

**QOV Ruffled Feathers Newsletter Nov. 2005**  
**Birthing Newsletters**

Sometimes getting these newsletters out is like birthing a baby. Right about now I am in transition thinking it's impossible to do. But, today is Veteran's Day and that is just the impetus I need to birth this newsletter. What I have decided to do is put in my soapbox thoughts that I include in some of my destination letters. Two I am putting here are from Walter Reed which receives the most seriously wounded and another from a new site for us, the VA Medical Center from Battle Creek, MI which specializes in psychological trauma. The inclusion of these two sites illustrate the spectrum of wounded we have from this War on Terror and some of the realities. Let's continue the work that American women have done since the revolutionary war to now for their war wounded. Onward ladies and gentlemen!

"First of all, I want to say that what you are doing will make a difference in your qov-recipient's life. I know you might think this is hyperbole but it isn't. Yesterday, I must have heard five stories about grown soldiers and marines who were wounded cry when they received a simple card saying "thank you for your service". And, you know what they said? They said that was the FIRST time someone said "thank you for your service." It's worth a minute or two thinking about this. I perceive our nation to be very supportive of our troops, as I think you do. But where does this frequently made statement come from? My thought is this. When they are wounded, they go into another world where they are no longer think of themselves as the 'brave, valiant, do-all warrior'. Instead, they may be re-learning basic skills of daily living using a prosthetic limb, coping with a disfiguring injury or dealing with a psychologically debilitating disorder. YOUR qov is one tangible way for you to express your gratitude, prayers etc for their service. Your qov honors them in so many untold ways."

"Your qovs will be going to a VA medical center in Battle Creek, MI. It is our first time sending qovs to this center which specializes in psychological trauma. The physician there is nationally known for his innovative and pioneering work in post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The staff are committed to the servicemembers PLUS their families. These men and women are no longer the people they were when they left for Iraq/Afghanistan.

"Lastly, I want to reassure you that your qovs are going to be loved and cherished by these recipients. I wager within a hundred years we will have the capacity to scan the brain and see the psychological trauma as we can now see broken bones. One impetus I had forming this group was to see that ALL our wounded received awards including these psychologically wounded. According to many I have spoken to, our nation will be dealing all the fallout of having large numbers of PTSD in the coming years. I hypothesize that our qovs will make help make their recovery a bit faster because it's tangible AND beautiful; what a tribute to them and their service."



Catherine C Roberts  
 Founder/Director QOV Foundation

**Houston's International Quilt Festival Report**

First of all, I want to thank Karey Bresenhan of Quilts, Inc for having the foresight to offer the QOV Foundation a booth. Because of her booth donation, we were able to get the word out to many. I had many who helped at the show and beyond. Wendy picked me up from the airport, supplied the poster boards, slide screen borrowed from Susan and fed me when I was needing a food fix with that fabulous Texan BBQ meat. Wendy, Kerin, Jonni and Baby helped decorate and work the booth. Our four display QOVs were stunning with Louise Moon's 'Dreaming of Cowgirls' really being a hit with the crowd. A slide show with many of you and your qovs interspersed with our troops was continually playing on a large screen. The QOV volunteers (Laurie, Nedra, Kathy, Annie, Mary Lynn, Nancy, Donna, Wanda & friend, Kay and Vicki) worked the booth giving handouts and talking about the program. In fact, all of us who volunteered to woman the booth rarely sat down. A donated afghan from my dear friend Leslie was raffled off to a lucky Texan! Thank you Leslie.

In addition to promoting the program, I can't tell you how many parents or relatives stopped to talk about their children/spouses having been deployed, presently deployed or were to be deployed. Many stories were told with tears. One older German woman talked about being a child in Germany during WW2 crying the whole time. Others were apprehensive because their son or daughter was off for their second or third deployment.

The most poignant visit came from a petite Marine mom named Zaida. She wore a Gold Service Star pin with a picture of her son, Leroy below. (One earns the right to wear this only when your loved one is killed in the line of service.) She lost her beloved 21 year old son in March 2004 in the Al Anbar Province in Iraq from hostile fire. He died saving half his platoon. Even though months have passed since his untimely death, you can easily see her pain. In spite of this heavy burden, Zaida shared her story with us.

I want to close with the letter her son Leroy wrote to her two days before his death. He told his buddies to give it to his mom "just in case". This war is real. I share this letter with you with Zaidas' gracious permission.

Mom,

If you get this letter that means I'm in a better place. I want you to know that I Love you with all my heart. There is nobody that I Love more and I Love Amy just as much. I know that sometimes I don't act like it, but you and Amy are my whole world. Tell every body that I Love them, and that I'll see them again some day.

Mom do whatever you want with my stuff and money. Get you and Amy some nice thing with the money. Please don't get the way you did when Abuelita died. I just want you to remember that I'm with God.

Love  
Leroy

**Summary of my impressions for doing a booth to promote the QOV Foundation. Recommendations for QOV shows:**

1. Use of slide show best done on a large screen.
2. Poster board with LARGE lettering prominently displayed. Stats updated daily.
3. SIMPLE hand-outs with fast QOV facts.
4. Emphasize that you are making WARTIME quilts.
5. Have good examples of QUALITY qovs there for people to see.
6. Emphasize quilt-topper/longarmer team work.
7. Get volunteers to man booth. It's hard work and emotionally draining.
8. Have Kleenex boxes, bottled water, snacks, candy, etc.
9. Sign up sheet for newsletter, longarmers.
10. Raffle something.
11. Try to be in a booth area that has high traffic.

12. Have full dressed Marine/Soldier.
13. Sell QOV pins/shirts. This is really only for those who know about the program.

