



**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

by *Lori Thompson*

This year many QOVF members have been on the road sharing QOVF's mission across the country. On the national level, QOVF representatives have been at national and regional quilt shows, conferences, as well as



*Lori Thompson  
Executive Director*

veteran-focused events. It's been good to connect again in person with partners who have provided ongoing support to QOVF and to make new connections. This month I thought I'd share some highlights from those connections.

- **Homes For Our Troops (HFOT):** HFOT builds and donates custom adapted houses for severely injured veterans to help them rebuild their lives. QOVF began partnering with HFOT at the beginning of this year to award a Quilt of Valor at key ceremonies: a celebration where the veteran receives the key to their home. QOVF will award over 60 Quilts of Valor across the US this year at key ceremonies.
- **Honoring Our Heroes Festival:** This inaugural two-day festival honored Vietnam veterans at Daytona Speedway over Memorial

Day. The festival offered special events and reunions for veterans to connect, a veteran resource fair, and a concert headlined by Toby Keith. QOVF hosted a booth at the Veteran Resource Fair where Terry Burtchell, QOVF Florida State Coordinator, and her team shared information about QOVF to over 2,000 veterans.

- **National Quilt Shows:** QOVF will host booths at all five American Quilt Society National Shows (AQS) this year as well as at the International Quilt Festival (IQF) in Houston. QOVF volunteers have shared QOVF's mission at shows in Daytona Beach, Branson, and Paducah, and will be present at upcoming shows in Grand Rapids and Des Moines. QOVF also hosts Quilts of Valor award ceremonies at these shows for local veterans. QOVF Members Nancy Cann, Ginger Fondren, Carolyn Elliot, Linda Martien, Lynn Lebeck, Ann Rehbein, Ann Crawford, and Suzanne DiCarlo have been busy coordinating efforts to share QOVF's mission at all these national shows. A big thanks goes to these volunteers and AQS and IQF organizers for donating booth space to QOVF.
- **American Gold Star Mothers Convention:** Quilt Guild by the Sea Group Leader Kristi Kristol and Patriot Quilters QOV Group Leader Theresa Anderson awarded a dozen

Quilts of Valor to veterans attending the conference in West Palm Beach, FL. They were joined by Terry Burtchell who hosted QOVF's table at the event.

- **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Continental Congress:** Dana Mason and Marguerite Niemoeller represented QOVF at DAR's 131st Continental Congress in June where they shared a presentation about the foundation to a group of 100+ DAR members. They highlighted ways QOVF groups and DAR chapters could collaborate on Quilts of Valor. At the conclusion of the presentation, they awarded a Quilt of Valor to a DAR member who was a US Army veteran and West Point graduate with 24 years of service. The Quilt of Valor was made by DAR members in the seven states that make up the Northeastern Division.

These are just a few examples of QOVF collaborations across the United States. Many of our local QOVF groups have great connections and supporters in their communities. Their efforts to collaborate with community partners are greatly appreciated. These collaborations help us wrap as many veterans in Quilts of Valor as possible. I'd love to hear more if you or your group have a great partner or collaboration in your community. Please feel free to share more with me at [executive.director@qovf.org](mailto:executive.director@qovf.org).

## IT WAS A "GOD WINK"

By Donna Hardin, founding member of River Valley Stars QOV

Once upon a time, around 2014, best friends Marcia and Karen wanted to participate in the Quilts of Valor endeavor but there wasn't a group anywhere nearby. Not being deterred, they contacted the state coordinator for Arkansas and worked with her as "free agents." When a nominee would appear within a reasonable distance to them, the state coordinator would reach out to them, and they would sew and present the award and then report back to the coordinator.

Fast forward to July 2018. River Valley Stars QOV was born when a niece, Sue, learned about the QOVF from a 15-minute PBS program. She shared this newfound information with her aunt Donna, and both agreed that this was something they wanted very much to do. Again, there wasn't a group nearby so along with two or three others the group was born. The state coordinator reached out to Marcia and Karen to let them know about the new group. They came to one of our monthly meetings to see if they were compatible. Eureka! They were!

The year 2022 came and the group continued to grow and award as many veterans touched by war as possible. One morning Donna was driving on the Interstate to a monthly meeting while listening to a local radio station which hosts a program called "Daily Dial-A-Deal" where people may call in to buy, sell, trade, or give away belongings. Donna was five minutes from her exit when a lady came on the radio and said her friend had gone out of business, had given her a bunch of fabric, and *she wanted to gift it to a QOV group* but didn't know how to find one. The caller gave her phone number on the show. Donna was elated and dug around in the console to find paper and pen while trying to stay on the road without running into anybody. She hoped she could read the scribbled number that was written without taking her eyes off the road. As soon as she reached her destination, she placed the call and talked with Carol for a few minutes. Carol shared that she, her late husband, and son were all three awarded quilts



at an Applebee's restaurant some years ago and how much it meant to them. Arrangements were made to pick up the fabric in a couple of days.

