“THANK YOU” POSTERS AVAILABLE
By Marianne Fons

Beautiful, heavy-stock, 14” × 18” full-color posters printed for our community by Baby Lock in support of QOVF are now available from Laurel Kindley if you are a registered group, quilt shop, or individual. Check whether your group is registered at http://www.qovf.org/localqov-list.html. If it is not, use the “Register Local QOVF Group” link to register a group or an individual. Shops register at http://www.qovf.org/content/uow-register-first.html.

The only cost for up to five posters rolled in one USPS Flat Rate mailer is $10 to cover shipping, tape, and paperwork. To order 1–5 posters, send a check for $10 made out to Quilts of Valor Foundation, with “posters” and the number (up to five) you’d like on the check memo line. Mail your check to:

Laurel Kindley
108 Wollard Blvd.
Richmond, MO 64085

You must supply Laurel with your name, mailing address, email address, and phone number. Laurel is our Missouri State Coordinator: laurel.kindley@QOVF.org

A poster can say “thank you” to many people—businesses, service organizations, or individuals. Be sure to keep a poster for your sewing room to say Thank You to yourself!

FROM THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE
By Sharon Ledbetter

I was surprised recently when someone called me a Big Dog. It got me thinking, “Who are the QOVF Big Dogs?”

Answering the question didn’t take long—our Board of Directors, our Executive Director, Director, and Deputy Director, Destination Coordinator and Longarm/Topper Coordinator, State Coordinators, and every individual quilting to honor, comfort, and heal those who have stood in harm’s way to protect us—everyone one of us is a Big Dog.

Think of us as the QOVF “pack.” The lead dog sets our course and the rest of the team must stay in position to keep the sled moving at a steady pace. When part of the team falters, it affects the entire pack. None of us can function without the others. We are not “I.” We are “we.”

If you haven’t been to www.QOVF.org, in a while, spend some time there soon getting to know the rest of the pack. Look down the left side of the home page past the blue boxes and into the white section—a link to a list of your State Coordinators (SCs) is there. Find your coordinator and connect with her or him (yes, we do have hims and they are great assets to our Foundation). SCs are all here to answer questions, clarify information, and give you an atta girl (or atta boy).

Next, check out the red line across the top of the home page. Find “Local QOV Groups,” click on that link, and follow it. If you haven’t registered as a QOVF group or individual, please do. Why? It affords interested people in your area the opportunity to find and join your group. It gives your State Coordinator the opportunity to ask you to present a QOV in your area should the need arise. SCs often receive donated fabric, sewing supplies, and even machines to be passed along to someone quilting for QOV, so if you are registered you might be contacted by our Info Desk and offered some goodies—just sayin’!

In the end, we are all Big Dogs. A strong pack makes a strong team. GO DOGS!

(Editor’s note: Sharon is QOVF Director and formerly Idaho State Coordinator. Her email address is sharon.ledbetter@QOVF.org.)
“Tennessee, the Volunteer State, is living up to its reputation where the Quilts of Valor Foundation mission is concerned,” says Dennis Taylor, Tennessee State Coordinator.

“This is the most fun I have ever had,” Taylor says, as he recites his many activities, beginning with a presentation to a veterans’ mental health support group, Legacy Peers, then awarding a quilt to a veteran of Desert Storm in Bristol. Next on his stop was Greene County Quilters. “I learned they have been making quilts for the VA Hospital in Mountain Home, but none had been recorded. Fortunately, they kept good records, so together we reported more than 70 quilts,” Taylor said.

At the Tennessee Valley Fair, Taylor signed up in the first four days more than 35 volunteers wanting to sew quilts. Two local television stations and a radio talk show host did stories about QOVF.

Taylor also visited a senior center where the director—a Korean War veteran—said a sewing room with a longarm machine is available to residents, but they need a project. Taylor’s wife Doyleen will train residents. Others who have recently asked Taylor to speak to them about Quilts of Valor Foundation include three church sewing groups, two more quilt guilds, and the North Knoxville American Legion.

“September has been a whirlwind month of activity. I practically exhausted my supply of handouts during the 10 days of the Tennessee Valley Fair,” Taylor said. The week following the fair, he spoke to the Lion’s Club and awarded two quilts. The group has promised a donation.

In October Dennis will award 14 quilts at the Navy Ball in Knoxville and 21 quilts in Dickson, TN, as part of a retreat for soldiers and veterans from Ft. Campbell. “It just keeps going and going,” he said, adding, “Thanks to all of you for the hard work you do to honor the true heroes of this great country.”

