



THE IMPACT OF THE NBC NIGHTLY NEWS

By Susan Gordon

It was 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 21st, and the *NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams* had just closed with Brian's signature segment "Making A Difference." I was feeling pretty good because the segment had focused on Quilts of Valor Foundation and how we make a difference in the lives of veterans and combat service members.

Almost immediately, my phone started to ring and e-mails began coming in. Millions of viewers across the country had seen the segment and wanted to know more about the Quilts of Valor Foundation. By 7:07 (EST) the first of over 350 requests for Quilts of Valor



Millions of people heard about Army Ranger Josh Hargis' salute from his hospital bed as he received the Purple Heart Award. The Quilts of Valor Community recognized the Quilt of Valor on which his medal had been placed.

for loved ones and family members had been received.

By Saturday, 33 new groups and individuals had registered on our website; over 400 had subscribed to our Facebook

pages and blog. Several State Coordinators had been contacted for stories on local groups and presentations.

"Be careful what you ask for" a friend of mine often says, but this is indeed what we have asked for: ways to get our message out more widely, to locate combat veterans and service members so we can honor them for their service and their sacrifice.

Thank you for your quick response to my rallying call for quilts to fulfill these requests. Many of the requests are for combat veterans now seriously ill from the effects of their wartime service. We have begun making presentations as promptly as we can.

If you would like to help with these ongoing presentations in your state, please contact your State Coordinator

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QOVF NATIONAL SEW DAY SET FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2014

By Betsy Podriznik

Just as QOVF was planning ahead, looking toward the 100,000th quilt that will be awarded some time in 2014, we found ourselves on national news, resulting in increased demand.

QOVF has awarded 91,566 quilts since Catherine Roberts presented the first quilt at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 2003. Over the past decade we have come to more fully understand the sacrifices our service members and veterans have made for our freedom today.

According to information in the Library of Congress, National Freedom Day, celebrated February 1st each year, is for promoting "good feelings, harmony, and equal opportunity among all citizens" and remembering that "the United States is a nation dedicated to the ideal of freedom."

QOVF has designated February 1, 2014, as National Sew Day, a day for individual quilters, quilting groups, guilds, and shops across America not only to pause and reflect, but also to sew, sew, sew.

In January, each QOVF State Coordinator, registered group, and registered quilt shop will receive a kit of materials designed to help them launch this nationwide effort.

Don't wait until January, though. Talk with and email your friends and local quilt and fabric shops. Let's all be ready to push that sewing machine pedal to the floor and keep that motor humming on February 1st.

Consider sending out the following short paragraph in emails. Share it via Facebook or in newsletters.

Quilts of Valor Foundation has chosen February 1, 2014—National Freedom

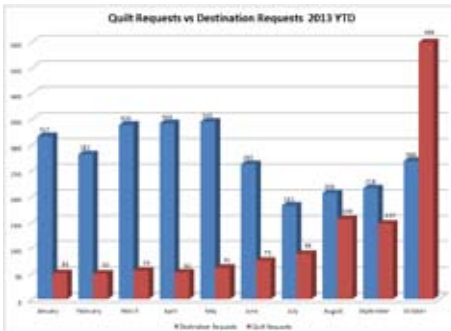
Day—as the first ever QOVF National Sew Day. Quilters all around America are asked to sew for our combat service members and veterans touched by war. It's not too early to start thinking of blocks and patterns, cutting fabric, and inviting friends to gather together. Let's reflect on our freedom and make more quilts in one day than ever before on QOVF National Sew Day.

Let's Make Freedom Ring on February 1, 2014!

(Editor's note: Betsy Podriznik is QOVF Special Events Coordinator. She lives in Lawrenceville, GA, and works as an independent training consultant. Her hobbies include cooking, photography, and of course making Quilts of Valor! If you have any special ideas for National Sew Day, please contact Betsy at betsy.podriznik@QOVF.org)

NBC Nightly News cont.

and offer your assistance. Click here <http://www.qovf.org/content/regional-coordinator-overall-view.html> to find your SC. To view the NBC “Making a Difference” segment online, click here <http://www.qovf.org/>.



