



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Lori Thompson

Last fall I attended a local Quilts of Valor ceremony that left a big impression on me. The ceremony was hosted by Front Range QOV, whose members had made beautiful quilts for each veteran present. During the ceremony, each veteran was honored one by one and wrapped in their Quilt of Valor with their families looking on and celebrating this moment with them.



Lori Thompson
Executive Director

One family was especially excited for their father, a Vietnam veteran. His young granddaughters were dressed in red, white, and blue dresses with adorable patriotic hair bows and were so excited to be there with their grandpa. The veteran's

adult children beamed with pride as their father was wrapped in his Quilt of Valor. At the end of the ceremony, the veteran's daughter stood up and thanked the QOV group members and shared this was the first time her father had been honored in public for his service. She was tearful as she shared how much it meant to her family to have this moment with their father and for him to be recognized for serving our country.

This moment has stuck with me since that awards ceremony. It constantly reminds me how much a Quilt of Valor means to the veterans we honor, especially our Vietnam veterans. This year I am excited and proud that QOV groups have another way to honor Vietnam veterans with the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin. The pins are provided by the Vietnam War Commemoration Program which is collaborating with partners across the US to honor as many Vietnam Veterans as possible. QOVF is one of those commemoration partners.

Our QOV groups and members have been busy honoring Vietnam veterans. As of January 31, 2022, 1,945 pins had been awarded through QOVF. Many groups are preparing for awards for National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29 so that number will rise significantly over the next few weeks.

I want to take a moment to thank Donna Brookings, QOVF Chairman of the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin Committee and Maine State Coordinator. Donna has gone above and beyond to manage this committee and make sure the pins are shipped out to be awarded. Her efforts and the efforts of those she works with are greatly appreciated!

For more information about how to obtain a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin, check out the article in the December *Threads* newsletter or click [here](#) for more information about the pins and the Vietnam War Commemoration Program.

UP AND COMING

by QOVF Marketing

March—the month we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with green beverages and celebrate National Medal of Honor Day (March 25) and National Vietnam War Veterans Day (March 29).

- Have you signed up for the QOV Spring 2022 Mystery Quilt? The first

clue went out, so join in the fun. You must be a member, but \$10 for free quilt patterns is a bargain! [Click here to register for the QOV Spring 2022 Mystery Quilt.](#) Need to grab a membership first? If so, click [here](#).

- We're getting closer to our 300,000th reported quilt awarded! Have you talked with your group and figured out your Honorary Recipient? The Board is working on

more information to help you with your presentation.

- National Sew Day was a grand success and our request for LongArmy pairings has increased. If you are able to help out, even to longarm just one, and are not a member of the LongArmy, please complete the [LongArmy Survey](#) and let us know you can help us and for how long.

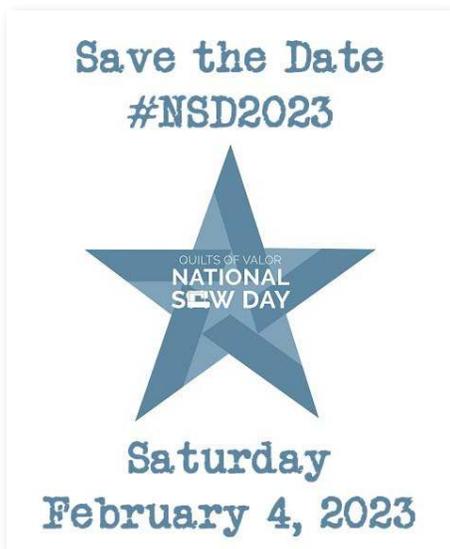
NATIONAL SEW DAY

by QOVF Marketing

We hope everyone who participated had a fun time at their National Sew Day. Our grand prize winner of the Janome 3160QOV sewing machine was Cindy Kreassig from Iowa! Our raffle winners were all notified and announced on our Facebook page throughout the day. If you missed our Executive Director Lori Thompson on Sew Day, you can see the replay [here](#).

We're already receiving lots of blocks as well as requests for LongArmy pairings, so we know everyone was busy kicking off the year and supporting the Mission, and we are so thankful for each and every one of you!

So please pencil us in and save the date for February 4, 2023!



