



WELCOME LORI THOMPSON!
by Sue Reich, Board President

It is with great pleasure that we introduce Quilts of Valor Foundation's new Executive Director, Lori Thompson, from Aurora, Colorado. Lori is a nonprofit manager, business development professional, and marketing consultant with over 20 years of experience. She has worked for membership organizations including Kansas 4-H, Rocky Mountain Communities, and Girl Scouts of Colorado. During her time with these organizations, Lori focused on volunteer and program management, developing strategic community partnerships, and facilitating community advisories and projects. She recently served as a



marketing consultant to craft businesses. Lori began sewing as a 4-H member in Kansas, and she studied clothing and

textiles at Kansas State University. She is passionate about quilting especially as a longarmer with her own business serving the Denver area. Lori is also a member of a local sewing bee and quilt guild.

Many members of Lori's family have proudly served during World War II and the Vietnam War in the Marine Corps and the National Guard. She calls Aurora home and shares it with her husband and daughter. When she is not quilting, she loves to go to the nearby Rocky Mountains, spend time in her garden, cook, and travel.

Lori officially joined the Quilts of Valor administration on October 1. Please join us in welcoming Lori into the QOVF family and send her a welcome message.

MEMBERS TO THE RESCUE
by Allison Fentriss

No matter how organized we are, we've all had that moment where we were past the "point of no return" and realize that we left a key item for the trip at home—the tickets, the passports, or the Quilt of Valor.

That was the case recently for one of our members. She had a whirlwind weekend of traveling around the country to see family and do QOV presentations. She had one more to do, in Paducah, so she was driving to that one so she could go shopping! Once she left the house and got on the road it hit her: "I left my cousin's QOV on the table!"

Of course, her local friends and family were on vacation, so there was no one to get the quilt and ship it to

her. She reached out to National hoping beyond hope there was a close group with a quilt available. She would replace the quilt once she returned home, but she needed a quilt that week.

We reached out to Kentucky, and they lived up to their state's motto: United we stand, divided we fall. Within moments of learning about the need, not only did they have a finished quilt available, but they also delivered it to her the same night and enjoyed a meal together. I received a text and picture later that evening titled "Cracker Barrel Exchange."

This is just one of many stories I hear about across the country of membership helping membership. Whether it is forgetting a quilt on the table, being a quilt or two short for a group presentation or donating tops/fabric/quilts when disaster strikes, our membership is always there to lend a

helping hand to continue to support the Mission.



UP AND COMING

by QOVF Marketing

October is the month to celebrate National Chili, Caramel, Pasta, Dessert, Pizza, Pretzel, Sausage and Vegetarian Days, along with National Book and Family History months, just to name a few. October also has National Coffee and Chocolate days! In case you were wondering, we apparently start working on our "Holiday 10" in October.

- ★ [SIGN UP!](#) November 6th is our Annual QOV Take 5: Run, Walk, Block event. Don't forget to [register](#) and help make this year a huge success!



- ★ On October 26, 2021, a dose of Hope will be released, *Wrapped up in Christmas Hope*, that is! Find out more on our website [Wrapped Up in Christmas Hope](#) and mark your calendar for reveal of the winning pattern.



- ★ COVID-19 is still on the rise. We want all of you to remain healthy! Please be cautious while getting back into the swing of presentations and meetings.



- ★ State Coordinators: Have you received blocks for the National Block Drive from your local members? Don't forget to send in those counts to blockdrive@qovf.org so they're counted. We know many of you are sewing away and we want to recognize that hard work!



- ★ We continue to look for Volunteer Leadership. We have regions and states looking for Coordinators; Group Leaders are moving and looking for someone to take over for the group. Do your talents lead to logistics and coordination? Do you know someone in your community that can help? No sewing required! We need people to help keep the nominations moving forward, helping local members with their needs - whether finding presenters, fabric, batting, or money for shipping. Spread the word that we are looking for help.

- ★ Our Quick Reference Guide is now available on the Member Dashboard! This is a great tool for all members with tips and examples for quilt making and presentations.
- ★ The January quilting cruise has been canceled due to changes implemented by Carnival related to groups and meetings. You should have received a direct notice with more information. Thank you to those of you who signed up, and we do plan to reschedule sometime in the future.

QUILTERS RESPOND IN A BIG WAY

by Kathleen Bell

Tewksbury, MA QOVF member

Eagles Landing is an over-55 condo complex in Tewksbury, Massachusetts. Where better to find veterans? I am an avid quilter and have made several QOVs for high school classmates who served in Vietnam. Then I realized that I needed to do more—but not totally by myself!