Individual requests for QOVs spiked when NBC's segment on Quilts of Valor aired a few days after Josh Hargis' story captured the attention of millions. Hundreds of viewers, upon hearing the QOVF story, went online and nominated loved ones and family members asking that they be honored with their own Quilt of Valor.

FROM THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE:

HERE'S WHAT A DEPUTY DOES

By Lori Kutch

My name is Lori Kutch. I live in North Central Washington State, the heart of apple and pear country. My day job is as a quality control supervisor for a major pear packing company. My passion (actually, my obsession) is my volunteer job as Deputy Director for Quilts of Valor Foundation.

My responsibility is to recruit, supervise, guide, and advocate for our State Coordinators. I serve as their sounding board. I help them find ways to solve problems, plan events, recruit volunteers, expand contacts, and share accurate information. I focus on encouraging their efforts and letting them know how valued they are.

Well-supported State Coordinators can then assist volunteers with forming new local groups, filling requests for quilts, planning presentations or com-

munity events, and supporting their own ideas to further the QOVF mission.

As an avid quilter and a QOVF volunteer for several years before I became Deputy Director, my personal goal is to make one Quilt Of Valor each week. I also co-chair a local QOV group, host community sew days, and accept as many speaking engagements as I can to spread the Quilts of Valor story and mission.

I am always looking for volunteers ready to step up and lead their state. If you are interested in information about becoming a State Coordinator e-mail me at lori.kutch@qovf.org. I look forward to working with you to grow our QOVF volunteer community and fulfill our mission to honor and comfort those touched by war.



Lori Kutch

BEHIND EVERY GREAT WOMAN, A GREAT MAN

By Catherine Roberts

Even before you know what you need or want, Mike Moore, with a sparkle in his eye, is “on it.” In case you don’t know Mike, he’s the husband of our former Executive Director June Moore.

A retired farmer, Mike starts his day at pre-dawn, taking care of others until he goes to bed at night. He makes sure the critters, June, and anyone else who has entered his caring-for-radius have had their needs met. Only then does this selfless man start counting sheep.

I recently asked Mike what drives him. With a chuckle he answered, “I need a woman to tell me what to do and where to go.” When invited to complain about being the person so many rely on to “do things,” he said that when he sees a need, he just does it. I asked if he keeps a mental tally of his tasks, he said, “Heck no! I just do what needs to be done.”

I have watched Mike in wonderment on countless occasions cheerfully doing “what needs to be done.” He runs for coffee. He sets up quilt show booths. He gives a perfect “elevator speech” about QOVF. He makes trips to the bank, post



June Moore and husband Mike.

office, airport. June’s all consuming jobs throughout her long service to QOVF would not have been accomplished as effectively without Mike lovingly tending to her every need.

Mike Moore’s quiet, constant, service is epitomized by a cookie he has perfected. It’s called simply Mike’s Good Cookie. When you bite into one of Mike’s cookies, you know immediately it is exactly what you needed.

IN-PERSON AWARDS: THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

By Barbara Conner

As Individual Request Coordinator, my biggest challenge is finding local volunteers to award requested quilts—our recipients deserve a hand-delivered award, not a quilt arriving in a box!

I breathe a sigh of relief when I can forward a special request to a State Coordinator. Occasionally, though, there is no SC, so I’ve become creative. If, like me, you need to coordinate a presentation that is a great distance from you, here are some suggestions:

- Contact your local VFW or American Legion.
- Consider the local sheriff or mayor, especially in small towns. Sheriff Patrick Boggs of Maysville, Kentucky, felt honored to make an award. As a member of the Kentucky Sheriff’s Association, he offered help with the whole state! Many law officers have had previous military careers. Check with the recipient’s family to see if they know any of these local officials.

