



Learning New Skills

by ED Tammany McDaniel

My husband often notes, “Any day you learn something is a good day.” Well, I had several “good days” this month.



Tammany McDaniel
Executive Director

I’ve always counted on “bars” when my cell phone doesn’t have any. On Saturday, February 6, 2021, my thoughts started correlating bars to the number of people who could join us. We thought we could have 999 callers and, if we had done a phone-only conference that would have been true. After scrambling to add “more bars” and find a signal, we realized we had what we had, and we made the best of it. We called our guests and put them on the speakerphone.

When the audio wouldn’t play for our videos, we added them to YouTube. We learned a great deal about “bars” and service on National Sew Day.

I believe that failure is determined by whether you get back up and try again. So, we are going to announce more online opportunities. We are lining up guest speakers, asking our Board Members back, and ensuring that we have “bars.” Stay tuned for more information. And most of all, thank you for your patience.

Queenie Quilter has been hinting and I am now confirming—I took my first quilting lesson. First, let me tell you the most exciting and fun part was buying the tools and fabric—I am a shopper! Then there was joy in laying everything out and just looking at what I had accomplished during my shopping trips. I arrived at class early, wanting to ensure that the instructor knew I was

a true beginner. That day turned out to be another “good day.” I had several false starts, some ripped out seams, and a great deal of trepidation. I left with homework as I did not complete what the rest of the class was able to accomplish. My next “good day” was yesterday when the sewing machine I have in Florida started grinding. Shopping is fun—buy a new machine? Or fix the machine? I guess that is why there are still Sew and Vac stores, right? So, fix it!

In the next issue, I’ll provide an update on my sewing machine repair—or purchase. I’ll include some pictures of my 2½" strips and you can look at my seams and pressing skills. That will be fun! Right?

You are changing the lives of our service members and veterans. What you do makes a difference and I appreciate you.

UP AND COMING

by QOVF Marketing

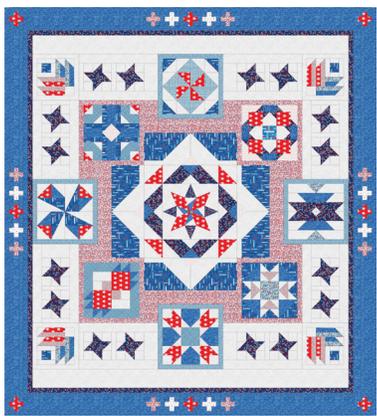
★ #NSD2021 was a great success in some ways, and a total flop in others. Ultimately, we think most of our members were still able to have fun and sew. Some of you were able to gather together, some did a presentation or two, and some of you won assorted items from our random giveaways. Lou J. of Bismarck, ND, had the most fun as she was the Janome 3160QOV winner! Congratulations, Lou! We recapped what we captured for the day and posted it to our [QOVF YouTube Channel](#).

★ We learned a great deal on Sew Day. Outside of the technology limitations, we realized that so many of you wanted to be able to join and chat and sew together because you haven’t been able to do that since the last Sew Day! We are already researching and working on the next virtual event. Don’t worry, we promise we will be able to mute, you’ll have time to talk and sew with one another and, if you register, you will be able to join! More to come on this in the next issue of *Threads*.

★ We wrapped up our first flash store of the year with our partner, Authentically American, selling

our “We QOV to RED” t-shirt. They are now being produced and will be shipping soon. We hope to have more flash stores, not always a t-shirt, so if you have something in mind you would like to see, let us know at marketing@qovf.org.

★ Keep your eyes out for the next Call to Action notification. We will have 150 kits available to help fulfill the 2019 outstanding requests. Since our quantities are limited, if you have already received a Call to Action Kit, please let another member have a chance.



★ We're on Block 4 of the "Quilting is my Therapy Build a Quilt." If you haven't signed up and are looking for a new project, [take a look at what it's all about](#). They created the Flag Day kit specifically for Quilts of Valor to help us continue the mission.



