



**From the Executive Director**  
by Tammany McDaniel

When I joined the organization in 2019, my first article was titled “We are 10,000.” QOVF had 10,000 members and I listed as many places in America referencing 10K as I could find, such as Ten Thousand Smokes, Alaska, Ten Thousand Islands in the Everglades, and the “Land of 10,000 Lakes,” Minnesota.



Tammany McDaniel  
Executive Director

I just received word that the QOV Block Drive, which has the slogan “20K in 2020” reached its goal of 20,000 blocks! I’ve been learning quilt math and know that 20,000 blocks can help make at least 1,000 QOVs. Two states have demonstrated great need to reduce large QOV request backlogs, and a portion of the Block Drive blocks went out directly to those in need. I’m excited by our progress and encourage you to spread the word that there are many more areas in need. Please keep the Block Drive alive through the remainder of 2020!

Also rising to the challenge, the QOVF Board of Directors volunteered to help with outstanding QOV nominations. Watch for posts about “No Soldier Left Behind” where board members work with their peers and connections to obtain the materials, funding, or make QOVs themselves for 2017 outstanding nominations. Yes, 2017!

In 2019, QOVF worked to ensure all 2015 to 2016 outstanding nominations were awarded. We helped groups prioritize and found excellent resources for awarding QOVs in areas where there wasn’t a QOV group presence. It is a team effort that will continue!

One goal is to help solve rural and frontier QOV awards. While we work on social distancing, we have a new “frontier” everywhere. Through July 31, 2020, if someone is receiving the QOV on behalf of the nominated individual, let’s work on making a video conference or telephone award. Longer term, if a QOV is ready but the drive, road conditions, or other factors are delaying an award, let us know. As an organization, we can provide insight on how to reach out to local clergy, law

enforcement, VFW/American Legion, or youth groups. When the time comes, we can help connect with someone who wants and is able to make the award.

Thank you for patience with all the recent schedule changes and cancellations of events. We are mindful of public safety and health warnings. You have been right there with us, keeping everyone apprised of our ability to award QOVs.

We still have fabric available from the Missouri Star Quilt Company—Missouri Star Cares donation. Does your group need fabric? Please contact [executive.director@qovf.org](mailto:executive.director@qovf.org) to make a request.

Do you know of an outstanding volunteer? Someone who you count on or who is always cheerful? Maybe there is an awarded veteran who checks in on your group? Or, do you have other good news to share? We would love to hear about it.

Thank you for your work to change the lives of our service members and veterans touched by war.



Board member Michelle Nelson recruits her kids to help arrange one of the quilts she is making to help with the backlog.



QOVF Board President Sue Reich is putting together blocks from The Quilters Hall of Fame event last year to help alleviate the backlog.

## KIND WORDS AND HEARTFELT THANKS

*In the moment, QOV award recipients are often at a loss for words. But in time, many send notes of thanks to all who have contributed. Their kind words reflect the thoughts of many and highlight the significance these awards continue to have in recipients' lives. This is why we do what we do. Thanks to everyone for all your help in covering and comforting our service members and veterans.*

Thank you, thank you, thank you! I am MSgt. John Runfola (Ret.) and I received my QOV in September, 2017. As a participant with the Warriors In Saddles and a proud Veteran of the U.S. Air Force and Oklahoma National Guard for more than 21 years, I wrap up each evening watching the news to unwind. I wish that I had your talents. May God bless us each and every day. And may God bless your talents, energy, and patriotic enthusiasm.

—Jon Runfola



I don't know who made my QOV, or who will receive this message. But this quilt was and still is the most precious gift I have ever been given after coming home from overseas in 2009. I'm from the 180th FW and was awarded the stunning QOV after returning from Saudi Arabia from a six-month deployment. I feel my sacrifice is nothing in comparison to many others and didn't even think I deserved something so magnificent. I learned to sew when I was sixteen years old. I know that every single stitch of this QOV was made by someone who thought about me, thought about my sacrifices, and prayed for me as they created it. I wish I could thank each and every one of you that have ever put time into these quilts. Please know that I have taken very careful care of my QOV and it is still in fantastic condition. It stays on my couch and is out to use.

Thank you to each and every one of you. Please know that your thoughtfulness has been appreciated again and again, every single time I wrap myself in the comfort of my Quilt of Valor. God Bless!

—Kayla Mehki

All of us who lived through the difficult times of the Vietnam era were compelled to make choices formed by our own personal beliefs in religion, ethics, politics, and otherwise "life-lesson-training." This defines who we were and are. I often give partial credit to the Tom Brokaw's "Greatest Generation" (parents/teachers/et al) for many of my beliefs.

