



Dear American Hero,

On Behalf of the Quilts of Valor Foundation<sup>®</sup> and in recognition of your service to this nation, it is a privilege to honor you with this Quilt of Valor. Please accept this Quilt of Valor in grateful thanksgiving for your service and sacrifice in the defense of our country.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to “cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor”. This quilt represents thousands of youth and adults making Quilts of Valor and their care for service men/women and veterans. Often, when Quilts of Valor are constructed, they are sewn and quilted with prayers for our service men, women and veterans

Quilts of Valor began in 2003 when Catherine Roberts of Delaware had a son deployed in Iraq and she felt “10 seconds from panic”. She was a military mom, nurse and quilter. Catherine had a “dream of gloom” where in her dream a young soldier was having a hard time sleeping due to worry and fear. He was deployed and in the middle of the night, sitting on the edge of a bed. Then as if viewing a movie, the next scene of her dream was very transformative. The soldier was wrapped in a quilt and the whole atmosphere changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. Because of the dream, Catherin began making quilts for wounded warriors returning home. Working with a hospital chaplain, the first quilt was “awarded” to a soldier in Walter Reed Hospital. As of today, **190,733** Quilts of Valor have been awarded to U.S. active military and veterans.

A Quilt of Valor is a one-and-only lifetime award awarded to U.S. soldiers and veterans all over the world in all branches of service. Citizens of Australia, Canada, and England have joined this effort to thank their service men and women.

Beginning in 2003 at a time of heavy deployment, most Quilts of Valor were awarded to military personnel overseas. The nicest thank you notes were received from ICU nurses in Afghanistan saying the quilt was “proudly worn during Purple Heart Ceremony”. Other thank you notes came from staff at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany where many injured soldiers were transferred to Landstuhl Military Hospital before coming home. One planeload of 200 injured soldiers coming home to U.S., each soldier was covered with QOV.

In 2015 with less deployment overseas, the National Quilts of Valor Foundation changed the focus to awarding Quilts of Valor to veterans at home. Please use this quilt on your bed, snuggle up with it on your couch or wrap your loved ones in it. We would like you to use it to keep you warm and feel comforted by it. **WELCOME HOME** – Thank you for your service.

To care for your quilt, wash it in cold water and dry on low to medium heat in the dryer. You might want to use a “color catcher” in the wash to help prevent color bleeding from the fabric dye.