When the business part of the next meeting was over, Donna shared this news with the group along with the story about the awards. Karen and Donna were seated next to each other, and Karen said, "We awarded a family of three in Applebee's." Everyone exclaimed how awesome it would be if this were the same lady. Donna asked Karen to try to find a picture of the

award and share it with her.

A couple of days later, Donna met with Carol to pick up the fabric and showed Carol the picture of the award. Carol said, "That's us alright!" When this news was shared with the other ladies, chills ran up our spines. You would have thought we had won the lottery!!

What Are The Chances? What Goes Around, Comes Around.  
You Reap What You Sow.  
It Came Full Circle

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Back Row: L TO R: Lona, Marilyn, Sue (Group Leader), Charlotte, Elisa, Donna, Brenda.  
Bottom row kneeling: Sandy, Susan.

River Valley Stars QOV has approximately 20 members now, all enthusiastic about the mission. Group Leader Sue leads with focus and drive and holds a monthly meeting to share important news from National. She hosts monthly Sew Days at her home where those who can go take their sewing machines (or not since Sue has a room full of machines) and a potluck dish. Much laughter, visiting, eating, and some sewing takes place. Games are played, Show and Tell is shared. We have two group awards each month. The VFW has graciously opened their hall for our use where meetings are held, and group awards are made. In another city another large meeting area has been given to us at no charge for awards. Between the two locations, we've been awarding quilts to approximately 12 veterans a month. We have a prolific group. We've awarded 91 quilts since January 1st of this year, 72 last year, 52 in 2020 - despite COVID lockdown, 65 in 2019, and 7 in 2018 - our birth year, for a grand total of 287 since inception!

We are sew happy, blessed beyond measure, and grateful for our veterans.

### 300,000TH HONORARY QOV AWARDED TO USMC WWII VETERAN

*Submitted by JoAnn Carr, Pine Belt QOV,  
Hattiesburg, MS*

The Foxworth Baptist Church and the Foxworth Sew & Sews awarded Quilts of Valor to three veterans on July 3 at Foxworth Baptist Church's Independence Day celebration. The group that constructed the quilts were the Foxworth Sew & Sews, with help from QOVF member JoAnn Carr.

Private First Class Charles A., aka "Lindy," was awarded our honorary 300,000th Quilt of Valor. Lindy, a World War II veteran, joined the United States Marine Corps in 1941 and was stationed at Pearl Harbor and Johnston Island. Lindy was honorably discharged in 1946.

The group also presented quilts to Master Sergeant Jackie M., a Vietnam-era veteran who served in the United States Air Force from 1965 to 1988, and Senior Master Sergeant Jesse E., a Vietnam veteran who served in the Air Force from 1967 to 1988. Both veterans



also received the Vietnam veteran lapel pin to recognize, thank, and honor U.S. military veterans who served on active duty during the Vietnam War period.

### SUSPECT ON THE LOOSE!!

Super Sleuths, congratulate yourselves on a job well done. There were 1,350 QOV members participating in QOV Mystery #1. That's 1,350 veterans that will receive their Quilt of Valor this year thanks to your sleuthing skills, your participation, and your dedication to solving Mystery #1.

**And now, we have another mystery on our hands.** You were so awesome in assisting us to solve Mystery #1 that we are asking that you once again don your Sleuth Hat, start thinking suspects, begin searching for clues, and show that "I can solve this Mystery, too" attitude. Get those kiddos back to school and



summer vacations behind you. Ready your workspace, magnifying glass in hand, and make a resolution, "This one is not going to get away from me." We look forward to working with you to show that once again, together we can get it done.

- Suspects will begin to show themselves on Friday, August 26, 2022, and will appear each consecutive

Friday until we solve Mystery #2. (I will fill in dates as we determine length).

- Registration for this event will open Friday, August 19. You will receive clues via email beginning August 26.
- This event is open to QOV members only. If your membership expires mid-mystery, the clues will stop coming to your email, so please, keep your membership current.
- Once the event begins, clues will also be posted to the Members Only page on the QOVF website.
- QOV Mystery Facebook page will be available to share your progress and any business directly related to the Mystery. You must request to join the Facebook page.