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QOVs AWARDED AT VIETNAM MOVING WALL

By Susan Gordon

On a Friday in September, a group of volunteers participated in the opening ceremonies for the Vietnam Moving Wall in Adel, Georgia. The Moving Wall is a half-size replica of the Washington DC Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has been touring the country for almost thirty years. It bears 58,148 names. Learn more at <http://www.themovingwall.org/>

Sixty-eight combat veterans and active service members were given a Quilt of Valor, a thank you, and a hug. Over 50 of the recipients were Vietnam veterans; also honored were veterans from WWII, Korea, Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Iraq, and Afghanistan conflicts.

Here are a few comments from recipients and participants at the event:

The Moving Wall helps us remain aware of the high cost/risk in wearing our nation's military uniforms. It also reminds us in a bittersweet way that our heroes are still with us.

Russ Elkins,
United Methodist Church minister
(retired)



Veterans from WWII through Afghanistan were awarded Quilts of Valor as tribute was paid to Vietnam Veterans during the Vietnam Moving Wall Opening Ceremony in Adel, Georgia in September.



Executive Director Susan Gordon stands with four veterans from one family. From left are: Loistene Mack (Desert Storm), Dwight Mack (Desert Storm), Patrick Mack (Vietnam), Susan, and Jerry Mack (Vietnam).

Thank you for the recognition you have given us, the lost generation of veterans of Vietnam.

Jack Bridwell, Executive Director
Museum of Colquitt County History,
Moultrie, GA

Each Quilt of Valor is an opportunity to rewrite history: to leave a tangible reminder for these men and women's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren that expresses the honor we tried to communicate to them yesterday.

Susan Gordon, Executive Director
& Quilts of Valor Foundation volunteer

In Person Awards cont.

- Ask the recipient if his or her pastor or priest might make the award. A Quilt of Valor presented after a service or Mass allows the entire congregation to witness the recipient's honor. Many military chaplains have helped us award QOVs.
- Identify local QOVF groups from our home page, www.QOVF.org. One of our volunteers may live in the recipient's hometown or neighborhood.
- Don't forget the veteran who has already been awarded a Quilt of Valor. He or she might be the most appropriate awardee of all.

Please, present a Quilt of Valor "outside the box," not in one!

REPRESENTING THE NEXT GENERATION HANNAH BAILEY, NEW QOVF YOUTH LIAISON

By Lori Kutch

As Quilts of Valor Foundation approaches our tenth anniversary, we've taken advantage of an opportunity to embrace fresh ideas and welcome a new generation of volunteers. Hannah Bailey, a high school senior and a second generation QOVF volunteer, accompanied her mother Sherra Bailey (WV State Coordinator) to the QOVF Leadership Conference in Nebraska. She accepted an official position created for her on the spot: QOVF Youth Liaison.

In her new role, Hannah will be helping other young people incorporate the Quilts of Valor mission as part of their community service. Hannah is already reaching out to youth in her state via public speaking. Coming from a military family, she understands the QOVF mission in a special way



Hannah Bailey

and is determined to share it with her generation.

"We have to let the youth of America know what Quilts of Valor Foundation is all about. We have untapped resources out there among young people. If you'd like ideas for ways to reach out to youth in your area, please contact me at: hannah.bailey@qovf.org"



This month Uncle Sam is asking you to look at your end-of-the-year donations and include a check to the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Encourage family and friends to support the mission of Quilts of Valor in their giving plans. We are an all-volunteer foundation and all monetary gifts go to accomplish our mission: to cover and comfort our combat veterans and service men and women. Donate on line now by going to <http://www.qovf.org/donate.html>

STATISTICS

Iraq

Killed: 4,489

Wounded: Many

Afghanistan

Killed: 2,287

Wounded: Many

Suicides to Date:

Statistics Unknown

Total QOVs Awarded as of 10/15/13

91,566



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Let us know how we can help you ...

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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 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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Marianne Fons, *Assistant Editor*
Tony Jacobson, *Graphic Designer*

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.