Starting 2021 with Hope

- ★ And we still have Hope! There are only a few more days to enter the Quilt Challenge. Send us your entries and your group's quilt could be selected to be the quilt pattern featured in the next Hallmark book by Janice Lynn. Get the [challenge packet](#) and submit your entry today!
- ★ We've held monthly SC/DC calls and know that many states also have monthly GL meetings. We encourage all State and District Coordinators to establish monthly communication with your state membership, both group and individual members. Whether through a newsletter, email, or conference/video call. Reach out to marketing@qovf.org if you would like help setting up regular communication.
- ★ March has a couple significant military days we want you to be aware of:
 - March 25 is Medal of Honor Day, recognizing the heroism and sacrifice above and beyond the call of duty by all Medal of Honor recipients.
 - March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. It is estimated that there are more than six million U.S. Vietnam veterans living in America and abroad. We better get quilting!

2021 NSD JANOME WINNER

by Arlene Meissel, Missouri River QOV

Lou Josephson from Bismarck, ND, a member of the Missouri River Quilts of Valor, was the grand prize winner of the Janome 3160QOV sewing machine. Lou is very deserving of the sewing machine as she is a dedicated member who has made numerous QOVs for their group, along with assisting with awards and other duties. An appreciative and surprised Lou commented, "I never win anything!"

Five members of their group met together on National Sew Day where they cut and sewed star and nine patch blocks to be used in future QOVs. In addition to Lou, three other members of their group were prize winners. "We think this is beginner's luck as our group only organized one year ago this month!"



PORT CLINTON'S VETERAN HONORED WITH QUILT OF VALOR

By Jill Bothe, member of Grateful Valor Girls QOV

Korean War veteran Richard Winke was honored recently at the Port Clinton Elks Club with a special award from the QOVF. Winke was celebrating his birthday with family and friends when he was awarded his quilt.

Winke served in the United States Army during the Korean conflict and received the Silver Star for gallantry in action while serving in Company B with the 32nd Infantry. He was injured in action near Kumbwa, Korea, and later awarded a Purple Heart which he received while recovering in a hospital in Osaka, Japan.

Winke was awarded his QOV by Jill Bothe and Mary Gill, members of Grateful Valor Girls QOV group. The quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."



Richard and Jeanne Winke, as Richard receives QOV.

OLD GLORY EXHIBIT AUCTION

by Mary Kerr

The Old Glory Exhibit Auction is almost here. Twelve patriotic quilts will be offered for auction March 10-15, 2021, through our Old Glory Facebook page.

Old Glory was born when red, white, and blue vintage quilt tops were finished by longarm quilters who share a military connection. The quilters received the top, the backing, and the instructions “quilt as desired.” They donated their time and talent. We chose to work with “forgotten” tops—the ones that were damaged, unfinished, ill-made, or unremarkable. These tops were not destined to be completed, enjoyed, or treasured. What we were able to share was pure magic!

This collection has completed its travels and now will be auctioned to raise funds for the Quilts of Valor® Foundation. QOV member Katherine McPherson will be working with me to run this auction. Everyone’s time and talent related to the quilts, quilting, and auction is being donated. Every penny



raised from the auction goes to the QOVF to support our mission to wrap service members and veterans “touched by war” in their own comforting and

healing QOV. To see the available quilts, learn more about each of them, and hear more about the auction, watch the [Old Glory Video Presentation](#).

Key things to know:

- Bidding will begin at 12:00 noon on March 10 and end at 6:00 PM on March 15 (all times Eastern).
- Opening bid for each quilt is \$500.
- Bids will be accepted on the [Old Glory Facebook](#) page.
- All payments are through PayPal.
- Don’t use Facebook? Prefer to be anonymous? Contact me ahead of time at Mary.Kerr@qovf.org to make arrangements.

