

Aspirations of "C-Span Hood"

May 2006 QOV Newsletter

I don't know about you but I need constant reminders that we are still at war.

In our house, we don't have cable tv. My husband has a bumper sticker that has been on his Mazda pickup truck for close to ten years that says "Kill Your Television". I could easily be a TV Junkie. I grew up on Mexican novelas and Guiding Light as a steady tv diet. When the kids were young, my husband kept saying "TV rots your brain". I resisted cancelling our cable tv connection until one fine day in Bermuda. We were walking the side streets in Hamilton and happened upon a neighborhood local shop, sort of like the old Dime Stores. I struck up a conversation with the two Bermudian women who were about my age. We eventually talked about the "youth". I asked how their youth was and did I get an earful. The drug scene was just happening along with elements of the 'disfranchised' youth. Both women said that it was the introduction of American TV that set the stage for the dramatic change in their youth. No longer could they slap their kid's mouths for being sassy or give them some of the punishments they had received. If they did, the kids would say they were going to report them to the Social Workers at school. On the flight back to the States, I told my husband I was in favor of cancelling our cable tv. He couldn't believe his ears.

So for the last ten years, we have had rabbit ear TV...which boils down to getting our local PBS, ABC and CBS stations. But one station I had become familiar and fond of was CSPAN. Why? Because they simply presented the information and let you, the viewing public, make up your own mind.

What does this have to do with the QOV Foundation? Plenty. It's about presenting factual information and letting you come to your own conclusions instead of being spoon fed. Please allow me to elaborate.

A couple of months ago, some people emailed me saying my group was "anti-war" because I posted the Casualty Stats on the homepage. They recited the usual litany of reasons why this was a turn off. "Let the people themselves find the information", they advised. With NO DATA, I could be assured that I was not alienating any political group. I would be "neutral".

I thought about this long and hard and ultimately decided to pull the [stats](#) from the home page. I provided the LINK for this information. Well, you know what happened? I stopped going to the link because I didn't have to update it on my site. I still watched the silent roll call at the end of the Jim Lehrer News Hour but it wasn't the same. I had forsaken my pilgrimage so as not to offend anyone.

BIG MISTAKE.

I consulted with Chaplain (MAJ) Morris who got down and dirty in Feluja and Ramadi with his MN National Guardsmen Unit. I asked him what I should do. This is what he said. "War is about killing. We go over to kill the enemy and the enemy's stated goal is to eradicate us. There is nothing pretty about war. It is pure hell." And, he added that the casualty numbers should be highly visible and not hidden because of political sensitivities. Our killed and wounded servicemen and women deserved better.

I knew right there and then, he was speaking the truth. I needed to resume my daily pilgrimage to the [Iraq Coalition Casualty Count](#) site. I need to come face to face with the numbers because each and every number is or was a living, breathing human being.

So, in the end, I like to think of our homepage as being C-SPAN-oid in that we simply present

the facts. No hyperbole, no augmentation or spin of the numbers or projected numbers. Just the plain facts.

I implore you to make your own pilgrimage to this or any other site that presents these wartime figures from the DOD (Defense Dept). If you don't, how else will *you* stay energized and inspired to continue honoring and comforting our Wounded?

Remember, it's not about politics. It's about people.

Latest News

QOV DVD Spring 2006!

It's here. It's real. I did it! I never never thought making a DVD would be so difficult. But that's for a podcast show. This DVD has the slide show I used in Houston last Nov. It also contains a very short moviette made in 1918 that I found at the US Library of Congress. The DVD has over 1,000 pixs of QOVs, servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan, QOV Recipients, and chaplains. It really is a show stopper. I have had quilters to politicians just sit mesmerized by the content. The cost of this collectible DVD with my signature is \$14.99 plus shipping. You can play it on your TV or computer. Many of you will see your QOVs and perhaps you yourself.

The next DVD will come out in the summer. So all of you who have been sending me pixs recently will see *your* labor of love in the upcoming one.

By purchasing this DVD, you will have a piece of quilting wartime QOVs history **plus** you will be supporting the Foundation.