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I put out the word to every quilter that I know. People were very quick to respond with completed quilts. As a result, I was able to present four QOVs at the Veterans Service Office for my hometown of Wilmington, MA. Nine more quilts were given to the veterans' agent in Wilmington to be distributed to home bound veterans that they service.

But there's more! On September 7, 2021, there was a presentation to ten Veterans who live here at Eagles Landing.



It was a wonderfully moving experience for all involved. It is so important to say "Thank you for your service" to our veterans. My heart aches for our Vietnam veterans as most have not been thanked. It is time.



CALLING ALL RUNNERS, WALKERS, AND QUILTERS

by Cheri Stuller, Development Chair

Have you heard? It's time to Take 5! Whether you choose to lace up those running or walking shoes, or set up your sewing machine and iron, be sure to [REGISTER](#) to Run, Walk, Block for a great cause! It's time for our annual, *virtual*, FUNdraiser, the [Quilts of Valor Take 5: Run, Walk, Block](#). This special event will raise essential funds to support the Mission of our Foundation: to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

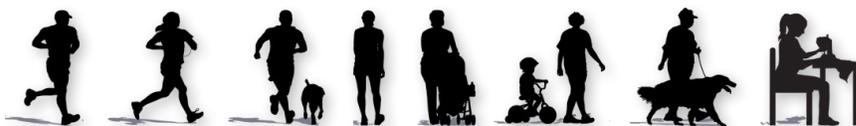
[Register NOW](#) to take advantage of the early-bird rate of \$35 (+ transaction fee and applicable tax) and be sure to get the t-shirt size you want! Registration includes a printable bib and swag bag. This year we're able to provide a high quality t-shirt that will become one of your favorites, thanks to a promotional sponsorship from Authentically American! And we heard a rumor about some fabric items in the swag bag...**did someone say FABRIC!?!?**

- **WHO:** Runners, walkers, and quilters of all ages and abilities are invited to participate! NEW this year...you can participate by sewing quilt blocks; you do not need to be a runner or walker. If you've registered, then THANK YOU! For extra credit, please consider recruiting others, or asking friends and family to sponsor you. If you haven't registered yet, then what are you waiting for?!
- **WHAT:** This is a *virtual event*, so you have the flexibility to participate in a safe manner that is convenient for you. The Take 5 concept allows

NOVEMBER 6TH

TAKE 5

R U N  W A L K  B L O C K



WWW.QOVF.ORG/TAKE5

you to scale up or down, as well as get creative! For instance, you can run 5 miles, racewalk 5K, walk the dog 5 blocks, run/walk with 5-minute breaks. Or you can sew 5 quilt blocks, sew blocks for 5 hours, sew blocks with a "5-chocolates reward." You might choose to walk, but also sew blocks. You get the idea! We look forward to seeing your creative interpretations of Take 5 - have FUN with it!

- **WHERE:** With our virtual event, you can choose where you want to Run, Walk, Block. Perhaps you have a favorite park or trail for running or walking. Maybe you'd like to safely meet with friends or family for sewing blocks. You decide!
- **WHEN:** Since this is a *virtual event*, you can pick a date and time between November 1 and November 11, Veteran's Day, to complete your Take 5. As a nod to in-person road races/events, our official date is November 6,

which is the Saturday before Veterans Day (also the last day to register). It would be wonderful to Run, Walk, Block "together, but apart" on November 6th, but you have the flexibility of an 11-day window (November 1 to November 11) to safely participate at your convenience.

- **WHY:** *Quilts = Healing*, which we see and hear time and time again. Making quilts takes time, talent, and funds. Enjoy some healthy FUN, while raising FUNds for QOV. (TIP: You can FUNdraise for your local group by asking friends and family to sponsor you! After you register, send an email to take5@qovf.org and we'll send you a form).
- **HOW:** [Register Now](#) to secure your spot in the QOV Take 5!!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 Quilts of Valor Take 5: Run, Walk, Block SPONSORS!!!



PARTNERS CORNER

AccuQuilt has something each week—
AccuQuilt Links

[October 12](#) = Trunk Show Series:
Everybody Get Spooky

[October 19](#) = Warm Hands, Warm
Hearts

[October 26](#) = On the Road Again!

AQS Quiltweek is back for 2022! [Look at the schedule](#) and mark your calendars for the show closest to you:

[Daytona, FL: February 23–26, 2022](#)
[Branson, MO: March 23–26, 2022](#)
[Paducah, KY: April 27–30, 2022](#)
[Grand Rapids, MI: August 17–20, 2022](#)
[Des Moines, IA: September 14–17, 2022](#)

Northcott's [10th Anniversary Collection](#) is coming to a store near you next month! That's right, we're about to celebrate our 10th Anniversary of partnership with them, and they have fun things in store to help celebrate. Let your favorite fabric stores know what you want!