And if you aren’t able to bid, sharing the information is just as valuable to us! We need to get the word out and let everyone see the beauty and art of quilting so they will bid on these beautiful Old Glory quilts.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this project, the quilts, or the auction. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

THE REAL DEAL

by Tammany McDaniel

When I lived in Manhattan, I could buy a designer bag right on the street if I wanted. They were everywhere. Except, they weren’t “The Real Deal.” There were variations to the logos, colors weren’t quite right, construction was poor, and cheap materials were what was to be expected from designer logo infringement. How did you know real from fake? Usually, the low price was the biggest clue.

Street vendors seem to offer a luxurious world to the common person. Also, are we really hurting a brand financially by buying the knock-off? What is the harm? Who is getting hurt?

I use this experience as a launching point to talk about our non-profit brand. And to share with you those who honestly profit from our brand in order to give back and expand the QOVF mission versus those who profit from our brand and keep the profits for personal or corporate gain.

Our labels, the QOVF, UOW and QOVF NSD logos, cost us money in

filing and legal fees. Questions that may come to mind are, “why bother?” and “who pays for this?” Those are great questions. Some of you may have other questions.

I’d like to start on the positive side... The Real Deal.

When you see our logos on products from Janome, Quilter’s Rule, Maywood Studio, Connecting Threads, or Authentically American, there is an agreement in place with provisions for support of our mission. Those provisions may include:

- Direct financial support to QOVF National;
- Direct financial support to a Group or a Region; or
- Negotiated in-kind support that may be fabric, notions, patterns, pattern design or other goods or services.

The Real Deal list also includes those who support us but do not produce a specific logo product. These companies use our name instead. They include Northcott, Keepsake Quilting, JafTex, Missouri Star Quilt Company, Quilting is My Therapy, and others. Similarly, each of these entities has pledged to support our mission.

All the organizations noted above are “The Real Deal.” They have donated tens of thousands of dollars, materials, and other support because they believe in the importance and impact of our mission. My goal is to provide a complete listing of “The Real Deal” supporters by April.

This is new territory for us. Instead of calling out those who have chosen to violate our trademark (TM) and registration (®) marks, we hope to build friends and allies. Many that are violating our marks don’t understand or realize their use is in violation, including some of our members selling goods with our logos. We believe that, when violators see a shrinking market for their bootlegged goods, we can negotiate with them. Or, through our powerful membership base, we can shut them down. Let’s face it, what value is a bootleg item that our members will not buy?

We control our value by knowing and supporting authorized products and vendors. If, after reading this article, you have questions, please feel free to email executive.director@qovf.org.

ARKANSAS VETERAN AND SUPPORTER

submitted by Information Desk

We receive all different kinds of emails at Info@qovf.org every day. Occasionally, someone wants to give us information, and it brings a smile to our face as this one did.

“Several of the veterans I know have received quilts over the years and in November last year I submitted my dad’s name. He received his quilt in January and was quite honored. I have considered writing a poem several times over at least the last year and even put a few lines on paper a couple of times but always either deleted it or tossed the paper in the trash. I finally decided to put words down over the weekend and after finishing it, wanted to share it with QOV. By the way, one of the veterans I know here with the Marine Corps League submitted my name to receive a quilt, so I’ll be receiving one soon. I’ll probably read Quilted Comfort to the ladies that day to express my gratitude.”

QUILTED COMFORT

With your needles and thread you sew,
Quilts for people you don’t even know.

These quilts—impassioned creations—
For defenders of our great nation.

Most are made of red, white and blue;
From your hearts and hands—gorgeous
“Thank You’s”.

Pinwheels, Stars and Birds In the Air,
Windows, Windmills and Paws of a
Bear,

Log Cabins, Diamonds and Flowers;
Designs full of love’s healing power.

For vet’rans with silvery hair—
Gone the days they were young, strong
and yare—

Or someone who’s serving today;
Quilted comfort you wish to purvey.

You wrap it around the shoulders,
Of Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Soldiers,

Brave sentinels who guarded our doors,
Or whose feet trod upon distant shores.

Who can’t blink the tears from their
eyes,
And could not say a word if they tried.

Overwhelmed by raw emotions,
Because of your quilting devotion.