QOV STORE

Don't forget to shop the [store](#). It's antiquated. No shopping cart....YET. By shopping there, you are supporting the Foundation. Thanks to Kerin we will have QOV tee-shirts for sale. We'll have them at the MQX show and then for sale online.

Our [QOV PODCAST Show](#) is HERE !

Right up front, I acknowledge that probably 99% of you don't know what a podcast is. No big deal. It's easy to learn about and DO. Basically a podcast is a collection of audio files (and now video) that you can listen to. You can either listen to it on your computer or download the show on a digital music player like the ipod or iriver. The neat thing is that you can SUBSCRIBE to a program and all the newest episodes will be automatically downloaded to your computer.

This means I can record a show and then upload it so you can listen to it at your convenience. The easiest way to do this is by using [Apple's iTune](#) (free). Otherwise you have to use two to three different programs. I will have what you need on the [podcast link](#) on the website. Once you start to scratch the surface of podcasting, you will find that there are podcast shows on everything! I did a google search and right now there are only four podcast shows devoted to quilting. Alex Alexander has one [here](#).

What I think you will find like about podcasts is this. You can listen to your show when it's best for you.

Are you asking why I am making a public fool of myself producing this show? I am asking the same thing. The reason I am doing this is to get our wounded back on our radar screen. I definitely have my podcast training wheels on but I will swallow my pride and keep forging

ahead. I will be doing interviews, how to's, etc. If you would like to be interviewed, let me know.

QOV Book

I haven't forgotten about our QOV Book. Please entertain the idea of submitting your journal/photos for consideration. We WILL have our book published. I have to laugh because almost everything we are doing is so very grass-roots that I no longer mind the grass stains on my clothes! I want ALL of AMERICA to know what YOU are doing for our wounded. I will be damned if I let publishers, editors, executive producers tell me what is important when it comes to our men and women in uniform.

FREE QOV PATTERNS

Connie Frick is the first person in our community to have submitted her pattern for use on the site. Here is the [link](#). If you can provide a good pix of your pattern and then write it up in a PDF file which I can link to, that would be the best. Also, if you don't understand the directions, you can email Connie by clicking her name on the quilt pattern page.

Want Ads

After the televising on NBC about the QOV Program, I got several many calls asking if any of you needed fabrics, etc. I am going to list the name, email and what they have. If you are interested, please email them.

Need quilt-toppers/longarmers from Indiana/Western Ohio.

My name is Carolyn Lafever and I write for ZEAL magazine which is published by the Richmond, IN Palladium-Item. My phone is 765-489-5429; my e-mail is celafever-hagerstown@Juno.com. My article is to be about the Quilts of Valor, how it started and how the quilts are distributed. I am particularly interested in quilters in the Indiana and Western Ohio area. If possible, I'd like to hear from some of them. Also if there are longarmers who do the quilting in this area, I'd like to know about them. Are these facts correct? You have over 70 contacts across the country with Chaplains who give you names of wounded who should receive a quilt? Most of the quilts are distributed through Walter Reed and Bethesda Hospital because most of the wounded come through there before they are transferred to local hospitals? What is the name of the hospital in Germany and are the quilts also given there? Are the quilts given by the chaplains or do the quilters present the quilts? Over 5000 quilts have been given out since 2003? Do you still have a son in the military? How many quilters are helping now? (some of the facts on the web sites do not agree with what you told me.) Have women and men both received the quilts? Do you receive donations to help with making and delivering the quilts? If so, how is it sent to you? I had two brothers in WWII and a brother-in-law, all came home safely. My youngest brother also served in the military. Now we have a grand

nephew who spent time in Germany and Kuwait and is now in the US. I was just a young child in WWII but I still remember how much we cared about the people serving in the military. Thanks for making a way for the military wounded to receive comfort and encouragement from home. What a great project! I will need the information by May 15.

Carolyn Lafever
14030 W. E. Oler Rd.
Hagerstown, IN 47346

QOV Kids Coordinator

We have a new QOV Kid's Coordinator. Her name is Barb and she is from Salem, Mass. Here, she'll tell you about herself. Her email is: barb@qovf.org.

