



### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by *Lori Thompson*

Recently, in an unexpected place, I was reminded of the meaning of a Quilt of Valor. I went to a new eye doctor for a check-up last week. As part of the exam, we were talking about what I use my vision for on a regular basis. Computer work and longarm quilting were at the top of my list. Surprisingly, the optometrist knew what a longarm quilter was because his mother has a longarm machine. He shared how large the machine was and how busy his mother was quilting for a cause she loves—Quilts of Valor. He then asked if I had heard of it! We had a good chuckle when I told him about my role with QOV. The doctor shared how much it meant to his mother to create and award Quilts of Valor and about all the wonderful awards to veterans in their family and community.



*Lori Thompson*  
Executive Director

The conversation was a good reminder of the reach and impact we all have as part of QOV. The quilts we wrap veterans in are not only meaningful to the veteran, but often to those who make and award the quilts. Everyone has an important part in the process. Some of us sew the quilts, longarm quilts, network in our communities to find veterans to nominate, fundraise to keep funds

coming in to support quilting and award efforts, and/or tell QOV's story to connect others to what we do. There are so many ways our members and groups contribute to make these awards happen.

All these efforts add up and are an important part of fulfilling QOV's mission. Often things are busy, and everyone is working hard towards the next award. If you are like me, sometimes I get caught up in the work and details and I must step back and reconnect to what is most important—offering comfort and healing with a Quilt of Valor for our veterans.

To help me do this, I keep an inspiration file where I keep track of inspiring moments in my work. I learned this tip early on in my nonprofit career from a wonderful work mentor. My mentor told me, "This is hard work, but important work. Whenever we can we need to remember why we do this work." Ever since then I've taken this to heart and kept a file for each chapter in my career.

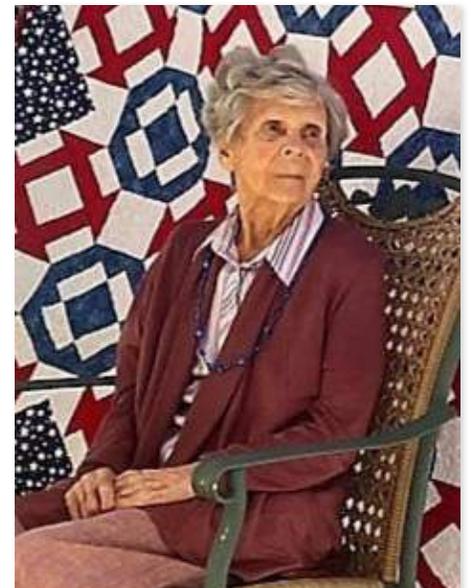
So, I encourage all of you to pause and look for inspiration with your work with QOV. Maybe that's an inspiration file like mine where you note memorable awards or thank you notes. Or it's just taking a few minutes and reflecting on the awards you've made, what they have meant to the veteran, and what they have meant to you. Either way I hope you'll take a moment and look for inspiration. Thank you for all you do to wrap our veterans in Quilts of Valor!

### VETERAN MOTHER WRAPPED BY GRATEFUL CHILDREN

Submitted by *Harlan Sexton, Group Leader, Quilters by the Sea QOV*

In 1943 a young woman entered the three-year Cadet Nurse Corps at Georgetown University School of Nursing. Catherine B. graduated in February 1947 with her Registered Nurse degree and worked at the University Hospital for more than three years. When the Korean War began, she moved to Philadelphia to work at the Naval Hospital. At the armistice, this dedicated Navy nurse left the service to marry a World War II veteran, later moving to Huntington, NY, where they raised their family. When the children were grown, Catherine earned an advanced degree in psychiatric nursing.

*continued on page 2*





Catherine then worked until retirement in a local psychiatric hospital, with a special love for her veteran patients.

