pale at the thought of what could have happened. We took our son the VA emergency room as it was clear that our son was in serious trouble and we needed to intervene or else. The VA did a series of tests and found that he had cocaine in his system. Our denial was shattered, reality sunk in. Our son had lived through a difficult combat tour and we were determined that he would not die in our house, not on our watch. My husband and I truly kept a close eye on our son. He needed to get clean and he needed more intense treatment.

Getting clean was a chore but our son did it. Once clean, some other symptoms surfaced. His speech at times was slow. He struggled to focus and comprehend conversations and his memory was a "bit" tattered. He seemed to have difficulty processing life. I became terrified. Was this the reason he was drinking and using. He was vaguely aware that he had become different, was this his way of coping or masking that? I began calling the VA and asked for a traumatic brain injury (TBI) evaluation. As he received an OTH discharge, and was only allowed puts treatment and evaluation, they told me that they couldn't do the evaluation. I screamed

that we needed to eliminate the possibility that there was a TBI, still the answer was no. I informed them that that was not an acceptable answer and that this was my son and they would be hearing from me.

I contacted another Marine mom whose son was severely wounded in Iraq and explained what was happening to my son. She went into action, calling her Federal Recovery Coordinator or FRC. Karen, the FRC and I talked and I explained what was happening and within 24 hours, she agreed to manage our son's care and she also sent our son's case to the Commander of the Wounded Warrior Regiment, WWR in Quantico. The Commander agreed to assign our son a DISC or District Injured Support Cell. I wondered what possible good could come from the WWR?

Our son and our family were in crisis. Crisis is made worse by isolation. As we live in an area that is fairly untouched by war, we were isolated in a sense. As I say, we couldn't go to church and explain that I got into a struggle with my son who was choking me yesterday, or that my doorbell rang at 2:45 this morning, because truly very few people understand, thus the isolation continued to grow as did our crisis. The stress was not only harming our family but causing our son's puts symptoms to grow worse. The WWR stepped in. Marines adapt and overcome. The DISC assigned to our son spoke to him, Marine to Marine. He encouraged our son to stay engaged in his puts treatment and one other thing he noted; he was fairly sure our son had a mild tbi. I explained that we had asked for a tbi evaluation and it was denied. The WWR went to work setting us up with an evaluation at the Defense Brain Injury Center in Johnstown, PA. Our son was scheduled for two days of testing. The testing began @ 8:30 and ended at 4:30 the first day, the second day, the testing began @ 8:00 and ended at 5:30. Meeting us the first day of testing was a Marine from the WWR as well as a nurse with the Navy Marine Corp Relief Society, NMCRS. They came to encourage, motivate and support us on this journey that we had now

entered. They interfaced with the Doctor and reminded all of us that we would not be alone!!

The Doctor's preliminary findings were that our son did have a mild TBI. The Doctor was able to get from our son that he had been in very close proximity to bomb or IED blasts, and VBIEDS, vehicle bombs. On a mission, our son fell down a 10' -15' cliff falling on his head. Plus, he suffered heat stroke in which he came very close to dying. That was the aborted mission, in which three of the six members became ill. All of these events, contributed to his TBI. On our six-hour drive home through snow that decided to fall in October, my husband and I had much to think about. Although the news was a burden, it was also a relief as we had confirmation to our suspicions.

Today, the WWR and the nurse, Rochelle, of the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) continue to offer support, direction and motivation. Our DISC is very busy with his caseload but makes himself available. He has made many contacts of people and programs that are available to help with transitioning from Marine to civilian life. **The WWR has a hotline that is manned 24/7 and can be reached at 1-877-4USMCWW (1-877-487-6299)** The WWR has assigned our son a social worker, who also is available for questions or information on cutting edge research as well as support. In fact, there are over 300 professionals affiliated with the WWR. This network has been of tremendous help to us.

Rochelle of the NMCRS offers support, and is available to answer questions regarding medical treatments, etc. It is nothing for Rochelle, who is married to a Marine, to go to an area where a Marine is in need of help. Her goal is to get that Marine or former Marine motivated to accept the help that is available in his or her area.

So while our son never set foot in a hospital and was discharged with an other than honorable discharge, both organizations, the WWR and the NMCRS, came alongside our family and son to

make available all of the resources at their disposal. Both, the WWR (<http://www.woundedwarriorregiment.org/>) and the NMCRS (<http://www.nmcrs.org/>) are in need of donations to enable them to continue their work. The current economy has effected all of us in serious ways, however, if America truly means it when they say, we "Support the Troops," a donation to one of these organizations, of any amount could truly help a Marine, former Marine and his or her family!