FAMILY PRESENTATIONS— INFO@QOVF.ORG

We receive various inquiries from across the country to the Info@qovf.org email. These inquiries cover topics such as how to nominate, block drive info, membership, accounting, and the “how do I award?” question.

When we help someone, we always say, “Don’t forget to send us a picture of the award, or at least one of the quilt!” They don’t always remember, but we love to share when they do!

Through email exchanges spanning a few months, we worked with one family member that was making a quilt for her nephew.

“I am sending all of our information on the presentation of the QOV awarded to our nephew 12/18/2021. I know this is long, so please use whatever you think is correct. Again, thank you for all your assistance, patience and help



with this ceremony. We could not have done it without you. ~ Pattie”

Michael V. served two tours in Afghanistan, several years in the National Guard as a parachutist and retired in 2013 after 20 years of service. The quilt was made by family members, Nicoleena G., Nancy V., and Pattie V., and quilted by Karen D. of The Quilting Moose in Superior, Colorado.

It was awarded during a ceremony on 12/18/2021 at the Lafayette VFW presented by Commander Frank McIlwain.



WINNING AWARDS

by Fran Randolph,
QOV Belles group leader

Hello! Our QOV Belles group covers southeast Tennessee (mostly the Chattanooga area), northwest Georgia, and northeast Alabama. We want to share a documentary on our group/ QOV in the Chattanooga area.

The local public TV station (WTCI) came to our local American Legion meeting and interviewed me, team member Linda McKenna, as well as one of the veterans that was awarded a Quilt of Valor. WTCI created a 10-minute episode from that interview and aired it several times last year.

WTCI selected four of their episodes from last year to nominate in the 53rd

Annual Public Media Awards and Conference. Included in those four was the episode about our group they named “Touched by War,” entered in the Military Chronicle category.

They did a great job capturing what we do and why. The heart of who we are came through well. We are proud to announce: IT WON FIRST PLACE!

The video can be found [here](#).

VALUE PROPOSITION

Pennies count, and pennies add up. Every penny saved goes towards a yard of fabric earned. By definition, a value proposition is a promise of value to be delivered, communicated, and acknowledged. It is also a belief from the customer about how value (benefit) will be delivered, experienced, and acquired.

QOVF strives to deliver significant value to our QOVF Groups. Our goal is to provide a stable infrastructure for QOVF Groups to further our mission. This infrastructure includes staff support for accounting for group funds and provide liability coverage for group activities. Simply put, we do not expect to make money off QOVF Groups. We seek to invest the funds QOVF receives to best support our QOVF Groups. What do we provide a QOVF Group at the \$75 annual membership fee?

- General Liability Insurance, Certificates of Insurance, and an Umbrella Policy. We want to protect our members from harm or mitigate harm by providing insurance that covers things like slips and falls. Our insurance allows groups to meet in public and private spaces by issuing Certificate of Insurance documents that put QOVF in the liability chain—not group members.
- Our logo, TM/R, mottos, and phrases are all copyright protected. We vigorously protect our marks



from use by unauthorized parties. Our brand is extended only to our QOVF Groups and partnering sponsors/donors.

- We are incorporated nationally and in 40 states. We also pay an additional cost in 41 states to hold a License to Solicit. This protection is for QOVF Groups working to raise the necessary funds to make and award QOVs. This also includes the monthly CPA, annual audit, and the attorneys that file documents for us.

Costs of Money

We provide QOVF Groups direct access to the funds they raise. We do not pass along costs for processing, receiving

or the payment platforms for these donations. For example, PayPal, NEON Pay, and other money transfer services charge us fees for the convenience of taking electronic payments. About 40% of our incoming funding is now coming in electronically. Some of those fees are 3.9% + \$0.45 per transaction, some are 2.9% + \$0.35 per transaction. For every \$500,000 in donations, the Foundation absorbs between \$15,000–\$20,000 in fees.

We want our groups to thrive! We have other benefits that come with being a QOVF group we'll explore in future issues of *Threads*. If you want to know more or have any questions, please email executive.director@qovf.org. Thank you.

