



JANUARY 2017

From the Executive Director

I live in the Midwest where on a crisp, cold day, snow crunches when you walk on it and the sunlight dazzles you as it shines through a frosty window. Something else that constantly dazzles me is the commitment you, the volunteer, make to the mission of QOVF. I hear from recipients often about how they feel about the makers of their quilts—notes that include words such as dedicated, loving, kind, and committed. You truly are the very best, giving of your time, talent, and resources for someone you may never meet.



*Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director*

My thanks pale in comparison with this recent note: *My wife and I were absolutely taken back by the kindness that you have shown. We would like to personally*

thank you for taking your time, energy, materials, and the love that you shared. This quilt will always remain in our family for generations to come. The cards that came with this quilt with all the personal notes were so touching to all of us. I would of liked to thank each one of you that was involved in this process. Obviously there were a lot of cards that did not have addresses or email addresses. I would ask that you forward this email to all your members as a token of appreciation and a BIG THANK YOU.

Consider those words of thanks delivered to each and every one of you! And as volunteers for this organization, know that there are more openings to fill. The QOVF Board of Directors is looking for an experienced fundraiser. Contact Renelda Peldunas-Harter at Renelda.pendunas@QOVF.org if you are interested in the position. State coordinator positions are open in Hawaii, Maine, North Dakota, South Dakota, Rhode Island, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Regional coordinators can help take some of the

workload from the state coordinators by covering a designated area of their state. If you are interested, please contact Assistant Executive Director Ginger Fondren at ginger.fondren@QOVF.org.

Events galore are planned for the year ahead. I am really looking forward to National Sew Day on February 4th! I hope you are too. By now, I'm sure you have plans for your group to meet and are registered for fabulous prizes. Deb Kaldenburg, QOVF Special Events Coordinator, shares more information on National Sew Day in her article later in this newsletter. Registration for the QOVF Annual Conference can be found on the Events page on the website. This year's meeting will be held in Colorado Springs, CO, June 5-6, 2017. Mark your calendar now. Every member is welcome to attend this event.

From the frozen plains of Iowa, warmest wishes for the New Year, and quilt with peace and happiness, knowing you are making a difference.

**PEARL HARBOR DAY
EVENTS & HONOREES**

*Information supplied by Marianne Elliot,
Laura Winckel, and Victoria Colburn-Hall*

My sincere congratulations and appreciation for all the QOVF groups and your contributions to honor the service men and women of WWII during the 75th Anniversary Pearl Harbor Commemorations. I have been fortunate to be at two Pearl Harbor commemorations and to place a wreath on the USS Arizona. It is truly a humbling experience to be able to honor the greatest generation. Three stories of 2016 Pearl Harbor events follow, each with a different perspective. —Ann Rehbein



Pearl Harbor Survivor Lt. Jim Downing, addressed the crowd at the Honolulu, HI, Pearl Harbor Day 75th Anniversary commemoration ceremony.

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PEARL HARBOR DAY, HONOLULU, HAWAII

Information supplied by Laura Winckel, Group Leader of Quilters With a Heart, Killeen, TX

During a trip to Honolulu to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, one of the most interesting people my husband Tim and I were fortunate to meet was US Navy Lt. Jim Downing (see photo on page 1). At 103 years old, he is the second oldest survivor of the attack, and the oldest to have been on a ship in Battleship Row. Stationed on the USS West Virginia, but away from the ship at the beginning of the attack, Lt. Downing rushed back only to find her sinking and burning after having taken nine torpedo hits. He boarded the USS West Virginia from the adjacent USS Tennessee and fought fires on the burning ship for the next three hours, helping keep fire away from the ammunition magazines. During this time, he encountered many wounded and dying men. Lt. Downing made note of the names of all of the men and after the attack, made it his personal responsibility to write letters to their families.

On Dec. 7 2016, we were privileged to listen to Lt. Downing address the crowd of thousands at the beginning of the commemorative parade in Honolulu, HI. He was clear in warning us, as citizens, to protect and defend the liberty and freedom so hard won, not to waver, and never to forget the sacrifice of they who perished there so long ago. During the parade that followed, Lt. Downing rode in one of the first cars. The crowd cheered and waved as he passed. At stops, well-wishers came out of the crowd to personally shake his hand and thank him. My husband and I were honored to march in the parade alongside Lt Downing's car. We carried a QOV over the entire parade route and awarded it to him at the end. He accepted the quilt with a big smile, saying that he would put it to good use. It was an unforgettable event.