Nearly eighty years later, her daughter gathered family, neighbors, a local VA Hospital representative, and home health aides to celebrate her service as a Navy nurse. Catherine, now in her nineties, was not sure she wanted “any fuss.” On July 7, 2022, Catherine was awarded a Quilt of Valor in a backyard ceremony. A quiet smile broke through when her children wrapped the beautiful Quilt of Valor around her. Her daughter Nanette recounted Catherine’s story. Her admiration for her mother’s lifelong commitment to nursing, especially for active and retired military, was evident to everyone there that day.

The quilt was presented by Quilters by the Sea QOV, a Bronx-based NY QOVF group. It was made by upstate NY quilters, binders, and longarmers, all affiliated with the QOVF.

## AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

*SPC4 Veteran Rosemary, U.S. Army, Personnel Specialist. She was pinned with the 50th Commemorative Vietnam War Service pin. Thank you for your sacrifices and service to our country. We enjoyed looking at your military photo memorabilia album and listening to your stories. This beautiful quilt was pieced by Mary Bennett, quilted by Tina Bolin, and bound by Shirleen.*



## HONOR FLIGHT NEVADA RECEIVES QOVs

*Submitted by Marsha Strand, Group Leader,  
Comstock Lode Quilters #11250*

July 18 was certainly a special day for the Comstock Lode Quilters QOV group of Dayton, NV. An award ceremony took place in the old Legislature Chambers of the Capitol Building in Carson City. Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak presented the Governor's Award for Veteran Supporter of the Month to Marsha Strand and Mona Crandell Hook, QOVF group leaders and co-founders of the group. Comstock Lode Quilters also received congressional recognition from Mark Amodei, US House Representative from Nevada's Second Congressional District. Senator Catherine Cortez Mateo also sent a Certificate of Commendation from the US Senate. These three awards were given as recognition for all the volunteer work the Comstock Lode Quilters provide Quilts of Valor, as well as their dedication and work with Nevada veterans.

Members of the Comstock Lode Quilters were also treated to a luncheon in the beautiful atrium of the State Archives Building next to the Capitol Building, thanking them for their dedication and hard work. Friends and family joined members of the Comstock Lode Quilters, along with several members from Honor Flight Nevada and some Gold Star families.

Comstock Lode Quilters was started in 2015 after group leader Strand went on an Honor Flight out of Portland, OR, with her father. Upon returning from the flight, a Quilts of Valor group presented all 50 Veterans with a Quilt of Valor.

*"I was so impressed with the emotional reaction of the veterans who received their quilts that I came home, and with the enthusiasm from 6 of my friends, formed Comstock Lode Quilters. We began with 7 members and grew to 20 in a short time. We now have anywhere from 60 to 80 volunteers who help in one way or another over the years."*

The original goal of the Comstock Lode Quilters was to present QOVs to those veterans on their return from an



*CLQ receive Veteran Supporter of the Month for July 2022.*



*87 QOVs awarded at NV Veterans Home December 2021, either in their rooms and or in the gathering room.*

Honor Flight Nevada trip. Honor Flight was established to take WWII veterans to see their Memorial at the Capitol Mall. Initially, only two flights, serving 70 or so veterans, were scheduled in a year but that soon changed. Honor Flight Nevada next began including Korean veterans.

In February of 2015, Honor Flight announced they were including Vietnam veterans and would also be doing two Vietnam veteran flights that year. The first year there were five flights and, coupled with requests from QOV and friends and family of veterans, the Comstock Lode Quilters managed to award 199 QOVs in their first year. In their second year there were six Honor Flight Nevada flights culminating in 235 QOVs being presented. In the beginning, with so few members and

so many quilts being needed, members were busy. There were times that they did not know whether the need could be met in time, but IT WAS!