NSD VIA ZOOM

By Linda Robinson

The Northern New Mexico Quilt Guild QOV group met by way of Zoom to take part in the National Sew Day. We had 22 members in attendance, starting at 9:00 AM and going until 3:00 PM. Several members watched the National live feed on Facebook and watched for drawings. One of our members, Maureen Zimmerman, was a winner of one of the national drawings.

Our group took part by making the floating churn dash blocks. We will send some to National and will keep enough to make a quilt for one of our New Mexico veterans. In addition, we had a

wonderful game with prizes awarded. It was a fantastic day of sewing, chatting, and being with our friends, if only “virtually.”

The Northern New Mexico Quilt

Guild is at number 896 for quilts that have been completed, awarded, or are in the process of being quilted or bound. We have challenged ourselves to get to number 1,000 by the end of 2022.



THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING BLOCKS

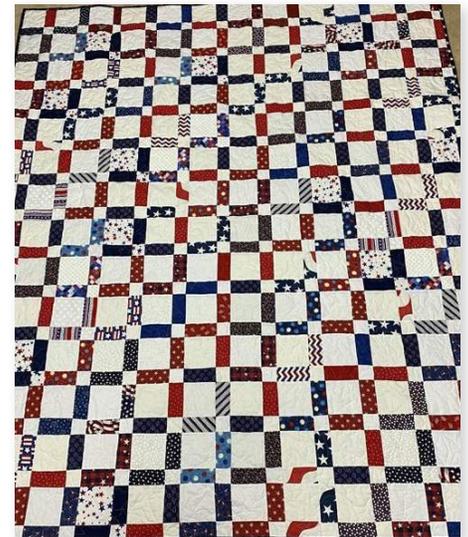
by Myra Coddens, QOVF Wisconsin

What do you do with 38 pounds of quilt blocks? Not a trick question. You make quilts!

In October 2020, I attended a QOV retreat in Texas. Along with smiles, love, and shared purpose, I went home to Illinois with 38 pounds (too many to count) of the 2020 Block Drive 9-patch blocks. So, I thought “How do I even tackle this pile?” The obvious answer was to enlist help from friends and family. Seated at the kitchen table, my husband Barry started sorting the blocks into piles based on placement of the white in the block, fabric pattern, and color. I contacted two QOV sewing friends and two sisters and asked if they were interested in helping. Karen T. took sets of matching blocks and returned them as beautiful tops using the disappearing 9-patch pattern. Kim B. took some to her sewing group so they could work on adding start blocks and sashing.

The remaining blocks traveled to Michigan. Each time my sisters Aileen and Ann came to visit us at the River House, they went home with another bag of blocks. The blocks came back as quilt tops. With all the different prints, Ann created scrappy disappearing 9-patch blocks with the large white blocks framed. She added some blue-centered star blocks to another collection of red and white blocks. Aileen, with her keen eye for color, selected sets for darker top/bottom rows creating focal points in the middle. She put together disappearing 9-patch blocks to create diagonal patterns. With so many blocks, we could create red/white layouts or blue/white layouts. The combinations were as varied as the pile of blocks. I alternated white/navy star blocks to 18 red/white 9-patch blocks for another top.

It wasn't long before I realized for every bag of blocks that traveled away from my house, a quilt top would return. And what do quilt tops need? Quilting. The pile of tops started growing and I put my longarm machine to work. What is the total of finished quilts from the 38 pounds of blocks? We are still working on them but have finished 10 so far, with seven more tops awaiting quilting, and a collection of blocks that are still begging



for a creative design.

So where did the blocks, now quilts, travel next? One found its way to Idaho where we were asked to bring a completed quilt to a QOV retreat. State

coordinators in Wisconsin and Michigan received several to assign for awarding. Most importantly, each quilt found their final destination with a well-deserving veteran/servicemember.

HAVING FUN AGAIN

by Jerilyn Lightfoot, CA District Coordinator

California, in general, has had an explosion of Covid - Omicron. Santa Clara County & San Mateo Counties spiked with over 6,500 cases daily. As such, our small group chose for safety not to gather in person for National Sew Day. Several members had close family scares regarding Covid. Our small group is spread apart by distance as well. Isolation and the never-ending saga of Covid has taken its toll with regard to spirit and emotional well-being. We have been using Zoom and try to join in about once every other month.

