

Quilts of Valor

Quilting Honor and Comfort for our Wounded

A Monthly Newsletter

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General Business

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Calendar

Take a look at upcoming quilting events for quilt-toppers and longarmers. We also need a new Event Coordinator! Con you're interested.

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Final Thoughts

Let's stay motivated and get these wartime quilts made!! Our wounded need you!!

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Meet your QOV Staff

And find out what positions need to be filled.

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QOVF is always accepting Donations.

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News from Catherine...

Catherine Roberts is the Founder and Director of the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF). cath@govf.org

It is an absolutely gorgeous Spring day, here in Delaware. Clear, crisp and windy. My husband, Chris left this r Bridge Run along with thousands of others but were told it was cancelled due to high winds. Chris said that the Ba waves marching down the length of the Chesapeake.

To my mind, these blustery winds are blowing away any lingering procrastination spirits that have been hanging a share with you what has been happening behind the scenes. I'll start with my recent trip to California.

Many of you know one of our destina tion sites: The Greater Los Angeles VAMC because you have sent your C sent over 1,000 quilts to Marianne Davis to be awarded to our combat wounded. We, the QOV Community, recei voluntary effort to cover our combat injured and wounded. I will post this award on the website.

I was also privileged to attend a debriefing session with recently returning marines and navy corpsmen (they were three days) at Camp Pendleton. To me, the highlight was the portion of the debriefing conducted by ACVOW. Mike Si contact) and six other Vietnam Vets talked about the transition from combat warrior to being back home. In spite of a were glued to our seats when these veterans talked about their Vietnam experiences, fighting a second battle with finally their journey battling addictions to help quell their war demons. The take home message was loud and clear with difficulties but these young warriors have help that comes in many forms. A female navy NCO told me that when Iraq, she imagined she'd be on the beach soaking in the sun, enjoying every minute. What actually happened was debriefing where ACVOW award her a quilt. Her initial two-three weeks were spent on her couch wrapped up in her qui

Later in the week, I was able to meet high school girls from my old alma mater, Academy of Our Lady of Pe longarmer and mother of one of the students, taught the girls how to handpiece blocks that were made into two beau you how proud I was of these girls and their wartime efforts to cover our wounded. One girl's stepfather (in the nav; to the Middle East and another girl had family in Iraq. Both keenly felt the effects of this war.

While flying back to the East coast, I was able to reflect on my whirlwind visit. I know some of you, know of you that I need to meet you and personally learn how you are covering our combat wounded. I cannot impress upon yc the importance of making your TANGIBLE expression of gratitude for our combat warriors. We only have to look at ou what happens when a nation rejects/ignores/dismisses their men and women in uniform.

Let this month of one of our most sacred and hallowed national holidays, Memorial Day be a reminder to us to cc cover our combat warriors.

Still at war; still quilting,



Catherine Roberts, Founder and Director, QOVF

Condolences

On behalf of the QOV Community, I would like to extend our condolences to two members who recently lost their son Star mothers will not be forgotten nor will their sons who gave their last full measure of devotion for our nation.

Karen Funcheon lost her son **Sgt Alex Funcheon**, 21 of Kansas from an IED explosion on April 29, deployed from Fort Carson.

Lois Hager Knight lost her son, **Staff Sgt Joshua Knight**, 29 of Colorado from injuries suffered from 23, 2007. He was deployed from Fort Carson.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

"Quotables"

This month's "Quotable" is an email Submitted by Alycia in Colorado.

My dad is an EMT/Firefighter who goes to a lot of the national conferences representing a Firefighter was in San Diego, CA at a conference talking to a firefighter from southern California. My dad was te a quilt I made for him: it has Fire Patches of all the fire departments that my dad worked with at Ground

The fire fighter said that he was in Iraq and had been shot in the knee and as he entered stateside he wa then asked my dad if he knew anything about Quilts of Valor - of course my Dad said yes – "my da for them". The man teared up and hugged my Dad and told him to pass it on. He told my father tha were one of the biggest blessings to him he had ever received and that he hugged his quilt every day – when he is having bad days he seeks comfort from the quilt that is on his bed at ALL times.

So I want to pass that hug along to all of you too!!!

The man is an active duty firefighter now and has recovered physically well, and said he is still worki and that quilt comforts him everyday.

I thought I would share this story, I know we know that its a good thing we are working on, but he just makes my day and confirms that our quilts are needed!

