



**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

by Lori Thompson



Lori Thompson  
Executive Director

It has been really inspiring to hear about the 300,000th Honorary Quilts that QOVF groups and individuals have been awarding the past few weeks. We've received many pictures and stories about the quilt awardees. Some groups have chosen WWII veterans. Others have chosen a veteran that's special in their community or a family member. The best part about all these stories is hearing that a veteran has been wrapped in comfort and healing with these special honorary quilts.

I had the privilege to make a 300,000th honorary quilt and award it to my uncle, Colonel Noel K., a Vietnam veteran who was a bird colonel with a long and distinguished career in the Marines. My uncle doesn't talk much about his service. As a kid, I knew his military service was important to our country. Now, as an adult, I understand more about the commitment and sacrifices he and his family made when he served our country. I am grateful for Uncle Noel's service as well as the service given by all the veterans we honor with our Quilts of Valor, not only the 300,000th honorary quilts.

My uncle's award almost didn't happen in person. He's in a VA hospital

in California and the hospital didn't allow visitors until recently. We had to get permission to visit, and the number of family members allowed were limited. I packed his Quilt of Valor in my suitcase hoping for the best. Fortunately, things worked out and it was a memorable moment when I wrapped my uncle in his quilt.

My experience coordinating my uncle's award made me think of the many QOVF members who have navigated uncertainties the past two years. Many of you have shared stories of how you have had to change plans at the last minute to ensure a quilt is awarded. We all learned how to be more flexible during the last couple of years and more importantly how to meet our veterans where they were at, making the awards ceremonies most comfortable for them.

While more QOV awards can now be made in person, I encourage everyone to continue to best meet our veterans where they are most comfortable. That may look different for each veteran. At the end of the day, we have succeeded when our veterans are wrapped in their Quilt of Valor and honored for their service in a way that is most meaningful to them.

Thank you to each of you who continue to help us meet our mission of comfort and healing through the Quilts of Valor you make and award!

**105-YEAR-OLD AWARDED HONORARY 300,000TH QOV**

by Lynn L. Lebeck, Michigan State Coordinator

On a cold but clear March 30th in Michigan, overlooking the St. Clair River in Port Huron, I had the privilege of presenting my honorary 300,000th quilt to Ray, a 105 years young former Captain. Ray B. served in the US Army Air Corps in WWII and the US Air Force reserve during the Korean war. He participated in several different missions and a program to develop jet fuel that could allow planes to fly faster. He had many stories to tell but warned "If I told you everything I was involved in, I would have to kill you!" with a mischievous twinkle in his eyes. Amazing pilot, executive, and still sharp as a tack.



## QUILT OF VALOR #300,000 IS REACHED!

by QOVF Marketing

QOVF celebrated a major milestone by awarding the 300,000th quilt on April 20, 2022. The quilt recipient is Craig M. of Cincinnati, OH. Craig served in the United States Air Force from February 1992 to June 2000, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant. Craig began his Air Force career in Law Enforcement and eventually became a Resource Protection Officer.

In 1997, Craig cross-trained in broadcast journalism where he deployed as a Combat Journalist to numerous countries throughout Europe to include Kosovo, Albania, and Poland. During these deployments he often found himself hanging out of a Chinook attack helicopter while covering stories for Air Force news. Throughout this time, Craig was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, and the National Defense Medal, along with other medals and ribbons with devices.

Craig is now a news anchor with ABC affiliate WCPO in Cincinnati, OH. The 300,000th quilt, awarded to Craig, was sewn by Michelle Nelson, QOVF's Finance Director and former BOD

member, and quilted by Lori Thompson, QOVF's Executive Director.

QOVF will continue to celebrate the 300,000th QOV milestone by encouraging QOVF groups to make and award an honorary quilt to a veteran of their choice. Several QOVF groups have made awards and are sharing the stories of their quilts and award recipients. QOVF is encouraging groups to share their stories by emailing [300QOV@qovf.org](mailto:300QOV@qovf.org). QOVF will be collecting the stories and creating a historical record.



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**AQS 2022 QuiltWeeks** are here! Look at the schedule below and mark your calendars for the show closest to you: [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.

