About a month ago, Mr. Opportunity knocked at our QOV door. Usually I can guess what he is offering and the pitch behind the story. This time, I had no clue as to who it was nor what events would be in store for us in the QOV community.

What Mr. Opportunity brought was an offer to us to cover the entire USMC 3rd Battalion, 8th Expeditionary Marine Force with QOVS...1,200 marines and sailors...upon their return from a long and arduous deployment to Afghanistan in early June. I jumped at this offer thinking, “This will be a great project for our QOV”.

The Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina went through their channels to make sure this could workout from a logistical viewpoint (safely storing the QOVS, arrange the awarding with marines, sailors, families and QOV guests...yes, that’s YOU...etc). They got their official go-ahead and named it “Operation Quilts of Valor”.

Now the fun begins!

Rally the troops. Get everyone and their aunt and uncle and cousins sewing more wartime Quilts of Valor for the 3/8. Get the machine quilters to reeve up their machines for all these extra tops/backings. Fill out the labels, journals, plus make presentation cases for them all.

We will have a QOV Woodie-Van that is going from coast to coast collecting the quilts. The van is being donated and driven by a former Marine Captain and his sister. The Mt. Diablo Vietnam Veterans are kicking in gas money...around $1,500. Patriotic Riders from across the country will escort our Woodie-Van helping to publicize what we are doing: Covering our Combat warriors with our homemade, heirloom Quilts of Valor.

We will be sending out details of how we will do the QOV quilt relay from your house to our Woodie-Van.

Thank you for standing with me for this adventure.

Still at war; still quilting

Catherine Roberts (1/10)
Executive Director/Founder QOVF
cath@QOVF.org
QOVF Community News

Here is news from around the country about your fellow QOV’ers. Their stories inspire and motivate. We would love to know what you are doing. Email newsletter@QOVF.org.

HEROES TO HOMETOWN
Mary Whittaker

Eight quilts were given to wounded soldiers at the Heroes to Hometown BBQ at the Chula Vista American Legion Post 434. (Sunny Farrend is the chairperson for the HTH.) We had a grand time and the wounded soldiers appreciated all of our work. To date, we have presented 68 quilts to wounded warriors here in San Diego and Chula Vista.

Blocks are made by quilters from the Chula Vista and Idyllwild Quilt Guilds—I am an active member of both Guilds.

We also crochet and knit caps for soldiers. We give them to the local Seal Team 7 (one of the wives is a member of the Chula Vista Quilt Guild). The Army let the “boys” take photos but, not being military issue, wouldn’t let them wear the caps with their uniforms. My grandson wore his cap under his helmet in Afghanistan to keep his head warm.

ALBUQUERQUE KIDS MAKE QOVs
Melinda Ackerman
(mmackerman@cepinnm.org)

The 9th to 12th grade students at Creative Education Preparatory Institute (CEPI) in Albuquerque, NM, are working on Quilt of Valor #6 for this year.

The students have raised enough money to travel to Prescott, AZ in June to attend a presentation ceremony. This is CEPI’s second year making Quilts of Valor and it has been a tremendous experience for all involved.

There are currently six students on the waiting list to be able to quilt. We are a registered quilting site on the QOVF website.

ARTICLE IN LOCAL PAPER INITIATES PRESENTATION OF QOV TO WOUNDED SOLDIER (From March 2009 Newsletter)
Melanie Rupp

(Pictures were unavailable for March Newsletter)
It has been awhile since the newsletter has heard from our group. Last fall our “leader,” Susan Wade, moved to sunny California. As a group we were not sure how things were going to work out without her. I am happy to say we are surviving and growing by leaps and bounds. We have divided the organizational chores among several of us and it is working well.

Kathy and Jeff Thorne have started a web page, “http://mspquiltingangels.org” last fall. It has really taken off. Please visit the site. All of our activities are now posted for everyone to see. The site has allowed us to welcome new members to our multi-denominational group from all over the DC area. We have members that come from Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

We also have a few longarmers that are willing to donate their services to our group.

