



ONLINE SALES EVENT IN MAY BENEFITS QOVF!

By Susan Gordon

May 9 through May 16, quilters everywhere will have a chance to “shop ‘til they drop” at the premium on-line sites www.fonsandporter.com, www.keepsakequilting.com, www.quiltandsewshop.com, and www.interweavestore.com with 10% of total sales revenue donated to Quilts of Valor Foundation!

QOVF volunteers already donate time, labor, love, and fabric by making quilts. This sales event will give many thousands of additional quilters, sewers, knitters, and crafters the opportunity to acknowledge the work of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Shopping carts filled with books, patterns, videos, notions, and fabrics, will deliver a great message of support for QOVF, so be sure to urge all your quilting, sewing, knitting, beading, and crafting friends to take part in the event, by shopping!

F+W Media, a New York City-based content and e-commerce company, recently acquired the Fons & Porter and Keepsake brands. David Nussbaum, CEO of the company, who himself now wears a 2014 QOVF lapel pin, decided to celebrate F+W’s acquisition



by scheduling the online benefit event. Nussbaum said, “We recognize what QOVF does for America’s veterans, and we want to help, too. In the past, we’ve benefited other non-profits such as the Susan B. Komen Foundation with such events. Now we are eager to help Quilts of Valor Foundation.”

In the run-up to the sales event, which ends the day before Armed Forces Day, F+W’s branches will be promoting the benefit event heavily via its websites, blogs, and social media. Make your own shopping list, and urge your friends to do the same.

According to Marianne Fons, “When I met David earlier this year, I had the opportunity to tell him about Quilts of Valor Foundation and offer him our new lapel pin (for a donation). Little did I know our conversation would lead to this terrific benefit sales event.”

Watch for additional information in the May issue of *Threads*, and for reports following the event about monies raised and their use.

QOVF CORE VALUES NOW “SET IN STONE”

By Catherine Roberts

Recently, our foundation’s “core values” were established via a formal vote of our Board of Directors. As QOVF founder, I am proud of our stated values because they speak simply and eloquently about who we are. Below are some of my thoughts regarding each of the four. Elsewhere in this issue of *Threads*, you’ll see our values boxed in a format you can clip to carry in your purse or wallet or post where you will see them often.

Treating people with respect. Our community (quilters, longarmers, points of contact, recipients, and donors) includes people from many walks of life. Each of us must promote inclusiveness, respecting the opinion of every other fellow volunteer. Let us always look for the common threads that unite us rather than the differences that could divide.

Promoting excellence. Quilts of Valor are civilian awards to those who have been willing to stand in harm’s way for our nation and been touched by war, not “charity quilts.” Of utmost importance is sewing with quality fabrics, working with skilled machine quilters, making quilts big enough for an adult to rest under, and labeling each quilt clearly to identify it as a Quilt of Valor.

Valuing service over self. Knowing I am as capable as anyone of self-focus, a goal from “day one” has been to keep the focus for our quilts on the recipient, not on us.

Being accountable. As our foundation grows, it’s a big challenge to transmit every communication with wisdom and compassion, but we must be accountable



How many carts can you and your friends fill for QOVF?

Core Values cont.

for our words and actions on every level. Being accountable to me means being truthful to all.

To some, these values may seem lofty. To me, they identify a unique community where I will be accepted and where I can do my best to give back to those touched by war.

QUILTS OF VALOR FOUNDATION CORE VALUES



Our core values identify standards of conduct for all associated with the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

- **Treating people with respect.** We honor all faiths and beliefs, striving for inclusivity.
- **Promoting excellence.** We put the best possible workmanship and materials into every quilt we make so it will be a lasting award for the person it is meant to comfort.
- **Valuing service over self.** Quilts of Valor recipients come first.
- **Being accountable.** We are accountable for our actions to our recipients, our supporters, our donors, and our fellow volunteers.



“BECAUSE I SAID SO!” LEADERS CONVENING

By Les Page

Don't you wish you had a dollar for every time you heard “because I said so” as a kid? Relax, that phrase won't be part of the journey at the August leadership conferences Executive Director Susan Gordon is planning.