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For more information on PTSD please visit: The US Department of Veteran Affairs' website <http://www.ptsd.va.gov/>

Left untreated, PTSD only becomes more ingrained and less responsive to treatment. Failed

relationships, career and employment problems, substance abuse, depression, suicide, homicide and other acts of violence can be the end result of untreated PTSD.

There are good treatments available for PTSD. Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) appears to be the most effective type of counseling for PTSD. There are different types of cognitive behavioral therapies such as cognitive therapy and exposure therapy. A similar kind of therapy called EMDR, or eye movement desensitization and reprocessing, is also used for PTSD. Medications can be effective too. A type of drug known as a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI), which is also used for depression, is effective for PTSD.

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### UPDATES & CORRECTIONS

On May 17th a group email went out with the following information:

Jan Bradley from the Lamia Afghan Foundation, has forwarded this request: Marines are in need of Baby Wipes as the summer heats up They are on long patrols with no showers, so they depend on baby wipes. Please pick up some baby wipes next time you are in the grocery. You can send them in a flat rate box to:

LCDR Paul L. Smith Chaplain, 1st MLG(FWD)  
Unit 42175  
FPO, AP 96427-2175

Please note, that although baby wipes are still needed, they must be alcohol free variety, or they are being refused at the post office.

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In the May 2010 Newsletter, the caption under the photo in the Machine Quilting Expo story should read Rhode Island Governor *Donald Carcieri*.



## Quilts of Valor Across America “From the West”

**REGION ONE**  
CALIFORNIA, NEVADA, UTAH & ARIZONA  
SUZANNE WADE, COORDINATOR

VALLEY QUILTERS AND THE INLAND EMPIRE  
QUILTING ANGELS MAN BOOTH  
AT QUILT SHOW



Arranging to have a QOV Booth at the quilt show at the last minute was not an easy task, however, we managed to display 12 QOV's in the halls on the walls and in the booth. We also had an Army Recruiter present which brought some traffic into the booth area. Many ladies assisted in the creation of signature blocks for future quilts (196 were made and signed over the two days). We took the business card sized messages and had them enlarged and placed them on easels – which also brought in traffic. The Army Recruiter got a fine lesson on quilting and appliqué and was presented with a QOV. We also presented QOV's to WWII and Vietnam War vets.

INLAND EMPIRE QUILTING ANGELS PROVIDE  
MONTHLY SUPPLY OF QUILTS

The Inland Empire Quilting Angels, which consists of members from two of the local guilds, have pledged to provide Mike Sloan with a monthly supply of six to eight quilts. Mike has graciously ‘met us half way’ to pick up the quilts for April. The Quilting Angels are working diligently on creating the batch for May with two completed, three having the binding put on and three more in the hands of the local long armers and many more as quilts in process.

The Foundation has provided a wonderful model of cooperation between quilt toppers and long armers. This model has been transplanted to this small community of quilters.



Suzanne Wade  
Region One Coordinator  
[reg1@qovf.org](mailto:reg1@qovf.org)

## QUILTS OF VALOR IN UTAH

Quilts of Valor in Utah is making its presence known here with a booth at HMQS (Home Machine Quilt Show) in Salt Lake City. Its 7<sup>th</sup> annual



show (Theme – Every Quilt has a Story) was bigger and better than before having attendance up 25 %. Over 5 thousand people attended from Utah and the surrounding states. A few from other countries, such as Germany, Australia and Israel. I was pleased at the turn out at the Quilts of Valor Booth and received 3 quilt tops. (I have 1 quilted already) I was thrilled to tell my story over and over again and explain to other the importance about getting involved. It was hard for me to walk away at the end of the day or when my other volunteers would come to help out and give me a break. I entered one of my Quilts of Valor in this year show, Just because I felt it had a strong message of words about a military family.



The following week I was invited back up to our New George E Wahlen VA Nursing home in Ogden to hand out some of the 120 quilts I delivered at the beginning of the year. <http://veterans.utah.gov/nursingHome/ogden/index.html> I hand out 63 QOV's and was very touch by the staff that assisted in my presentations to the many veterans. Many of the veterans cried ( which got me crying) or wanted to pay me for their quilts. I would have to explain the these are gift from a grateful nation and people who care enough to make and send the very best for them.

Next week, I'm out to present 3 QOV's to Hill AFB for their support with Airman Readiness Center, Air Force Sergeants Association and the base chaplain's office, and work on the other 2 tops I received.