This list is by no means complete nor sacrosanct. I welcome suggestions from those of you who have done qov booths.

#### Kids + QOVS

Annie B has volunteered to head our KIDS section. Her email is [kids.gov@comcast.net](mailto:kids.gov@comcast.net). She will be our resource person for children and qovs and sewing. Remember that one of our mission statements is to foster civic-mindedness among our youth and by learning how to sew QOVs..

I am buying older machines and having them tuned up so they can be donated to kid's groups. Also Bernina is sponsoring a sewing and kid's project. Keep your eyes open for those cheap old singers that no one wants any longer. They make great machines for beginners.

#### There is a shortage of quality qovs for our military hospitals-including Walter Reed!!

I get asked at least three times a day whether there is still a need for qovs. Yes! Even if the war were to end tomorrow, we'd still have enough qovs to make to take this project into 2007. Please don't forsake our wounded.

#### Labels-Again

The surest way not to have to redo your labels is to only put your first name with city/state. You can do everything else you normally do. If you want to include your personal information for your wounded, put that information for the chaplain or Voluntary Service person. They will be able to pass on the contact information if appropriate. And, in most cases, it will be. I apologize for all the changes but I am trying to do what is best for everyone.

#### Blind/visually impaired + QOVS

Mary-Beth has volunteered to head the needs of our blinded or visually impaired vets. She has a network of people willing to work with her on the project-a very experienced quilter, Braille transcribers, a specialist in tactile graphics, a nurse who works with early intervention for visually impaired kids, persons with various types of visual impairments and seamstresses. What she is seeking are longarmers who can work with her on this project. To contact Mary-Beth, email her at [m-b-rupp@worldnett.att.net](mailto:m-b-rupp@worldnett.att.net).

#### Wartime QOVS and Their Makers-A Coffeetable Book

I am beating this horse to death but only becuz I know there are stories galore out there among you. Yes, you! I see the **need** to document the making of our wartime qovs. IF you are interested, consider doing this. Journal, audio-record your thoughts, video tape them. Contact a professional photographer in your area and tell them the vision. Ask for their voluntary participation in this project. So far all of the photographers who have done shots have given their services free of charge. They will receive a complimentary book and credit given them for their photographs. If you are thinking your contribution isn't important, think again. It's us ordinary citizens who are making a difference. Our nation should hear your stories. And, what book on quilts would be complete without patterns?

#### Freebies

Who doesn't love free stuff? I would love to offer free downloadable/printable qov patterns. If you wld be interested in submitting your own pattern for others to use, please contact me.

#### Future Projects

1. **DVD.** Besides getting qovs to our wounded, this is my next biggest project. I foresee having a QOV DVD that will have the following. 1) slide show to be shown at a show where you want the show to loop over and over again. Presently I have over 1,000 pixs for the slide show. 2) Selection for a short presentation to a guild. 3) Presentation to potential donors/benefactors. 4) Presentation to a kid's group. 5) Perhaps a how-to for quilt-top and backing, etc. 6) Auditory selection of wounded servicemembers "In their own words".
2. **Old refurbished sewing machines give-away** for our non-sewing, non-civic minded kids. I have already purchased three old singer machines which have been refurbished. I want to make these available for kids who wouldn't normally have the funds to have a machine. I am still in the beginning stages of figuring out how to get these machines out to the kids who need them the most. I will be working with Annie on this. So, if you see an old clunker out there, consider getting it for the kids.
3. **444 Quilt.** Remember a few months back I wrote about a woman named Rose whose father was one of the Military American hostages from the takeover of the American Embassy in Iran in 1979. Besides him, there were 51 other hostages. They were held hostage and brutalized by their captors for 444 days. This marked the first salvo of the War on Terror. Rose's vision is to have a ceremony where the men and women from the military will be presented QOVS from our organization and quilts from elsewhere for the civilians. Present count is 18 living military hostages and 24 civilian and 11 for deceased hostages (both military and civilian).

IF you are interested in making a 444 qov for this project, please email me- [cc.roberts@comcast.net](mailto:cc.roberts@comcast.net). If you are interested in making a 444 **civilian** quilt, email Rose at [jmbrmb@starpower.net](mailto:jmbrmb@starpower.net). I can easily designate qovs for the military side of the project but think commissioned qovs would be most appropriate

4. **Mancuso Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival** in Hampton, Virginia February 23-26, 2006. The management has agreed to donate a booth for us at the show. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mary Lynn at [sloughml@cox.net](mailto:sloughml@cox.net).

#### 5. Public Relations QOV Package

We need to get out in the national media. Why? To find our wounded and to recruit more quilt-toppers/longarmers plus get monetary donations to help with costs to run this program. What I am finding out is this. Men, in general don't see quilts for wounded as any big thing unless they know about quilts. I am getting pretty fed up with this attitude. One gentleman suggested I contact some **female** legislators. Well, I am going to do just that. But, what we need is to have an attractive package to present explaining the program. Does anyone know someone who does public relations to help with making this package? Does anyone have a connection to Fox News, Regular News, Oprah, etc. et.al? If so, please let me know. These high powered men may think quilts are not newsworthy but they are completely misinformed on this one!

Please remember to take your daily pilgrimage to <http://icasualties.org/oif/>. I have been aghast at the number of casualties we have had in the recent weeks. Our troops are still very much in harm's way. Let's not forsake them.

#### STATS

Casualties 11/08/05  
 Iraq killed: 2,057  
     Wounded: 15,568  
 Afghanistan: 247  
     Wounded: 652  
 Total Number QOVS awarded: 3,192+++  
 Total # awarded in Oct. 253

Most sincerely,  
 Catherine Roberts  
 Founder Quilts for Soldiers