Choosing to attend one of the conferences is a personal decision. I know, we are all volunteers. We give a lot already. But, if you have the time and can find the funds to attend, be forewarned—you will have fun.

All of us enjoy crafting the quilts that provide the comfort and healing that a Quilt of Valor means. We also should enjoy the time we spend at a get-together designed to develop new friendships and learn techniques, methods, and best practices that will help us be more efficient and productive, and lessen ongoing, out-of-pocket expenses. I promise, the information will be presented in a manner you're not accustomed to, but I won't spoil the surprise by leaking anything here.

Will attendees receive information they may have heard before? Possibly. However, there is an old saying, “Repetition is the mother of learning.”

Some of the topics may have been presented before, but were they useful, put on a back burner, or worse, forgotten? Some attendees will hear topics for the first time and experience the “Aha” moment. Likely, we all will.

Will the information and methods offered be foolproof, guarantee success, work every time, be easy as pie to implement? No!

Will it be a forum where we can learn from others, find our comfort zone, and figure out what works for each of us? Yes!

Will you leave with more knowledge than you came with? That's up to you.

Come rested; I will facilitate the sessions with a high energy level.

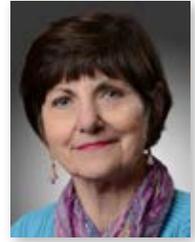
More info coming soon.

(About the Author: Les Page is the Coordinator for Volunteer Training and a longarm. Les is a US Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran and lives in Virginia Beach, VA. Contact Les at les.page@QOVF.org)

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE: “IR” COORDINATOR

By Barbara Conner

As Individual Requests Coordinator, my job is to connect recipients with their Quilt of Valor by finding the right presenter. As the numbers of quilts needed overseas



Barbara Conner

decreases, and our service members come home, the number of Individual Requests has increased from four to about ten each day. Most come from the Southeast, Texas, and California where there are many military and veterans' facilities.

I acknowledge completed on-line requests by communicating directly with the requester. I want that person to know it will be our honor to award a Quilt of Valor to his or her loved one. Often, the requester is so grateful that their request is being considered, they take the time to write back to me. Sometimes requesters send articles about the recipient describing their service, awards, and current activities. I've even received pictures of the recipients!

My next step is to forward the request to the appropriate State Coordinator and await confirmation of receipt. And, yes, when I don't get a response from the State Coordinator, I do follow-up! In states where there is no State Coordinator, it's up to me to find an appropriate presenter. A priest, a mayor, and a sheriff have presented QOVs on our behalf. Veterans who have received a Quilt of Valor often will “pay it forward” by presenting Quilts of Valor.

Sending a Quilt of Valor to a recipient in a box is not the best way to award a quilt. Yes, the quilts themselves are wonderful, but it's the warm, personal touch that lets our recipients know we honor and respect them.

(About the Author: Barbara Conner is the Individual Requests Coordinator. She lives in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Contact Barbara at barbara.conner@QOVF.org)

WHAT DOES 100,000 QUILTS OF VALOR MEAN?

By Sharon Ledbetter

As we continue to stitch toward, and beyond, our 100,000th Quilt of Valor, now is a good time to consider what this milestone in our foundation's mission really represents.

Recently, Jerald Wilkins, himself a veteran and a Quilt of Valor recipient, offered some interesting perspectives. A "math guy," he used his calculator, or maybe just paper and pencil, to work out some visual imagery of the quilts we have made, awarded, and recorded in just over ten years.

According to Jerald, using 60" x 80" as the approximate size of a QOV:

- 100,000 quilts, with their edges touching, would cover every National Football League field, every National Basketball Association court, every Major League Baseball diamond, and every National League Soccer field in America, combined.
- 100,000 quilts, laid end-to-end, would be almost ten times longer than the

50 tallest buildings in the world, combined.

- 100,000 quilts, laid end-to-end, would reach from the lowest point to the highest point of all seven continents combined, then down to the bottom depth of the world's five oceans...twice.
- 100,000 quilts, laid end-to-end, would reach halfway to the International Space Station.



