



From the Executive Director

Happy Valentine's Day! I'm sending you a virtual rose to thank you for all you do for Quilts of Valor. Just as there are roses of many different varieties, so too are the individuals who come together to make QOV the great organization



*Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director*

that it is. You, the volunteers, are the greatest assets there are and I cannot thank you enough for your contributions.

By the time you receive this, National Sew Day will have come and

gone and I look forward to reporting next month on this great day. I would like to thank Northcott Fabrics for providing panels for use as prizes from their new Stonehenge line (due in stores in March, 2017). Northcott is a great friend to QOVF, also supplying the informative brochures that are available for members' use.

Registration is open for the QOVF Annual Conference to be held in Colorado Springs, CO, on June 5-6, 2017. You may register [here](#) for the conference and hotel. Attendees will hear from Aliza Sherman, noted author and speaker, as well as from Sue Reich, QOVF Board of Director President. Sue is also a well-known quilt author and will be speaking about the value of

quilts. There will be updates from the Executive Staff on membership, long-arming, destinations, Under Our Wings, the Quilt Shop Program, and new enhancements to the QOVF web page, as well as award ceremonies and much more. I hope everyone is able to join us in beautiful Colorado Springs, CO, at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

Finally, I would like to introduce Mary Persyn as the newest member of the QOVF Board of Directors. Mary resides in Indiana and has been involved with QOVF for a number of years. You can learn more about Mary [here](#).

As always, quilt with peace and happiness knowing you are making a difference.

QOVs AWARDED AT 50th REUNION

Information provided by Victoria Colburn-Hall

Members of the 191st Assault Helicopter Company, which operated in Vietnam during 1967-71, gathered last September for a 50th reunion. Of the 200 attendees, all but 52 had previously received QOVs. Thanks to great support and teamwork within the QOVF community, the remaining 52 were awarded QOVs at the Las Vegas event. According to Nevada State Coordinator Victoria Colburn-Hall, "These gentlemen were in the hottest hellfire of the Vietnam War. They fought, evacuated, and rescued—not only armed forces, but local villagers, too."

Victoria credits the success of the multi-quilt award to the QOVF community, who responded quickly and generously to her request for



Fifty-two not-yet-awarded members of the 191st Assault Helicopter Company received their QOVs at their 50th reunion last fall. Victoria Colburn-Hall, front and center, credits the generosity and speed of her fellow QOVF community members for making the large award possible.

quilts. Awardees represented 25 states; fourteen quilt makers sent quilts to cover awardees from their states. "Massachusetts had one recipient but sent two quilts. The five quilts sent from Texas all went home to the Lone Star State. Longtime longarmer and QOVF Life Member Diane Jaeger quilted six of Victoria's tops.

Commenting on the day, Victoria said, "At the end of the ceremony, the wife of one recipient asked me how to nominate her daughter for a quilt. I happened to have an extra, thanks to Diane, and because the daughter—just returned from Iraq—was in attendance, I was able to award her on the spot, with mom and dad looking on."



Five newly awarded members of the US Army's 191st Assault Helicopter Company sport their QOVs. The red bandannas denote "bounty hunters" who served on gunships. Others, known as "Boomerangs," served in Huey (troop carrying) helicopters. They called themselves boomerangs because they always came back.

TWO GENERATIONS— THREE QOV AWARDS

Information provided by Marilyn Wickham.

When Elmore, MN, resident Arnold Tuttle enlisted in the Army during WW II, his photo and military address were posted in the Blue Earth, MN, newspaper. A young girl from Rake, IA, saw Arnold's photo and wrote to him. From Europe, he wrote back. Arnold and Verna have now been married almost 70 years.



Wrapped in their newly awarded QOVs, from left to right, are Linda Hope Peterson, Arnold Tuttle, and Richard Petersen.



Verna and Arnold Tuttle shown here on their wedding day. Pen pals during WW II, they wed when Arnold returned from overseas.

Last summer, Winterset, IA, QOV Group member Marilyn Wickham, who is Arnold's goddaughter, awarded Arnold his QOV. Arnold's son Richard and Richard's wife Linda, visiting MN from Tulsa, OK, both veterans themselves, looked on proudly.

When Marilyn wrapped Arnold's QOV around him, he was moved to tears. "I'm not done, yet," Marilyn responded, and then awarded a quilt

to son Richard, who served in Turkey during the Vietnam era.

Richard had not yet gained his composure when Marilyn pulled out a third quilt and wrapped Linda, who was stationed in Germany during the Vietnam era war.

"The experience of awarding the three quilts was as moving for me as it was for the recipients," Marilyn said.

CALLING ALL LONGARMERS!

Information supplied by Elayne Gasset

Are you an experienced Longarmer and member of QOVF? Have you registered with the Longarm Coordinator to quilt for our toppers? If not, you're encouraged to do so. We need YOU! Please fill out the "Volunteer to Longarm" form found under the "Take Action" tab on the QOVF.org website. Please direct any questions to the QOVF Longarm Coordinator at Elayne.Gasset@QOVF.org.

NATIONAL QUILT SHOWS OFFER QOVF BOOTH SPACE

By Marianne Fons

Outreach to fellow quilters (and the general public) at national-level quilt shows is an excellent way to increase recognition of QOVF and our mission. Several multi-show businesses generously offer free booth space at their events.

