



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Lori Thompson



Lori Thompson  
Executive Director

It's a new year and to me that means new quilts, new projects, and new possibilities. I hope you were able to enjoy ringing in the New Year with your loved ones. It was a quiet New Year at our house with family, which was nice after a busy December. One of the things I do each year is go through my sewing room and tidy up. After a busy 2021, it's been good to sort things, take stock, and put things away. This always inspires me to sew and quilt more. I'm also inspired by some exciting things QOVF is preparing for the early months

of 2022. Here's what I'm looking forward to:

**National Block Drive.** A new year means a new block will be coming out for the National Block Drive. Be on the lookout for our announcement about what block will be featured for 2022. QOVF is grateful for everyone who makes every block. Thank you to those of you who have participated and made blocks in past years!

**National Sew Day, February 5, 2022.** This year we're kicking things off with a Facebook Live event to welcome everyone and share some fun quilting ideas. We'll be posting different tips, tricks, and ideas from members and friends of QOVF throughout the day and will offer some fun prizes. For those who are not on Facebook, we'll be posting video content on YouTube and will share info on our website after the event. If you'd like to join us on Facebook but have not joined our

QOVF Facebook group, you can join [here](#).

**300,000th Quilt.** Sometime early this year we anticipate the 300,000th Quilt of Valor will be awarded. This is such an amazing accomplishment, and we are so excited here at QOVF! Please check out the article in this month's newsletter for more information and to see how local groups can get involved.

I hope you all will enjoy participating in these events. I also hope you can take some time to reflect and make plans for this new year. Much like my sewing room cleaning, this is a good time for QOVF members and groups to take stock and prepare for the new year. I encourage you to think about how 2021 went and what you want to accomplish in 2022. If there is something we can do here at QOVF to help support your efforts, please reach out and let us know.

Happy New Year!

## UP AND COMING

by QOVF Marketing

Welcome 2022! January and February have a lot of fun "National Day of" items, including Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, English Toffee Day, Compliment Day, Send a Card to a Friend Day, to name a few.

- The most important National Day to QOVF is:  
**Saturday, February 5, 2022  
National Sew Day!**
- March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Don't wait until the last minute to order lapel pins for any ceremonies that are in the early stages of planning!

- A QOV Mystery Quilt is coming soon!
- Are you watching the award counts? We're getting closer to 300,000! Keep your eyes out for special announcements related to this milestone!



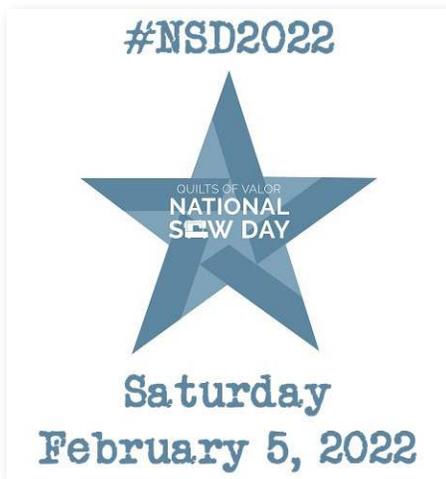
## NATIONAL SEW DAY #NSD2022

It's almost time! Join us on Saturday, February 5, 2022, for #NSD2022, our 9th Annual Quilts of Valor National Sew Day. This is our National Day of Sewing, laughter, awards, and raffles while we create comforting and healing Quilts of Valor for our Service Members and Veterans.

We will have a Facebook Live event at 11 AM Central time and videos will be posted throughout the day. If you're not on Facebook, don't worry, we'll post everything on our [QOVF YouTube channel](#). While you're sewing and having fun, you can also meet Lori Thompson, our new Executive Director; see a few favorite things from the Board; learn a new pattern for a block or the longarm; and a few other surprises. We'll also have a few raffles throughout the day! The schedule of events will be published the first week of February.

National Sew Day is open to everyone. Come join the fun!

[Registration is open!](#)



## CELEBRATION OF 300,000th QUILT AWARD

A major milestone for Quilts of Valor is fast approaching. With over 291,000 awards completed by the end of November 2021, we expect to pass the 300,000 mark early in 2022. With your help, this will be a great accomplishment and we want to give it the "celebration" our volunteers and veterans deserve.

