

Quilts of Valor

Quilting Honor and Comfort for our Wounded

A Monthly Newsletter

October 2006

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Grateful for those in the Background

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

In this newsletter, I want to pay tribute to my loving husband Chris. No, he doesn't sew quilts nor machine quilts, but this man has heard it all from A to Z. He knows your names, sees your Quilts of Valor, reads your emails and resigns himself to a house that can under no circumstance be considered 'neat nor organized'.

The QOV Foundation would not exist if it were not for the total support of my husband. If we were gathered in an auditorium, I would ask for a round of applause. Since we're not in an auditorium, I only ask that you know of his total and unwavering support of the wounded and this project.



Chris Roberts, QOVF Supporter

Finally, those of you who share the "shadow-light" of the background with my husband, I want to acknowledge you and your hard work to cover our wounded...WHEREVER you are. If I have not acknowledged you or your group publicly, please don't feel slighted. It is simply a matter of being overwhelmed at my end. This, theoretically will soon be a thing of the past because our new website will be 'dynamic'. That simply means you will be able to write about your efforts and post them so others can get inspired, learn and deal with the daily grind of supporting our combat warriors during Wartime.

To my husband, I want to say 'Thank You' for your love and support. To the

rest of you shadowlanders, I want to publicly applaud your quiet efforts; efforts that are healing a nation.

Catherine Roberts, Founder and Director, QOVF

Statistics

For much more information regarding the statistics from Iraq and Afghanistan, go to [The Iraqi Coalition Casualty Count](#). You will not only be presented with objective data, but learn of the contributions made by coalition members.

| 10/11/06 | Iraq | Afghanistan |
|----------|--------|-------------|
| Killed | 2,759 | 342 |
| Wounded | 44,779 | 901 |

| Date | QOVs Awarded |
|----------|--------------|
| 10/11/06 | 6,712 |

Information for Quilt Toppers from June

June is the QOVF Volunteer Quilt-topper/ Longarmer Coordinator. june@qovf.org

Many of you have questions regarding the QOV project. Here is a brief review of the standards and guidelines:

1) The minimum size for Quilts of Valor is 50" by 60"; the maximum is twin sized, usually 72" by 96". They should be large enough to provide comfort, but small enough for the longarm volunteers to fit in between their customer's quilts.

2) The fabrics should be quality 100% cotton. Patriotic or Americana colors seem to be favored by the recipients. Most of the recipients are young men, so there is much less need for "girlie" quilts. Classic two color or traditional looking patterns always work.

3) There are many simple, but effective patterns available from such authors as Fons and Porter, Lynda Milligan and Nancy Smith, Billie Lauder, and many others. Free patterns are also available from: <http://quickquilts.com/patriotic/>

4) The preferred backing fabric is a print or mottle which coordinates with the top. It should be of good quality fabric, cut straight and, if seamed, the selvage edge trimmed from the seam. Wide backing fabrics are available and are often more economical to use. The backing should be 6 to 8 inches wider and 6 to 8 inches longer than the top. This allows for the "drawing up" of the quilting process and gives the longarm quilter something to which the side clamps can be attached.

5) When your top is completed, pressed, and you have the backing ready too, go to the home-page <http://www.qovf.org/>; scroll down on the right; and select the "I need a longarmer form". When you fill out the form, the information is received

that you need a quilting partner. All attempts are made to try to match people in the same geographic area if possible. A letter will be sent to the two of you so that you may work out the details together. Generally, expectations are that the longarm quilter will supply the batting and thread and do the quilting. * Please note that the quilter with whom you are matched is not the person who will do all of your future QOVs. Not every quilter is able to volunteer every month, so you may get a different quilter the next time you have a top ready. If you have two tops ready at the same time, I am often able to place them both with the same quilter because many of them volunteer to do two per month.