We needed some fun! So, I came up with a way to generate some sunshine and create positive energy, without overburdening members of the group. Many members are stuck in a rut, some with medical issues, loss of family members, complications of lost jobs, or working too hard. Some members even work on Saturdays. I thought a small-scale project would be in order and wanted to extend the time so more could join in.

Some nice "prize incentives" would surely boost morale. In early January, I brainstormed and kicked off "Together in Spirit and Service." I took a layer cake pack and cut it up using an AccuQuilt Log Cabin Go Die, packaging up 2 blocks per package. I wanted the blocks to be more cohesive and not just scrappy. I felt that by seeing something created from a group effort was in order. I then emailed a PDF file of instructions with a deadline for our members to respond. Having a generous timeline and a deadline would get some moving - yet not over burden anyone. The last thing needed was more stress! I encouraged all our members to sign up for NSD and invited them to volunteer for our "Together in Spirit and Service." After they responded, the pre-cut log cabin block kits were sent out where members were asked to pass along the completed blocks to quilt assembler volunteers Anne and Peggy.



About half of our membership volunteered for this small project. They were being enticed by emails as well as small videos! My husband George is a QOV member and has his own Featherweight. George has always played in the Publishers Clearing House "Prize Patrol," and he thought it would be a fun way to award our internal prizes. Yes, ahem, he still fills out those forms that somehow grace our mailboxes. I just wanted to share the project and the

ways we are trying to keep our members feel like a part of something special. George produced a "Million Stitches" and wanted our internal prizes to be awarded like the "Prize Patrol" with balloons and all. In addition, two other members, Karen K., and Valerie L., volunteered to be on the "Prize Patrol" so a team was formed.

We have always had fun on sewing days and look forward to making it a special event.



“HONORING OUR HEROES” FESTIVAL

The “Honoring Our Heroes” Festival will honor Vietnam veterans on May 27-28 at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Florida. The festival will offer several events for the public and Vietnam veterans, including a tribute concert headlined by Toby Keith. There will also be special events just for Vietnam veterans and their families.

A private event for Vietnam veterans and their families is planned for Friday night and will include division meet ups and reunions, a pinning ceremony, and a sacred vigil for a Vietnam Veteran Remembrance of the 58,479 KIA. General Jerry Boykin will be the featured guest at this event.

On Saturday, May 28, there will be several events including a Veterans Resource Expo, A10 & B2 Squadron Fly Overs, a Patriot Parachute Team, a Welcome Home Ceremony, and a concert by Toby Keith and other music legends.

Vietnam veterans can get a free festival ticket, which includes the concert, while supplies last. A limited number of free tickets are available for spouses attending with a Vietnam veteran. Active military and veterans who have served in other times outside of the Vietnam War also get a discount.

The festival is hosted by Engage Your Destiny, an organization that offers different programs to support active-duty service members and veterans. QOVF will have a booth at the Honoring our Heroes Festival, so if you are attending, we hope you'll stop by and say hello!

For more information about the festival and tickets visit [here](#).



PARTNERS CORNER

AccuQuilt has something each week. Check out the FREE Virtual Events from AccuQuilt and register to win door prizes at every event!

[AccuQuilt Events Page](#)

AQS 2022 QuiltWeeks are here! Take a 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 Sept 14–17, 2022](#)

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, Windows10), 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.

JACKSON QUILTERS MAKE CONNECTIONS

by Ellie Mills,
Mid-MS District Coordinator

Jackson Quilters Group 74548 has made a great vet-connection to QOV. Over 15 quilts have been donated during 2021. Most of the presentations were hosted by VFW Post 9832 in Jackson. The first presentation was honoring Post leadership. The second was on Veterans Day, November 11, 2021, where we awarded 10 quilts. This was a combination VD celebration with other area VFW Posts. The first recipient was John E.H., 102 years old, who served in WW2 from December 1942 to December 1945. It was such an honor to see him walk over (on his own), with tears glistening in his eyes as he was given a Quilt of Valor. This was all done while practicing safe Covid guidelines.