QOV Awarded to COL. Cox, USAF

For anyone who thinks the U.S. Air Force is not involved in fighting this War o again. Our airmen *are* involved. One airmen I want you to know about is COL Cc former Wing Commander at Dover Air Force Base. While on base during command, he met every incoming flight bearing our fallen heroes giving the respect and dignity they merit. Last Friday he was presented with his own Quilt of

Postings from the QOV Community

Connecting the threads between QOV quilters and recipients:

Notes from the Journal Guru

Submitted by Susan C. Slaninka

This is a new monthly column that will focus on JOURNALING. Since Catherine has added the journal as an important Valor process, she thought it might be helpful to provide a small column each month to facilitate that process. Sc

Journal Guru. I kind of like that new title and I hope that I might be able to provide some good ideas to you each month that you will feel free to send me YOUR ideas about journaling so that I can share them with our readers.

scsvu@juno.com, and I look forward to hearing from you all. Please put Quilts of Valor in the subject line so that I will

One of the things that occurred to me as I thought about this month's column was my experiences with the travel journal and when I do, I keep a journal of my travels. It takes time to do this after sightseeing each day, but I must say reading it years later. There are so many times that I find myself laughing out loud at things I didn't remember about even transcribed some of my travel journals and given them as presents to my fellow travelers.

What does this have to do with the Quilts of Valor journals, you might ask? I suspect that when you travel, you bring quilt blocks or other quilting projects to do on the train, plane, bus, or in the car. Think of how wonderful it would be to share your journal with your Quilt of Valor recipient. Wouldn't it be fun for them to share in the experiences along the way? If you are journaling as you quilt each night, on the nights of travel, you could tell your service man or woman what exciting day. Talk about the black bear in the tree at Smoky Mountain National Park. Mention how awesome the blue is at Lake Umbagog. Talk about how hard you laughed on that white water rafting trip. Talk about how wonderful it was to swim with the dolphins. All of these are another window into your life, and yet during all of this, they will know that you took the time to think of them. So, take along your quilt projects and journal on that next trip that you take and share a little bit of yourself with your recipient. An added benefit of toting along your quilt blocks while traveling is that it's bound to serve as a conversation piece with some of the most wonderful people in my travels. Another great way to spread the word about Quilts of Valor!

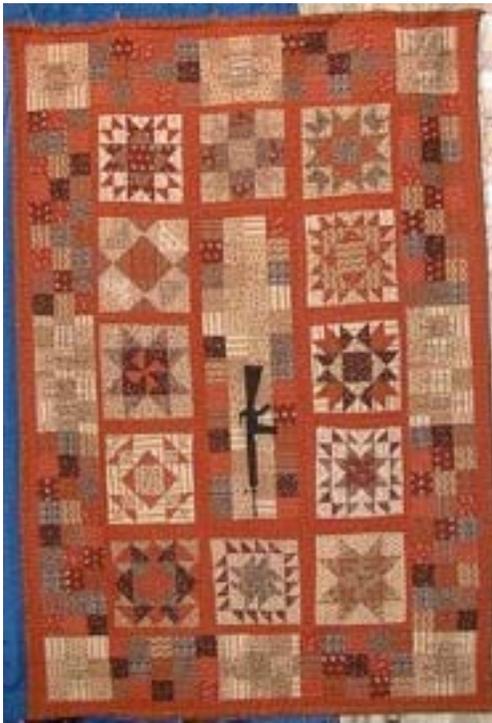
Introducing Roy Shoults.

One day I received an email from a Roy Shoults. He is a Korean War Veteran and now retired. Roy's quilts and coverlets has taken him down several paths one of which focused on the inscriptions. I gave him my attention. So I asked Roy, a non-quilter and antiquer, to write a column about signature quilts hoping to provide more information about the importance of labels, we would be more inspired to do this properly. With Roy's help here's Roy!

QOV Signature Quilt Series, Part I

Submitted by Roy Shoults

After viewing the many quilts being displayed at the *Machine Quilters Exposition*, April 11-14, 2007 in New Hampshire in Manchester, where *Quilts of Valor* also had a booth, I noted that practically all of the quilts had inscriptions on their tops. As a non-quilter who has had an interest in antique quilts and coverlets, I have long been familiar with the many signatures and other inscriptions on these antique quilt tops for various reasons.



This quilt was made by U.S. Marine Joel Klinker and has panels to commemorate those in his family who have served in the military from World War I through the present.

Having relatively little familiarity with contemporary quilts that lack inscriptions, I began inquiring at various booths about this apparent discrepancy. I discovered that quilt patterns and production changed, and became very individualistic, but also the presentation of quilts formalized into having an identification and information label attached to the back side of the right corner.