You, and the Quilts of Valor Foundation, have provided appropriate closure for me (and many others) who have been touched by war. "One human being reaching out and touching another, without judgement, reaching out with acceptance, and with an acknowledgement of service to our nation in trying circumstances" is my true reward. I graciously accept your award, and wish to thank you, members of the Foundation, the thousands of quilters all over the U.S., and all of the families and friends who provided the support for us. You all are the true unsung heroes of this great country. Semper Fi and God bless the U.S.A.

—Richard Newhouse



## LOCAL GRANT RECEIVED

by Sue Buhler

The Pratt Area QOV Chapter in Kansas, organized in November, 2018, was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the area South Central Community Foundation. The QOV group consists of fifteen members who meet monthly to work on QOVs to be awarded in

the local area. Members donated the supplies needed to get the chapter started. Two members of the group wrote a grant to apply for funds to support the chapter and allow the group to make more quilts for local awards to service members touched by war.

The South Central Community Foundation has been providing grants in Kansas since 1995, impacting several non-profit groups in the seven-county area. The Pratt Area QOV Group was

honored to be among the 2019 grant recipients. Spending the awarded funds on fabric, rulers, and tools for sewing has enabled the group to get a strong start on making several QOVs. We are fortunate to be in an area that financially supports non-profit groups through grants such as this. We encourage other QOV Groups to look for similar grant programs in their local areas.

## RESUMPTION OF QOV AWARDS

by Tammany McDaniel

Currently, on the QOVF website, we have noted we will not resume awarding QOVs until July 31, 2020. We may extend the hold on making awards as we determine more about the prevalence of the virus and its affects nationwide.

As we learn more about the state-level planned phases of increased contact, we want to remind you that the best sources of information are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO) or your local governor's office.

The award of a Quilt of Valor is very personal and involves close contact, and often physical contact, with the nominated service member or veteran. We ask that you know whether your state or community is moving forward with approved gatherings and whether the planned ceremony meets those guidelines for size, location, and such.

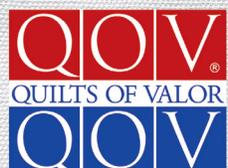
**Most importantly—regardless of your state's determination—if you do not feel ready or are at risk for health complications, we are asking you NOT to make awards. Your health and safety is important to us.**

Thank you for your good cheer, mask making, and other contributions during this time. We are an awesome team!



WWII veteran, Floyd Faust, was awarded his Quilt of Valor in early March by Sharon Jirak.







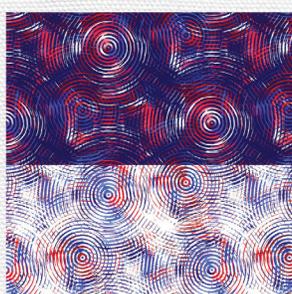
**Flags.** 108" wide, flags about 3" wide. Exclusively from Windham Fabrics.  
Yardage #1009511 **\$13.68 per yard**  
3-yard Back Pack #1009512 **\$37.99**

**108" Wide Backs**

available by the yard or in our 3-yard (108" x 108") backpacks



**Patriotic Stars.** 108" wide. Exclusively from Timeless Treasures.  
Yardage #1010807 **\$13.68 per yard**  
3-yard Back Pack #1010808 **\$37.99**



**Circle Play.** 108" wide; large scale. Specify navy patriotic or white patriotic. Exclusively from Henry Glass.  
Yardage #1007489 **\$13.68 per yard**  
3-yard Back Pack #1009513 **\$37.99**



**American Dreams.** 108" wide; stars up to 3/4". Specify red, ecru or blue. Exclusively from Henry Glass.  
Yardage #1000307 **\$13.68 per yard**  
3-yard Back Pack #1009555 **\$37.99**

**ORDER NOW!**

Keepsake Quilting | 505 Aztec Drive | Archdale, NC 27263 | 800.865.9458  
www.KeepsakeQuilting.com • use promo code: **DonateQOV** at checkout

Dear Quilters,

In partnership with The Quilts of Valor® Foundation, Keepsake Quilting is donating one dollar for every yard purchased of select patriotic 108" wide backings. As we create to honor our veterans, make your award give back in two ways by supporting the wonderful work of The Quilts of Valor Foundation and awarding our beloved, brave service men and women.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation has been bringing comfort and healing to service members and veterans since 2003. We believe many of our military have been "Touched By War" whether physically or mentally. Our purpose is to offer gratitude for their service to protect our way of life. We express this gratitude in the form of a Quilt of Valor during an award ceremony. It is our hope to show respect and provide a tangible item that is closely associated with comfort and warmth. We believe Quilts = Healing.

As we near the award of our 250,000<sup>th</sup> QOV, we offer thanks to our 10,000 members and over 600 groups working throughout our Nation on this initiative. We also want to compliment other countries who have joined in honoring their service members and veterans. They are; Australia, Canada, United Kingdom. We also hear that New Zealand and South Korea are planning similar missions.

We have approximately 15,000 nominated service members and veterans awaiting their award. If you would like to get involved, please contact executive. [director@qovf.org](mailto:director@qovf.org).