Comstock Lode Quilters are fortunate that Reno Tahoe International Airport opted to go just a little further in helping with the QOV presentations. The airport sets up a special area where members can greet the returning veterans and their families, providing fresh coffee, bottled water, and sodas, along with cookies and brownies. Each veteran is wrapped in their QOV and given a 'Quilty Hug.' Each veteran is then escorted to a photographer for a picture with the quilt draped over them. Family and friends are invited to also have their pictures taken with their

*continued on page 4*

veteran. Veterans often insist that the presenter also be in the photo. Next the veteran is taken to an area where the quilt is folded and placed in the presentation case by other volunteers (local bank employees, the Civil Air Patrol, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, to name a few). The presentation cases are sewn by a 16-year-old volunteer, who also includes a handwritten letter to every veteran.

Due to COVID during 2020 and 2021, Honor Flight Nevada flights were suspended. QOV presentations were reduced to only very few special veterans with severe health issues. By the later part of 2021, our group was finally able to begin a long-awaited project that had been sidelined due to COVID. There were 96 residents living at the newly built Nevada State Veterans Home in Reno/Sparks. On December 8, the Comstock Lode Quilters presented 87 QOVs to the veterans in residence and 6 'thank you for your support' quilts to spouses living there. The staff at the home were not only helpful but a delight to work with and as excited by this project as the members of our group. On March 29, 2022, Vietnam Veterans Day, working in conjunction with members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Reno/Sparks Chapter, QOVs were presented to all the new residents. In addition, members of both organizations presented pins and letters commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War to all the Vietnam veterans, both residents and staff, in a special afternoon ceremony. On August 18, our group presented QOVs to 22 new residents, in addition to awarding 17 to staff members who are veterans. Some of the quilts are presented in the resident's room and others are presented in the great room. Only the staff photographer is permitted to take photos and they release a few to us for use. The plan is to go to the home twice a year to keep up with the new residents.

Comstock Lode Quilters will be busy the remainder of 2022 and into 2023 as there are tentatively five Honor Flight Nevada trips occurring from August thru December, presentations to the



39 QOVs awarded at NV Veterans Home in August 2022, to veterans and staff members.



Diane McIntyre, CLQ QOV member, made NV's representative quilt from the book "Quilts of Valor: A 50 Year Salute" and awarded it to then Governor Brian Sandoval.



Honor Flight Nevada veterans return to Reno Tahoe International Airport and await the QOV ceremony.

continued on page 5

new residents and staff of the Nevada State Veterans Home, a presentation at the Indian Colony on Veterans Day, plus keeping up with all the requests that come through the QOV system and those we receive from friends and family. The anticipation is that there may be about 200 or more quilts presented this fall and winter.

Members continue to be amazed at the warm and emotional responses received from the veterans. When Comstock Lode Quilters began, no one had any idea just how deeply the veterans would feel about their QOV until letters and phone calls began coming in from friends and relatives relaying their thanks and stories. Veterans and family members would tear up, as would the Comstock Lode members, at the presentation, but it was only when the letters started arriving that it really sank in exactly what their QOV meant to them.

Some veterans have said, "No one ever did anything for us" or "This is the nicest thing anyone has done for me," which is always a surprise to hear from not only Vietnam veterans but



*Steve Ranson, photographer and writer for the Lahontan Valley News and author of "Legacies of the Silver State: Nevada goes to war" receives a QOV. His book cover features a QOV being presented to a survivor of the USS Nevada from the Pearl Harbor attack.*

also from WWII and Korean veterans. It is understandable hearing these sentiments from the Vietnam veterans. While the veterans are surprised by the

info included on the label, the most common comment is, "It has my name on it." Many use their quilt every day as it brings them much comfort while many choose to display their quilt in their home and have it turned so the label with their name is displayed. When a veteran has passed on, it is amazing to see how many drape the QOV over the casket or on display beside the casket. A few have been buried with the quilt wrapped around them.

Many of our members are widows of veterans and feel it a great privilege to make and present QOVs to our veterans. Members are enthusiastic volunteers who feel warmth and appreciation when they present every QOV. So far, the Comstock Lode Quilters have presented over 1,350 Quilts of Valor. While making and presenting QOVs to our veterans is our love, the Comstock Lode Quilters have joined together with other veteran organizations to ensure that all our veterans know that they are truly appreciated and will never be forgotten. The lives of our members have been enriched.

## AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!



*Army First Sergeant George served two years during the Korean Conflict. 1SG George was awarded his QOV on August 7, 2022, with his family and friends attending. The QOV was awarded by Yakima QOV member, Larry Wilhelm.*



**QOVF PRESENTS AT  
ARTHROSCOPY ASSOCIATION/  
SOCIETY OF MILITARY  
ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS  
TRAINING WEEKEND**

*Submitted by Libby Kitslaar, QOVF  
Board Member*

On August 6, 2022, the Quilts of Valor Foundation was invited to Chicago to award a Quilt of Valor at the eleventh annual arthroscopy training course for military orthopedic surgeons, sponsored by the Arthroscopy Association of North America (AANA) and the Society of Military Orthopaedic Surgeons (SOMOS). SOMOS/AANA courses are three-day programs designed to provide

cutting edge, hands-on training in the latest arthroscopic surgical techniques.

This year's QOV was awarded to Commander James W. ("Bill") Bailey, a Navy veteran and former Vietnam POW. On June 28, 1967, while on a bombing mission over North Vietnam, Bill and his F-4 Phantom jet pilot were shot down, taken prisoner by the North Vietnamese, and held in a Hanoi prison of war camp for almost six years. In February 1973, Bill was released as part of Operation Homecoming—one of among over 500 Americans released from North Vietnamese POW camps in the spring of 1973. Bill is a recipient of numerous medals, including two Silver Star Citations.

Julie A. Dodds, M.D., orthopedic surgeon, faculty member at the sessions, and QOVF member, organized and sponsored the award. In addition to her orthopedic practice, Julie is the owner of The Quilted Steeple ([www.quiltedsteeple.com](http://www.quiltedsteeple.com)), a quilting retreat and shop near Lone Rock, IA, which hosts annual Quilts of Valor retreats to sew quilts for QOVF. This year's quilt was Log Cabin Americana, a quilt design by Franklin Quilt Company that Julie pieced in scrappy fabrics from the Moda Stars and Stripes Gatherings line. Julie's quilt was awarded to Bill by QOVF Board Member Libby Kitslaar.

**AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!**

*The quilt design is titled "The Final 13" and is in commemoration of the end of the Afghanistan War. The design includes 13 stars representing the service persons killed and is bordered by a pattern representing the aircraft used in the evacuation. The QOV was completed in June 2022 and presented to a 20-year veteran of the US Navy.*



## FOUR SIBLINGS HONORED WITH QOVs

*Submitted by Sue Daniels,  
River's Bend Quilters*

Our quilt guild leader, Joyce Mong, was having her annual mammogram and you know how it goes, you talk about everything other than what is going on in the room. She told the nurse about our group being part of the QOVF and what we were doing. The nurse told Joyce she had four children in the service at the same time.

Hearing the nurse's story, our group set out to award all four children with a QOV. The local elementary school usually has a ceremony on Veterans Day but, with COVID, we weren't sure if it would happen. Joyce told the nurse that if she could get her children together at one time, we would work out the presentation part. The family was able to get together for the ceremony on a week other than Veterans Day week. So, Joyce and I went to their home to present the quilts.

All four siblings served during Operation Iraqi Freedom and were deployed to Iraq. Sara was with the Air

Force & Reserves, Security Forces; Chas was a Fuel Supply Specialist with the Army; Ross was a Fuel Supply Sergeant with the Army; and Sean was a Combat Engineer, Counter Warfare SME with the Marine Corps.

Unfortunately, Chas tested positive for COVID the prior day so he could not be in attendance. We conferenced him in via video to receive his quilt so no photo was available. It was a beautiful day for everyone with tears and laughter and an honor for the River Bend Quilt Guild of Chicora, PA, to recognize this family!