Hi, my name is Barbara. But you can call me "Barb". I am honored to be the Kids Coordinator for the QOV Foundation. I am a wife and mother with two girls. They are 6 and 9 years old. My girls are my quilting buddies. I also am the owner of 3 pet rats (my "sons") who love to sit on my shoulder and listen to the hummmmmmm of the sewing machine. I also have a cat and two fish, but they usually don't help with the quilting. Along with quilting, I enjoy cooking, cookie decorating, gardening, making jams, entering my baked items in the local state fair and coaching with my husband the softball team my two girls play on. I don't work outside the home due to an injury from a hit and run accident in 2001. I am gladly retired at the age of 39.

Making a QOV with children is such a joy. It brings me back to memories of sewing with my mom and why I sew and quilt. Deciding to make a QOV with your own children, a girl scout troop, your neighborhood kids or your students please know you will forever impact the lives of the children involved and the recipient of the QOV.

QOV Kids is also an opportunity for children to learn the art of sewing. Budget cuts have taken Home Economics out of many school systems. Along with the family rush of going to soccer games, swim lessons, school and homework many parents don't have the time or left over energy after working all day to alter their own clothes or may not even have a knowledge of sewing. QOV Kids helps bring back the basics and art of sewing. The IPODs, MP3 players, DVDs and cell phones have replaced the home sewing machine and the knowledge that comes with it.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you have in making a Kids QOV. I will look forward to helping you make this an enjoyable and unforgettable part of a child's life and in making a difference.

Barb

MQX Show-Hey! We need YOU!

OK, we're down to the wire. We are still needing **volunteers** to be in the booth. You can volunteer from 10 minutes up to two hours. I know you have a lot to do, a lot of things to learn, etc etc.

But what I am asking you to do is take a mere 10 minutes to talk to other longarmers about our community and why they should volunteer to quilt a top. Those of you who are in this

community are the best spokespeople and saleswomen/men we have. This effort to cover ALL our wounded is going to continue for years to come.

And, as Chaplain Morris said, we ALL have a MORAL obligation to take care of our returning combat Veterans.

Quoteables

This quote is from Larry Babitts who awards our QOVs in PA and in various hospitals in Washington DC. He has a long distinguished history in the Army and was number one man at the VA until he retired in Dec 2005. Now he spends much of his time working with our Veterans.

Also thanks for the QOVs...am looking forward to receiving them...and most of all, I can assure you that our hurt soldiers (all branches) really appreciate what these ladies do. Did I tell you that at Bethesda Hospital last week, one of the young marines wept when I presented him with his quilt...he was hurt very bad, and you cannot imagine the look in his eyes when he said "...I can't believe that someone thought enough about us to do all this work for me and my buddies..."...and then he held my hand and thanked me for making the trip to visit him.

I know that we can never give this guy back his limbs, but the fact that we "...made his day..." made our efforts worthwhile...

Here is a quote from a mom of a QOV Recipient.

Andy has lost most of the sight in his right eye and has some residual hearing loss. Having said that, my husband and I never forget it could have been so much worse. We saw some very sad situations at both Walter Reed and Bethesda. We also saw several wounded veterans in wheelchairs and stretchers covered with their QOVs. Sometimes it's hard to approach someone who has been seriously injured and know what to say. Commenting on the beautiful quilts made it easy for me to talk to and thank the other vets. I started one conversation with "What a beautiful quilt...", he smiled and said yes it really was. He was sitting in a wheelchair and running his hands over the quilt.

Andy says the quilt made him realize that they weren't forgotten. He really didn't know what to expect when he came home. I had held my emotions together right up until I saw Andy's quilt. I went into his bathroom for a few minutes so he wouldn't see me crying. I've done just enough quilting to realize the work that went into each quilt.

Please, use whatever part of the emails as you would like. I would consider it an honor. Also, if possible I would like to thank the quilt makers.

Here is a [link](#) to the White House website. The picture is of Andy receiving his Purple Heart from President Bush.

Thank you so much!

Finally

Don't think the need to tell our Wounded they are appreciated is over. On the contrary. The need is tremendous. If you are thinking you don't have the time or money, please reconsider. They need our beautiful, magical, healing, creative, soothing, comforting, and loving Quilts of

Valor.

Most respectfully submitted,

Catherine Roberts

Founder QOV Foundation/Quilts for Soldiers