

QOV Foundation Newsletter

Sew! So Freedom Rings!

July 04, 2006

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July's Message

I was sitting at my computer the other day when I got a call on my cell phone. "Hello? is this Catherine?" Yes, I replied. "This is Barbara from the Denver VA and we need more QOVs!" I remembered talking a gentleman who was taking on the job as head of the VA there months ago but I hadn't heard anything since then. She explained she was in charge of the QOV program and wanted to know if she could order more. When I told her it would be no problem to send more, you should have heard the relief in her voice. She said she had just received a phone call from a distressed social worker. Apparently the social workers only had three more QOVs and they needed more ASAP for their next graduation that was coming up. Nancy explained to me that even though they presently didn't have any acutely physically injured as they do at Walter Reed, they do have an inpatient monthly treatment program for PTSD which has been very successful. She added that an important component of the graduation ceremony is the awarding of your QOVs to the successful graduates. By all accounts, the graduates truly appreciate being awarded this 'awesome quilt made by someone who doesn't even know them'.

This sentiment was also echoed by Dr. Michelle McClellan in New York where she conducts a one of a kind inpatient program for combat wounded serviceWOMEN. As she was planning her program, she had incorporated our QOVs as part of the program on a hunch that they would be 'good for the women'. You can read what she said about your QOVs.

"I wanted to let you know that our Women's Program has been up and running and that our first group of women completed the program this morning. At our final group today, we explained the Quilts for Soldiers program to them and handed each of them a quilt. I have to tell you – the experience was so moving for everyone. The women were stunned and so appreciative. They noted feeling so "supported" and "touched". It was really powerful.

I also wanted to let you know that it caused something that I hadn't expected. The women, realizing how wonderful it felt to receive these quilts, decided that they want to start volunteering at nonprofit organizations. In terms of treatment – hearing about the desire to become involved in volunteering is always a good sign.

So thank you so much for donating to these women. It really seemed to be a healing experience for them..." The women were also struck by the fact that the women who made the quilts provided them with a little note as well. (Don't forget to journal/write/take pixs!).

Here's another story I think you'll enjoy. QOVs get around! I met Judy at the MQS Show in Kansas. Her quilting group is from a small town in Michigan. I had them send their QOVs to Alaska. It turned out that one of the QOV recipients knew someone who knew someone who was a cousin of someone who lived in their small town. Judy also told me that one of the QOV recipients took his QOV to be 'on display' at his wedding ceremony.

One last story. I received an email from CH Kallerson at Walter Reed. Here is what he said. "I wanted to let you know that the Children's quilt has finally been hung on our wall outside the chaplain's office. It receives a tremendous amount of attention daily since this is the busiest hallway in the hospital. The children would be proud to know that the soldiers and their families are always having their pictures made in front of it now so it will undoubtedly become the most photographed quilt here. It is great to see the reactions of people reading all the blocks. " Great work Annie and kids!

Do NOT underestimate the power that your QOV has. I stand by my belief that our QOVs are magical. They are sprinkled with well wishes, saturated with love, leavened with prayers for healing that permeates every cell of the recipient's body and psyche. This healing salve that is incorporated into the very warp and woof of your QOV can only be made by you and never can be mass-produced in "China". These QOVs heal not only the recipients but also those who come in contact with them. Why? Because they are a testament of YOUR patriotism towards our combat wounded, weary and sometimes forgotten servicemembers.

I close with a link sent to me by a real Patriot, Doug Coppi. He produced "Stand Ye Steady" DVD/CD. He has sent a Fourth of July message with one of the most rousing songs and performances celebrating the Spirit of '76 you'll ever see! I hope you enjoy listening to this as much as I do. Here is the link:

<http://www.standyesteady.com/Ecards/SelectCard.php?EcardText=1152018962&ENum=3>

His DVD/CD in our [shop](#). A portion of the proceeds (40%) will go to our Foundation when someone purchases the DVD/CD from our Foundation.

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A Message From June

From Catherine-I want to publically say that I wouldn't want June's job for all the tea in China. I don't know what I would do without her. Her job involves teaching us quilt-toppers the new language of longarming. It sounds easy but it isn't. I think the problem is simply that we quilt-toppers only have the slightest notion of what longarmers do and hardly anything about the technical end of it. Now into this mix, throw sensitivities, lack of communication skills, etc. I think you see where this is going. I am very optimistic about our community and how we are learning from each other.

From June-I wish that we all think of those we are trying to cherish and comfort for their horrendous sacrifices rather than our own petty little concerns, criticisms, and distrust of each other's motives and abilities.

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Stats

I am absolutely delighted to tell you the number of counted and awarded QOVs is over 5,500! Can you believe that? I can remember when I thought 100 QOVs was something to write home about. We had our highest number of awarded 2006 QOVs in June with 352 being assigned. I also can tell that the quality of the QOVs is far beyond my expectations. Your QOVs are stunningly beautiful and breathtaking. I can't wait for the Summer DVD to come out so you can all see what I am talking about.