Diane Jaeger, Retired USAF MSgt

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## QUILTS OF VALOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Well, where do I start? It's been busy here in Southern California. Last year we actually presented 366 quilts (one a day and one extra for good measure). A few were sent out by special requests; we filled Long Beach VA, and West LA. In Sept we went to Sepulveda VA Welcome Home ceremony and got to let the recipients choose the

quilt they wanted. We filled in the label and got photos with each family (about 50 were presented). Every year, we typically have three major quilt shows where we have a booth donated. Road to Ca in Ontario is in Jan, Long Beach International in July (editor's note: Ms. Winkler will not be attending the Long Beach show this year), and the San Diego show in Sept. It's nice to meet our supporters in person at these shows. Last month

at Road, an acquaintance of mine from San Diego looked me up, and introduced me to her friend, who proceeded to tell me that a family member had received one of OUR quilts last year at Ft Irwin. (We had sent 21 to them last Nov.)

We also have a one-day event at the San Diego County Fair at Del Mar. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, anyone who brings in a 12 1/2" pieced or appliquéd quilt block gets into the fair for free and we judge the blocks. Ribbons are awarded to 5 places in each category with cash to the grand prizewinner, and at the end of the show, we get the blocks to put into quilts for our veterans.

There is a great shop, SewVac Ltd, in Long Beach that lets us use their classroom weekly for volunteers to come and help out. They also provide sewing machines at the local high schools for the students to earn their service learning hours required for graduation. (40 Hours of community service). We have a core-group of about 9 gals and several who come in once in a while including a male veteran. We have one gal who turned 85 last month and makes the tops at home, then brings them to us for the backs and quilting. Since Aug 08 she has made almost 50 quilts!!

I also signed us up to partner with Disney for their "Give a day, get a day". So far we have almost 200 people registered to help. Our first 11 came to our high school sew-in Jan 23. One of the boys who pieced his quilt, sewed his backing, and then learned to make a pillowcase said to me, "Now I know what to do for Valentine's Day." How Sweet is that?



We had 4 new people come to our Thursday sew-in and they returned again last week. On Fri, I took 2 quilts to a gal to machine quilt, and she returned them on Mon! She is a teacher and the students plan to draw pictures and write messages on fabric I have prepared for them.

We now have several shops who do annual sew days. Thank goodness, we also have quilters who make blocks for us to use with the high school students. Several guilds support us with blocks (too bad they aren't the guilds I belong to!) Since the students don't have home economics in school, this is usually their first exposure to sewing, but they can handle sewing blocks together to assemble into tops. They get to choose the layout for their blocks, sew on the borders, choose and piece the backing fabric and make a pillowcase. Boys, girls and parents alike seem to enjoy the events. We even get the fire dept to bring their BBQ wagon and prepare hot dogs for everyone.

Barbara Winkler

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#### FACEBOOK'S FULL OF SURPRISES

While I am not a big fan of Facebook, I do like to send and receive pictures from family & friends. I was surprised recently to receive this message from a perfect stranger and have the exchange you are about to read.

(Message from) Citlali Hernandez April 27 at 10:08pm:

*Hi I'm sorry to bother you but I was wondering if you in are in the "quilts of Valor" program?*

Carolyn Froning (reply) April 28 at 10:34pm:  
Yes, I am.

Citlali Hernandez April 28 at 11:08pm:

*I just wanted to thank you for the quilt you made for my husband. it is so beautiful and we appreciate your work. You have no idea how much that means to my husband and I that you took your time to make something as beautiful as the quilt. Again thank you so much. May God bless you and your family.*

I guess that she saw my name on the label and did a search on Facebook. It is such a positive rein-

forcement to keep going in making the QOVs, just had to share. Hope it will keep other quiltmakers going also.

My goal this year is one per month. I am only one month behind right now ;-)

Carolyn Froning  
Brea, California

**REGION TWO**  
WASHINGTON, OREGON, ALASKA  
LORI KUTCH, COORDINATOR

#### FINDING THE "PERFECT" QOV

In October my husband and I were visiting friends in Vancouver Island. My friend is a quilter and had about a hundred quilting magazines that I stacked beside our bed. Each night I paged through as many as I could before dropping off to sleep. When I saw Mabeth Oxenreider's "On Eagle's Wings" featured in the October 2002 issue of American Patchwork & Quilting magazine I knew it was the perfect QOV. The quilt was Mabeth's response to Midwest Living magazine's "Peace Quilt" call. A photograph of an antique quilt inspired Mabeth who included the olive branches as a sign of peace for this event.

Mabeth and her husband live in Carlisle, Iowa, where she shares her love of quilting by teaching it. Her original finished quilt measured 32" x 37". Other than enlarging the pattern it to meet QOV standards, I pretty much followed Mabeth's pattern and had it finished to send to Colorado for the Warrior Games.