## CODY SCHOOL CONTINUES ENRICHING ITS STUDENTS

by Christine Wolf, Cody Middle School

Back in our January and October 2021 Threads newsletters we featured a Cody, WY, 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. Those QOVs were awarded in April 2021. Here is a follow-up to that program

The Cody Middle School most recent presentation of Quilts of Valor took place on May 18, 2022. The students had prepared a slide presentation, documenting class happenings from our weekly sessions that began the program. The principal and vice-principal welcomed our veterans and guests to the event. Equus, the Cody Middle School choir, sang the national anthem. The students were introduced, including a summary of the

Quilts of Valor enrichment program.

Our students came with a variety of skill levels from experienced to rookie. They picked out quilt designs, learned to read patterns and fabric requirements, and cut the fabric for the quilt, including borders and binding. Learning to operate sewing machines, troubleshooting and repairing them was all part of the enrichment experience. Discussions were had on border measurements, the role a longarm quilter plays in the process, and finishing the quilt with the binding and label. These students have grown through this experience in organizational, quilting, public speaking, and team building skills. The students read histories and presented quilts to the following veterans.

- Patricia M. was presented with a quilt based on the "Standing Strong" pattern. Her daughter, (who was in the enrichment class), read her mom's history, and her two younger

sisters wrapped her in her quilt.

Patricia, who retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and flight instructor, served in the California Air National Guard for 21 years. She was involved in six tours of duty in the Middle East.

- Stephen C., one of Park County School District #6 employees at Cody Middle School, was our next veteran to be honored. Stephen's mom and aunt wrapped him with a "Standing Strong" quilt. He joined the National Guard in 1987 and was trained in artillery at Fort Sill, OK. Stephen was on active duty, based out of California. He was deployed to Korea for a hardship tour where he was stationed 10 miles from the demilitarized zone. He served and was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant E-6.
- Jack E., a retiree from Park County School District #6 (37 years as an educator), joined the National

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Guard in 1967. Jack served as a cannon crewman, gunner, Chief of Section on the 155 Howitzers, Forward Observer, Training NCO, and Supply Sergeant. Jack retired from the guard in 1989 after serving for 23 years. His wife and granddaughter wrapped Jack in his quilt "Patriotic Cosmic Stars."

- Aaron H. was presented his quilt by his two oldest children. His son (a full year participant in the quilt enrichment program) and daughter wrapped their dad in his quilt "Shining Stars." Aaron enlisted in the United States Marine Corp in 2004 and completed Boot Camp, Combat Training and Combat Engineering School before being deployed. His deployments took him to Panama, Trinidad, Tobago, Mozambique, and Iraq. He served for over six years and was discharged at the rank of Lance Corporal.

The community of quilters in Cody was very generous as our material, batting, and long arm quilting services were all donated. Our growing pains mainly came from the lack of sewing machines. A small business, who donates 10% of their gross proceeds back to the community for encouraging youth activities, placed two new Baby Lock machines in the enrichment program. The school district provided a small budget, which covered tools needed for the class. When combining the material in all four quilts, students used approximately 2,066 pieces to create a special memory for each of these veterans. The greatest part of this enrichment class was the students' dedication to this community service project.

## GROUP DELIVERS HANDMADE QUILTS OF VALOR TO 13 VETERANS IN SELAH

*Submitted by Shirleen Wilhelm, Yakima QOV, and also reported by Sara Rae Shields of the Yakima Herald-Republic on April 26, 2022.*

The Yakima chapter of Quilts of Valor honored 13 service members and veterans during a special ceremony in April 2022. Each honoree was given a quilt made by members of the local group. The quilts are a sign of gratitude for the veterans' service and sacrifice. The honorees accepted their quilts surrounded by family and friends

at Peace Lutheran Church in Selah. Organizers gave a brief military history for each veteran.

Army veteran and Selah resident Leonard M. was one of the recipients. He was drafted into the Army in 1952 and fought in the Korean War. "Oh, this was nice. I appreciate it. God bless everyone," said Leonard, of the volunteers and other honorees.

The Yakima chapter started in July 2021 by volunteer Shirleen Wilhelm. "I started with Quilts of Valor because I grew up in the Vietnam era, and I know how vets were treated when they came home. We now have 37 members, and we are growing. We have a very supportive community," Wilhelm said.