6) Whomever agrees to do the binding, labeling, washing and shipping will go back to the website and fill out the "I need a destination" form. Catherine Roberts, the founder and director of the Quilts of Valor foundation, will notify you within a week regarding where to send the quilt(s). It is suggested that you include a journal or letter for the recipient. If you also include a self addressed, stamped postcard with the message "Quilt received", the Chaplain can easily let you know your quilt(s) arrived.

Longarmer Statistics

This month's stats: Four longarm quilters from Oregon have volunteered for October. One longarmer has volunteered in each of the following states: AR, CO, GA, IA, MA, NV, OK, TN, WI.

States with 2 volunteer longarmers this month are: AZ, CA, FL, MD, MN, MO, TX, VA, WA.

The other 31 states have no volunteers for October.

Volunteers Needed at Houston Quilt Show

Want to spend a couple of hours laughing, talking, crying and otherwise meeting some incredibly nice and interesting quilters? Here's your chance! Sign up to help at the QOV

booth at the Houston International Quilt Festival November 2 through the 5th.

Hours are 10 to 7 Thurs. through Sat. 11 to 5 on Sunday.

Free pass for the day you work, and the satisfaction of spreading the word about the need for all quilters to make a quilt for a wounded warrior. It is estimated that there are about a million quilters in America and if everyone made a quilt for QOV we could get all the wounded covered.

Your work time is at your choice, with a minimum commitment of 2 hours. There is a need for at least 4 volunteers per shift so that Catherine will be free to get interviews, make presentations, etc. If you come with a friend or two get them to work with you. There is literature to hand out and lists to sign up, raffle tickets to sell and a lot of talking to do.

This cause is so big that we cannot let it go by. The feedback from the recipients lets us know that it is very meaningful to have such a gift from a stranger.

This is not political. No matter how we may feel about what is going on overseas or at home, we must take care of the men and women who are laying their lives on the line, in harm's way, to help keep our shores safe. It is for real and they are to be remembered and thanked.

What better way do we have than our ability to take bits of fabric and put them together into something beautiful, practical and comforting to extend our gratitude to our wounded.

Please volunteer today. You won't regret it and it might change your life.

For more information email Nedra at nedra@qovf.org today and instructions will be sent to you.

Thank you for donating your time!

Calendar of Events

November 2 - 5

International Quilt Festival/
Houston, George R. Brown Con-
vention Center, Houston, Texas.
Classes begin October 24. **The
QOVF will be raffling off a
Featherweight sewing machine,**
look for volunteers at the show sell-
ing tickets!

November 9 - 12

Greater Chicago Quilt Festival,
Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel &
Convention Center, Schaumburg,
Illinois.

Going Grassroots

- Visit your local quilt shop and request that one day a month be devoted to making QOVs.
- Ask that your local guild devote some of their charity to our war-time efforts.
- Form your own QOV Bee.
- Make QOV Kits (you can share these with the QOV community at newsletter@qovf.org).
- Create a pattern to share. Make sure that you decide what copyright licensing you want to use, and then email Catherine to have it posted online.
- Make signature blocks that can be sent to a central location to be sewn together. Go to www.qovf.org for more information.
- Spread the news about the QOVF at the Houston International Quilt Festival by volunteering for a couple of hours of your time.
- Encourage your local schools to get children involved by making QOVs in their classrooms.



Member of Tall Pines Quilt Guild in Michigan with one of their Quilts of Valor.

Postings from the QOV Community

Nancy Campbell in Bloomfield, IN is looking to join or start a local quilting group in the Bloomington, IN area. If you are interested in joining or have information about a current group please email newsletter@qovf.org.

“Quotables”

The following is an excerpt from an email sent from Chaplain John Kallerson at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C.

Many thanks for helping Ms. Eyer's class put together the trip to Walter Reed. The quilt is great but the kids and their parents were even better.

It is so gratifying to see the excitement of the young people and their willingness to spend such a long time on so meaningful of a project. The quilt will have a very special place at Walter Reed-I will see to that.