There is another thing I do that I would like to share. Instead of making a presentation case for each QOV I use the left over patriotic scraps to make a quilted tote bag. I have gotten many favorable comments from the POC people about the

totes as well as the recipients. It gives the recipients another homemade gift...or a gift that sometimes goes to the spouse, so I have heard.



Just recently I have started including a small gift for the POC person too, as they are such an integral part of this mission to cover our war wounded.

Sue McGartland,  
A QOVER living full-time in her RV, traveling the roads of the US

**REGION FOUR**  
 TEXAS, OKLAHOMA,  
 NEW MEXICO, COLORADO  
 CYNTHIA CHAFFEE, COORDINATOR

**FOURTH GRADE QOVERS, MAKING A  
 DIFFERENCE**



We delivered this quilt to Major Rob Pickel at Brooke AMC. My son's 4th grade class at Coker



Elementary in San Antonio, TX, all signed a square along with their teacher, Mrs. Shelton and the school principal, Mrs. Lecoche. Each student also wrote a note which was made into a book and given to Major Pickel. 5 of the students from class delivered the quilt on a Saturday afternoon (pictured above.)

Robin Trombetta  
 San Antonio, TX 78232



*Quilts of Valor Across America*  
*"From the Center"*

**REGION SIX**  
 WISCONSIN, ILLINOIS, MINNESOTA,  
 INDIANA, OHIO, KENTUCKY, MICHIGAN  
 DEB & DUANE GRANGER, COORDINATORS

**QUILTS OF VALOR MARATHON 2010**

Have you ever had something tugging at your heart but really did not know where to start or even how to begin the process of fulfilling a dream? I want to share a little bit about my sister's and I who are just ordinary women like so many of

us are. My sister April works full-time for a doctor in the Metro East Area here in Illinois, and my sister Rhonda is a fulltime longarm quilter just on the other side of town where I live in Aviston, Illinois. Me? I have recently retired within the past two years as a Data Entry Supervisor at the County Court House, and now I am lucky enough to Longarm for customers also.

We have this wonderful blessing of sharing our ideas in making quilts and working together. When this happens we come together for a purpose of being as one, "Sister's Joy"! And WOW! Has there been joy! We have always had a place in

our hearts for our military men and women in America. Rhonda and I both have husbands who are veterans and in the past we have made quilts for the wounded soldiers. Now we hope to be able to help quilters and longarmers come together and remember those who are in harms way. You know it is the least we can do to thank our soldiers who have to live with injuries the rest of their lives. Their love and strong belief in what we stand for and their dedication is why our soldiers stand up and fight for our beloved Country! I pray God will continue to bless us as we continue to call on Him.

So, to begin the process, I decided to email the source, Quilts of Valor Foundation! I explained what my thoughts were for having a "Quilts of Valor Marathon"! I thought to myself. "They will not pay any attention or respond to my idea." I just figured my sisters and I would have to do this on our own and go for it. I asked Catherine Roberts, founder of the QOV, if this would be a feasible event to take place in September. A few days later I received a wonderful email telling me, YES! That this was a great idea, and the Foundation would totally support us! Wow! I read that email again and again and said to my self! Oh! No! They answered! And then I did a HAPPY DANCE!!! I called my sister Rhonda and she was speechless. We were in disbelief. And so very excited. Can't you just imagine two middle-aged women acting like squealing teenage girls? No, don't picture it! I told my sister April in the evening and of course she too was excited.

From there everything has fallen into place. We then decided we needed a building. We drove around in our area and went into the Drury Inn & Suites Hotel in O'Fallon, Illinois and spoke to the assistant hotel manager. We asked if there was a large meeting room we could look at for a September event. While talking to her we explained why we were searching for a place and we would like to know what it would cost to rent the room for the event. Of course the room is expensive for a three-day Marathon. We did not have money for this but I knew in my heart we were just going to have to find a way to do it.

Come to find out the hotel supports our military troops. Scott Air Force Base is very close to us and we were in hopes of taking some of the completed quilts to the Base. The QOV Foundation will distribute some of the quilts also. The hotel has graciously donated the large meeting room for the 3-Day Marathon! **Kick Off Party** begins at the hotel **September 9, 10 & 11, 2010.**

We had another big surprise, Gammill Quilting Systems in West Plains, Missouri has opened their show room for the **Continued Party** at their place, **September 16, 17 & 18 2010** for all longarmers to come together and quilt the pieced tops completed from the previous weekend.

Oh! And there is a raffle quilt for workers appreciation. That's another story....The batting for the quilt was donated by The Legacy Premier Quilt Batting Company. That donation had me in tears. Ask me and I will tell you the story.