We have also started a block of the month for those members that can’t do a whole quilt but a square is not so overwhelming. The January block produced 2 QOV quilt tops. Great way to use up the scraps!

Our group raises money for supplies through raffles of quilts and as part of Mother Seton Parish’s alternative giving program at Christmas time. Of course we always take donations of money and material, too.

Last fall we delivered 24 QOV quilts to the VA hospital in Baltimore. This site is our main focus for the quilts we produce for QOV.

Part of Susan’s legacy is that our quilts never went out until they were blessed. We have a blessing 2-3 time a year depending on the number of quilts we have finished. On March 21st, National Quilting Day, we blessed 30 QOV quilts that will now be delivered to the VA in Baltimore. You can see the pictures of that day on our blog, “http://mspquiltingangels.blogspot.com”.

Finally, we’d like to thank our former leader, Susan Wade, for starting the group 4 years ago--our anniversary was March 28th. We miss her but know she is still working on those QOV quilts out there in sunny California.

We will continue with our work for the soldiers and we will see you in the next newsletter, hopefully.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Spillett

SPREADING THE WORD
by: Sue McGartland

Last week my husband and I finished up three weeks working for Habitat for Humanity in Lafayette, LA during collegiate challenge. Each of the three weeks we had different groups of college students come during their spring break to help build and/or finish houses for low income families. It was during this time that Catherine sent our her challenge for 1,200 quilts for the homecoming of the Marines. I wished that I could get more than one quilt finished for this challenge before I was to leave on a trip to Vietnam with my sister and brother who was going there to celebrate his first wedding anniversary with his Vietnamese wife. But I didn’t know how this was going to be possible.

Do it through others was the only idea I had that would help me accomplish my goal to help significantly with the 1200 challenge. I asked the site supervisor if I could do the inspirational reading one morning during weeks two and three. Of course I got a yes and spent several hours going back to previous newsletters looking for quotables I could use as well as a short history of the QOV Foundation, its mission and Catherine. Oh what a response I got! There was a group of twelve Americorp kids working with us and one of them wanted the info sheet I had prepared to sent to her aunt who owns a quilt shop! One young man from Topeka, KS came up and said, “I know eleven or twelve women at my church who quilt and I’ll tell them this is something they HAVE TO DO”. A girl from Oklahoma came up to me tears, “I can’t tell you how wonderful this project is...my brother just left for his second tour in Iraq and I did not get to say good-bye to him.” Luckily I had a small patriotic wall hanging finished that I could give to her. Another girl from New York was so excited. She said she knows how to quilt and was going back and teach eleven of her dorm mates how to quilt.
thoughts from Rita Armstrong,
Longarmer, Sanford, North Carolina

One of the brightest quilts I worked on this year was from Lyn Phillips in Austin, Texas. She called it “Mars”. The colors in the orange are actually much brighter than the photo shows.

The second one I really loved and had fun with, also by Lyn Phillips of Austin, Texas. It was called “Autumn Splendor”. So aptly named. Definitely men colors...excellent piecing in both quilts.

Thoughts during the Quilting of my families past, from the first world through to Desert Storm, wandered through my brain. The awful conditions, not much worse than our guys and gals have today overseas, our patriots had during the Civil and Revolutionary Wars. Some didn’t even have tents, sleeping bags, cold weather clothing, wet weather clothing. Then I thank God that these GI’s, no matter the age, sex or service, have survived, wounded, ill and yet, to be home when their tours of the hospital and rehab is over. I thank each of them, wish I could bear their pain and heartache, comfort them and their families, friends, and bless the medical staff who helps care for them, the minds and hands of those who do the surgeries, the ICU work.

I look out the window of our present home, in a peaceful town, not much to fear at the present time except fear itself. We can pray and bless them, tell them hi and joke with them when we can tell they are in Service, and tell them how we appreciate their service. I even get hugs from some of them and that feels good. I also make it a point to tell them and their spouses and kids that I appreciate them making and keeping a home and having a love for their Daddy or Mamma.