Sean



Sara



Ross

## AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

*Sgt. Donald was awarded his Quilt of Valor on May 21, 2022, by his Aunt Tereica, a member of the Yakima QOV Group, Yakima, WA. We thank you, Sgt. Donald, and your family for your sacrifices and service to our country.*



## HOME SWEET HOME

Submitted by QOVF Marketing

When summer started, we announced the partnership with Fat Quarter Shop for a special limited edition mystery box named Liberty Box. Each Liberty Box, themed to celebrate Independence Day, had the Home Sweet Home pattern and exclusive goodies. The Liberty Box was sold out in just two weeks! Fat Quarter Shop donated a portion of proceeds of the Liberty Box sales to QOVF.

As summer is winding down and fall weather is upon us, we want to celebrate National Sewing Month. The following photographs are Instagram followers who shared their Home Sweet Home quilt using the Home Sweet Home quilt pattern.



Sarah R. Yoffa @heirloominthemaking



Brenda Greene @bagcrafts—Work in Progress Quilt



Melissa Corry @happyquiltingmc

## 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, IA, from 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](#).

Janome continues to offer the 3160 Quilts of Valor edition sewing machine. Part of the proceeds of each sewing machine goes back to QOVF. This machine comes with a quilting attachment kit that includes a free motion quilting foot and a walking foot. Weighing only 12 pounds, this machine is lightweight enough to take to QOVF Group Sew Days. More info can be found [here](#).

**Correction:** In last month's issue of *Threads* we included an article entitled "300,000th Honorary QOV Awarded To USMC WWII Veteran." The author of that article was Jo Ellen Carr, not JoAnn Carr, as previously reported.



Quilts Reported	2021: 30,428
2012: 6,169	2022: 18,215
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: 320,927</b>
	(from date of first recorded award through 31 AUGUST 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



**QOVF Founder and Board Member Emeritus**  
Catherine Roberts

**Board Member Emeritus**  
Walt Davis  
Marianne Fons  
Eric McCarty  
June Moore

**Board of Directors**  
Sue Reich, President  
Mary Kerr, Vice President  
Ann Rehbein, Treasurer  
Maggie Klenke, Secretary  
John Oxley, Member  
Jennifer Lee, Member  
Jon Neuhaus, Member  
Chris Hamp, Development  
Libby Kitslaar, Member  
Jodi Inman, Member  
Robin Kohler, Member

**Executive Staff**  
Executive Director  
Lori Thompson  
[lori.thompson@qovf.org](mailto:lori.thompson@qovf.org)

**Staff**  
Membership, Accounting, QOVF Store and Quilt Business Program  
Kathleen Boldman  
Michelle Nelson  
Melody Reels  
Stephanie Tinnirello  
[membership@qovf.org](mailto:membership@qovf.org)  
[accounting@qovf.org](mailto:accounting@qovf.org)  
[qovfstore@qovf.org](mailto:qovfstore@qovf.org)  
[quilt.business@qovf.org](mailto:quilt.business@qovf.org)

**Volunteer Staff**  
Longarm Coordinator  
Crystal Farinella  
[LA\\_coordinators@qovf.org](mailto:LA_coordinators@qovf.org)  
Destination Coordinator  
Janice Lewis  
[destination@qovf.org](mailto:destination@qovf.org)

Information and Help Desk Coordinator  
Suzanne DiCarlo  
[info@qovf.org](mailto:info@qovf.org)

Under Our Wings Program  
[uow@qovf.org](mailto:uow@qovf.org)

Mailing Address:  
Quilts of Valor Foundation  
PO Box 191  
Winterset, IA 50273

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/)

Photos that appear in *Threads* are either used with permission or are public domain images. The editorial team makes every effort to credit photographers.



**Newsletter**

Lori Thompson, *Editorial Director*  
Lou Ann Lee, *Editor*  
Tony Jacobson, *Graphic Designer*  
Maureen Gregorie, *Proofreader*

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