



Vote Now for Your Favorite Newsletter Name!

By June Moore

Within minutes after our June issue hit cyberspace, you responded! Thanks, all of you, for over 50 masthead suggestions.

The newsletter team has narrowed the nominees to the five listed below. Please vote only once, using this link <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e-7tyxdzdhj3eqdn5/a001hjf0pbdh/questions>. Polls close July 30, 2013. Polls close July 30, 2013.

QOVF Bugle **QOVF Connections**
QOVF Mail Call **QOVF Salute**
QOVF Threads

Our Foundation, Past, Present, Future

By Eric McCarty

In our first ten years as a foundation, more than 87,000 Quilts of Valor have been created—more than 87,000 awarded to our military service members touched by war. You, our community of volunteers, have made these quilts with your hearts and souls. You are the fabric of QOVF. You make our foundation a family and a service to our nation. Congratulations on an amazing achievement, and thank you.

What will the next five years, the next ten, bring? Members of your board of directors have been working behind the scenes for many months to strengthen QOVF, to ensure our “back office” is in order. We’re also looking forward, charting, to the best of our abilities, a course for the future. We have exciting and far-reaching goals.

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Military Spouses Make QOVs in Germany

By Linda Kau

A group of Army wives living in Wiesbaden, Germany, have completed their first Quilt of Valor and have a second one ready for longarming. A consistent group of five meets to sew twice monthly at the local military craft center. Others attend as time allows.

The group’s contact, Charlene Hormann, is an Army wife of 19 years living in Europe for the second time along with her husband and their three children. “I am a self taught quilter thanks to many military wives who showed me techniques or just invited me into their homes to be with other women who like to sew, quilt, and do other crafty things!

“Because our group is an extension of our Military Spouses Club, we have been able to acquire funding to help pay for fabric shipped from the US and other expenses. Of course we are pulling from

our own fabric stashes as well! Our goal is to make at least one quilt per quarter.”

Another member of the group is Lisa Craven, wife of 25 years to Army Reservist and civilian Bill. They have two sons, Alex, a sophomore at Auburn University, and Paul, a sophomore at Wiesbaden High School. Lisa learned quilting during a three year tour at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska.

My own local QOV group here in Alaska has “adopted” these ladies! Watch future newsletters for more photos and short bios of other members.

(Editor’s note: Linda is Region 2 Regional Coordinator, Alaska. She and her husband live spring, summer, and fall in Alaska and in Oregon’s Willamette Valley in the winter. She’s been making QOVs since 2004. Her email address is Linda.Kau@QOVF.org.)



Army wives stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany, display one of their first Quilts of Valor.

NC Homeless Vets Receive QOVs & More

Adapted from a story by Sara Barr, Midtown Raleigh News

When 10 homeless veterans stepped into their apartments last month in East Raleigh, NC, not only was a Quilt of Valor waiting for each, other household essentials were also in place. The new subsidized apartment complex is run by CASA, an affordable housing nonprofit.

When Wake Forest Ladies of Valor learned the apartments were opening, they knew they would make quilts, but they did much more. With assistance from Boy Scout Troop 321, a local Home Depot, and others, they gathered everything from dish soap to hammers.

According to Martha Killian, the group wanted to do more for people who could use some extra help. Debra King, CEO of CASA, said all the donated items will make a difference, “especially the quilts. The idea that someone recognizing the men’s contribution sat down and made something that honors them is so special.”

The residents are required to pay 30% of their income toward rent and utilities. As long as they remain in good standing, the veterans can live in the apartments as long as they wish.



The Wake Forest, NC, Ladies of Valor have made and presented 40 quilts since 2011. They provided QOVs, and also mops and other household items, for ten homeless vets as they took up residence in their new, subsidized apartment. Left to right are Joan Bowers, Maria Leon, Sally Crilley, Martha Killian, Vienna Mooney, Donna Pernell, Anna Erb, Ruth Haffley, Helen Roth, and Nancy Gilley

They Never Forget, So Let Us Remember

By Jeff Thorne

After serving in WW II in the US Army CCR Rifle Company attached to the 25th Tank Battalion, Claudel St. Julian returned home to New Orleans. Decades later, Katrina uprooted him and his wife. The storm wiped out his home and possessions—his war mementos, his commendations, the medals he received, including his Bronze Star.*

I felt honored to have the opportunity to reach out and shake the hand of this quiet, reverent patriot proudly displaying his Army pin and doffing his “WWII Veteran” cap on a bright Sunday morning this past June when he received his Quilt of Valor. Clutching his quilt tight to his chest, he spoke the words we volunteers hear again and again, “This means more to me than all the medals and honors I have received.”

As I walked with him to his vehicle, he expressed a concern every veteran

seems to share. “These soldiers today, they’re having a rough time,” he said.

Back at home I had a message from fellow QOVF volunteer, a destination request for a soldier at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. As always, it would be an honor to enter the grounds of the WRNMMC, greet the recipient and his family, and present a Quilt of Valor, but this time my presentation would carry with it the concerns and well wishes of an Army buddy 69 years removed from his war experience.

*Claudel St. Julian’s medals were recently replaced through the Office of Veterans Affairs.



WW II Veteran Claudel St. Julian receives his quilt from Kathy Thorne of the MSP Quilting Angels, Germantown, MD.

(Editor’s note: Jeff is a volunteer coordinator for the National Capital Region (Washington, DC). His email address is jeff.thorne@QOVF.org.)

Southwestern Oregon, Reporting on Activities

By Cindy Roche

Here's a sampling of what's going on in my area. Maybe my activities will spark your own ideas!