Once I learned this, I began discussing with Catherine Roberts, QOV Director, the emotional value of quilts made for service men and women, who received these quilts, to have more knowledge or connection with the military. Catherine agreed, and requested that I research the literature and present relevant articles in the Newsletter. I hope that other quilters could consider what had been done in the past, and consider incorporating those ideas in these quilts.

Included are illustrations of a quilt I discovered at the *Manchester Quilters Exposition*, which are panels listing names and service related information of various military members from one family's history. This quilt was made by U.S. Marine, Joel Klinker, in which he has included panels listing those in his family, including himself, and their military service from World War I on through to today. Joel dedicated this quilt to his son, who was killed in Vietnam. Joel measured the same size as the rifle at the time the quilt was started. Joel is now working at his mother's business, *Anne's Quilting and Sewing Co.*, 57 N. Main St., Concord, NH while he is attending Plymouth State University.

In this first of a series on this subject, are excerpts from a publication by Kimberley Wulfert with my permission and considerable help in this offering to the QOVF Newsletter.

Album & Signature Quilt History, 1830 - Today. Revised September 2005
Wulfert, PhD

Submitted by Roy Shoults

“The expansion westward brought on the need for signing quilts and autograph books. . . .

“The early signature quilts were based on friendship and made as memorials for the leaving family. This was the era of sentimentality. Poetry verses, autograph books, music and illustrations reflect a leaning that is both sentimental and nostalgic. A look to one's mortality led to the desire to capture through the written word the essence of life. Journals, diaries, scrapbooks, autograph albums, photos, and signed quilts reflect this sentimental time. Memory saving hobbies were taken up once again in the late Victorian period, but not signature quilts. People would place their memorials on silks and velvets in crazy quilts. Printed commemorative ribbons, emblems and sayings, sun printed photos and other memorabilia embellished these patchwork quilts so popular in the early 1900.

“Women were known to place their political and religious beliefs on quilts. The glorious Baltimore sayings, bible verses, and drawings inked on many of the blocks. These quilts were not made to be raffish. Instead, they were made as a special gift for a particular individual in the community that was a contribution to the community in some way. The recipient's name, the names of the quilt makers, and other sentiments would be placed on Baltimore Album quilt blocks; some, not necessarily all, but particularly

“Signatures, drawings, dates, and verses were tiny in the early years. They were applied to the quilt with stamps or freehand. Stencils were made from copper, tin or nickel. A lady would have one made for her own sense of style. It may include a design, like a feather or fancy circle around her name, or just be simple. These were used to label their clothes and linens too, a common practice when women washed the laundry in the tub. Stamps, with changeable letters were more economical and common. The letters were lead, the block was wooden handle. These stamps could have a decorative oval shape, which encircled the changeable letters. The most popular form of signature was freehand, either by a hired calligrapher or by the maker of the quilt block.

Excerpts from New Pathways into Quilt History: Album & Signature Quilt History, 1830 – Today, Revised Edition, by permission from the author, Kimberley W. W. PhD <http://www.antiquequiltdating.com/AlbumandSignatureQuiltHistory1830-Today.html> Copyright © 2007. All rights reserved on text and photos. quiltdating@jetlink.net for request personal printout is permitted. 402 W Ojai Ave #107, Ojai CA 93023 Phone: 805-649-1821

General Business

Website Updated

If you haven't gone to the website recently, please do so. Our newly updated site is live. You don't need to register to write comments. We are still moving in and ironing out the inevitable wrinkles. I will send out a general invitation to our 'open house'. We'll have a tour for you to take.

2nd Generation Tote Bags!

We have our second-generation wartime QOV tote-bags. They are purple and beautiful! I take mine everywhere. They are great magnets for your fundraisers. Your purchase cost is minimal allowing you to make money for your local needs. For more information.

QOV Magnets-2nd Edition

Our first edition QOV Magnets are almost history (meaning collectible). We are offering you an opportunity to design a Magnet. Deadline for design--June 30th!

QOV Book

The QOV Book is closer to becoming reality. I will keep you posted.

QOV DVD-2007

Our production company "Cover'em Productions" is proud to announce the first of three new selections for 2007. The first is "Times of War: Warriors & Quilts". This is intended to show people who don't have a lot of time about what we do and is accompanied by inspired music that will keep you spellbound. The second release will be an updated slide show of our past work. You simply put it in the dvd player and it will play "forever". The third release will be a compilation of our podcasts.