The sun is shining here in North Carolina, a nice crisp day especially for April in the Sand Hills. Our Sand doesn’t stick to our shoes, pelt our skin, get in our food and liquids. We don’t bring 5 pounds of it home in our clothing and baggage. Ours stays outside, without effort...a nice situation. Grass is green, squirrels, red and rusty cardinal pairs, Gold Finches or Wild Canaries, little sparrows, and what a loud mouth they have! Small blackbirds, large ravens--what greedy critters they are. I often wonder what bird they referred to in “Sing a Song of Six Pence.” If big ravens, it would make a massive pie; if the little blackbirds...I think a dove would provide more meat.

Azalea, dogwood, rhododendrons, many other flowering bushes are showing all their beauty, while the pine, oak, maple, as well as others, shed their pollen and cause many breathing problems for citizens. Lawns are being mowed, downfall of branches from winds and storms during the winter and early spring. All bring back memories of times past when it was so much easier and more dangerous to gather and burn piles of stuff outside. Some states still allow it on “burn days.”

Want to say thank you and God Bless to all our wounded and ill, give me a hug when I say thanks so I can give you one, too.
INTEGRATING “VALOR” INTO OUR LABELS
by: Jo Stauffer
(quiltjls@yahoo.com)

I have researched and have not found many, but a few, quotes about VALOR. I thought since our quilts are called Quilts of Valor, it would be appropriate to include a quote about valor on my labels. So that is what I do. I like to handwrite or use fabric sheets for my labels and I just incorporate one of these quotes somewhere, usually at the top of my label.

“Valor is stability, not of legs and arms, but of Courage and the Soul.”

Michael de Montaigne

“If all men were just, there would be no need of Valor.”

Agesilaus (Spartan King)

“Real Valor consists not in being insensible to danger, but in being prompt to confront and disarm it.”

Sir Walter Scott

“The Valor that struggles is better than the weakness that endures.”

Georg Hegel

“Valor, glory, firmness, skill, generosity, steadiness in battle and ability to rules these constitute the duty of a soldier. They flow from his own nature.”

Bhagavad-Gita

I hope that these can be helpful to enrich our label making for our Quilts of Valor.

BECOMING INVOLVED
by: Rose Ann Lindahl
(mlindahl@tnics.com)

The QOV group has been one of interest to me. I have gotten acquainted with many new friends and enjoyed quilting with my mid-arm Pfaff Grandquilter. Quilts have come from many areas of the US.

It was by accident that I found the QOVF site back in 2007 and because my husband is a Korean War Veteran, I wanted to be of help for this cause. I was given the privilege to quilt one for the 90 year old gentleman who makes patriotic string quilts. A quilter myself, I find it interesting that wherever the quilts are sent, I have always received a positive note in response from the VA Center. It is exciting to put a quilt in the mail to Iraq and have it reach them almost as quick as one sent in the USA.

The people responsible for this project are very special and deserve many Thanks from both the toppers and the quilters. This task has been huge and very well done.

Notes from June
by: June Moore

Longarm/Topper Coordinator
(june@QOVF.org)

With the big pushes, like those for the 3/8 Marines and the 82nd Airborne, we will all be recruiting our quilting friends to make Quilts of Valor. We do not want to sacrifice the quality our warriors have come to associate with Quilts of Valor for quantity of quilts. We are including some of the basic information for making Quilts of Valor for your review and to share with those who may be new to making Quilts of Valor. You will find them at the end of this Newsletter. (How to make a Quality Quilt of Valor; Quilt Topper Guidelines/Responsibilities; Longarmer Guidelines/Responsibilities)

Of course information is available on our Website, www.QOVF.org, and in the files section of QOVFChat, but I sometimes get hints that not everyone reads the available information. If you would like to exchange ideas with others in the QOVF community, I invite you to join QOVFChat on Yahoo Groups.

If you happen to be at Machine Quilter’s Exposition in Manchester, NH April 15-18, be sure to stop by the QOVF booth and say hello.

Happy Quilting,
June
A VERY SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM A MARINE WIFE

Our nephew, why do I always start my column with the words “our nephew”? The reason is of course that everything we do for or with United States Marines began with our nephew’s enlistment ten years ago. So many deployments! So much training! So much exposure to other countries and cultures. So many brothers in arms that are indeed his brothers for life. The worst time for him, and for those of us waiting and worrying at home, was the 2004 deployment to Iraq. That was his second of four deployments to Iraq to-date.

