

# threads

## NEWSLETTER

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Lori Thompson

April is one of my favorite months of the year. Here in Colorado, we're seeing more warm days followed by some of the last snowstorms of the season. I am also dreaming of my garden and making plans to plant flowers soon (our growing season starts a bit later here). April is also National Volunteer Month—one of my favorite things about this time of year!



Lori Thompson  
Executive Director

National Volunteer Month is a national initiative to encourage people to volunteer and to recognize the efforts of volunteers. The month-long celebration has its roots in National Volunteer Week, created by President Nixon in 1974. The goal of the initial week was to encourage Americans to volunteer in their communities. For over four decades, Americans have answered the call and contributed significantly to their communities.

This year I'm taking the opportunity during National Volunteer Month to really reflect on the efforts, generosity, and accomplishments of all our Quilts of Valor members. Time and time again I'm humbled and inspired by our QOVF members. I've worked with other organizations whose volunteers serve their communities, but I've found

QOVF members to have an especially deep commitment to our mission. I hear story after story about the challenges that arise when creating and awarding a Quilt of Valor and how QOVF members go above and beyond to make sure that quilt is awarded. I often hear the pride and love in a member's voice, sharing what the Quilt of Valor meant to the veteran who received it.

Our QOVF members' commitment also shows in our numbers. This month we awarded the 300,000th quilt. That's a milestone I keep smiling about. Think about it—that's a lot of stitches, love, comfort, and healing for the Veterans in our communities! Last year alone our members made over 30,000 quilts, an increase from 2020, which is especially meaningful given how QOVF groups and members stayed committed through the pandemic.

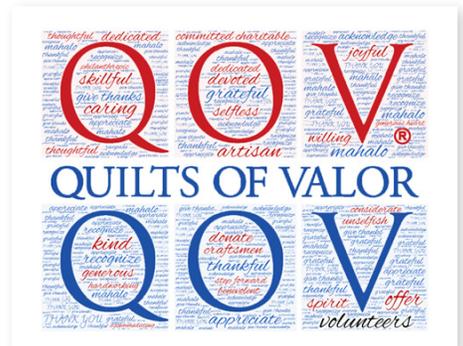
I want to thank our QOVF members for all you have done to make these quilt awards happen. Thank you for your perseverance and resourcefulness, especially over these last couple difficult years. Thank you for continuing to be there and do whatever you can to wrap our veterans with Quilts of Valor.

I also want to ask what QOVF can do to support you in your efforts. Please let us know what would best help you as a QOVF member and what we can do better. Some of you already have reached out and your feedback is welcome and so important! You are welcome to share your thoughts at [executive.director@qovf.org](mailto:executive.director@qovf.org). Thank you!

### UP AND COMING

by QOVF Marketing

April brings us the birthday of the Navy Chief, Military Child Appreciation Month, and the most important to us: National Volunteer Appreciation! We are so thankful for all of you. Without our fabulous volunteers sewing, quilting, binding, and awarding, we would still be just a dream and not a Foundation!



- The QOV Spring 2022 Mystery Quilt has kicked off and a little more than half the clues have been sent. You can still register and participate in the fun! [Click here to register for the QOV Spring 2022 Mystery Quilt.](#)
- The Board has selected who will receive the official 300,000th Quilt of Valor. The top is being pieced by Michelle Nelson, Finance Director, and will be quilted by our Executive Director Lori Thompson! As the quilt goes through the stages, we'll post pictures and stories on social media and in *Threads*.

- We're encouraging all groups and state coordinators to select their local, honorary 300,000 QOV. To help make this a special occasion, we've posted more information on the Member Dashboard in the "300 QOV" section of Resources & Forms. You'll find a guide to help, sample press releases, and a special Award Certificate. If you have any questions, please reach out to [marketing@qovf.org](mailto:marketing@qovf.org) and we're happy to help as we can!



- Purple Up for the Month of the Military Child! Since the debut of the original Month of The Military Child in 1986, there have been a growing number of activities, both on military bases and in local military communities. This is a great way to partner with other organizations in your community that support the Military. To learn more about Month of the Military Child, or find events, visit this article in [MilitaryBenefits](#).



- April is National Volunteer Month. We love all our volunteers and appreciate everything you do to fulfill our mission. In addition to those who sew, quilt, and award our Quilts of Valor, there are hundreds of you who also fill volunteer staff roles—local and state leadership, customer service, IT support, and mailing donation letters, just to name a few. We would not be able to wrap our military community with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor without YOU!



## 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](#)

### American Gold Star Mothers

is having their 85th conference June 23-26, 2022, in West Palm Beach, FL.

