



From the Executive Director

It's autumn, and in many parts of the country that means cooler temps, falling leaves, football, and of course, getting back into the quilting mood. I'm sure many of you are finishing up QOVs to award around Veterans Day. In my opinion, every day is Veterans Day, and I know—from the many pictures you post on Facebook and the newspaper articles



*Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director*

I see—you feel the same way. For all of us, there is no better time than now to reengage in our mission to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing QOVs.

Sandy Chambers has joined the Executive Staff as the Under Our Wings Coordinator. Her contact information is saundra.chambers@QOVF.org. She is working on attracting youth groups to QOVF, as well as putting together educational information for coaches and rookies.

Plans are under way for the 2017 Annual Conference to be held in early June in Colorado. Would you like to be a presenter?

Is there a particular subject you would like to see covered at the event? Please let me know at ann.rehbein@QOVF.org.

National "Make a Difference Day" is October 22nd. As stated on www.makeadifferenceday.com, "volunteers from across the country will unite for one of the largest single days of service to improve the lives of others." What a great day for your group to gather and make QOVs. Of course, QOVF has our own "make a difference day." It's called National Sew Day and will be held February 4, 2017. You can find more information on page 2. Make plans now!

Until next time, quilt in peace and happiness knowing you make a difference.

CLASS OF 1963 RECEIVES QOVs

By Jeannie Dickson and Linda Phillips

When plans got underway for the 50th reunion of the Hialeah Class of 1963, we knew we wanted to do something special to honor Vietnam era veteran classmates. Back in 1963, the specter of the draft influenced every boy and most families in our class in the Miami, FL, suburb where we went to school. There was very little choice about whether or not one served in the military.

Returning vets got no parades or thanks for duty to country or the sacrifices they made. None came home untouched by war. Adjusting back into society was often difficult.

And so, decades later, we took the opportunity to award eight of our Vietnam veteran classmates QOVs as a way of saying, "Thank You, and Welcome Home, Soldier."

To include classmates who wished to



Awardees display their QOVs during a three-day weekend reunion of 1963 graduates of Hialeah High School. Eight Vietnam era veteran classmates were honored.

participate in making quilts, we formed a temporary group called the "Sewing Sisters." We made up kits of pre-cut fabric patches to send to all who signed up to sew. As finished blocks came in, we assembled them into quilt tops.

Tops were layered onto batting and the backings we had pieced, and then quilted by a longarm quilting volunteer assigned to us by the QOVF Longarm

Coordinator. Once returned to us, we hand bound and finished each quilt with a personalized label.

We included a note to our recipients that said in part, "Dear soldier, your quilt has been through many loving hands before being presented to you. Every time you see it, may you feel a sense of satisfaction. When you use it, may you feel comfort and peace."

HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER (IN SKAGWAY, ALASKA)

By Betsy Podriznik

In a giant leap of faith, I took a temporary job at a quilt shop in Alaska! The quaint village of Skagway (pop. 800+) is located on the Inland Passage waterway, and is a May-to-September cruise ship port visited by over one million people each year. The shop, Rushin' Tailor's Quilt Alaska, hires extra workers for the five-month cruise season.

Before leaving my home (in Atlanta, GA) for this adventure, I contacted QOVF AK State Coordinator Linda Kau; I knew I'd need QOV friends in the far north. Linda connected me with Anita LaFont, who welcomed me even before I made my journey across the continent. Though I was working 40 hours a week in the shop, I still found time to sew with this great group of ladies.

The ten women have been sewing together for many years, their friendships growing stronger through times of joy and tragedy. Anita and another member, BeeGee, are native Alaskan; Anita's heritage is Tlingit, BeeGee's is Eskimo. Others are transplants who fell in love with AK.

Most work full time—Allyson is a station master with the railroad, Chris is in Skagway to be near her son who works for the National Park Service, Diane drove an 18-wheeler but now runs a daycare center where Linda also works, Jauna is involved in her family's business, Lori works at the local clinic, Trish owns the quilt shop, and Maria manages it.

Their interest in QOVF began a few years ago with the "Just One Star" block campaign from MODA Fabrics. After sending in blocks, they decided to start making QOVs. Skagway has a significant year-round population of veterans, many from the Vietnam era. This summer, when I suggested they request quilts "from national," they said no, they would cover their 45-50 veterans themselves. Twenty-five quilts are currently in various states of completion. Their target for awards is next Memorial Day or Independence Day.

What a joy to land in a completely unknown place nearly 4000 miles from home and have friends even before I arrived. I'm proud to say my sew days with these ladies produced one top to add to their number, and I will stay in touch to help them with their plans for their award ceremony.



Betsy Podriznik (left) and group member Anita LaFont display a QOV at Rushin' Tailor's Quilt Alaska quilt shop, a destination for quilters cruising the Inland Passage.

(Betsy Podriznik is former Special Events Coordinator for QOVF.)

PLAN NOW FOR FEB 4 NATIONAL SEW DAY

By Debra Kaldenberg

Sew ... you like to get together with old friends and make new friends?