Many of our nephew’s fellow Marines died during that deployment and so many more were injured. His battalion, the 1/8, as well as other Marine battalions endured Operation Phantom Fury, the fight for Fallujah, in November of 2004. That battle, that month of November, will always be with them and will always be with us. We wish we could erase it, we wish November would not continue to roll around on the calendar. Yet, we must not erase it, we must not eliminate November from the calendar, for if we did, we would erase the memories of those who died. We would erase a hard fought and successful battle that drove our enemy from the city of Fallujah and began the awakening of Al Anbar Province. We must never forget.

Our nephew served with 1/8 Bravo Co. 1st Platoon. I want to introduce you to a Marine wife whose husband also served with 1/8 Bravo Co. 1st Platoon. Her name is Jaclyn:

Until we received our quilt in the mail, I had never heard of the Quilts of Valor. I was so surprised and excited when I opened the box and saw what a beautiful quilt was made especially for husband and I!! To know that these wonderful women spent so much time and energy on this quilt just for us, to say thank you, meant so much to me!!! My husband went through a lot when he went on his tour of duty to Iraq, and it means so much to know that people care about him and are praying for him. That’s what helped me to get through that time when he was gone, just knowing that I wasn’t the only one praying for him!! I want to share my gratitude to these women for their love and support that is shown in so much detail in our very own Quilt of Valor. God bless you all and thank you for what you are doing. I truly believe you are spreading joy and love to all of those that you send these quilts to.

On behalf of all who served with 1st Battalion 8th Marines, thank you for making such a difference in Jaclyn and Steven’s life! Thank you for spreading joy and love to our Marines and all who sacrifice so much on our behalf. Thank you for continuing to pray for those who serve, and for those who wait at home.

Please do not forget.

Notes from the Journal Guru

Connecting the threads from quilters to quilt recipients.

by: Susan C. Slaninka

Many of you have indicated that you don’t have time to do a journal in addition to the quilt that you work so hard on for the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Here is an example of what the Country Quilters Guild of Countryside RV Resort recently sent to me as an example of what they send with their Quilts of Valor. I can only imagine how much this letter and the quilt must mean to the recipient! Thanks to this group for sending this to me so that I could share it with all of you. Happy Quilting.....

To An American Veteran:

The Country Quilters Guild is from Countryside RV Resort, a retirement community and snowbird haven in Apache Junction, Arizona. It has 35 to 40 members from many states and Canadian provinces. Many club members spend three months or less at the Resort. The group receives fabric donations from many sources. In the spring of 2008, the Country Quilters selected
Quilts of Valor as a project. Nancy Greve and Nancy McGraw brought the idea to the group and started us out with our first pattern. By the time the guild started its 2009 season, twelve quilt tops were pieced and ready to be finished.

This quilt named “On the Hunt”, was assembled by Anna Mae Bork. She developed her love for sewing in 4-H while growing up in Park Valley, ND. The guild helped her celebrate her fiftieth birthday of her sewing machine this year. She spends many hours creating quilt tops from the fabrics donated to the guild. The attached picture shows Anna Mae with the finished quilt.

The longarm quilting for this quilt was donated by Jeannie Copeland, who is a dynamic eighty-two year old woman who only quilts for non-profits. Here is her story in her own words:

“I recently purchased a longarm quilting machine and started machine quilting for the House of Refuge, then found out that there was an organization that made quilts for the veterans. Now I have a full time job quilting for the House of Refuge and most importantly for the ‘Quilts of Valor.’ I would like to give a little background of why this project has become important to me. My husband was a ‘grunt’ in the Marine Corps, stationed on Guam when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He was captured three days later, kept on Guam for 30 days and by ship was taken to Japan, where he became a ‘coolie’ until the end of the war. He suffered from many physical ailments and PTSD. However, he did stay in the Marine Corps for twenty years and retired as a Captain. His health deteriorated and he passed away over seven years ago. I am doing all these quilts in his honor. May God Bless you and I hope this little part I am doing helps you feel more comfortable and know that someone cares. Thank you for keeping this land FREE.”