*U.S. Air Force veteran John S. is awarded a Quilt of Valor at Peace Lutheran Church.*



*Quilts of Valor volunteer Shirley Pedraza reveals a handmade quilt to Army veteran Leonard M. during a ceremony at Peace Lutheran Church in Selah.*

## QUILTS OF VALOR HONORARY RESOLUTION FROM BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS—JULY 18, 2022

Submitted by Jane Busdeker, reporter for Jefferson County Post

The Quilts of Valor Foundation was recognized for its Volunteer Spirit and the dedication of its members for honoring our nation's veterans at the July 18 meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Jefferson County at the Jefferson County Courthouse in Jefferson, TN. Kathleen Van Orsdel, founder of Jefferson City Quilters, accepted the resolution for the organization.

Jefferson County Mayor Mark Potts read the resolution honoring the volunteers "who devote their time, talent and financial resources to making quilts." Standing with Van Orsdel to receive the honor were QOVF quilters Jeri Regenold, Helen Bailey, Tracy Ray, and Judi Cureton. Van Orsdel and Regenold are themselves veterans. The ladies were surrounded by veterans William W., Marcus R., Jimmy C., and Michael P.

The Jefferson City Quilters currently have 40 volunteers who have presented 81 quilts in 2022. Since the founding of the local quilting group ten years ago, 1,306 quilts have been designed, sewn, and awarded to male and female veterans in all branches of the armed forces.



Members of Jefferson City Quilters, surrounded by several area veterans, gratefully received recognition for the work of the QOVF and the Jefferson City Quilters. (front l. to r.) Veteran and County Commissioner Marcus, Quilters and Veterans Kathleen Van Orsdel and Jeri Regenold, Veterans and County Commissioners Jimmy and Michael. (back l. to r.) Veteran William, Quilters Tracy Ray, Helen Bailey, and Judi Cureton.

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HONORARY RESOLUTION QUILTS OF VALOR FOUNDATION

**WHEREAS,** The Quilts of Valor Foundation was inspired by a dream that its founder Catherine Roberts had one night in 2003. This flashing, mental motion picture glimpsed a young man battling the demons of war on his bunk, rattled by despair. In the next dream scene he was wrapped in a quilt, comforted, and seeming at ease with hope returning. This was the beginning; and

**WHEREAS,** Twenty years later the organization has over 600 volunteer groups in all 50 states with 10,000 members as of June 2020. The founder of our local chapter, Kathleen Van Orsdel, states, "Our country is free because of those who went before us. If giving them a quilt is my way of showing appreciation, then I will do it til my dying day"; and

**WHEREAS,** Twenty years later, The Jefferson City Quilters has an army of 40 local volunteers who devote their time, talent and financial resources to making quilts. They work year-round to honor our veterans. The total quilts awarded to date is 1296 with 50 being distributed this year.

## WATCH FOR THE VIETNAM MOVING WALL TO COME TO YOUR AREA

By Toni Bourdette, Southern Tier QOV

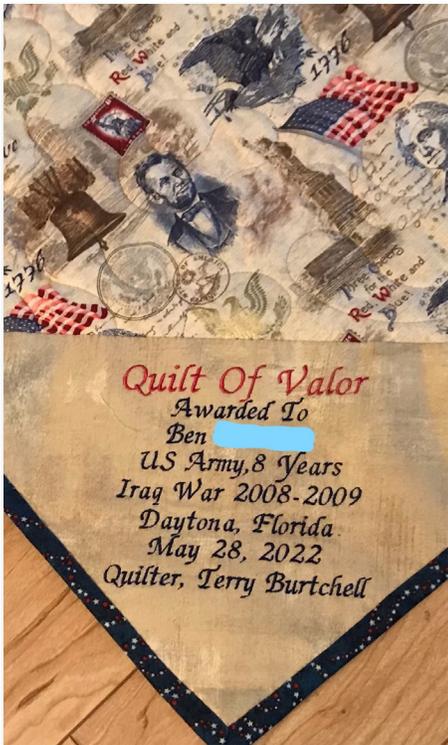
I am a member of the Southern Tier Quilts of Valor, Corning, New York area. One of the hats I wear is

nomination chairman. After hearing the Vietnam Moving Wall was going to be in town for four days, I asked if we could put a table up about Quilts of Valor. The group was happy to have us, along with the Honor Flight and the Wreaths Across America groups. We were all set up under one tent at the end of the Wall's walkway. I thought we might be able to get 25 or 30 nominations

filled out. Well, let me tell you, we have received more than 150 nominations, and more are still coming in the mail. Yikes! We are going to be busy and are very excited! So, my advice is, if the wall is coming to a town near you, get a table set up. Eighty-five of the new nominations are Vietnam veterans. Just thought I would share this story.