We did not get a break the first go around for printing of our flyers but the second time my sister, Rhonda, went to a different printing company because we still had several hundred more flyers to be printed. Yes, we were blessed one more time. Office Max of Fairview Heights, Illinois gave us half-off the printing.

I have to mention, the QOV Foundation has been marvelous! The Regional Coordinators, Deb and Duane Granger of our area have been our guiding light! *Hats off to all of you at the QOVF for giving us your support!*

**Please come and join the fun! Fulfill the dream to help pay tribute to the men and women who fight for our freedom each and every day.** It would be an honor if you were to come and help complete our goal of 100 quilts for the celebration to our soldiers!!! **Don't miss it!!**

**More details at:** [Amazing Graceful Stitches](#)

Suzie Haas

## QUILTS OF VALOR - SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

We are “sew” delighted to be able to talk about the progress we are making in Southeastern Wisconsin getting out the word about QOV!



We now have a group of quilters who meet monthly to create Quilts of Valor. Jeanie Rudich, owner of Ye Olde Schoolhouse Quilts in Cedarburg, WI, opened her heart and her classroom to QOV. We meet the 4th Saturday of each month for a day of sewing, eating, socializing, more sewing (or was that eating?) Attendance ranges from four to 18, and our day flies by. In addition to piecers, we also have two prolific LAQs in our group, so there are finished quilts each month - which immediately go out to Veterans. A recent quilter thought to have her quilt appraised before donating it to QOV. We have been told that this is a “soft market” for quilts, yet her quilt was appraised at \$1,000!! The appraisal was included with her letter, and the quilt was presented to a Vietnam Veteran.

In addition to our monthly QOV group, Ye Olde Schoolhouse Quilts also hosts a Quilting Football League (QFL) team - the Bobbin' Robins. (<http://www.quiltingfootballleague.com>).

Our May QFL project is to create 12” star blocks in patriotic colors. Those will then be handed over to Dick to layout into as many quilt tops as possible. I made two stars which led to seven more... add in a couple of blocks donated by a Marine Mom in Utah, and we’ve got another top! In June our project will be pillowcases for the 1 Million

Pillowcases Challenge -- all to be done in patriotic colors and donated to QOV for presentation cases!

Last week Dick & I were at the Nancy’s Notions Sewing Expo in Beaver Dam, WI. As we were walking down a hallway on our way out, a woman looked at Dick and said “hey - you’re the Quilts of Valor guy!” She had attended a QOV presentation we did at the Wandering Foot Quilt Guild in South Milwaukee in March!

Next week we will again have a QOV display at the annual Quilts & Fiber Arts University at the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Fiber Arts in Cedarburg. We are working to build an on-going relationship with the Museum.



We have connected with Dry Hootch (<http://dryhootch.org>). When their new facility opens on the East side of Milwaukee we will supply them with Quilts of Valor to present to the service members and Veterans who use their facility.

Let us know if you will be coming to Milwaukee for the Milwaukee Machine Quilting Show August 3rd - 7th. (<http://www.mmqshow.com>). We will have a booth at the show and need additional volunteers to help tell the QOV story.

Piece,  
Tink & Dick Linhart

FORT KNOX OR BUST  
EXCERPTS FROM THE QOV MISSION BLOG

Our Joint mission – Fergus Falls QOV, Perham QOV and St. James QOV - was to complete 400 quilts from Feb-June 2010 to be taken to Ft. Knox in Kentucky to be distributed to qualifying soldiers. With the help of many willing hands and lots of support, our goal was met!

Some information for you. The soldiers in the units that we visited were Army Reserves and Guard members. They were at Ft Knox in the Warrior Transition Unit. This is where they receive medical care waiting for surgery, recovering from surgery, or are waiting to deploy or go home. I talked to one Soldier that would be there for a year, he needed back surgery and then had to recover.

Once we got to Ft. Knox, and our bus was unloaded of its 610 quilts, we were given a tour of the 2 companies and explained the services that were available there. Being Soldiers, in order to qualify for pay, they have to be in active duty, in school or in training of some sort. These men and women are not sitting around feeling sorry for themselves. They are working to get healthy so they can “do what they do”. They also receive financial counseling, help in learning how to write a resume with their military experiences added in as skills, and of course schooling. There were numerous other services that they could take advantage of, these services were also available to their families back home. Our technology is so wonderful.



After the tour, Soldiers were presented with a Quilt and a pillowcase, along with a hand written card. Each quilt had a label that was personalized with the soldier's name and date.