Partner Spotlight: [Ubora Coffee](#)

Time to start thinking of holiday gifts and stocking stuffers, and our partner, [Ubora Coffee](#) is a great place to start! Ubora Coffee is a military-owned and operated small business. That's right everyone! The owners are active duty—Go Navy—and most of the staff are veterans. Our partners are the reason we get together for Sew Days, and like many of us, they know a good cup of coffee when they taste it. Since they couldn't find that perfect blend, they made their own.



Ubora Coffee loves the Mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation almost as much as coffee! If you're in or around Augusta, stop by, say hello, and taste some of the best coffee around. Even the decaf blend will satisfy the most selective of coffee connoisseurs. They roast onsite using the best-sourced beans to provide an excellent cup of coffee with every pour. Grab a bag of [SEW DAZE](#), or a tin of tea, and mark off one of your "to get" on your to do list.

THERE WAS A NEED

by Shirleen Wilhelm, Group Leader,
Yakima QOV

Honoring our service members and our veterans has been part of my heart since childhood. Many of my cousins and family are veterans. I watched the news with my family. I knew a lot about their service. I grew up listening to them talking and discussing their service amongst themselves. They rarely talk to us as they want to protect us. Our Vietnam vets were not treated well when they came home.

I first heard of the Quilts of Valor Foundation at the Yakima Valley Quilters' Guild and initially joined QOVF as an individual member. My first nomination was my husband Larry, who served his country for three years in Germany. I nominated ten members of my family who served in the Army, Air Force, Navy, and National Guard, here and on foreign soil.

I awarded my first comforting and healing QOV in a private ceremony at our home with just family present at the wishes of Larry's childhood and best

friend, who served his country in the infantry in Vietnam. I nominated my family and friends as they have been my heroes since childhood.

After watching a live presentation on the Kentucky QOV Facebook page, teary-eyed, I knew we needed a group in Yakima. So, I prayed, talked with my husband, talked with member Susan Schell, and with Sandy Taylor, who has her own program in Yakima. With all their encouragement, I found a place to meet and sew.

The Yakima Quilts of Valor Group was established on July 7, 2021. We started with five members, have grown to 21 members, and have multiple veterans to nominate! We have received discounts, donated fabric, and monetary donations. We hope to network with the other QOV groups within our state to help when a veteran may be in hospice and a quilt is needed in a short time frame. We are all in this together. We are all equal in all we do to support the QOV Mission: to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

CODY SCHOOL CONTINUES ENRICHING ITS STUDENTS

by Christine Wolf, Cody Middle School

Back in our January 2021 Threads newsletter we featured a Cody Middle School that had started some enrichment programs for their students. One of those 18-week programs was a Quilt of Valor class. In the original article, two students had sewn QOVs with the hopes that they could assist when awards were done. Here is a follow-up to that story.

The evening of April 28, 2021, was truly filled with an air of honor and community as the Cody Middle School Quilts of Valor® Enrichment Class began setting up and preparing for the presentation of quilts to four local veterans. This night was long awaited due to the COVID-19 pandemic that affected our country and our individual communities.

Our first 18-week classes for the 2019-2020 school year were face-to-face,

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but the 18-week classes after March 13, 2020, became nonexistent for face-to-face instruction. At that time, the first two quilts, a classroom sample and the student quilt, were completed. The next two quilts were in progress but brought to a screeching halt until late in the summer of 2020. The students sewed for a week in the summer, and by the end of August 2020, the quilts were complete and ready to be bound. The question was when the students would be able to present the quilts to deserving veterans.

Finally, we had a go ahead to have a gathering, so we were off and running on pursuing our goal of presenting the quilts. Histories of the veterans were gathered, and a script was written. Invitations to 60 guests were sent and the students wrote their thank you notes for all those who supported the enrichment class. Everything had finally come together and even the mask mandate was dropped to voluntary the week before the presentation. Our four students who made quilts, Erica M., Ada N., Gracie R., and Kylee S., were excited. Unfortunately, other obligations prevented Gracie and Erica from attending the presentation.

Our veterans, family members, and friends were greeted at the door. An iMovie documenting the making of the quilts was playing as they entered the gym. The quilts were displayed on tables. The formal presentation kicked off with an acapella version of the National Anthem sung by the Cody Middle School Jazzical Choir. Sean Murray, Cody Middle School Interim Principal, invited the veterans and guests who were present to join him. Murray delivered histories of the veterans and information about the quilts being presented.