## HONORING OUR HEROES FESTIVAL CELEBRATES VETERANS

QOVF hosted a booth at the inaugural Honoring Our Heroes Festival at Daytona Speedway on Memorial Day weekend. The festival honored over 25,000 Vietnam Veterans and over 35,000 participants enjoyed reunions, military-themed events, and a concert headlined by Toby Keith. QOVF members Terry B., Peggy B., and Tina H. helped staff the booth and awarded Ben P., festival founder and Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran. More information about the festival can be found [here](#).



## PARTNERS CORNER

Check out great events and offers from these QOVF partners!

**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** is hosting Quilt Week in Des Moines, September 14-17, 2022. Stop by and say hello at our QOVF Booth or at the QOV awards during the show. Show information can be found [here](#).

The **National Grange** is hosting its [156th Annual National Convention](#) in Sparks, Nevada, November 15-19, 2022. The National Grange has been a longtime supporter of QOVF with many Grange chapters across the country making Quilts of Valor, supporting Under Our Wings participants, and donating supplies.

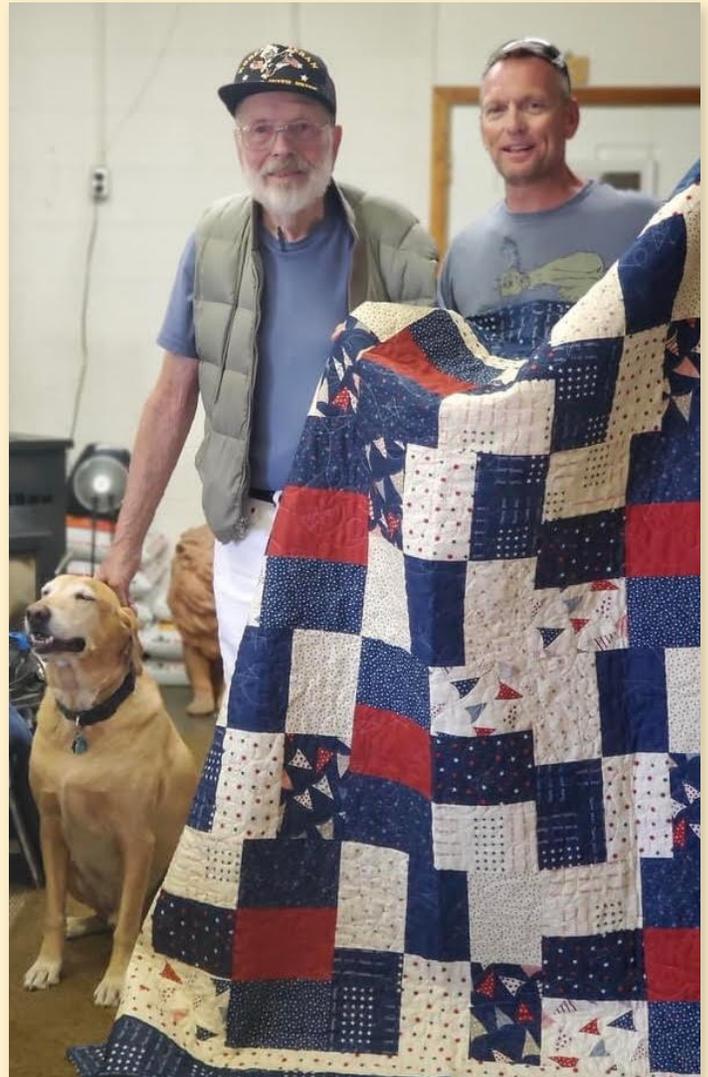
**Northcott Fabrics** is hosting the *For the Brave* event featuring the Stars and Stripes Stonehenge fabric line. The event includes a quilt-along, contests, prizes, free patterns, and more. There's still time to join the fun [here!](#)



## AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!



Korean Conflict Veteran *BSgt Leonard* was awarded his QOV by Yakima Quilts of Valor. *Bsgt Leonard* served his country three years in the United States Marine Corp.



Corporal *Sherman*, Korean Conflict, 1952-1954, was awarded a QOV. *Sherman*, who is military disabled, is pictured with his son *Greg* and service dog *Ryder*.



Quilts Reported	2021: 30,428
2012: 6,169	2022: 23,795
2013: 12,314	
2014: 17,373	
2015: 18,772	
2016: 19,051	
2017: 24,123	
2018: 30,745	
2019: 33,375	
2020: 23,356	
	<b>Total: 318,483</b>
	<i>(from date of first recorded award through 31 July 2022)</i>



*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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