Awarded to someone who served,
For the freedom they helped to
preserve.

Quilts of Valor—from blocks, piecemeal,
Quilts of Valor—to solace and heal.

© Ken B. Harper
6 February 2021

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

by Queenie Quilter

Things have been quiet lately. I don’t know if I can’t hear chatter because I’m snowed in, or if there isn’t any chatter.

We confirmed that our own John “Rowdy” Oxley, Board Member extraordinaire, put on his snowshoes at the start of the blizzards and went to the Pentagon. I bet never in a million years did that Army kid imagine he would grow up to stand in the Pentagon and represent his brothers and the QOVF with the USA Vietnam Commemoration Committee. But isn’t he handsome!



has seen an email or two about the costs of different software, with talks about having another virtual event in April or May. The team has taken all the “lessons learned” very seriously and I, for one, am excited to see what they do next! I miss quilting with my gang but, if I could meet with them virtually, at least we could do a Show & Tell! They could show me what they did,



I did hear that our Executive Director pulled out her sewing machine, bought some fabric and tools, and has gone to a class or two at one of our QOVF Quilt Business members. Photo evidence of this has not been obtained. We also heard stitches ripping, frequently, which usually indicates a new quilter has started, so perhaps all is true.

Last, but not least, we’ve seen teasers about another virtual event. Queenie

while I tell them all the things I’ve heard! Ha-ha!

Editor’s note: We reached out to Tammany. She did confirm she has attended a few classes and said perhaps she would post a picture of her first block...once made. And we did see a list of different webinar hosting companies, so leadership is doing homework for a future event.

“CHERISHED QUILT OF VALOR, THE CITY THAT EMBRACED ME”

by David C. (Don) Olson

Below is an excerpt from a Letter to the Editor by a QOV Recipient. Our WHY after-action report:

“Recently I was awarded a beautiful Quilt of Valor by the Heartland of Nebraska QOV group of ladies. One requirement to receive the honor is to have been ‘touched by war.’ Indeed, my life was ‘touched by war.’

- *Upon my discharge from the U.S. Navy, I saw many years of darkness! Because of the good people in North Platte, I had a change in my attitude and living became my goal.*
- *I took a chance and was assigned to the City Tree Board. Because of Mayor Dwight Livingston’s leadership, I was accepted onto the Tree Board. I have great respect for Lyle Minshull and those serving on the board.*
- *After a couple of years on the board, I chose to resign and volunteer more time to the Nebraska Admirals Association. We make worthy citizens admirals in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska. After four years on the association board, I was elected fleet admiral. Because of my change to a positive attitude, I have had great cooperation from leaders in North Platte with the participation in the admiralship program.*

With this, I am letting you know, I feel I have paid my dues—as the QOV citation reads—‘Service to Our Nation.’ Now that I am old and retired, I pledge more time and money to veterans’ causes.

Because of the city that embraced me, I feel great being a recipient of the beautiful QOV. The quilter spent many hours making the quilt that gives me much happiness. I will cherish my quilt as long as I live. Thank you, Chris Reinert and members of the Heartland Nebraska Quilt of Valor organization.”

VALOR OR VALOUR?

submitted by Lynn L. Lebeck
State Coordinator- Michigan

No matter how you spell it, “Valor” or “Valour,” we work together to make it happen!

One Friday I received an email from a social worker at one of the Port Huron, Michigan, hospice facilities that I often work with to cover veterans in quilts. The request wasn’t unusual, so I always have a quilt ready to go as I never know how urgent a request may be. What was unusual was the question, “He served in the Canadian Armed Forces, can we get him a Quilt of Valor?” Whoa, I know that I cannot award him a “Quilt of Valor” but what can I do about awarding him a “Quilt of Valour”? I reached out to my contact at Quilts of Valour—Canada, a woman I had worked with in the past, as she had awarded QOVs to American veterans living in Canada. Unbeknownst to me, she had resigned so I emailed the regional representative in Sarnia, Ontario, normally a short trip across the Blue Water Bridge from Port Huron, for help.