Many times, the Soldier would take his or her quilt and leave and later return with a friend, wanting to make sure that they receive one. One gal told of helping a Soldier pick out his quilt and chatting with him while doing so. She said she got teary when she presented it to him. He told her that he was going to go to his room and there he would shed his tears. There were stories of men and women on 3rd and 4th tours. Stories and pictures of wives and children at home. I found it very in-

teresting that when asked it seemed like the majority had Military experience for several generations in there families. To have lived seeing the sacrifices made in your family and then to decide to make the same sacrifices in your life is both generous and heroic. They are the kind of people that see a need and step up without waiting to see if someone else will first. It was a wonderful experience that none of us will soon forget.

On the road trip both there and back, we met interesting people and had constant opportunities to talk about Quilts of Valor. At one stop, a gal came up and was looking at the quilts, she had a little boy with her and a husband close by. The husband, the Soldier, stood back with a baby that didn't stay in his arms for long with so many grandmas around. As I chatted with his wife about the quilts, I asked her how she was doing. A simple question. She looked at me and the tears started. She said her husband had been in the service for 8 years and she thought that this was the first time in 8 years that she had been asked. A hug was in order! We need to take care of our Soldiers' families so they can take care of themselves while their loved ones are gone.

At another stop, an officer told us that both he and his brother came home before their unit from Afghanistan and so his father picked them up at the Airport. There was no welcome home ceremony to greet them. He said that the quilts were a lasting sign of Welcome and Thanks. He also felt that as a lasting symbol, they would help with the closure of returning to a different life. Let's pray that that is the case.

We also had a wonderful stroke of luck meeting Justin Hancock who generously donated 4 boxes of fabric to be used for QOVs. Thank You Justin, Thank You Hancock family!!

At home, we were welcomed by our loved ones, and now it is back to reality for us. Clothes to wash and things to put away, jobs to go to, but I believe we are all different people because of this trip. We knew what we were doing was important, but now **we have seen for ourselves the difference a quilt and a note can make to a hurting Soldier.** Their faces and stories will stay with us, to inspire us in our day to day lives.

Please visit: [govmission.blogspot.com](http://govmission.blogspot.com) for more stories and pictures from this trip

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**REGION SEVEN**  
MISSOURI, ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA,  
MISSISSIPPI

**THE MISSOURI PROJECT**

Are you a resident near or in Missouri and love to make Quilts of Valor? We have an **important event coming in the state of Missouri** so please sign up as a group or individual as soon as possible to be part of this wonderful event. We cannot plan if we do not know where you are.

**Please sign up** on [QOVF.org](http://QOVF.org) and/or drop us an email at [cs@QOVF.org](mailto:cs@QOVF.org)





## *Quilts of Valor Across America*

### *"From the East"*

#### REGION EIGHT

FLORIDA, GEORGIA, ALABAMA,  
TENNESSEE, SOUTH CAROLINA, NORTH  
CAROLINA, PUERTO RICO, VIRGIN ISLANDS  
KATE & JOHN MEYERS, COORDINATORS

#### MIAMI VA MEDICAL CENTER EVENT GOLD COAST QUILTERS

Nine of our guild members were fortunate to be able to attend a special event at the Miami VA Medical Center on Jan. 14th. At the Fifth Annual Wounded Warrior Soldier Ride a ceremony was held to honor the veterans who were participating in the bicycle ride from Miami to Key West. A highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the Quilts of Valor. Each of the guild members personally presented the QOVs to the vets along with our thank you messages for their service and sacrifice. All of the Wounded Warriors who were there that day are shining examples of men and women who have experienced physical/psychological trauma while serving their country and have overcome obstacles with much courage. We wish all of our members could have been there to thank these outstanding veterans. Their smiles and hugs as they received their Quilts of Valor told us that the work we do in making these special quilts is much appreciated.

We pass their thanks on to you, the dedicated members who have generously donated their efforts to this worthy project.

We delivered 43 quilts to the VA in January, 14 in March, and 24 in May. But many more are still needed.. A QOV workshop will be held on Saturday, July 31st, at the Boca Community Center.

We're looking forward to making more beautiful quilts for our vets! It is wonderful to see the continued participation among our guild members.

Other exciting news:

We would like to share some exciting news! Last October, Jane and Sue prepared a grant proposal and submitted it to the National Quilting Association (NQA.) In it, we requested a grant for funds that would cover the costs of batting for Quilts of Valor for 2010. The NQA deemed our project a worthwhile cause and awarded the QOV committee a grant in the amount of \$1,000. The NQA Grant Program is funded through the proceeds of their Little Quilt Auction held each year in conjunction with their annual quilt show.