The Country Quilters Guild dedicates On the Hunt to you, an injured American veteran, to express our support of you and your work for our freedom. The quilt is well traveled already and was lovingly touched by many hands.

Country Quilters
Apache Junction, Arizona

Notes from our Bookkeeper
by: Lenny Truitt
QOVF Bookkeeper
(Lenny@QOVF.org)

Like any good business, we continue to become more organized as we grow. In the past, many smaller groups have not had the funds to become non-profit, but were given donations where the patron wished to use the donation as a tax deduction. If you do not have a Federal Non-profit status number, you were forced to send the donations received to the Quilts of Valor Foundation for their use. Here is an example: Lower Sussex County Quilts of Valor (LSCQOV), who does not have non-profit status, receives a donation from Excom for $2,000 and Excom wishes to use the donation as a tax write-off. LSCQOV would be required to send the donation to the Quilts of Valor Foundation and the LSCQOV group would lose the revenue they generated.

The great news is: we can now reimburse you for donations you send to the QOV Foundation when the person donating wants to utilize the donation as a tax deduction. IF and only if, you send receipts for fabrics, batting, and/or etc. that your group purchased to be used for Quilts of Valor, can you be reimbursed. If you wished to be reimbursed for QOV’s sent to a service facility, you must provide us with a postal receipt and documentation of the facility receiving the quilts. Again, this is only if you have sent funds donated to your group you are asking QOVF to reimburse.

We will deduct 10% of the amount sent to facilitate the support of our organization. This small amount will allow us to keep our website current so you can contact Longarmers available for quilting, to contact QOV groups in your area, to cover postage and/or other monies required for the coordination of QOV programs.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. My best wishes to you all for the support and comfort you give to our service men and women with your Quilts of Valor.

Respectfully,
Lenny Truitt
QOVF Bookkeeper
MANY. We have handed out close to 300 quilts in the past three years and have 90 quilt top makers registered and 12 longarm quilters registered. Our contacts for quilt delivery are volunteers themselves through our various armed forces bases.

At this time, we are in the process of becoming a formal organization under the Canadian not-for-profit laws. We are a work in progress from the administrative standpoint. However, our Canadian quilters and quilt supply donors are not waiting for formalities. Response these past 6 months has been fantastic as the word is really getting out there now. A few of our Canadian “snowbirds”, quilters who spend their winters in the U.S., have been bringing home quilts, too. They have made their quilts alongside the Quilts of Valor quilters and have great show-and-tell displays for both countries. Hopefully, we can have a photo or two next time around!

Debby in Vancouver is our newsletter editor; Mary in Ontario looks after our quilters from Manitoba to the eastern seaboard; I look after the west. We have our helpers, too. If you need more information, please visit our website - or contact Mary at marybarry54@sympatico.ca or myself at QoV@AutomatedQuill.com or Canada@QoVF.org.

Quilts of Valor - United Kingdom

by: Jean Morris (Jean@QOVF.org)

Quilts of Valor UK is making progress with more Army contacts being made to receive our quilts. Twenty-three quilts have been completed and dedicated to individual soldiers.

Although the concept is new for our soldiers, there has been a lot of feedback that they are well received. Some quilts are on display within the soldiers’ barracks.

There has been several contacts with QOV’ers from both the USA and the UK. It is certainly a good way of making new friends on both sides of the Atlantic and doing quilting for a good cause. There are several quilting groups that have expressed interest in taking up the challenge.

I’m confident that the growth of QOV-UK will continue as awareness within the UK quilting community grows.

Quilts of Valour - Canada

by: Lezley Zwaal

Check out our website for Quilts of Valour-Canada at http://www.automatedquill.com/QoV for our Canadian information.