## MAT-SU VALLEY QUILTERS MEET SEVERAL MILESTONES

*Submitted by Patty Livingston*

On Friday, March 18, 2022, the Quilts of Valor group from the Mat-Su Valley reached a milestone. Nationally, Quilts of Valor is about to award its 300,000th quilt to a deserving veteran or active-duty person. Locally, Quilts of Valor awarded a symbolic 300,000th quilt for National and a symbolic 3,000th quilt for Alaska at VFW Post 9365 in Wasilla.

Korean conflict era veteran, Charles L.H. was awarded a Quilt of Valor in honor of his military service in the Army. Presenting the certificate was WWII Navy veteran, Elverda L., and displaying the quilt were Vietnam Air Force veteran Jim W. and post-Vietnam Army veteran Jerry K. All three of these veterans are members of the QOV group, Forget-Me-Not Quilters of Alaska, Mat-Su Valley area.



## A DAY OF MEMORY MAKING

*by Linda Martien, Missouri State Coordinator*

A few years ago, Anne, the art teacher at St. Patrick's Catholic School in Wentzville, MO, assigned her middle school students a special project. As part of their Catholic Schools observation, they have a special day to honor those who serve our country.

Anne collaborated with Gwen Clopton, the group leader of Quilts of Valor in the Loop in nearby University City, MO. Drawing on Gwen's quilting experience, Anne's vision was for her students to make quilt blocks honoring our veterans and service members, with Gwen's group sewing them into Quilts of Valor. Each of the blocks were hand designed, drawn, and painted by the students - they were so honest and genuine.

Fast forward through the pandemic to February 9, 2022, when a special award ceremony was planned. We all met at the school to honor two veterans, Derrick and Justin. Derrick served in the US Air Force and Justin in the US Army (still active duty). The school principal, the mayor of Wentzville, a

trumpeter, and the entire student body were present as the Quilts of Valor were awarded. It was incredibly moving, and the students were so interested and involved in hearing the stories by each veteran and recognizing their service. A truly remarkable day and one of the most memorable award ceremonies I can remember!



*Derrick, USAF, wrapped in his QOV, addressing the student body.*

*Justin, Army, holding his QOV with Gwen Clopton.*

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

submitted by Jennifer Lee

I have been a member of QOVF since 2006, when my oldest son enlisted in the Army and was deployed to Iraq. I knew absolutely nothing about sewing – could barely tell which end of a needle to thread – so I started with buying a sewing machine and taking a six-week sewing class. Since I only know how to piece tops, I am extremely grateful to the LongArmy™ for making it possible for me to participate in this wonderful program.

I'd like to turn the spotlight on one of my favorite veterans. Ralph received his Quilt of Valor at a family get-together at his home in Pleasant Grove, UT, in July 2017. Before Ralph was awarded his QOV, he was quiet about his service in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, but after he received the quilt, he began to freely talk about his service. He is always eager to tell people how much he loves Quilts of Valor. A very friendly



man, he doesn't hesitate to ask people if they have ever heard of "Quilts of Valor" and if they know of a veteran who might appreciate a quilt. Ralph has nominated 64 other veterans since the day that



he received his QOV and has proudly attended their award ceremonies. Now he is also on the look-out for Vietnam War veterans so the commemorative lapel pin may also be awarded.

## 804TH QOV AWARDED IN WINTERSSET

By Jeri Beem, Piece Works Quilt Shop  
QOV Group Leader, Iowa

On March 5, 2022, Melody Reels from the National QOVF office here in Winterset and I honored Chris P. of Winterset with a Quilt of Valor. This took place at the monthly American Legion meeting. When I checked the QOVF website for the total number of quilts registered nationally, the website showed 300,011. It was an easy decision to award Chris our group's honorary 300,000th QOV.

Chris enlisted in the US Navy in 2008 after graduating from high school in North Carolina. Basic Training was at the Great Lakes Naval Base in Illinois. Next, he went to Groton, CT, for training at the Naval Submarine Base New London. After completing this training, Chris went to Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, GA, for sea school. His MOS was Missile Technician. He was assigned to two ballistic missile submarines. From 2009 to 2013, Chris was aboard the USS Alabama (SSBN-731). His

other submarine was the USS Nevada (SSBN-733) from 2016 to 2017. Between submarine assignments, he was assigned to shore duty at Naval Base Kitsap in Bangor, Washington, with the Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC). Upon his discharge in 2018, Chris' ending rank was First Class Petty Officer,

E-6. His civilian career is with Microsoft as an Assistant Manager.