Carol Stoltenberg has created two very moving You-Tube videos of the 2009 and 2010 Wounded Warrior/Soldier Ride events in which our Quilts of Valor were presented to veterans. To view them, click here: <http://www.youtube.com/TheGCQG> Select SoldierRide 2010.wmv for this year's ceremony and SoldierRide2009 for the previous year's ceremony.

With the work we are doing, we are trying to tell all who have served, that their sacrifice is being recognized. We hope the vets feel the love and caring of the quilters as they hold their quilts, read the labels and the notes.

Jane Gavlick and Sue Glasnapp,  
QOV co-chairmen for The Gold Coast Quilters  
Guild in Boca Raton, FL.

## QOV EXHIBIT PENSACOLA FLORIDA

The University of West Florida (Pensacola) teamed with Naval Hospital-Pensacola for its 3rd annual Deployment Health & Wellness Symposium on May 6/7. They also had a very nice exhibit area for nonprofit groups working with the military. For the second year, I had an exhibit for Quilts of Valor, including my most recent Navy theme QOV. Attendees came from all over the country and many came by to talk and learn about QOV and how they could request quilts.

Roberta Speh ([roberta@qovf.org](mailto:roberta@qovf.org))



### REGION NINE

VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA, NEW JERSEY  
PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND

#### TIDEWATER QUILTERS GUILD

Tidewater Quilters Guild members Mary Lynn Slough and Aunt Pitty-Pat (AKA Sue Troyan) traveled April 6 to Heathsville on Virginia's historic Northern Neck to share the QOVs story with the members of the Tavern Quilt Guild of Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern.

The Tavern Quilt Guild's program chairwoman, Gail Griffith's Army Ranger grandson received a QOV at Landstuhl, Germany after sustaining combat wounds in Afghanistan, and through the label on the back of the quilt she traced it to The Tidewater Quilters Guild.

Mary Lynn and Aunt Pitty-Pat's presentation traced their guild's five-year participation in the QOVs program, as well provided an historic perspective of soldier/comfort quilt making through

the ages from Civil War times to the present.

Their presentation concluded with a trunk show of QOVs that within a few days were on their way to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's ICU for



Mary Lynn Slough, Gail Griffith, Sue Troyan

presentation to wounded warriors.

Mary Lynn Slough

757-474-0802

Tidewater Quilters Guild QOVs Coordinator

Wartime Quilter

"Still at War, Still Quilting...One Quilt at a Time"

## MOTHER SETON QUILTING ANGELS GERMANTOWN, MARYLAND

After not meeting for several weeks, the group has met for the last 4 out of 5 Saturdays. We have had good turnouts for all of the Saturdays and continue to work toward our set goals for the number of quilts we hope to accomplish this year. We have all of our quilts blessed before they are distributed and are hoping to schedule a blessing before summer.

Our longarmers are continuing their work and we have a large number of quilts to come back to the group for binding.

Our local flea market started back up and some of our members spent several hours sitting in the hot sun. We get many donations of fabric. Some is not suitable for quilts so we put that fabric up for sale at the flea market, which helps us, buy more quilting supplies like batting.

At last Saturday's meeting we had a special surprise visitor. Catherine Snyder, the director of QOV dropped by to see what we were all about and offer her support. It was so exciting to have her come and visit our group. We also got to touch a quilt made by 92-year-old Vet Al Lind. You may have seen the video about him on the web. Catherine and her husband braved the DC traffic to visit. It was great to meet her.



She had great news about special "deals" we can get at as an official QOV group through Pellon and Superior threads. As a group we are always looking for ways to get supplies so this was exciting news.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Spillet

## TRIBUTE TO NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

The Quilts of Valor Foundation was pleased to partner with the USO to provide a few quilts for veterans at an event in Washington, DC. The Celebration of America's Heritage was hosted by Madeleine and T. Boone Pickens at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

The evening included a special tribute in honor of America's service veterans, especially those of Native American descent. Both military and Native American color guards participated in the Presentation of the Colors accompanied by the United States Navy Band. A live Eagle was present for the singing of the National Anthem, and seven wild Mustangs were presented outside of the museum.

A few members of Mother Seton Quilting Angels volunteered to make a special quilt for the event on very short notice. Thanks to Jeff and Kathy Thorne, Sue Moats and Deb Tiefenthaler.

The quilts were handed to Mr. T. Boone Pickens prior to the event on behalf of the QOVF and USO to be awarded personally to deserving veterans.

It was such an honor to be present with great veterans and also many retired military working dogs, and to witness firsthand the passion of Mrs. Pickens at this wonderful event.

To read more please visit: [The Celebration of American Heritage](#)

Catherine Synder

**REGION TEN**  
 NEW YORK, CONNECTICUT,  
 MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND, NEW  
 HAMPSHIRE, VERMONT, MAINE  
 BARBARA CHOJNACKI, COORDINATOR

What a beautiful spring we are having!