Due to COVID, the US-Canadian border is closed to non-essential travel so, if the veteran in hospice was going to get a quilt, it would have to come from this side of the border. I looked



in the stash of quilt tops sent to me for quilting, finishing, and awarding. Things happen for a reason and, low and behold, the second quilt top in the box was beige stars on a dark red background, with no blue. Perfect, since Canada’s colors are red and white. Feeling hopeful that someone would get back to me in time, I started longarming on Saturday, which just happened to be National Sew Day.

Not knowing just how fast this needed to happen, I posted my situation and a picture of my card to the Quilts of Valour—Canada Facebook page. Within an hour, Mary, Past President of Quilts of Valour-Canada, called asking how she could help make this happen. Quilts of Valour—Canada has one official label for their quilts that also includes an assigned ID number. Due to the urgency, Mary gave me permission to recreate the official label,

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A WWII VETERAN, HIS SON, AND GRANDDAUGHTER

By Sandi Stark, longarm quilter and proud family member

I am a member of the North Central Iowa QOV group that formed in September of 2018. I have been machine quilting “healing and comforting” QOVs with other groups for over 15 years. I had the ultimate honor in 2020 of nominating US Navy veteran Harvey Knapp, US Army veteran Rick Knapp, and US Air Force veteran Jennifer Knapp-Stark, to receive QOVs. On November 7, 2020, these three veterans were awarded QOVs outside the home of WWII veteran Harvey Knapp, with the backdrop of the American Flag that Harvey proudly flies every day.

From 1945-1949, Petty Officer 2nd Class Harvey Knapp served in the Naval Construction Battalion, a division that did not even exist at the beginning of WWII. Due to the geographical size of the war, many American staging bases were needed on numerous Pacific islands. To fill this need, the naval construction battalion, or Seabees, was created. By the end of the war, the Seabees had built more than 400 locations. Harvey spent the majority of his enlistment on Guam. He also spent some time in Alaska. One of the memories that Harvey shared was from a grueling training exercise. After they were all but exhausted the men were made to climb to the top of a tall structure and jump into a body of water. Once fully submerged they were to remove their pants and tie a knot in the end of each pant leg. Only then were you allowed to surface. They next swung the pants over their head to fill the pant legs with air. They put the air-filled pant legs around their necks as a life preserver. This life saving technique was often taught as a means to survive being stranded at sea.

Sargent Rick Knapp served in the US Army from August 1972 to September 1975. Rick was stationed at Schofield Barracks, Wahiawa, Hawaii, with the 25th infantry division (Tropic Lightning). Rick, son to Harvey and second generation veteran, made the Army’s cross-country team, competing in many marathons for the Army.

Senior Airman Jennifer Knapp-

Stark served in the US Air Force as a medic from 2002-2006. Jennifer was stationed in Landstuhl, Germany, at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center; the largest level three trauma center outside of the US. This medical center has provided care for more than 95,000 wounded warriors from Afghanistan and Iraq. Jennifer is a third-generation veteran and my daughter-in-law.



as best as I could, from an image on the website and an ID number was assigned. Quilts of Valour—Canada does not use certificates but rather gives thank you cards with the quilt, so she gave me permission to create a certificate to use in place of the thank you card. I was thankful to get the green light to go ahead, as presentations in Canada have been shut down since December and are not planned to resume until after February 28. There was no way to know if this award could wait that long.

After contacting the clinical coordinator at the hospice facility, we

decided that the presentation could take place later in the week, allowing time for friends to gather at the hospice home to witness the award. I have awarded many “Quilts of Valor” and each one is special in some way, but this award ceremony was special. The history of both organizations was included, with an international path I never expected to talk about. It was my honor to be part of an American/Canadian group of people that all had one goal in mind—successfully covering a veteran with a Quilt of Valour. I will always remember the time I got to finish and award a “Quilt of Valour.”

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: 23,356
2021: 2,377

Total: 269,505

(from date of first recorded award through 27 February, 2021)

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

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