(Editor’s note: Dennis is Tennessee State Coordinator. His wife and partner Doyleen is a long arm quilting expert and the person who inspired him to become a SC. Dennis’s email address is dennis.taylor@QOVF.org.)

Doyleen and Dennis Taylor staffing the Quilts of Valor booth at the recent Tennessee Valley Fair in Knoxville.
“One new guild member said she joined just so she could learn to make a Quilt of Valor,” said QOV-RQP Coordinator Donna Karbach.

Members prepared kits and invited people who had never quilted to become Rookies. Coach/Rookie sessions took place at Color Me Quilts & More in Niles, the Masonic Center in Pleasanton, Foothill and Amador Valley high schools, and San Lorenzo Adult School. Since the show, AVQ has worked with VFW Post 6298, Pleasanton Military Families Support Group, Valley Veterans Foundation, and the USS Hornet Museum to schedule presentations to local veterans nominated by the groups and guild members.

Amador Valley Quilters has made Quilts of Valor part of its ongoing community outreach. Some of the QOVs from the show have been exhibited at the Alameda County Fair and on the USS Hornet, an aircraft carrier museum in San Francisco Bay.

Audrey Hutchinson, top center with Rail Fence, Donna Karbach, center right with an eagle on her shoulder (!), and other members of Amador Valley Quilters’ Rookie Quilt Project participants.

Left to right, Mrs. Thorne and Mayor Jerry Thorne, Pleasanton (CA), US Representative Eric Swalwell, Pat Frizzell, President of Pleasanton Military Families Support Group (PMFSG), QOV recipient Cody Waller’s family members, and Susan Thomas and Marty Miller of PMFSG. Cody’s family accepted his quilt for him, as he was not able to be back home in time for the ceremony.

Rich Burke and Marcia Miller admire the Quilt of Valor awarded to a veteran practicing yoga for relaxation and stress reduction.

Amador Valley Rookie Quilt Project Coach Sue Green works with Rookies Carrie Wright and Robin Lloyd at Color Me Quilts & More.
CORRECTION: In our September issue, the story "QOVs Awarded at Highland Games," stated in the last paragraph, "For the first time, wounded warrior veterans from WWII competed in the games." World War II veterans did not compete in the games. The event was the first time Wounded Warriors from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq competed at the Maryland event.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation is growing at an amazing rate. Soon we will be awarding our 100,000th Quilt of Valor. In addition to this upcoming event, the leadership team is busy with plans for 2014 and 2015. We are looking for volunteers to help on a national level in a variety of positions. If you have interest please contact Executive Director Susan Gordon at susan.gordon@QOVF.org

QOVF Staff
Let us know how we can help you ...

Catherine Roberts, Founder
catherine.roberts@QOVF.org

Susan Gordon, Executive Director
susan.gordon@QOVF.org

Eric McCarty, President,
Board of Directors
eric.mccarty@QOVF.org

Mike Sloan, Member,
Board of Directors
(Veterans Affairs)
mike.sloan@QOVF.org

Joyce Lundrigan, Treasurer
Board of Directors
joyce.lundrigan@QOVF.org

Marianne Fons,
Board of Directors
(Quilting Industry)
marianne.fons@QOVF.org

Walt Davis, Member
Board of Directors
(Military Affairs)
walt.davis@QOVF.org

Sharon Ledbetter, Director
sharon.ledbetter@QOVF.org

Lori Kutch, Deputy Director
lori.kutch@QOVF.org

Jim and Joan Wobbleton,
Longarm Coordinators
JandJwobbleton@QOVF.org

Judie Yates, Destination Coordinator
judie.yates@QOVF.org

Barb Conner,
Coordinator of Individual Requests
barbara.conner@QOVF.org

Terry Yates, IT Director
terry.yates@QOVF.org

Di Richards, Coordinator for
Marketing and Public Relations
diana.richards@QOVF.org

Jeff Thorne, Coordinator of
Government and Private Industry
jeff.thorne@QOVF.org

Julia Schroeder,
Information Desk Administrator
julia.schroeder@QOVF.org

Betsy Podriznik,
Coordinator of Special Events
betsy.podriznik@QOVF.org

Hannah Bailey, Youth Liaison
hannah.bailey@QOVF.org

Karla Locke, Media Manager
karla.locke@QOVF.org

Mailing Address:
Quilts of Valor Foundation
P.O. Box 728
Lebanon, NH 03766

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
Susan Gordon, Editorial Director
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.