When we reached the 200,000 mark in 2018, there were several celebratory activities. Shane Kimbrough (astronaut and veteran) was awarded an honorary Quilt of Valor. The quilt was made by Michelle Nelson (now Treasurer of the Foundation) and presented by Sue Reich (President). The award was broadcast on Facebook Live so everyone could join in the celebration. In addition, Group Leaders were encouraged to make an honorary award locally and post the pictures to the QOVF Facebook pages. Many of you did just that!

Plans for awarding the 300,000th quilt are in progress and more details will be available soon. There will be a

weekly countdown of awards on the web page so we can keep a close eye on the timing. We hope to provide a press release that can be offered to local media outlets to go with pictures you may have of your honorary award and/or your group's members. We are pursuing the idea of securing a spot on a morning TV news show and hope we can make that happen.

Begin to consider who your group will award an honorary 300,000th quilt. This can be any veteran your group would like to honor. Maybe that's someone very involved in community service, or a veteran residing in a nursing home, or confined to home care. Once your group has decided who they would like to honor, consider notifying your local newspaper to enable further recognition to your awardee and this huge milestone for QOVF so everyone can celebrate.

This amazing achievement is because of the hard work and dedication of you—our volunteers. Thank you so much for all you do!



*Shane Kimbrough receiving honorary Quilt of Valor # 200,000 in 2018.*

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

by QOVF Marketing

Welcome to our newest addition to *Threads!* Each month we want to feature you and your favorite member, volunteer, group, supporter, LongArmy member, or your favorite recipient! We want you to tell us a little bit about you, how you became involved with Quilts of Valor and why you're nominating this person as your favorite for our "In the Spotlight" section. If you have a picture (or two) to go along with your story, that would be a bonus!

You've seen stories about new groups and why they started. Last month we spotlighted Operation Gratitude. Who do you want to see in the spotlight and why? Send your nominations to [marketing@qovf.org](mailto:marketing@qovf.org) and then keep an eye out in future editions of *Threads*. We can't wait to read all about it!



### RECENT RECIPIENT



Recipient Russell H. presented by Yakima QOV



### MUSIC ON THE TOWN EVENT RECOGNIZES VETERAN

by Sheilah Strobel,  
Parrottsville Quilt Guild QOV

The picturesque town of Dandridge, Tennessee, celebrates with "Music on The Town" on six Thursdays in late

summer. The event begins with a "Pause for Patriots," where a local veteran is honored and celebrated. This year the Parrottsville Quilt Guild awarded a Quilt of Valor to Pinkney B. who served in the U.S. Army from November 1966 through November 1968 with the Defense Atomic Security Agency as a military police.



Music On The Town ~ Pause For Patriots ~ Dandridge, TN ~ 9/23/21

## QUILT OF VALOR MYSTERY QUILT

by Nancy Cann and Ginger Fondren

Do you love a good mystery, whether it is a novel or a movie? Who did it? How? Where?

With a movie or novel, you are an observer, following someone else's story line. You have no input, no control. How about a quilt? Are you one who enjoys the event unfolding, building anticipation to the end?

Alas, with a Mystery Quilt, you become a participant. You choose your suspects; you determine their role in your unfolding "story." You are the writer, the director, the storyteller. Follow the clues, invest in the journey,

complete the tasks, and reveal the solution - in this case a Quilt of Valor for you to award to a waiting veteran.

Please join us for an easy-to-follow Quilt of Valor Mystery beginning Friday, March 4, running eight consecutive weeks with the solution revealed on Friday, April 22.

### Things to know:

- Watch for the sign-up invitation—registration opens Friday, February 11.
- Please register individually, one person per registration. No group registration.
- The author of this Mystery Quilt has authorized its use for QOV members only. (Not a member, click [here](#) to join!)

- This mystery quilt will be successful for beginner and advanced quilters.
- There will be a QOV Mystery Quilt Facebook page for sharing progress and asking questions.

We look forward to sewing along with you as we complete these Quilts of Valor for our veterans.



## QUILTS OF VALOR NAMED "ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR"

by Marcie Klomp, Cresco Times

*Editor's note: This article was released December 1, 2021, in the Cresco Times of Cresco, Iowa, and the excerpt is reprinted with permission. We have the best volunteers, and we're not the only ones who know it. Congratulations Sandy! And thank you, Nate, for always carrying everything.*

A local organization and two businesses were honored at the 2021 Cresco Area Chamber of Commerce and Cresco Industrial Development Corporation's (CIDC) annual banquet on November 19.