Our quilts go to our wounded soldiers who have returned from their deployment overseas, or in our military terms, “return from theatre”. At the moment, our soldiers are mostly in Afghanistan. Our wounded numbers are not as high as in the U.S. but are just as difficult to determine. As Catherine notes, we have
"Quotables"

"Jewels of Inspiration" - Allow the intent of the speaker to enter your heart. You cannot help know that our wartime quilts of valor heal some of the wounds of war.

FROM DIANE
(labrek@comcast.net)

I received this note and picture in February from a Soldier who had received one of my QOVs:

Diane,

My name is John Kaiser, I was recently presented the quilt that you and your friend made and just wanted to sent you a sincerely heart felt thank you, along with these pictures and let you know where the quilt that you put so much time and compassion into had gone.

I was a Staff Sergeant stationed at Ft. Lewis assigned to the 3rd Stryker Brigade, as an Infantry Rifle Squad Leader. It was our units second tour in Iraq and while on patrol I was struck by an enemy mortar round which shattered my cheek bone removed part of my lower jaw along with some teeth, and left doctors with no choice but to remove my right eye. As if that wasn't enough I was shot in the shoulder at some point during the ordeal, needless to say my life changed forever in the blink of an eye, and as you can tell I have a good sense of humor about the whole thing. My injuries occurred in Baghdad on the 16th of October 2006, I have since been medically retired from the Army allowing me to spend more time with my family, my wife, 13 yr. old stepdaughter, 9 yr. old stepson and my son who just turned 1 yr. old, who is cuddled up under the quilt with me in the picture.

I have had many surgeries and have a prosthetic eye now and am undergoing reconstruction of my jaw and teeth.

I have many blessings in my life including being here today, I am very grateful to know that there are people such as yourself who freely show their support and gratitude for our service men and women. Your quilt is absolutely amazing and is without a doubt the warmest thing I have ever slept under.

Thank you so much and may God bless you.
John Kaiser
FROM THE 82ND WOUNDED WARRIOR COMMITTEE – A Special Invitation to Other Quilters and Their Guilds

Who are we? We are Army wives here at Ft. Bragg and like you, quilters. And of late, I am a point of contact for QOVF and the coordinator for a group of quilting wives here at Ft. Bragg, NC, specifically the 82nd Airborne. Just recently, our group was featured in our base newspaper, “The Paraglide” for being inspired by the Quilts of Valor Foundation motto “quilting honor and comfort” to make quilts and send them to our sounded warriors here at Ft. Bragg, Walter Reed, and Brooke Army Medical Center.

Every May, here at Ft. Bragg, the 82nd Airborne Division holds what it calls “All-American Week,” right before Memorial Day to celebrate the “All Americans,” the nickname of the 82nd Airborne since WWII. Former paratroopers come from all around the country to take part. And, the National media is here. What a great opportunity to spread the word and mission of QOV.

However, this year we are planning something different in conjunction with All American Week, and the 82nd Wounded Warrior Committee are inviting all Quilters to be a part of “82 for the 82nd”. That is, 82 Airborne Quilts of Valor for wounded 82nd Airborne.

You see, our soldiers are paratroopers -- they jump out of planes. And we though, ‘well, if our quilts are going to wounded 82nd Airborne paratroopers, then our quilts should be Airborne, too!’ Are we serious? Yes, we are! By donating your Quilt of Valor to an 82nd Wounded Warrior by May 14th, 2009, it can be jumped with an 82nd Paratrooper here at Ft. Bragg, NC during a pre-scheduled practice jump and become a true Airborne quilt. It will receive a special commemorative label or what we call a “jump log” that includes the jump date and place, the type of aircraft jumped out of and signed by the Paratrooper who jumped in with it. These Airborne Quilts of Valor will then be donated through the 82nd Wounded Warrior Committee to a wounded 82nd Airborne Paratrooper here at Ft. Bragg, Walter Reed or Brooke Army Medical Center aka BAMC.

Will your quilt history include a 100% certified Airborne quilt? Get it to us by May 14th and it will!