★ After a talk I gave for the Material Girls at Shady Cove, the quilt group is excited to make Quilts of Valor as well as anniversary blocks. I cut out pieces and left a dozen or so "kits" to help them to get started. I also delivered sample blocks and patterns to local quilt fabric shops.

★ "First Fridays" are an event for both locals and tourists in Ashland. I was asked to display QOVs in a classroom at the Ashland Art Center. Most viewers were neither veterans nor sewers. When invited to add their signature to a completed anniversary block for a QOV, some declined. I explained our organization is about people, not politics, and that signing was not a support of war, but an act of giving comfort. When others inquired about purchasing a quilt on display, I used the opportunity to explain QOVs are not available to purchase but are given to those touched by war.

★ I'm continuing to promote Quilts of Valor in the local American Sewing Guild chapter, writing a column for each newsletter.

★ We are establishing a relationship with the Operation Iraqi Freedom/



An Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, his wife beside him, receives his QOV at the Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center & Clinics (White City Veterans Administration). Helping hold the quilt are quilt makers Sandi Benfield and Wendy Grammatica.



Cindy Roche presents a QOV to a Special Forces serviceman, explaining the Lone Star represents his training in Texas, the snowflakes his Colorado base, and the gold his Special Forces status. Following the presentation, she got her first-ever hug from a Green Beret!

Pay it Forward

By Patti Lee

During Sulky Certified Teacher Training events last year, participants learned special techniques by making a table topper from patriotic fabrics. The training groups were urged to use extra fabric included in their kits to make extra blocks as part of a "Pay it Forward" element of the training events.

With help from her quilt guild in Maryland, Sue Moats—a Sulky National Educator active in QOVF—used some of the extra blocks produced to make Quilts of Valor to present to Sulky's Director of Education, Ellen Osten for her sons Troy Osten, now retired from US Navy service,

and Blair Osten, actively serving in the US Army. The quilts were given to Ellen at a training event in Kennesaw, Georgia. Additional QOVs have been made from extra blocks from the training events.

(Editor's note: Patti is Vice President of Consumer Relations at Sulky. Her email address is pattijlee@aol.com.)



Ellen Osten, seated, left, with participants at a Sulky Certified Teacher Training event in Kennesaw, Georgia, last fall and the quilts made for her sons.

Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) benefits coordinator at the local Veterans Administration. My two most prolific quilters, Wendy Grammatica and Sandi Benfield, presented a QOV to an Army OIF veteran. His wife wrote, "Thank you so much! We truly enjoyed every minute of it. Bless you all! Tim and I held back tears, it meant so much to him."

★ I presented a quilt to an active duty Army Special Forces serviceman home visiting his family. All were awed by the beautiful quilting our longarm quilter Arlene Farrar did on his special quilt, which he will take overseas with him on his next assignment.

(Editor's note: Cindy is Region 2, Oregon-SW Regional Coordinator. She and her husband live in a rural area near Medford, where they raise wine grapes and chickens and ride a tandem bicycle. Her email address is cindy.roche@QOVF.org.)

Our Foundation cont.

An ongoing goal is increasing the number of Quilts of Valor awarded, and on the horizon is a partnership with Ohio State University that will assist us in this. Over the course of the fall 2013 semester, five groups of senior-level marketing students will compete to create a winning marketing strategy for QOVF growth. A future newsletter article will tell you more about this incredible opportunity that has come our way.

We look forward to sharing more of our goals with you and to hearing ideas from many of you at this month's QOVF Strategic Leadership Conference. As we move forward, we need your help, your support, and your ideas. Please do not ever hesitate to reach out to me and to other board members with your ideas and questions, or even just to say hello.

(Editor's note: Eric is QOVF Board of Directors president. He and his wife Michele and their two children live in Columbus, OH. Eric is a pilot at NetJets and enjoys spending his off time with his family traveling or out on the water. His email address is eric.mccarty@QOVF.org.)

First QOV National Leadership Conference

By June Moore

Nebraska City, NE, may not be the exact center of the US, but it's the spot where 50 QOVF volunteer staff and board members will gather to attend the first-ever Quilts of Valor Foundation Leadership Conference July 26-28, 2013.

Plans and preparations for this event have been accelerating since May 2011, when Diane Jaeger designated funds she raised at HMQS (Home Machine Quilting Show) be devoted to it. The QOVF Board of Directors recognized the importance of

such a conference for our rapidly growing organization, and pledged its support.

For some, the conference will involve first face-to-face meetings; for others it will mean a chance to be together with long time QOV friends. Participating volunteers will receive instruction, share best practices, and hatch new ideas for ways to involve others in the work of our mission—to cover those touched by war with healing Quilts of Valor.

STATISTICS

Iraq

Killed: 4,486

Wounded: Many

Afghanistan

Killed: 2,245

Wounded: Many

Suicides to Date:

30,137

Total QOVs Awarded as of 7/20/13

87,566

Reminders

Remember the R's

REGISTER Yourself, your group, or your shop as a part of the QOVF community.

REPORT quilts awarded directly by you or your group <http://www.qovf.org/quiltsawarded-report.html>

RECRUIT friends, family and locate organizations to donate time, talent and/or funds. We need Coaches, Rookies, Local Quilt Shops to cover all combat service members and veterans touched by war.



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Regional Coordinators (RCs) 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 RC assigned to your state. A full list can be found at <http://www.qovf.org/content/regional-coordinator-overall-view.html>

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 Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover all those service members and veterans touched by war with wartime quilts called Quilts of Valor (QOVs). Quilts of Valor Foundation is not about politics. It is about people.