Pearl Harbor Survivors and World War II veterans were awarded QOVs during the 75th Anniversary commemoration at the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. Scottish American Military Society members (in kilts) assisted in the awards ceremony. (Photo credit: Jeff Thorne)



SAMS member Bill Elliott salutes 1st Sgt. Edward Davis, Pearl Harbor survivor, as Marianne Elliott wraps him in his QOV during the 75th Anniversary commemoration at the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. Seated with Davis are Lt. Gen. Julius Becton (l) and Mr. Jack Maroney (r) both World War II veterans. (Photo credit: Jeff Thorne)

National WWII Memorial Event

Information supplied by Marianne Elliot

The QOVF partnered with Friends of the National World War II Memorial to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day and award QOVs to 28 Pearl Harbor Survivors and World War II veterans who presented wreaths at the Freedom Wall. This inaugural event between QOVF and Friends illustrates the on-going commitment to honor veterans and pay tribute to our greatest generation.

The veterans were individually introduced and awarded QOVs created by volunteers from the MSP Quilting

Angels from Gaithersburg, MD, and the Southern Tier QOV from Corning, NY. QOVF Board of Directors member Renelda Peldunas-Harter represented the foundation at the event. Four members of the Scottish American Military Society (SAMS), Post #2, Post of the Potomac, participated in the ceremony, saluting each recipient.

Not only did the QOVs honor the veterans, they provided comfort and warmth to those braving the chilly and windy weather to participate in the ceremony. As one WWII veteran was overheard saying as he offered to give his quilt to another veteran, "I know there is someone more deserving than me."

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Each of the QOVs awarded to Pearl Harbor survivors included photographs of the USS Nevada and other relevant photographs.

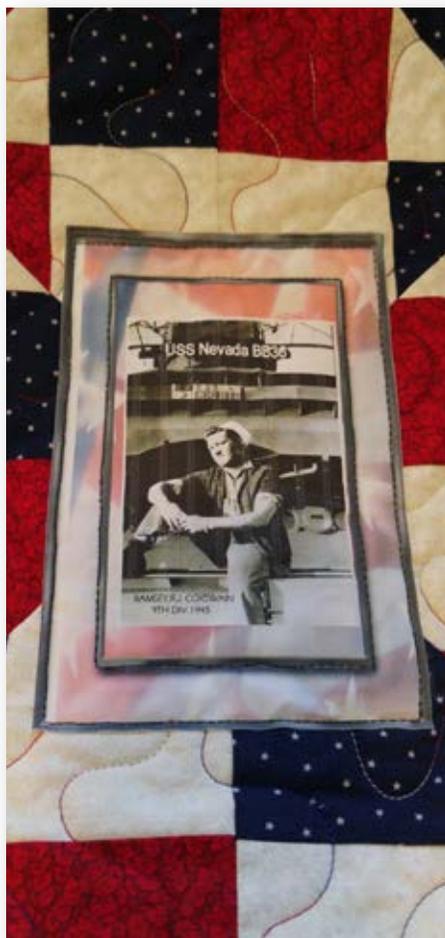
USS NEVADA VETERANS AWARDED ON DECEMBER 8

Information supplied by Victoria Colburn-Hall, NV State Coordinator

On Dec. 8, 2016 at a ceremony honoring the Pearl Harbor Day contributions of the USS Nevada and her crew, Sam Cox, a retired rear admiral and director of the Naval History and Heritage Command, said “The example that was set by the crew of the Nevada inspires the Navy and the sailors of our generation. It’s my mission to make sure that it keeps inspiring sailors for as long as there is a United States Navy.”

During the same ceremony, a contingent led by Dr. Linda Miller of Henderson, NV, chairwoman of commemorative events for the NV Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), placed QOVs on the shoulders of the USS Nevada veterans.

The Valor Quilters of NV were honored to make quilts for USS Nevada Survivors. Dr. Miller requested these special quilts and provided WWII-era pictures of each honoree, several pictures of the USS Nevada, and relevant news magazine covers from that era. Five Navy quilts were personalized with these pictures. A sixth quilt had a soldier in camouflage silhouetted against a red, white, and blue background for an Army survivor who accompanied this group to the Pearl Harbor ceremony.



USS Nevada Pearl Harbor survivor Richard Ramsey’s QOV was personalized to include a photo of him aboard ship.

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY

By Ginger Fondren

A verse from the song, “The Things We Do for Love,” by the group 10cc in the mid 1970s says “Communication is the problem to the answer.”