**AQS 2022 QuiltWeeks** are here! [Look at the schedule](#) and mark your calendars for the show closest to you:

[Paducah, KY April 27-30, 2022](#)

[Grand Rapids, MI August 17-20, 2022](#)

[Des Moines, IA Sept 14-17, 2022](#)

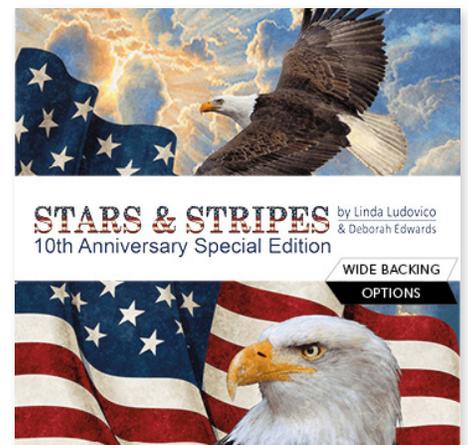
### Give with Bing!

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.

**Northcott** 10th Anniversary "For the Brave" 2022 event is in full swing! Can you believe we've been partners with Northcott for **10 years**? Time flies when you're having quilting fun! Find ways you can participate and check out the [Stonehenge 10th Anniversary fabric line](#) at your local QOV Quilt Business.



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW QOVF BOARD MEMBERS

By Sue Reich, President

With almost 11,000 members nationwide and quickly approaching the milestone of the 300,000th veteran/service member awarded with a Quilt of Valor, the Foundation supporting our mission continues to grow and evolve. In February, the Board of Directors decided to increase its size from 9 members to 11 members. With a talented pool of Board applicants, we look forward to our continued growth and the celebration of QOVF's 20th anniversary. Please take a few minutes to meet the newest members of the Board and welcome them!



- Chris Hamp, Nine Mile Falls, WA. Chris has employed her master's degree in Public Administration over the past 20 years with the Spokane County Fire District 9. She is currently serving as Vice President with the National Grange. Chris fell in love with QOVF in 2016 when her father was awarded a quilt for his service in the Army.

- Elizabeth Kitslaar, Glen Ellyn, IL. Libby retired from a career in law, focusing on corporate financing and governance. Her experience also includes advising non-profit organizations on risk assessment and strategic planning. She is a member of the Land of Lincoln QOV group, joining QOVF at the end of 2021.

- Peggy Evans, Jenks, OK. A long time Green Country Quilters Guild member serving in Board positions, Peggy joined QOVF in 2015. Her career included administrative and financial experience. Peggy is very active in the State of Oklahoma with Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). She hopes to pursue a QOVF/DAR partnership.



- Jodi Inman, Spokane, WA. Still actively employed, Jodi has used her accounting skills within the healthcare environment. A quiltmaker for 40 years, Jodi also owned an online quilt business and taught quilt making. She's devoted her quilting skills to QOVF since 2021.



- Jon Neuhaus, Los Angeles & Long Beach, CA. As a Managing Director and Private Wealth Advisor at Morgan Stanley, Jon was recognized as one of the top 100 Financial Advisors nationwide in 2020. He served as Board president at Rumsey Hall School, Washington, CT, and on the City Year Board, Los Angeles, CA.

## A VETERAN'S MONUMENT

by Ken Harper, Pope County Veterans Affairs officer

In 2021, a volunteer came forward and offered to build a monument at our Veterans Memorial Park in Russellville, AR. This monument moved two existing marble plaques that were located elsewhere in Russellville to the Veterans Memorial Park.

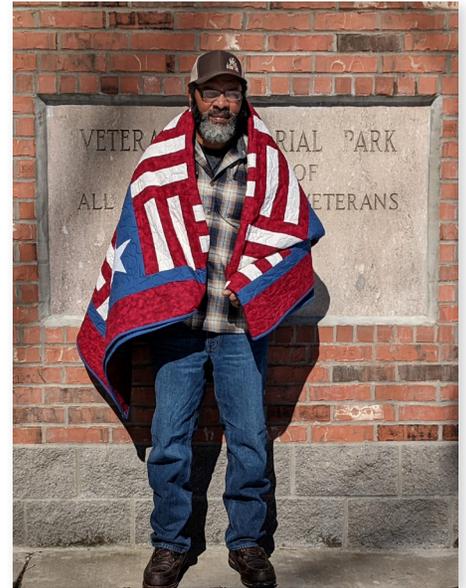
The large American Legion plaque was created in 1967; the narrow plaque was created right after WW2. Both plaques contain the names of those who graduated from Russellville High and were killed in action fighting the Nazis and Imperial Japanese. The other two sides are blank – planning for future veteran groups that want to add a plaque to honor other veterans. The monument was completed in October 2021.

During the Pope County Stitches National Sew Day, despite sleet and snow, the group met to sew, have fun, and award quilts. Two veterans were scheduled to be awarded quilts that day but, due to weather, only one was able to attend. US Navy Veteran Dale M. was on hand to receive his quilt, which he said will be put to good use starting that cold evening!