### Organization of the Year

Chuck Malek, First Vice President of the CIDC Board of Directors, introduced Quilts of Valor as the Organization of the Year, saying, "I don't know of a group more deserving of this honor." True to form, Sandy Thorson credited others for the success of the Quilts of Valor program that she heads up. Sandy told the crowd of around 115 that it was Evelyn Adamec who came to Thorson in 2009 asking, "You're a quilter, right?" Evelyn then explained there were many wounded coming out of combat zones

who would appreciate the comfort of a quilt. [The Quilts of Valor campaign was started in 2003 by the mother of a soldier and has grown to over 600 groups with 10,000+ volunteers nationwide.]

"Since we started in 2009, we have made 225-250 quilts that have been given to veterans inside and a few outside of Howard County," Thorson added. "I don't do this myself. I have 35 people on my e-mail list. We meet every other

month to make the quilts." Several of her crew were on hand to support her in receiving the award.

Thorson went on to embarrass husband Nate, who has been by her side the entire time. "He has carted more fabric over the years than Katie [Mast] has in her store [Quilter's Garden]. I couldn't do this without him. It is our privilege and honor to do what we do," she concluded.



## QOV AWARDED TO GEORGIA PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT

By Ron Hill

On November 11th, Karen Trombley, Georgia QOVF State Coordinator, assisted by Ron Hill, President of the Joseph Habersham Chapter, Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, presented a Quilt of Valor to Major Robert "Bob" F., US Marine Corps (Retired). During the presentation, Trombley outlined to the audience the mission of the QOVF which is "to cover service members and veterans 'touched by war' with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor." She continued by relating the meaning behind the three layers used to construct the beautiful quilt. The special presentation concluded with a brief biography of Major Bob's service. Joining the USMC in January 1968, Bob served in Vietnam and was awarded two Purple Hearts for valor.



While moving severely injured Marines under his command to a medivac helicopter, a mine exploded injuring

Bob and two other Marines. Bob has always considered the highlight of his career was leading his platoon as a young Lieutenant, joining the great heritage of other brave American warriors who have served freedom around the world since the time of the Revolutionary War. Bob retired from the USMC in 1989 and has continued serving his country, community, and the veterans of Northeast Georgia as Vice-President of the Northeast Georgia Veterans Society. Bob's continued efforts to care for the welfare of veterans and to honor their service and sacrifice is a testament to his dedication to his fellow veterans and his country. Bob smiled as the quilt was draped over his shoulders. "We could tell that he was very pleased with the award and understood its meaning," Trombley said. "Every stitch in this quilt was made with thanks to Bob and his service to our country."

## GOOD CITIZENSHIP MEDAL AWARDED

By Ron Hill,  
*Sons of the American Revolution*

On November 11, 2021, Ron Hill, President of the Joseph Habersham Chapter, Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, awarded Georgia State Coordinator Karen Trombley the National Society's Bronze "Good Citizenship Medal" for outstanding meritorious service. In 2020, when the country was shut down, Karen collaborated with Georgia QOVF members and awarded over 900 quilts to service members and veterans "touched by war." These beautiful quilts, each hand-made with loving care, provide their recipients with comfort and healing. Karen, whose late husband was a 20-year Navy veteran, loves honoring veterans in this way and always has a QOV in the works.

The tradition of giving quilts dates to the Civil War when people on both sides, north and south, made quilts for the soldiers in battle. Upon arriving back home, they continued the tradition. Karen's dedication, enthusiasm, and leadership are an inspiration to all those in her quilting group and bring great credit upon her, her group, and the Quilts of Valor Foundation.



## PARTNERS CORNER

AccuQuilt has something each week—check out the different events:

January 4 = [Right on Track](#)

January 11 = <https://events.accuquilt.com/aqlivestream011122/QOVN>

January 18 = <https://events.accuquilt.com/aqlivestream011822/QOVN>

January 25 = <https://events.accuquilt.com/aqlivestream012522/QOVN>

## Give with Bing!

Looking for an easy way to help the Foundation and not do one thing differently in your day? Look no further than Microsoft rewards. Many of you already have a Microsoft account (Hotmail, Outlook, Xbox, Windows 10), and that gives you a Microsoft rewards account. When you select Quilts of Valor Foundation as your charity of choice in [Give With Bing](#), every time you use Bing search you will earn points you can trade in for dollars to the Foundation. [Sign up for free](#), and then keep on doing what you do every day! Easy as that.

## 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:** 30,428

**Total: 294,688**

(from date of first recorded award through 31 December 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](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/about-qovf/meet-us/](http://www.qovf.org/about-qovf/meet-us/)

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