It was a pleasure to award Chris his QOV. He received a standing ovation from the American Legion members in attendance. This was the 804th award registered with our Piece Works Quilts of Valor Group that started in January 2017!



## B'S AND Q'S HONOR WWII VETERANS IN REDLANDS, CA

By Barb Sisneros, Group Leader

On March 24, 2022, six WWII veterans were awarded Quilts of Valor at Plymouth Village in Redlands, CA. We worked with Chaplain Mike Ballinger to coordinate efforts and bring these incredible veterans together so that they could be honored at an outdoor venue with family and friends.

The weather was perfect, and a huge tree provided shade for all in attendance. Chaplain Ballinger presided with brief introductions and a prayer, then one by one each veteran was given the opportunity to say a few words about their service. As they spoke, their respective Quilts of Valor were removed from the pillowcases and wrapped around their shoulders.

The oldest veteran was 101 years of age...and all of them walked to the



Joe C., Navy; Virgil L., Navy; Earl L., Army Air Corps; Vern H., Navy; Ed K., Army Air Force. Not pictured: John B., Army.

event, on their own, some with the help of walkers. It was difficult to hold back our emotions as they shared their stories, as my dad was also a WWII and Korean War Navy veteran, and fellow QOV member Becky's dad was a Marine during WWII. Every award

presentation is special; however, this one ranks high on my list, while being in the presence of six American Heroes. They will forever be in my heart! What an awesome honor it was for us to represent the Quilts of Valor Foundation!

## HOOKSET VIETNAM VETS HONORED ON VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

By Donna L Swanson,  
New Hampshire State Coordinator

Five Vietnam veterans from the Manchester Vet Center in Hooksett, NH, were honored with Quilts of Valor on Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29. Each of the recipients were nominated by their counselors at the Vet Center and were accompanied by their spouses

and family members. Following the Quilts of Valor presentation, each of the gentlemen were presented the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative lapel pin by retired LTC Kent S., who is also a Vietnam veteran and Quilt of Valor recipient.





## VIETNAM VETERANS AWARDED HEALING QOV

by Lou Ann Lee, ND State Coordinator,  
and Carolyn Christensen, President,  
Bergman Evenson Unit 215 American  
Legion Auxiliary

The parish hall at Nordland Lutheran Church in Rutland, ND, was filled with family and friends on Sunday afternoon, March 27, as nine veterans who served in various locations in Vietnam were each presented with a Quilt of Valor by the Stitching Hearts QOV group from Abercrombie, ND. Each veteran was individually called upon to stand in front of his quilt while a QOV member talked about the veteran's service. Several of these veterans suffered wounds while in Vietnam. After each veteran's short service biography was read, the veteran was wrapped in his

QOV and thanked for his service. Each veteran was told he could say a few words to the audience if he wished. Most of the veterans did share some feelings.

Most of the veterans talked about remembering their comrades, especially those who didn't make it home. One veteran recounted that he carries a list in the back seat of his vehicle with the names of seven comrades who didn't make it home. "They always ride with him in that vehicle." Other comments were:

- "Every time I'm having a really bad day, I can think of a time when I'd be glad to know that I'd have a bad day."
- "We did a lot of things that most people never understood or never even think about doing, but we did what we had to do to get back here."
- "There are a lot of faces of people I served with that float around in front of me a lot of days and I wish that they could be here to see how people do appreciate them."

The veterans talked of being spit upon and how they were told not to wear their uniform upon arriving home.

At the conclusion of the QOV ceremony, the QOV group did a separate presentation in honor of Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day, March 29. It was explained how the Department of the Defense has authorized QOV groups to present a commemorative Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin to living U.S. military veterans who were on active duty in the US Armed Forces any time during the period of November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975, regardless of location. Each veteran in attendance who served anywhere during that period was presented with the pin as a lasting memento and thank you from the nation. Emails and phone calls received from family members after this presentation expressed how this day was truly a healing event for these veterans.



### 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:** 8,024

**Total: 302,712**

*(from date of first recorded award through 30 April 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/](http://www.qovf.org/about-qovf/meet-us/)

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