I am sending along one photo of wounded veteran, David Gillis of Dexter, Maine. He was blinded by a gunshot wound to the head, but manages to live independently in his own home. He is seen receiving one of our quilts made by Barbara Campbell of the Monday Morning Quilters. The quilt is being presented by the Commander of the Dexter VFW.

We also sent two quilts to the Warrior Games and one to an army nurse in Iraq who has ties to our town.



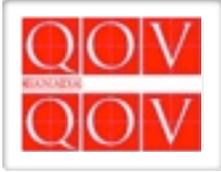
We were asked to hang one of our quilts of valor in a local physicians office as a way to raise awareness among the public.

At our quilt show in August, we will have about 15 quilts, which will be ready for quilts of valor. We will be making a special display again this year. The public was very generous last year and donated enough money to ship all the quilts we had made. I like to find ways to get the local people involved, and spread the word about the program.

Keep up the great work.

--

Joline Frazier



## *Quilts of Valour* *Canada*

Our mission is to ensure that our injured Canadian soldiers are recognized for their bravery, commitment and their true patriotism to our country

We give support through the presentation of Quilts of Valour for our military service people.

<http://www.quiltsofvalour.ca>

[QoV@QuiltsOfValour.ca](mailto:QoV@QuiltsOfValour.ca)

*Lezley Zwaal*  
*Founder*  
*Quilts of Valour - Canada*



## *Quilts of Valour* *United Kingdom*

January 26, 2010 saw the first anniversary of the initial award of a Quilt of Valour in the UK.

Since January 2009, QOVs have been awarded to 218 British soldiers. The 26th January 2010 coincided with the 200th QOV being awarded.

There has been an enthusiastic response from the Regimental Welfare Officers who have been keen to nominate casualties from their ranks for the awards.

There are indications that the number of UK quilters making QOVs is set to grow, and I hope 2010 will enable us to address what is a significant backlog of British soldiers who deserve QOVs.

Best Wishes,  
*Jean Morris*  
QOV - UK

## Podcasts

**Do you have a story to tell to our QOV community? If you do, please contact Catherine Roberts to arrange an interview.**

### QOV Foundation Podcast-Alycia's Boys

In this podcast, I interview 3 boys ranging from 8-14 years old....Colby, Kordel and Jake. They have been making QOVs with their mom, Alycia for 4 years at their school in CO. As I edited the interview, I was fascinated by what they had to say and how their answers seemed perfect for their age.

I hope that you get as inspired and motivated as I did listening to these young boys describe making and awarding their very own QOVs to soldiers at Ft. Carson and then WWII veterans.

### QOV Podcast Interview with Steve Wilson

Steve Wilson is retired Army. He now works in the eastern Pennsylvania VAMC as a patient transition advocate. He talks about his background, his warrior patients and how working as a Point of Contact (POC) for Quilts of Valor has impacted warriors, families and his work.

### QOV Podcast Interview with MB of Thangles

I have the pleasure of interviewing MB of Thangles. If you don't know what Thangles are, stay tuned. They are sold worldwide and have made sewing half-square triangles easy as pie. MB has also created a QOV pattern using Thangles which you can find on our site or hers.

### QOV Podcast Interview with Rev Liz Wold

Join me for my interview with Rev Liz Wold. She is an interfaith minister, chaplain, red cross volunteer and most importantly, a Gold and Blue star aunt. You will be uplifted and inspired by her. You will also feel your heartstrings being tugged.

View Catherine Roberts' Podcasts at:  
<http://quiltsofvalor.libsyn.com/>

## Newsletter

Send your articles to [newsletter@qovf.org](mailto:newsletter@qovf.org) by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's edition (submit by May 20 for June 1st publication.)

We welcome any comments, suggestions, etc. to [newsletter@qovf.org](mailto:newsletter@qovf.org).

## Mission Statement

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



## QOVF Website

Please be patient while we get our new website up and running.



**Video Corner**

**Al Lind Demonstrates How He Makes Quilt Blocks for Quilts of Valor**



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejQgDc-FYz4>

**QOVF Videocast Interview With Bobby Woods, Director Neil Ash USO, San Diego & Ret. USMC**



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_roQGIQfbtM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_roQGIQfbtM)

**Interview With Quilts of Valor's Point of Contact, Mike Sloan VP/Co-Founder American Combat Veterans of War**



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZpGY68N-Fw>

**QOV Unveiling Ceremony With Ross Chitwood at the Houston Quilt Festival October 2009**



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onYJfAOdy9o>