

OCTOBER 2020



threads  
NEWSLETTER

**From the Executive Director**

by Tammany McDaniel

I am so grateful for your caring hearts. We all know that the comfort of human touch heals the spirit and eases burdens. This period in our world has halted one of the core actions we take: giving hugs and trading handshakes. Our impulse to reach out is limited. However, the power of what we do remains strong; we have found ways for family members, caregivers, and others to take on this core part of our award ceremony. I am grateful to those who have stepped forward to continue our commitment to the very human connections which change the lives of our awarded service members and veterans.



Tammany McDaniel  
Executive Director

It is with great excitement I note that our support from Janome-America will continue. In these troubling times, many have returned to family dinners and game nights, sewing, crafts, and kitchen arts. It has been challenging to find a sewing machine, bicycle, or stand mixer to purchase. We now see these items coming back into the market and know that the increase in these former traditions may be one positive outcome from the pandemic. Life enrichment and new skills lead to resilience and better health. The Janome 3160QOV model will soon be available again and, as before, a percentage of the sales from the Janome 3160QOV model goes to

QOV National. This partnership allows us to expand investment in our systems and infrastructure. Additionally, Janome-America joined our Inaugural Virtual 5K: personnel from Janome-America will either run or sponsor a colleague's run.

The IT Team is completing the last check of our website. If you haven't visited the new website, please check it out at [www.QOVF.org](http://www.QOVF.org). The QOVF Store is not closed, nor forgotten, but it has been offline; that is the last item on the to-do list.

Our GivingTuesday marketing materials are here and posted to the Member Dashboard. For those who are thinking even further ahead, we are announcing a National Sew Day fundraising opportunity for groups. We have the QOVF National Sew Day logo in the trademark process for a February 2021 release. A new Trademark Use Request Form will include the new logo. Advance authorization will be required to receive the artwork once the logo is released.

Since the logo isn't ready, we produced a t-shirt for #NSD2021 that groups can use for fundraising. Groups can take pre-orders with a portion of the t-shirt sales going back to your group. Since the store is offline, we went "old-school" with paper order forms. Groups will be allowed to draw-down from raised funds on deposit with QOVF to defray the costs of the bulk purchase. An email went out on September 30 with details, forms, and instructions. Please check with your Group Leader or with your State/District Coordinator if you wish to order a t-shirt.

Thank you for sharing the passion of our mission!

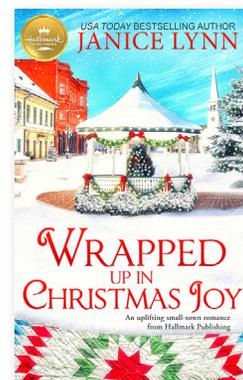
**WHAT'S NEXT?**

by QOVF Marketing

Having already started the holiday season, retail is in full swing. Halloween stock is now on clearance and, if you have walked through a home improvement store recently, you may have seen that this year's Christmas decorations are out in full display. Now is the time to shop if you want the full selection of choices for a new yard display.

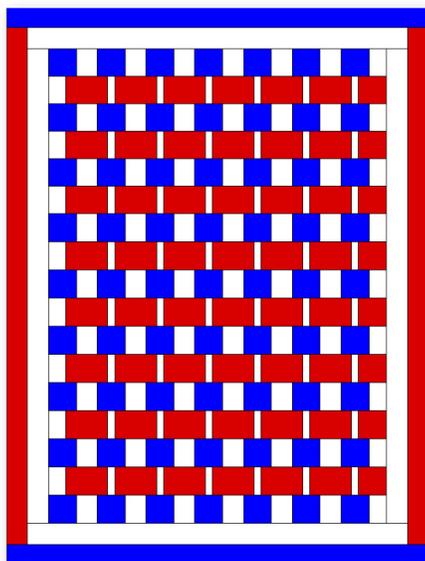
With Veterans Day quickly approaching, QOVF is in full swing for our season, too. Many of you will participate in ceremonies held by your cities, churches, local Veteran groups, and others. While the ceremonies may be slightly different this year as you practice social distancing guidelines, the appreciation of the recipients has not changed. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you keep calm and quilt on:

- ★ *Wrapped Up in Christmas Joy* releases October 27! Have you preordered your copy? Target, Walmart, Amazon, and Hallmark will have physical books available on release day. Other retailers will have the books available in November.



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★ We promised to reveal the pattern in this edition but, if you have logged into the Member Dashboard recently, you already had a sneak peek. [A Hero's Weave](#) is an Under Our Wings pattern and is the QOV pattern provided with the e-book edition of *Wrapped Up in Christmas Joy*. You can find more about *Wrapped Up in Christmas Joy* and the quilt pattern on the [Hallmark](#) page of our website.



★ Have you signed up yet for the virtual 5K run? Our Board of Directors is generously hosting the Quilts of Valor Inaugural Virtual 5K on November 7, 2020. A fun event for everyone, so grab your QOV group, family, dogs, and neighbors, and [register](#) to share the passion of our mission. Registration is \$35 and closes on November 1, 2020. Spread the word, and the Facebook posts, with all of your friends and family. The more participation we have, the more QOVs we can award!



★ Are you looking for labels, or maybe a little something extra? Check out the official Spoonflower shop for the QOVF at [QOVF Spoonflower](#) and see what is available. Anything purchased from the [QOVF Spoonflower](#) shop helps us fulfill our mission.