Original Sewing & Quilt Expo (OSQE) has been producing large public sewing and quilting events for more than 20 years, and regularly holds events in eight or more cities annually. A great friend to QOVF, OSQE has for many years provided complimentary booth space to local QOV groups, and has scheduled QOV quilt presentations whenever possible during their events. View OSQE's 2017 calendar [here](#). If your group wishes to participate at an

OSQE event, please contact Liz Fredrick (liz.fredrick@fwmedia.com). Liz will help coordinate details with the OSQE team.

American Quilter's Society (AQS), well known to quilters nationwide for its annual event in Paducah, KY, operates several other shows annually around the country. AQS may provide free display space to local QOVF groups at some QuiltWeek events, based on availability of space. View the locations and calendar [here](#). Contact Bonnie Browning (bonnie.browning@americanquilter.com) for more information.

Mancuso Show Management, owner of a number of popular shows around the country, will also work with local QOVF groups to provide free space. View locations and dates [here](#). Contact Mary Claire Moyer at maryclaire@quiltfest.com for more information.

Presence at a multi-day event is a big commitment of time and resources. Founder Catherine Roberts' dream was that Quilts of Valor one day be a household term. With each passing day and each quilt awarded, that dream is being realized. When we represent QOVF at any event, local or national, we must strive to do so in the most professional way possible.

Appendix H of QOVF's Policies & Procedures Manual provides tips on setting up an attractive booth, proper attire, and show etiquette. Access the Appendices [here](#).

(About the Author: Marianne Fons is a board member and liaison to the quilting industry for Quilts of Valor Foundation; contact her at marianne.fons@QOVF.org.)

QOV CEREMONY AN ANNUAL TRADITION

Information supplied by Linda Spurger

His Quilters held their third annual QOV ceremony at First Baptist Church Friendswood, in Friendswood, TX, on Sunday November 6, 2016, with approximately 80 people in attendance. Thirteen QOVs were awarded to veterans of the local area. Recipients ranged in service from WWII veterans to a decorated active duty Navy Chaplain currently stationed with the Coast Guard at Ellington AFB, Houston/Galveston. There were Army Air Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Marines in attendance with both short-term service



In a ceremony that has become an annual event for the His Quilters group in Friendswood, TX, thirteen recipients were awarded their QOVs.

members and several who retired from their respective branches of service.

A reception followed to honor the recipients.

PLAN TO ATTEND: 2017 QOVF NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Information supplied by Ann Rehbein

Imagine yourself at the foot of the majestic Rocky Mountains watching the sunset fade away over Pikes Peak. Picture yourself sipping a cool beverage on the patio while chatting with new friends about QOVF. We have just the opportunity for you to do those things and much more!

The QOVF Annual Conference will be held on June 5-6, 2017, at the Eleganté Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO. Each day begins with an award ceremony, followed by speakers and

breakout sessions. Author, speaker and web pioneer Aliza Sherman will share ideas from her 11th book, *The Happy, Healthy Nonprofit*, about the essential need for self-care among those who are driven by a passion for an important mission. She will also have a breakout session to answer questions about social media and share tips for communicating effectively online. Additional breakout sessions may cover membership, toppers, longarmers, state coordinators, group leaders, and more. The QOV store will be open for business and there are possibilities for optional paid workshops.

The cost for the Conference is \$100 for QOVF members and \$125 for

nonmembers. Lunch will be on your own each day. There are dining facilities at the Eleganté and nearby. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about QOVF and to share your ideas and suggestions. For more information and to register for the Conference visit our website.

Colorado Springs offers an abundance of visitor opportunities, so make plans to come early or stay late. The Air Force Academy, Pikes Peak, and Garden of the Gods are just a few of the many attractions. For more information about the Colorado Springs area visit www.morecolorado.com and www.VisitCOS.com.

QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

Welcome aboard to our newest members of the Certified Quilt Shop Program.

Branum's Sew/Vac	Martinez, GA
Birdsong Quilting & Crafts	Georgetown, KY
Happy Hearts Quilting & Fabric	Hopkinsville, KY
Knit One, Quilt Two	West Boylston, MA
Stitches For You Inc.	Mio, MI
Dollard-Baker Sew Vac	Marmora, NJ
The Quilting Squares	Franklin, TN
Red Barn Quilt Store	Sanger, TX

We look forward to more shops becoming certified in 2017. Thanks to all shops for supporting QOVF.

(Myra Coddens is the QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program Coordinator. Contact Myra at myra.coddens@qovf.org.)

Quilts Reported

2012: 6,169

2013: 12,314

2014: 17,373

2015: 18,772

2016: 19,051

2017: 849

Total: 152,617

(as of 31 January 2017)

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

QOVF Core Values

Treating people with respect • Promoting excellence • Valuing service over self • Being accountable

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Catherine Roberts

Board Member Emeritus
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For more information about QOVF, see www.QOVF.org

For more information about the BOD, the QOVF staff, and how to contact your State Coordinator (SCs) go to <http://www.qovf.org/content/about-us.html>.

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Newsletter

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