I have several dozen blocks that need a creative person like YOU to put



them together and we'll get it quilted. You game?? Let me know. As Covid protocols relax, we will need these quilts for the special people who serve so valiantly. Happy 2022 to y'all.

THE MIGHTY MIDGETS DURING WWII

by Sharon Rendfrey, Clifton Quilt Guild

On December 22, 2021, the Clifton Quilters Guild (NJ) awarded a Quilt of Valor to Joseph S. – age 96, a WWII Navy Veteran serving from 1944-1946. Joseph served on an LCS(L)-61, crafts referred to as the Mighty Midgets, and ranging in size between the size of a ship and a boat.

While on the LCS(L), Joseph was in his late teens and stationed in the Pacific, taking part in the Battle of Okinawa. He later wrote about his experiences in an article meant for Reader's Digest, but it was not published as it had the word "midget." In his article entitled "Let Us Keep the Memories Forever," Joseph recounted:

During the period of 1942-1945, many invasions of islands in the Pacific were planned in an island-hopping campaign against the expanded Empire of Japan. There was an urgent need for a gunboat that could support the troops in such invasions and one that was able to beach itself. The craft would be armed with three 40mm, four 20mm, four 50 caliber machine guns, plus 10 rocket launchers with 12 rockets in each. 130 of these crafts were hurriedly built and were called LCS(L)-Landing Craft Support (Large). Each craft had a crew of 65 seamen and 7 officers. . . .

This is a story of a small ship called the LCS(L)-61 that fought in one of the last and greatest battles of World War II. Very little has ever been written or heard about these little ships, so I offer this bit of history. . . .

During any invasion, the gunboats (LCS) were always sent in first with the troops. This gave them added fire power after the larger gunships had to stop their bombardment of the landing area. . . .

On September 18, 1945, the USS LCS(L)-61 became the flagship for both the 3rd and 5th fleets. Admiral (Bull) Halsey and his staff came aboard from the USS South Dakota (BB-57). From the USS New Jersey (BB-62) it picked up Admiral Spruance and his staff. With over 70 high ranking officers aboard, the four-star flag flying from the 61's mast, it proceeded to the H.M.S. King George V for Vice Admiral Rawlings farewell party. The only way the admiral's and staff could board and leave was for a wooden plank to be placed upon the LCS(L)-61's upper 20mm gun



Joseph, with QOV members Sharon & Agnes

shield and then to the battleship. Only on the LCS(L)-61 was it even noted in history that two high ranking admirals and their staff were made to walk the plank. . . .

He (Admiral Halsey) praised Captain Kelley (of the LSC(L)-61) and the crew for all they did during the war and that the 61 made a good cup of Joe (coffee). . . .

I was a cook and 2nd loader on the aft 40mm gun mount. I also was the one who served Admiral "Bull" Halsey his cup of "Joe."

The craft was towed to Hoboken, NJ, in 1951 and scrapped. Joseph has attended all the reunions for his Craft and in his 80's began to paint, giving the paintings to his ship mates at the reunions. Joseph is the last surviving crew member of that craft. The full story can be found [here](#).

We had a wonderful time presenting Joseph his quilt and meeting his family. Thank you for your service, Joseph.

THREE BROTHERS—THREE VIETNAM VETS

By Heidi Kapszukiewicz (CT)

Recently my three brothers who served in the US Navy during the Vietnam era were awarded Quilts of Valor. Since I joined QOV just before the pandemic closed our state, it meant I sewed these Quilts of Valor for my brothers at home, received the Mystery Quilt clues by email, and ordered fabric and thread online.

Three quilts, one for each of my brothers, were completed at my home and presented to them at different times because it was important for their children and grandchildren to be at the presentation. Richard was awarded in Connecticut, Walter was awarded in Ohio, and Joseph, who lives in Connecticut, was awarded at his son's home in Ohio. The quilts were awarded by their grandchildren, with family members present. The quilts were finished in February 2021 on National QOV sew day when I sewed on the labels.

When the quilts were presented, we learned more about their service. Serving in Okinawa, Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, telling of submerging during the day for safety, sending divers out at night in the lagoons to attach mines underneath other ships, and surfacing under the ice cap, were but a few of the stories told. The families said that these stories may have remained untold if it were not for the quilts. Family members also remarked how nice it was to get together to honor these three brothers who showed bravery and valor and who left their homes to protect and serve.