At some point in our lives, we all have problems with communication. We think we’ve shared information, made comments, and answered questions, only to discover later that the messages weren’t conveyed. We have bulletin boards in the kitchen where we post notes, calendars where we write scheduled events, and some of us leave notes on our bathroom mirrors—all in an effort to remember all the information that needs to be shared. But despite our best efforts, there often seems to be one or more items we forget.

Communication between the executive staff and QOVF membership is an item always being discussed by the executive team. In the past, a top down approach of filtering information from executive staff to state coordinators to group leaders to group and individual members was often ineffective. To improve communication, when there is QOVF information that needs to be shared with all, we now share details with state coordinators, group leaders, and individual members at once.

How can you make sure you’re seeing the appropriate information in a timely manner? Update your account information if it changes (new email address, etc.). State Coordinators, please confirm with your group leaders and individual members that their information on file is correct. Group Leaders, please confirm contact details are correct with your group members. If changes or updates are needed, refer to the QOVF website, LOGGING INTO YOUR MEMBER ACCOUNT found on the Members Only page. This document can be downloaded and saved to your computer.

Effective QOVF communication is only made possible with an up-to-date distribution list. By cleaning up our lists, you’ll be helping QOVF keep the lines of communication open and efficient. Thank you for your help.

(Ginger Fondren is the QOVF Assistant Executive Director. Contact her via email at ginger.fondren@qovf.org.)

NATIONAL SEW DAY: SUCCESS IS AT HAND

By Debra Kaldenberg

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

- Henry Ford

The heart of QOVF began to beat in 2003—the beginning. The word spread far and wide, wrapping itself around the hearts of quilters who have embraced the mission and taken up the call—progress. On Saturday, February 4th, we have our 4th opportunity to spend the day working together—success.

We hope you plan on joining the QOVF 2017 National Sew Day on February 4th. Whether you are sewing with a large group, a small gathering of one or two, or alone in the comfort of your own space, make it a day that brings a sense of fellowship, purpose, craft, laughter, and song. Remember with each threading of a needle, stitching together pieces of



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fabric, quilting, cutting, binding, and designing, you are participating in something bigger than yourself. YOU are fulfilling the mission of QOVF, to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing QOVs.

Register on the QOVF webpage. Plan to visit the qovf.blogspot.com for ongoing and up-to-date information

leading up to February 4th. Share photos of activities during National Sew Day on the QOVF Facebook page.

All registrants receive one entry to win door prizes. Opportunities for extra entries will be posted on the qovf.blogspot.com. Participants from the state with the most registrations as of January 31st will all receive an extra entry. If you bring a non-quilter under your wing, you both receive an extra entry. Is it your birthday on February 4th? Let me know and another door prize entry is yours. Prizes will be awarded throughout the day leading up to the grand prize drawing at 5:00 p.m. CST, so keep your phone handy. Live feeds from Piece Works Quilt Shop in Winterset, IA, will be posted to watch for those with access to a computer. Games will be played, celebrations will be shared, fun will be had. Join us!

(Debra Kaldenberg is the QOVF Special Events Coordinator. She invites you to share your ideas with her via email at debra.kaldenberg@qovf.org or by phone at (515) 468-1757.)

QOV HOMEWORK

By Ann Rehbein

Over the past few months I have noted announcements of QOVs being awarded to senators, veteran service organization (VSO) dignitaries, high-ranking military officers, and others. Often, these recipients have already received one, perhaps more than one, QOV. They are not as familiar with our mission as we are, and may have been placed in an awkward, public position—if surprised at a ceremony, how does one refuse a QOV?

Please, before you award a QOV, take the time to verify the recipient has not been awarded already. A simple statement like “We consider a QOV a lifetime award. Please let us know if you have already received one so we can offer honor and comfort to another veteran.” If the individual has been awarded previously, a powerful solution is inviting him or her to nominate another person and participate in the award.

Thank you for doing your research in advance. We know there are many, many veterans to still be covered by a comforting and healing QOV.



If you're looking for new QOV appropriate patterns be sure to check out the two latest patterns from Tony Jacobson. “Woven Squares” can be found in the pages of the Winter 2017 issue of Fons & Porter's *Easy Quilts*, and “Patriot Star” can be found in Fons & Porter's *Love of Quilting*, November/December 2017 issue.

QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

Welcome Aboard to our newest members of the Certified Quilt Shop Program. As of December, 2016 this shop has completed the registration requirements.

Cabin Quilts & Stitches Grand Lake, CO

QOVF ended 2106 with a total of 37 Certified Quilt Shops, and more are in-process. Thanks to all these shops for supporting the mission of 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

Total: 151,768

(as of 31 December 2016)

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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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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