Standards for QOVs:
*Minimum size: 50” x 60”
*Ideal size: 54” x 67”
*Maximum size: 72” x 87”

Tops and Backs:
*New 100% cotton fabric (preferably quilt shop fabric), good, high-quality thread count - “good quality” means it will hold up for years through washings.
*Nothing stretch or scratchy or metallic; no juvenile prints or flannels.
*Most popular colors - red, white and blue and patriotic; but QOVs are like Americans, all different. Purple or orange or red, white and blue...make it from your creative quilter heart and it will be just right!

Also please note, we are in the discussion stage with a publisher for this to become a commemorative, not-for-profit, but a fundraiser coffee table book which includes pictures of the 82 quilts and the stories behind them.

Please send Quilts of Valor to:
Wounded Soldier Quilts, PO Box 72830, Fort Bragg, NC 28307.

We hope this answers any questions and that you are as excited as we are! Please feel free to email us with any questions to woundedsoldierquilts@yahoo.com. We hope to see your quilt become Airborne.

(Queen Airborne Quilts of Valor was founded in October 2007 and led by Wesley Bauguess, the surviving spouse of Maj. Larry J. Bauguess Jr., who was killed in combat May 14, 2007, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. There are roughly 30 members made up of Army spouses and surviving spouses and is a sub-committee of the All-American Strategic Response Force Association. Members visit wounded paratroopers while they are in the medical centers, bringing comfort items embellished with the division insignia to show appreciation to the Soldiers and to help them feel connected with the Division. “As a Soldier with the 82nd, Maj. Bauguess was very passionate about his division,” Mrs. Bauguess said, “and that enthusiasm spilled over.”
Podcasting - Video Interviews

Playing Now: Join Catherine for her interview with Rev Liz Wold. She is an interfaith minister, chaplain, red cross volunteer and most importantly, a Gold and Blue star aunt. You will be uplifted and inspired by her. You will also feel your heartstrings being tugged. (cath@QOVF.org)

Classifieds

If you have a sewing need, send your request to newsletter@QOVF.org. Put “QOV Classifieds” on the subject line.

Looking for—

Hi, I have a veteran who was given a quilt from Wilma Delp in Washington. There was no address or other contact information, and the veteran would like to thank her for the quilt. Could you somehow pass this message along? Even if it is thanking her for the quilt on behalf of a female veteran who is so appreciative of the beautiful quilt. Also, I often find that the veterans want to send a thank you, but there is insufficient information. Please encourage your quilters to provide an email address or an address so that they can get the acknowledgement for their hard work.

Thank you,

Marti Salas, LCSW
OEF/OIF Program Manager
VISN 19 Lead Program Manager, POC
Cheyenne VAMC

Statistics

These are the latest statistics as of 4/07/09. It is difficult to get an accurate wounded number as it is for quilts awarded. We do know the two hallmark injuries of this war are post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

- Total QOVs awarded....................... 20,562+
  *Iraq/killed (US) ......................... 4,260
  *Afghanistan/killed (US) ................. 674
  *Wounded .................................. Many
  *http://icasualties.org/Iraq/index.aspx

Mission Statement

The mission of the QOV Foundation is to cover ALL war wounded and injured servicemembers and veterans from the War on Terror whether physical or psychological wounds with Wartime quilts called Quilts of Valor (QOVs). Or as a six year old put it, "When the 'sholders' are 'warring' and they come home and are hurt, the quilt makes them feel all comfy." This foundation is not about politics. It's about people.

Articles for Upcoming Newsletters

Please send your articles, how-to’s, news, quotes, etc., in by the 5th of the month (for publication by the 10th) -- and don’t forget to include pictures when possible. It’s always fun to “see” what you have been doing. If you have a “what I would have done differently”, send it along so we can all learn from your experience.

Contact Us

Editor: editor@QOVF.org

Having problems navigating the QOVF Website? What areas are you having problems with? Please let us know.
Quilts of Valor Foundation
How to Make a Quality Quilt of Valor

Fabric:
- Buy the best 100% quilting weight cotton you can.
- Do not use old sheets, thin muslin, or polar fleece as backing.
- Choose fabrics appropriate for adults.

Pattern:
- Choose an interesting pattern.
- Sources: QOVF website; quilting books; quilting magazines; quilting websites; quilt shops; fabric company websites for free patterns

Construction:
- Your best work.
- Accurate cutting.
- Uniform seam width (no gaps or holes).
- Blocks squared up to same size, or compensating strips added to make them the same size so they fit together.