After Dale was awarded his quilt at the Pope County Senior Center, a few of us went to the Veterans Memorial Park to take a picture of Dale, wrapped up in his QOV, standing in front of the monument that means so much to our town. The monument US Navy Veteran Dale built!



Construction of the monument



USN Veteran Dale M. with his QOV standing in front of the Veteran Memorial Park brick monument he built.



USAF Veteran Russ H. and USMC Veteran Bill H. holding Dale's quilt up behind him.



Completed Monument, October 2021

## NEVER TOO LATE TO SAY THANK YOU

Submitted by Kathleen Bell  
Tewksbury, MA

From June through October 2021, I reached out to every quilter I knew for quilts to be awarded as Quilts of Valor. Lou Cimaglia, Veteran's Services agent, helped put together a list of possible recipients. Contact was then made with these veterans who would be honored at the Wilmington, MA, Veterans Day festivities on the town common. Just days after the first quilt came in, Lou called and told me that the daughter of one veteran had called to see if her dad could get the quilt early as he was in declining health.

We decided that Lou and his assistant would make a hospital visit to do the award. Richard G. was delighted, and his daughter was also present and elated. Richard asked who had made the quilt. It turned out that not only did he know quiltermaker Pam, but he had also been the scout leader for her now grown son!

This West Point graduate and Bronze Star recipient passed away March 4, 2022. As you can see, his Quilt of Valor is displayed proudly as it meant so much to him. The picture is the one chosen for his obituary.

We have no idea how appreciative our veterans are of these awards. They don't want medals; they would rather hear a sincere "thank you for your service." Our quilts are a tangible "thank you," whose warmth can be felt for the rest of their lives.



## BRINGING AWARENESS TO QUILTING

Robert St. John & Daphna Flegal,  
Iris Quilters Guild, Nashville

Having served on the US Navy USS Sturdy MSO-494, Robert followed the restoration of the "sister ship" USS Lucid MSO-458 that is in California in the "Stockton Historical Maritime



Museum." Robert designed, created, and donated the quilt in the photo to hang in the ship's museum compartment. Editor's note: While this quilt is not a Quilt of Valor, we are excited that this veteran is paying it forward by making a patriotic quilt that will be a permanent part of the museum and bring awareness to visitors to the art of quilting.



## WHERE DID MY EMAIL GO?

by IT Support Team

Ahh, technology! It makes our lives easier—push a button to start the car, make a cup of coffee, or longarm a quilt! Devices all around our homes—computers, laptops, tablets, iPads, and cell phones—keep us constantly on the go. But with the good comes the annoying—spam, robocalls, miscellaneous ads, and unlimited unsolicited information, day in and day out.

Never fear—our devices have software to help block all of this! Our operating systems (Windows or Mac), email providers, malware software, and anti-virus software, all help stop spam. Some of us also download additional apps to help us get rid of unwanted spam. There are so many applications on your devices helping you block that spam but unfortunately, if you have multiple devices, they can compete with one another.

It is no wonder you can't always find the email you want—emails from us! We are happy to try to help, but there are



hundreds of combinations of settings between all the software companies, devices and combinations of devices, that often we can't help you pinpoint exactly where the email went. We do, however, recommend the following:

1. Add the domain of **govf.org** to your email service provider (Outlook, Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, or others) as a safe sender/trusted partner.
2. Add the domain of **govf.org** as a safe sender/trusted partner in all other software applications that may be on your PC, laptop, or mobile device: the operating system (Windows 10 has email settings for spam), anti-virus software, or any separate malware or spam applications.
3. Turn off the "conversation" option in your email software. Sometimes if the email address and the subject of

the email are similar, it will join up emails. For example, Mystery Quilt Clue 1 is different from Mystery Quilt Clue 2, but some email software will join them as the same conversation.

- If you see that an email from QOVF goes into your spam or junk email folder, mark it as safe. Some emails sent from us are marked as a "mailing list" item, and your spam settings always mark those as spam.
- Look at the different applications on your devices and see where they move items marked as spam. Many of them will create a new folder

specific to that software and will not move it to your email's spam folder. For example: McAfee anti-virus software will create a subfolder under your Inbox for items marked as spam.

- If you use multiple devices for email (laptop and cell phone), check both devices for spam folders and filters—you may see the email in one but not the other.

These are some key steps you can take if you are missing emails. And, if it is an email from QOVF, you can always reach out to us. We are happy to resend if you still can't find the original email.

## 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:** 6,519

**Total: 300,011**

(from date of first recorded award through 30 March 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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**Board Member Emeritus**  
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Marianne Fons  
Eric McCarty  
June Moore

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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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### Newsletter

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*Do you have an article, idea or suggestion for Threads? Email it to us at [newslettersubmission@qovf.org](mailto:newslettersubmission@qovf.org).*