Picket Fence

Only one pattern piece makes up the simple block. Two light pieces are placed in opposite corners, creating a star when blocks are joined.

[Diagram of block piecing]

Blocks are 7 ½ inches square, creating a 7-inch finished size. If you want borders, setting 6 blocks wide and 7 blocks tall, and adding 7 inch side borders and 8 inch top and bottom borders gives you a finished size of 56x65 inches. Feel free to size the quilt to your desires, within the required dimensions for a Quilt of Valor.

For each block you will need two light pieces and four dark or medium pieces. Multiply this by the number of blocks you have chosen for your final size. In the example of 6 by 7 blocks (total 42) you will need to cut 168 dark/medium pieces and 84 light pieces. This is for light stars on a dark background. If you choose to do dark stars with a light background, reverse the proportions. Lay out the blocks alternating with vertical and horizontal pickets and the stars appear as you go!

[Diagram of rows 1 and 2]

Here is the kicker with this quilt: **the picket points must all angle in the same direction**. If you cut your pieces as rectangles and sever them in the middle on the 45-degree line, then you will have half of your pickets pointing in the opposite direction. This is what makes this quilt an ideal buddy project. Cut all the pieces and share half of them with a friend. The friend will make a quilt that is the mirror image of your
quilt. No problem, as long as everything is internally consistent for each quilt. Or you can keep all the pieces and make two quilts if you like. Two for the price of one!

Here is the only pattern piece, full size. If you want to get a little more adventurous, you can size it differently, but keep the proportions or your fence will not work in both directions.