★ Many of you have told the IT Review Team that the new website is a great success! While the IT Review Team fixes those last few pesky items found after going live, and with all our members also testing areas (thank you!), they are focused on the future. The next initiative needs a few more hands to be involved in the process. Do you have any of the following in your skill set:

- Formal business process improvement experience?
- Workflow design and requirements gathering?
- Quality assurance testing?
- An expert level of experience with WordPress?
- An estimated 10 hours per month to offer—sometimes less, sometimes more—for a specific time frame?

If you have any of these professional skill sets in your wheelhouse, and have a few hours to spare each month, please send your interest and resume/skill set experience to [ITReviewTeam@qovf.org](mailto:ITReviewTeam@qovf.org). The team has specific needs immediately, and those needs will expand as the team moves forward with IT initiatives.

★ Maywood Studio identified another quilt from Bound to Be Quilting. They are manufacturing the quilt as

a kit for a new kit joint effort. Right now we can only say that the 70" × 70" quilt will bring a smile to those who protected our liberty. As soon as we know more, we will post it to the Member Dashboard.

Don't forget to add visiting the website to part of your morning routine and get the news there first. Happy Awarding!

## GIVINGTUESDAY ROLLOUT

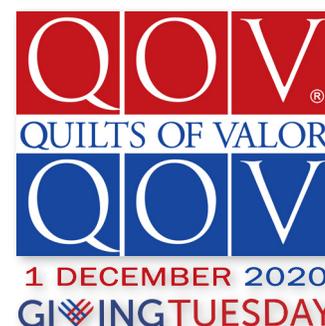
Written by QOVF Marketing

"GivingTuesday is an opportunity for people around the world to use their individual power of generosity to remain connected and support their communities. It's a day when everyone comes together to give back in all forms—acts of kindness, gifts of voice, time, talent or treasure. Nonprofits can leverage the energy of GivingTuesday to tell their stories, engage lifelong advocates, and build a movement for their organizations—and that's way more powerful than just collecting donors." GivingTuesday.org

Our mission goes hand in hand with the GivingTuesday initiative. We are very thankful that you, our volunteers, are inspired every day to give of your time, to show kindness to fellow members, and to wrap our service members and veterans in comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

QOVF wants to help your group maximize this day of giving. You may have read the post. We will post more on the [Member Dashboard](#) to help you get your community to donate financially, to give of their time by making a kit, or to attend a socially distanced QOV award. We will send reminder emails of key dates as they approach, and you will always find the details on the Member Dashboard.

#QOVFGivingTuesday



## AN ONION IN THE TULIP PATCH

by Arlene Meissel,  
Missouri River QOV group co-leader

On Thursday, August 27, 2020, the Missouri River QOV group of Bismarck, ND, wrapped eight veterans in comforting and healing Quilts of Valor during an award ceremony in Dickinson, ND. One of the veterans receiving a quilt that evening was Joseph Herold, the most senior veteran of the evening. Joseph, a Purple Heart recipient, served in the U.S. Army as a tank operator during the Korean War. Joseph's story held a surprise for us that was revealed later in the evening.

Joseph's family was in the audience and wrapped him in his quilt when he was honored. After the ceremony, we visited with Joseph and his family and learned about his "service" life after discharge from the Army. Joseph continued to serve his country for 32 years as a U.S. Postal Service employee. All his life he has been an active volunteer in his community and church. Joseph has been a member of the Dickinson American Legion Honor Guard for 65 years. His son chuckled that Joseph logged more time as a volunteer than he did at his career job.

Learning about Joseph's love and dedication to his country and community didn't surprise us. So many of our veterans are active volunteers and continue to give generously of their time and energy. But what did surprise us was finding out that Joseph is a QUILTER! Joseph himself told us his story.

"I made all my grandkids quilts. All six plus one-half dozen of them," he joked. He credits his late wife, Phyllis, for getting him started. In the beginning, he cut squares and block pieces for Phyllis. "I got pretty good cutting pieces with a rotary cutter. Then I figured I might as well sew the pieces back together, too," said Joseph. So began his quilting habit.

In time, Joseph started accompanying Phyllis to her quilting group at St. John's Lutheran Church in Dickinson.



Joseph Herold, U.S. Army veteran, receiving his QOV at an awards ceremony in Dickinson, ND.

Being the only man in the group, he smiled and said, "She said I was like an onion in a tulip patch." For the past 18 years, Joseph has been making quilts for his family and the church. Joseph

turns 90 in September. He says he'll keep quilting because those first quilts are wearing out and the grandkids want them replaced. Plus, he enjoys being the lone "onion" of his church group.

## PUBLIC OR PRIVATE?

By Tammany McDaniel

Many of you are enthusiastically looking at the new website. But when you tested the *Who's in My Area* map looking for your group, it wasn't there! There could be other reasons the group isn't there, but it usually revolves around the group's "Public" or "Private" setting.

Your group may be marked private. Many Group Leaders (GL) did not list your group because (a) the map requires an address, usually the GL's home address; or (b) it would display the GL's personal email address.

Your GL has a Group Member Dashboard. There they can list only a City/State/Zip Code for the group,

allowing a general location for the map, but not a specific address such as the GL's home address. Also, we took additional precautions with the new website design. We no longer display the email address on the site and modified the "Send an Email" function to counteract those who scrape email addresses from websites for spamming or malicious purposes.

Your group may not be part of the nomination and awards system. If your group isn't receiving and awarding QOV requests from our nomination system, your GL may have marked the group as private.

Those are usually the reasons why a group is not listed, but it could also be a system glitch. We ask that if you don't see your group, please reach out to your Group Leader. Let's go "public"!

## 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:** 14,574

**Total: 257,059**

(from date of first recorded award through 30 September, 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



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**Board Member Emeritus**  
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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/)

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

### Newsletter

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