Borders:
- Cut to fit center measurement. (Not a length of fabric sewn to the side of a quilt and whacked off)
- Opposite borders cut same length. (The opposite sides or ends of your top should not differ by more than ½ inch if you have pieced carefully)
- Borders pinned and sewn with quilt top underneath so the feed dogs can ease it if needed.

Backing:
- Color and fabric design appropriate and related top.
- Ends cut square.
- If seamed, selvedges trimmed off.
- See quilting books, magazines or About Quilting website (www.quilting.about.com) for how to cut and seam backing.

Condition when sent to longarmer:
- Neatly pressed.
- Clean and free of pet hair or odors.

Quilting:
- Appropriate for the top.
- May be over all design or custom.
- Tension balanced.
- Stitch length uniform
- More than stitch in the ditch.
- Looks professional.

Binding:
- Straight cut diagonally seamed (unless edge of quilt is scalloped requiring bias binding).
- Corners mitered.
- Neatly applied by hand and/or machine.
- Color/fabric appropriate to quilt.
**QUILTS OF VALOR FOUNDATION**

**QUILT TOPPER GUIDELINES/RESPONSIBILITIES**

**WHAT IS A QUILT TOPPER**
A quilt topper is someone who pieces a quilt top.

**WHAT IS A QOV**
1) A Quilt of Valor is a wartime quilt made to honor our War Wounded. It is a tangible way to say, "Thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor for our country".
2) A Quilt of Valor is not a 'charity quilt' nor a 'service quilt'. It is a beautifully made, pieced and quilted wartime quilt.

**WHAT IS THE SIZE OF A QOV**
1) The minimum size for a Quilt of Valor is 50" by 60"
2) The maximum size for a Quilt of Valor is 72" by 90"
3) The ideal size for a Quilt of Valor is 54" by 67"

**QUILT TOPPER'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Quality Piecing**
1) Use good, quality fabrics of 100% quilting cotton
2) Use a uniform seam width (normally 1/4")
3) Press carefully
4) Square-up completed blocks
5) Borders applied correctly
6) Do not use scented laundry products
7) Pieced quilt should be free of pet hair
8) Backing should be cut straight and at least 4 inches larger all around (*if quilter will have to square up backing fabric, increase backing size by at least 6 to 8 inches*)
9) If backing is pieced, be sure to trim selvedge from seam

**Complete Longarmer Request Form**
1) Include complete description of top or
2) Include link to photo
3) Make sure size requirements are met

**Ship Promptly**
1) Time is money for the quilter (longarmers)
2) Only ship the number of tops indicated in your "email partner notice"
Communicate with Quilter

1) Contact him/her ASAP
2) Understand what he/she is willing/able to do regarding binding, label, and shipping
3) Receipt for sending quilt
4) Where and when if shipped to destination
5) **DO NOT** presume to keep shipping your tops to this quilter. You most likely will be assigned different quilters

Contact June If:

1) You and your quilter do not connect within 5 days
2) The quilter does not return the quilt or contact you 30 days after he/she receives the quilt.
3) There is a problem with the quilting
QUILTS OF VALOR FOUNDATION
LONGARMER GUIDELINES/RESPONSIBILITIES

LONGARMERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Keep June Up-to-Date With:
1) Current email address
2) Current telephone number
3) Your availability to quilt or number of quilts you will do each month
4) Any problems that prevent you from fulfilling your obligation
5) Any problems with the quilt

Honor the 30 Day Turn Around
1) Quilt is to be completed within 30 days of receipt
2) Notify topper and June if something prevents completion within the 30 day time frame

Communicate With Topper:
1) Your requirements
2) What you are willing/able to do regarding binding, label, and shipping
3) Receipt or sending of quilt
4) Where and when, if you ship to destination

Quality Quilting
1) Quilt in a pattern appropriate to quilt top (overall okay)
2) Good stitch quality
3) Provide low loft batting (undetectable piecing if needed)