On the other side of the page, the [casualty stats](#) continue to rise as is expected during wartime. I recommend you visit any site that has our casualty stats in order to honor our warriors. As of today, July 6th, here are the casualty stats. Iraq-killed 2,539; wounded 18,356. Afghanistan-killed 316; wounded 747.

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Support for HQ

We will be fundraising for the QOV Foundation in the upcoming months. It doesn't take much to keep the Head Quarters going but it does take something. I have made a contact who has offered to have a silent auction for some QOVs (made specifically for this auction) to benefit our Foundation. I hope to raise enough money so keep expenses at my end in the black. If you are interested in making a QOV for this fundraiser, please contact me at cath@govf.org. Also, if you are a fundraiser and want this job, contact me! I'll throw in my last born child. After we file our 2005 taxes, I will have a discloser of the Foundation's expenses.

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Upcoming DVD Summer 2006

Over 100 Spring 2006 DVDs have been sent out one way or another. The next DVD will be Summer 2006 which will contain pixs from Spring 2006 plus all the new QOVs you have made plus many more pixs from 'downrange' in Iraq and Afghanistan. The format will be similar to Spring 2006. My husband, Chris and I went to visit his parents. We put the DVD on for them to watch. Even though I have seen this DVD 'hundreds' of times, I never tire of seeing it. There is something that captivates one's attention when seeing Wartime Quilts of Valor interspersed with images from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The DVDs are basically free. The small charge covers my costs. You are free to make copies of the DVD. My goal is to make people aware of our combat wounded, this program and your patritioic efforts.

If you want your QOV in the next DVD, please make sure you send me a copy. Email is preferable and the highest resolution possible is the best method. Snail mail is ok.

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Mark Your Calendar

We will be at the [International Quilt Festival](#) in Houston this year, thanks to Karey Bresenhan of Quilts, Inc. The dates are Nov. 2-5, 2006. We need volunteers to be in the booth throughout the Festival. From my experience last year, it seems a good amount of time to volunteer is two hours. If you volunteer, your entrance fee for that day is waived. Last year we had volunteers that gave their all and them some! One of the things you will do is tell people about the program. You will receive far more than you give. Just ask any of our volunteers from last year. We will have various raffle items which I am VERY excited about!! We're talking electronics and a sewing machine! More about this later.

If you wld like to volunteer, please contact me at cath@govf.org.

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Catch the QOV Podcast Show

No, I won't stop talking about the [Podcast show!](#) I know you'll learn how to listen to a podcast show. It really is easy. There are now about nine different quilting podcast shows at iTunes for your listening pleasures. I am slowly getting better at producing the shows and the interviewees are great! I must publically apologize for some of the interesting sounds I got as I interviewed Judy Laquidara. I am learning more about audio compression than I ever thought I wanted to know.

My interviewees include Mr. Paul Statler, Vicki Anderson, new owner/editor of Unlimited Possibilites; Ron Olson-longarm quilter extraordinaire of more than 170 QOVs; our beloved Judy Laquidara-Mystery Quilt QOV'er leader, quilt pattern designer and soon to be quilting book author; plus Janice Bahrt who tells what it's like to start longarming with a Statler Stitcher. I still have more interviews to edit and publish which I know you will want to listen to. Plus I want to interview lots more of you. And if you are thinking "I don't have anything interesting to say" forget about it! You ALL have stories that we want to hear!

The podcasts cover topics from quilting to what new returning combat warriors should do to get signed up for VA benefits.

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Waiting in the Wings

I have not forgotten about our book on Wartime Quilts of Valor and Their Makers. It is on the back burner. It is up to you to figure out if you want your story told. If so, JOURNAL and get professional quality photos taken of your QOV(s). I will know when this is on the front burner and when this happens, you'll be the first to hear about it. If we have to self-publish, we'll need a rather large infusion of cash. Where there's a will, there's a way.

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Two New Items in the Shop!

Do I have something for you! Wanda Smith took it upon herself to come up with a [QOV Beginner's Kit](#). The kit includes the pattern, quality fabric for everything...top, backing, presentation case for \$40 which includes \$5 for the Foundation. Please check it out.

Also, Doug Coppi of [StandYeSteady.com](#) has graciously offered to donate 40% of the purchase price from his inspiring

and patriotic DVD/CD Sand Ye Steady to our Foundation when you order through his site. Be sure to mention QOVF! More information can be found at the [Shop](#).

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Contact Information

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That's it for now. Thank you for your support. I admire you more than you know. You are helping **heal a nation** that goes back to Viet Nam. More on all this later.

Have a great summer and tell everyone that quality QOVs are still needed! Also, remember your colonoscopies, mammograms and daily weight bearing exercises. Our community does a lot of others while sometimes forgetting about themselves.

Most affectionately,

Catherine Roberts

Founder/Director QOV Foundation

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