Our first quilt was presented to Stephen, who spent 36 years with the military in 44 different countries, retired as a lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Army, and later was with the Department of Defense. Students Ada and Kylee presented Stephen's wife Joan and his daughter Kim with the "Wheel of Honor" quilt to wrap him in.

The second quilt, "Spinning Stars," was presented to Glenda. Her sister



Linda (who drove from North Dakota) and good friend Judy wrapped Glenda in her QOV. Glenda served three years of active duty in the Army and 19 years in the Army Reserves. Glenda was a Staff Sergeant at the time of her retirement from the reserves.

The next quilt was presented to Brad. His good friends Don and Sherrie wrapped him with "Unfurled Glory" while his faithful service dog, Teacup, lay at his feet. Brad served in the National Guard as a trained grenadier and later with the US State Department.

The final quilt was presented to Robert, whose wife Lisa and grandson Braxton cloaked him with the quilt "Standing Strong." Robert was a Naval Academy graduate, a Navy Seal, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient. Robert spent 22 years in the Navy and retired as a Commander.

The program concluded with Ada and Kylee expressing their thanks for all those who attended the presentation, as well as all those who donated material and time to make the enrichment class possible. The Cody Middle School Quilts of Valor® Enrichment class had come full circle. They achieved the goal of learning to sew; applying

mathematical skills through measuring, cutting, and using angles; using artistic skills in the choices of colors (shades vs. blends, importance of the color wheel); applying communication and public speaking skills when preparing for the presentation of the quilts; researching the veteran's service to our country; and working as a team throughout the project. Last, but not least, one of the greatest contributions was the community service when honoring local veterans for their sacrifice and service to our country. The night was truly amazing!



IN THE STRANGEST PLACES

by Alysia Carmin, CO State Coordinator,
aka QuiltyGirl

If you post it, we will find it. And then republish in Threads. Many of you know our Colorado State Coordinator because she is the woman behind the last few Mystery Quilts, QuiltyGirl! Many of you follow her, but for those who don't, she had this lovely blog post we wanted to share, after you grab a tissue.

Many of you have asked—"How do I find these Veterans that need a Quilted Hug?" Well—it helps that I have been doing this for a long time so many people know me and what I do. My name and number are out there. But here is an interesting one.

A friend of mine had to go to the dentist. She mentioned quilts and starting to stitch blocks for our quilts. The dental tech started talking about a friend she had who had a son/soldier who had just returned from Afghanistan, and he wasn't having a good time. So, my friend got the number for the dental tech's friend and told me I needed to call him. Did you follow all that?

So, I called. I talked to this soldier's mom and all she could say was—"he's in

a bad place and I don't know what to do." I made the date and time to come to her house. And away I went.

When I arrived, he was out in the yard doing some yard work. He knew a friend of his mom was coming but didn't know anything other than that. So, imagine his surprise when I introduced myself to his mom. He thought we already knew each other—oops! I introduced myself to him and, of course, asked if he had a minute.

Turns out life had been a little rough on him. When he was out of the country, his driver's license expired. He was allowed to drive a Humvee in a foreign country, but when he came back here, he couldn't rent an apartment without a valid license. And the DMV was giving him a huge run around since it had expired over a year ago. Shame, right?

He had so much paperwork and protocol to go through (besides the driver's license), while at the same time suffering from injuries. It was truly overwhelming to him. I was beyond frustrated for him, but I also came bearing phone numbers and people that could help get done what needed to be done. So, he and I got to calling these people. I had decided that he had

so many things that had to be done and I am an organizer. I was just going to schedule it all. Poor kid—he didn't know what hit him.

Anyways, we had all the appointments set up for the next week. People were working on his list and there was a little light there for him. And then I remembered! I came to wrap him in hugs and love with a Quilt of Valor!

I went back to my car and got the Quilt of Valor. I proceeded to tell him why I came to his house that day. I told him about this quilt, why I thought he really needed it, and I wrapped him up in the QOV. He might have had a little weepy eye going on, but you could tell that the quilt was NOT coming off for a while. I told him every time he thought he needed a little extra love, he needed to wrap himself in it.

Because I just can't let things go, the following week I called some of our contacts to make sure that he had arrived for his appointments. One of the folks said, "Yes he did, and he came with his Quilt."

Now if that just doesn't make little ol' me extremely happy. And that is how I meet veterans (active duty or not)!

AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!



AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!



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: 18,494

Total: 283,784

(from date of first recorded award through 3 October 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 QOVF, see
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/about-qovf/meet-us/

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Newsletter

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