Calendar of Events

Future Events

If you know of an event that would be of interest to the QOV community, please email newsletter@qovf.org listed in our newsletter. You also can list the event yourself on the website under EVENTS. For more information, please register as a user.

Raffle Quilts

We have our two beautiful raffle quilts. You qualify for two free numbers each time you send in a donation. Catherine will give you your numbers. For more info, please go to website



Lori Kutch's QOVentries for the Washington Apple Blossom Parade, B...

What Are You Doing?

Do you have a great grassroots idea to share? A pattern that worked well for a QOV? A way to improve something in our community? Do you know another QOV community member who goes out of their way to help someone who is wounded? Send us an email and tell us all about it. Write to newsletter@qovf.org and share your thoughts and stories with the community. Our first "What Are You Doing" entry from Lori Kutch follows:

Things have been busy here in Wentachee. We had our first QOV sew day and it was very productive and well scheduled. We also had our first fund raiser. We did a signature quilt and raised enough \$\$\$ to pay for our sew day quilts and have enough funds left over to buy some batting and backing. We are getting ready for the Washington State Apple Blossom Festival Grand Parade (May 5th). That should expose Quilts c

bazillion people. We will send pictures!

At the NCW Quilt Guild meeting last week I gave a report on Quilts of Valor and asked for a show many were working on QOVs I think there were over 20 hands raised. So we have finally got these We also keep encouraging long armers to volunteer some time to quilt.

I am so happy to be part of the QOV program. My brother (A Vietnam Vet.) came to visit me last w big hug and said he was proud of me for doing this. He even visited some quilt shops on his trip he spread the QOV word. Now that is something!

Final Thought

Making the QOV DVD '07, I watched images of quilts, our combat warriors, our fallen warriors over and over. And, you tired of seeing them, especially the fallen. This war is very real and its effects will be lifelong for those involved. Be and welcoming back our warriors merit. Make a Quilt! Catherine 2/10

Statistics

05/12/07	Iraq	Afghanistan
Killed	3,394	389
Wounded	47,657	5,994
Date	QOVs Awarded	
05/12/07	10,034	

For much more information regarding the statistics from Iraq and Afghanistan, go to [The Iraqi Coalition Casualty Count](#).

Volunteer Staff

Let us know how we can help you...

Catherine

cath@govf.org

Catherine is the founder/director of the QOV program.

June

june@govf.org

June is our longarm coordinator and has been onboard for over two years.

Lenny Truitt lenny@QOVF.org

Lenny handles the books and talks to the QOVF accountant. If you have any questions about tax stuff, d contact Lenny.

Michele michele@govf.org newsletter@govf.org

Please send any information that you would like included in the newsletter to Michele. We ask that you ! submissions in by the first of the month in order to make that month's issue.

Lezley

lezley@govf.org

Lezley is in charge of coordinating efforts in Canada.

Barb

barb@govf.org

Barb is our kid's coordinator. Barb is a resource for those who have questions and/or projects with childr your kid's project on the web, email Barb and she will get it ready.Judy Laquidara and

More Volunteer Staff Members Needed!

Assistant to Catherine

Are you detail oriented, organized and love to email? The position of QOV Administrative Assistant has available. Please contact Catherine for further details.

How to Donate...



Since the QOV Foundation started out in November of 2003 as Quilts for Soldiers, we string budget. Staff members work on a voluntary basis. The monies we received are di Foundation and used to increase our visibility. (If you would like a copy of the QOVF's email Catherine). This is paramount if we are to reach all our combat wounded with th have a QOV waiting for them.

The thousands of members in this group give of their time and money. To date, we hav over \$900,000 dollars in making QOVs.

When you make a monetary tax deductible donation, you can request where it shou choices are: administrative, fabric, shipping and printing handout literature.

You also can contribute fabric, sewing machines, batting and quilting threads. if you would like to g email [Catherine](mailto:cath@govf.org) at cath@govf.org or call 302 236-0230.

Please help us keep this project alive and well with your **tax exempt** donation, visit www.qovf.org.

Our Mission

The mission of the QOV Foundation is to cover ALL combat wounded service-members whether physic with wartime quilts called Quilts of Valor (QOVs). The wounded service-members from the War on Terr to be considered first and foremost.

The second mission is to teach our children how to sew QOVs. This skill will teach sewing skills in addit civic involvement and volunteering for the betterment of our nation.

A natural extension of our mission will be to link up with our coalition countries and see that their comb covered.

When all is said and done what we are doing is providing a means by which our combat wounded car This foundation will do whatever it takes to reach this goal.