The Quilts of Valor Foundation's 100,000th quilt will be counted soon. No matter what pattern that quilt is or who

wraps it around its recipient, really, the quilt will be an award made collectively by the entire QOVF community. YOU, the volunteers of QOVF, have gathered the fabrics, pieced the patchwork, stitched the appliqué, added the batting and backing, and quilted the stitches of gratitude into every single quilt.

Our pride in this remarkable accomplishment is enhanced by our understanding that the 100,000 quilts are not about us but about the people who receive them as tangible thanks for being willing to stand in harm's way on behalf of us all.

What does 100,000 Quilts of Valor mean? This landmark award means we have done an incredible job. But we must remember there are millions of veterans living in America today, many of them in need of healing. We still have more work to do in service to our mission.

(About the Author: Sharon Ledbetter is Director for the Quilts of Valor Foundation. She lives in Clarkson, ID. Contact Sharon at sharon.ledbetter@QOVF.org)

QOVs AWARDED TO VETS ON THEIR SHIP, USS HORNET

By Donna Karbach

Last year on November 16, aboard the USS Hornet, fourteen Quilts of Valor were awarded to veterans who served on the ship during WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Members of Amador Valley Quilters that day also awarded quilts to veterans of the Hornet's 1969 Apollo 11 and 12 splashdown recoveries.

The USS *Hornet* (CV-12), decommissioned in 1970, is a designated National Historic Landmark, as well as a California Historic Landmark. Located at Pier 3 in Alameda, California, the aircraft carrier opened to the public as the USS Hornet Museum in 1998, after a storied history of service in warfare and famous as one of the most decorated ships in American history.

The Quilts of Valor awards took place during the celebration marking the 70th



Amador Valley Quilters award QOV to Cmdr. J. Ted Crosby, US Navy veteran of World War II, aboard the USS Hornet

anniversary of the ship's commissioning. Representatives of Amador Valley Quilters who made and awarded quilts had the opportunity to meet and visit with their recipients before and after the moving event.

Here is an excerpt from a note of gratitude from one of the awardees:

I was overwhelmed when you presented the Quilt of Valor to me last Saturday. I did not see it fully until last night when I showed it to my son and grandkids. It is truly a work of art, and the patience that went into the making of it is tremendous. I told my family that it is mine for now but it is for them when the time comes—and I am getting emotional right now. There is no question that it will become a family heirloom.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart and I will cherish the QUILT always. Thank you so much. Please give my warm regards to your friends and tell them how much it means to me.

*Love you ladies,
Eldon Brodie, WWII,
Resident of Livermore*

(About the Author: Donna Karbach is the Coordinator of the Quilts of Valor group for the Amador Valley Quilters. Contact her at dkarbach2000@yahoo.com.)



Susan Gordon,
QOVF Executive Director

SUSAN'S CALL TO ACTION

In my professional life, I was a trainer in continuous improvement processes. I hope you see Quilts of Valor Foundation as striving for continuous improvement as we create standards of excellence and define core values. Looking for ways to serve you better and to strengthen the relationships within our organization is on-going.

This month, I need your feedback. How are we doing at the leadership level: State Coordinators and Executive Staff, Board of Directors? What can we do better? What can we do to help you at state and local levels? Be a part of our continuous improvement; take a few minutes to send me your thoughts via feedback@QOVF.org

STATISTICS

Iraq

Killed: 4,489

Wounded: Many

Afghanistan

Killed: 2312

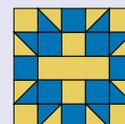
Wounded: Many

Suicides to Date:

Statistics Unknown

Total QOVs Awarded as of 4/1/14

98,600



Blocks received
as of April 1, 2014:

17



Hearth & Home Block



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State Coordinators (SCs) are here to assist you establish new groups, help fundraise, establish new points of contact and to maintain QOVF standards. If you have any questions or need guidance, please contact the SC for your state. A full list can be found here.

For more information regarding QOVF Structure and Volunteers, please visit:
<http://www.qovf.org/content/about-us.html>

Newsletter

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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.