Our father, Walter, was a WWII Navy veteran who served as a torpedoman on the USS LING in the South Pacific. As much as I am proud of being a part of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, I am just as proud and so very thankful that my brothers served our country and returned home safely. We are a Navy family!



Joseph, enjoying his QOV with his wife Doris and "brown dog" Piper joining in.



Richard viewing the QOV label.



Walter proudly displaying his QOV.



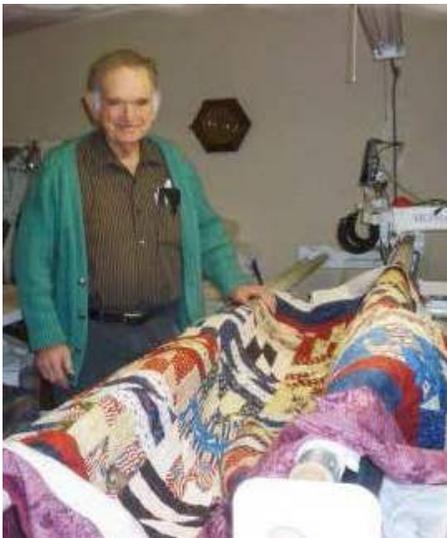
Our father, a WWII veteran.]



A SALUTE AND THANK YOU TO 87-YEAR-OLD LONGARMER

by Sherry Houser, Stars and Stripes QOV Olympia

As we think about the Foundation and those who have done so much to further the mission, Stars & Stripes QOV in Olympia, WA, and Veterans Memorial Museum QOV in Chehalis, WA, want to recognize Bill Tate. Bill has provided free long-arming services to two QOV groups and two charity groups over many years, quilting over 1,000 quilts. His longtime partner, Sharon, age 85, has served as his “right-hand woman” assisting with machine setup, thread and pattern selection, and making many, many QOV quilt tops. Even though Bill’s health is failing at age 87, he always has a smile and is committed to serving others, remaining a strong advocate of wrapping our service members and veterans with comforting quilts. He has truly been a blessing to those who have had the pleasure of working with him. Bill says, “When you see the pleasure it brings to a veteran receiving their personal quilt, now you know why you do this.” Thank you, Bill and Sharon, for your kindness and faithful gift to the Quilts of Valor Foundation.



The Jefferson City, Tennessee quilters (group 544) met for National Sewing Day and assembled 106 Philadelphia Pavement blocks, enough for 5 Quilts of Valor. Throughout the day, the group enjoyed homemade snacks, door prize drawings, and Christian comradery.

REMINDERS FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES!

There are lots of good stories out there waiting to be written and submitted for the *Threads* newsletter. However, here are a few reminders that make it easier for the newsletter staff to get your story published without having to contact you for more information.

- Include a photo whenever possible but be sure photos are a good resolution.
- Please do **not** embed your photos into your Word or PDF document. Attach the photos as separate documents.
- Make sure the persons mentioned in the article approve of you sharing their story and that you have a signed photo release. Include the release with your submission.

- Be sure you have spelled names correctly.
- Stories should be long enough to include all important information, but short enough to keep the readers’ attention. It seems obvious, but do not leave out important information like the date of the event.
- If the author of the article is not the person submitting the article, be sure to include the author’s name.
- And don’t be afraid to write an article because you feel you may not know exact grammar and punctuation rules. We have proofreaders who help clean up our articles and make them sound great. If we have questions or a major edit, we will contact you.

Articles and photo releases for *Threads* can be emailed to newslettersubmission@qovf.org. Get writing and sharing those stories.

“STANDING STRONG” IN MICHIGAN

Submitted by Kathy Millbrand,
Group Leader

Terre, the newest member of the Sew Happy Scrapper Group from Michigan, is quilting a “Standing Strong” quilt for an Air Force veteran on a cold January sew day. When it is in the single digit temperatures in Michigan, it’s a good day to stay warm and sew a Quilt of Valor!



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
2022: 3,345

Total: 298,033

(from date of first recorded award through 27 February 2022)

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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amazon smile [here](#)

Newsletter

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