Sew ... you strive to be involved in making a difference in this world?

Sew ... you have a deep-seated need and drive to say "Thank You for all you do, and for all you have done?"

If Sew ... you are invited to join together across communities, across states, and across the country for a day of creativity, healing, and love. National Sew Day is



FEBRUARY 4, 2017

a day we lift our collective machines, fabric, needles, scissors, and thread by gathering together to create award-worthy QOVs.

February 4th, 2017, is National Sew Day. I would love to hear from you; your ideas, dreams, thoughts, and goals on how to make this a more special day—one where every participant truly feels part of a committed group working together to wrap service members in love, healing, and gratitude.

(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.)

WHAT'S ON YOUR CHECKLIST?

By Ginger Fondren

Doesn't it feel good to complete a task and check it off? Here are a few of the QOVF items we've checked off in the past couple of months:

- ✓ Revise online forms to be fillable electronically
- ✓ Move electronic forms at www.qovf.org to the Members Only Page (making them more accessible and useful to our members)
- ✓ Update database to list all state coordinators
- ✓ Add new state coordinators in several states with openings
- ✓ Develop a report for state coordinators that is always up-to-date
- ✓ Merge the mailing list into a single database
- ✓ Reformat *Policies & Procedures* manual
- ✓ Prelaunch the QOV online store

As with any growing organization, there is still much to be done. Executive Director Ann Rehbein and I are always open to suggestions for making things run smoothly. Please feel free to continue sharing your ideas with us.

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



HOW IS A SHOP QOVF CERTIFIED?

By Myra Coddens

The QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program is growing! By mid-September, there were more than 27 shops registered. What shops are near you? Check www.qovf.org Who's in My Area and you'll find each listed by state and a link to the shops' websites.

How can you encourage your favorite quilt shop to get involved as a Certified QOVF Quilt Shop? Share this article with them. Are you a shop owner and want to become a Certified QOVF Quilt Shop? Complete the shop registration form found on qovf.org under New Memberships. What's involved? Shops sponsor a QOV group, host activities such as sew days, provide customers with patriotic fabrics and supplies for QOV quilts, and proudly display the QOV logo. There is a \$30 annual membership fee for the shop/group and the standard \$5 annual membership for individual group members. Together, we can build our ranks to include QOVF Certified Quilt Shops from coast to coast.

(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: 12,855

Total: 145,572

(as of 30 September 2016)

QUILTS NEEDED FOR WARRIORS IN TRANSITION

By Karen Weber

Every month, 95% of the awarded QOVs are given locally. But did you know that QOVF also has a Continuing Destinations program that provides quilts to military facilities? The facilities include:

- Military hospitals in Afghanistan, Qatar, and Germany
- VA Hospitals in CA, DE, NY, TN, and WV
- Military clinics, hospitals, and rehab centers across the country
- Hospice programs

The recipients at these locations frequently have special problems. They have been wounded in battle, have ongoing medical issues, or are having difficulty with transitioning back to civilian life. In the case of the hospice programs, a quilt may be a final comforting gift to the veteran, and a treasured remembrance to the family.

Crystal Rath, the QOVF contact at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, summarizes the importance QOVs to our service members. "The injured Active Duty members all greatly appreciate and treasure the quilts. It helps so much to have a piece of home to take with them for their journey on to the next destination."

The need for continuing destination quilts is great. This year, about 60% of requests are left unfilled because of a lack of quilts. What's the solution? If every QOVF quilting group sent one quilt out of every ten completed as a Destination Quilt, we would be able to fulfill all of our requests.

If you have a completed QOV, and would like to assist this program in need, go to the "Request a Destination" link at www.qovf.org, and complete the information about you and your quilt(s). You'll receive an email reply with instructions for sending your quilt(s).

Your quilt will certainly be treasured, and could be an important part of a service-member's healing process!

(Karen Weber is the QOVF Destinations Coordinator. Contact Karen at karen.weber@qovf.org.)

QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

Welcome Aboard to our newest members of the Certified Quilt Shop Program. Many quilt shops across the USA actively support QOVF. We thank them for their support and encourage participation in the QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program. As of September 2016 these additional shops have completed the registration requirements.

Calico Station
Christie's Quilting Boutique
Erica's Craft & Sewing Center
Quilt & Sew Quilters @ Golden Threads
Quilt Kits & Beyond
The Cozy Quilter
The Quilter's Fix

Orange Park, FL
Norwalk, CT
South Bend, IN
Trenton, KY
Marshfield, WI
Louisville, KY
Sheridan, WY

*"My quilt isn't another military medal
to be placed in a box and sit on my shelf.
I was moved to tears."*

With more registrations in process, we look forward to having this number grow!

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

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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www.QOVF.org
For more information about the BOD,
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State Coordinator (SCs) go to [http://
www.qovf.org/content/about-us.html](http://www.qovf.org/content/about-us.html).



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Newsletter

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