I could not have asked for a better visit from a group. All our wounded and their families, as well as the command here, were impressed by the class and the quilt. I am very thankful that we connected

so long ago and have made the Quilts of Valor a very special part of the care program at Walter Reed AMC.

It is incredible to think that we give out an average of 280 quilts a month at Walter Reed to those who have served their nation and been injured while protecting a nation that may never fully understand their sacrifices.

I gave out 19 quilts today to our wounded that arrived this week. **I will never be able to appropriately craft the words to fully explain how amazed the soldiers and marines are when they receive their quilt.** I am humbled at every presentation by the work and love that goes into the quilts and the effort it takes in getting them to those in need all over the nation.

I also wish to send my thanks to Doug Coppi (StandYeSteady.com) for his generosity in helping get the class and quilt to Walter Reed. He truly displayed a spirit of generosity and patriotism while being humble at the same time.

John L. Kallerson
Chaplain (Major) US Army

Final Thought

Finally, remember that the QOV you made is magical! They help your serviceperson heal. You know how they were made, lot's of time spent thinking and praying for this person. Be sure to tell your person that when they are feeling down or having a bad day or thinking their time downrange (in the battlefield) wasn't worth it, they should WRAP themselves in your QOV and they'll feel the gratitude, the love and sincere appreciation you put into its very fibers for THEM!

Volunteer Staff

Let us know how we can help you...

Catherine
cath@qovf.org
Catherine is the founder/director of the QOV program.

June
june@qovf.org
June is our longarm coordinator and has been onboard for over two years.

Barb
barb@qovf.org
Barb is our kid's coordinator. Barb is a resource for those who have questions and/or projects with children. If you want your kid's project on the web,

email Barb and she will get it ready.

Nedra
nedra@qovf.org
Nedra has taken on the much needed and appreciated position of QOV Administrative Assistant. Please contact her if you are having difficulties getting in touch with Catherine.

Judy Laquidara and Nancy Miller
Lots of you know our QOV Mystery Queens. They are both very talented and inspire others to make QOVs.

Donna Dickinson
donna@qovf.org
Donna handles the books and talks to the QOVF accountant. If you have any questions about tax stuff, donations, etc, contact Donna.

Lezley
lezley@qovf.org
Leslie is in charge of coordinating efforts in Canada.

Michele
michele@qovf.org
newsletter@qovf.org
Michele joins the staff this month as the newsletter editor. Please

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

Jacque
jacque@qovf.org
Jacque is our new Events Coordinator. She will be in charge of receiving and organizing information regarding any QOV event that needs national/regional attention.

Patrick Coleman and Terri Moses
patrick@qovf.org
terri@qovf.org
This team will take over the job of creating a QOVF Database.

More Volunteer Staff Members Needed!

QOV Book Editor.
This position requires someone who has editing experience in the real world of publishing and who would like to do this voluntarily.

How to Donate...



Since the QOV Foundation started out in November of 2003 as Quilts for Soldiers, we have run on a shoe string budget. Staff members work on a voluntary basis. The monies we received are directed back into the Foundation and used to increase our visibility. (If you would like a copy of the QOVF's 5 year plan, please email Catherine). This is paramount if we are to reach all our combat wounded with the message that they have a QOV waiting for them.

The thousands of members in this group give of their time and money. To date, we have collectively spent over \$750,000 dollars in making QOVs.

When you make a monetary tax deductible donation, you can request where it should go. The various choices are: administrative, fabric, shipping, printing handout literature.

You also can contribute fabric, sewing machines, batting and quilting threads. if you would like to go this route, please email [Catherine](mailto:Catherine@qovf.org) at cath@qovf.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 physical or psychological with wartime quilts called Quilts of Valor (QOVs). The wounded service-members from the War on Terror or Long War are 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 addition to encouraging 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 combat wounded are also covered.

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