Thank you,  
Tammany McDaniel, Executive Director, Quilts of Valor Foundation

**GIVE BACK AS YOU CREATE!**  
Honor your veterans and support The Quilts of Valor Foundation. For every yard purchased of select patriotic 108" wide backings shown on this card, Keepsake Quilting is donating one dollar. Use promo code **DonateQOV** at checkout to apply this donation. For easy ordering, shop here: <https://bit.ly/DonateQOV>.

*Keepsake Quilting*

**About Keepsake Quilting:** For quilters and sewists worldwide, Keepsake Quilting provides inspiration and high-quality fabrics for the time-honored craft of sewing and quilting. The Keepsake Quilting catalog and website is a hub of the highest-quality cotton quilt fabrics, kits, patterns, precut fabric collections, tools and notions, gifts and more.

Visit **Keepsake Quilting** at [www.keepsakequilting.com](http://www.keepsakequilting.com)

**ORDER NOW!**

Keepsake Quilting | 505 Aztec Drive | Archdale, NC 27263 | **800.865.9458**



Assistant Executive Director Ginger Fondren is hiding behind this quilt top that she completed while self isolating during the pandemic.

## Quilts Reported

**2012:** 6,169  
**2013:** 12,314  
**2014:** 17,373  
**2015:** 18,772  
**2016:** 19,051  
**2017:** 24,123  
**2018:** 30,745  
**2019:** 33,375  
**2020:** 8,009

**Total: 250,494**

(from date of first recorded award through 30 April, 2020)

*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.*

### QOVF Core Values

Treating people with respect • Promoting excellence • Valuing service over self • Being accountable



**QOVF Founder and Board Member Emeritus**  
 Catherine Roberts

**Board Member Emeritus**  
 Walt Davis  
 Marianne Fons  
 Eric McCarty  
 June Moore

**Board of Directors**  
 Sue Reich, Chair  
 Maggie Klenke, Secretary  
 Brenda Edwards, Treasurer  
 Tony Jacobson, Member  
 Mary Kerr, Member  
 John Oxley, Member  
 Rebecca Glasby, Member

**Executive Staff**  
 Tammany McDaniel, Executive Director  
[tammany.mcdaniel@QOVF.org](mailto:tammany.mcdaniel@QOVF.org)

Ginger Fondren, Assistant Executive Director  
[ginger.fondren@QOVF.org](mailto:ginger.fondren@QOVF.org)

Luann Gilman, Accounting Manager  
[luann.gilman@qovf.org](mailto:luann.gilman@qovf.org)

Kathleen Boldman,  
 Membership Administrator  
[kathleen.boldman@qovf.org](mailto:kathleen.boldman@qovf.org)

Membership questions and notices  
[Membership@qovf.org](mailto:Membership@qovf.org)

Margie Eisenbeis, Co-Longarm Coordinator (east of MS river)  
[margie.eisenbeis@QOVF.org](mailto:margie.eisenbeis@QOVF.org)

Amy Martin, Co-Longarm Coordinator (west of MS river)  
[amy.martin@qovf.org](mailto:amy.martin@qovf.org)

Janice Lewis, Individual Request & Destination Coordinator  
[janice.lewis@QOVF.org](mailto:janice.lewis@QOVF.org)

Marketing and Public Relations Director (open position)

Suzanne DiCarlo,  
 Information Desk Coordinator  
[suzanne.dicarlo@QOVF.org](mailto:suzanne.dicarlo@QOVF.org)

Jennifer Keltner, Managing Editor  
[jennifer.keltner@QOVF.org](mailto:jennifer.keltner@QOVF.org)

Certified Quilt Business Coordinator (open position)

IT Director (open position)

Special Events Coordinator (open position)

Under Our Wings Program Coordinator (open position)

**Facebook/Twitter Admin**  
 Terry Burtchell  
[terry.burtchell@QOVF.org](mailto:terry.burtchell@QOVF.org)

Mailing Address:  
 Quilts of Valor Foundation  
 PO Box 191  
 Winterset, IA 50273

For more information about QOVF, see [www.QOVF.org](http://www.QOVF.org)

For more information about the BOD, the QOVF staff, and how to contact your State Coordinator (SC) go to [www.qovf.org/meet-us/](http://www.qovf.org/meet-us/)

Photos that appear in *Threads* are either used with permission or are public domain images. The editorial team makes every effort to credit photographers.

**amazon smile** [here](#)

### Newsletter

Tammany McDaniel, *Editorial Director*  
 Jennifer Keltner, *Managing Editor*  
 Tony Jacobson, *Graphic Designer*  
 Kathleen Decker, *Contributing Editor*  
 Marianne Fons, *Proofreader*

Quilt of Valor®, Quilts of Valor®, and QOV® are registered trademarks of the Quilts of Valor Foundation.