

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022



threads
NEWSLETTER

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by *Lori Thompson*

It's been a beautiful fall season here in Colorado. The season started with the aspen leaves changing in the mountains that soon filtered down to the Front Range cities and the plains around here with trees showing their beautiful colors.



*Lori Thompson
Executive Director*

Earlier this fall, my family and I enjoyed a weekend "leaf peeping" (as it's called around here) in the mountains. Lately, I've been enjoying the fall colors and crisp, cool air here in Denver.

This fall has also been special as I celebrated my first year with QOVF. It's hard to believe it has already been a year! I've really enjoyed working with all of you and being a part of this great organization. I am looking forward to next year and realize there's still a lot of work and opportunities ahead to help us all continue wrapping veterans in Quilts of Valor.

While this is the time of year that things begin to gear down for the holidays, fall is the busiest time for our QOVF groups. I know many of you have been busy making quilts, preparing, and hosting QOV award ceremonies. Thank you for all the time and care you put into these awards!

Things are busy here, too, at QOVF on the national level with some new things starting this fall and preparations

for events in 2023. We have a couple of new fundraising opportunities for QOVF groups as well as the return of an annual giving event:

- ★ **QOVF All-Star Quilts of Valor Book**—Check out the article this month on QOVF's new book that features 25 new quilt designs from popular quilt industry designers. There's information on how to purchase our new book and an opportunity for groups to leverage the book as a fundraiser.
- ★ **Wreaths Across America**—QOVF is partnering with Wreaths Across America to help lay wreaths at veterans' graves and offer a fundraising opportunity for QOVF groups. Look for more information in this month's newsletter about Wreath Sponsorships and how they help both organizations.
- ★ **Giving Tuesday**—This year Giving Tuesday is November 29, 2022. While this is not a new event, our QOVF Team is working on ways to simplify fundraising for this annual event. Check out tips and tricks in this month's article on simple ways QOVF can raise money and recruit volunteers.

We hope that these opportunities will help QOVF groups build capacity to continue creating and awarding Quilts of Valor. I'm always open to suggestions and ideas on how QOVF can better support our groups and members. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or ideas at executive.director@qovf.org. Thank you!

ALL-STAR QUILTS OF VALOR

BOOK RELEASED!

From QOVF Marketing

QOVF is excited about the release of our new book, *All-Star Quilts of Valor: 25 Patriotic Patterns from Star Designers!* The book is available for purchase in our QOVF [Shop](#).

The cost is \$24.99 + \$5 media mail shipping. All proceeds from the book purchased directly from QOVF or a QOVF group will go back into QOVF's mission of awarding Quilts of Valor.

The book features patterns from 27 popular industry designers. The 27 quilt designers know quilts can honor and even heal. They created these new patterns for QOVF to share the organization's commitment "to cover our veterans and service members



continued on page 2

with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.” Featuring clear, easy instructions and patterns, everything is included for quilters of any level, community groups, and family members to make a beautiful patriotic quilt for the special service members in their own lives, or to donate to honor-worthy Quilts of Valor recipients. The 25 quilt patterns are varied and inspiring. Mix and match patriotic colors and fabrics to make your own personal version of each, including “V is for Victory” by Georgia Bonesteel, “Shine On” by Victoria Findlay Wolfe, “From Sea to Shining Sea” by Marianne Fons, “Stars and Stripes” by Mark Lipinski, “Thumbnail” by Paula Nadlestern, and so many more. It also features a foreword by Kimberly Einmo, author, award-winning quilter, fabric designer, international instructor, quilt judge, and CRAFTSY/Blueprint class host. The book also features contributing authors Ann Parsons Holte, Tony L. Jacobson, Mary W. Kerr, and Sue Reich.

To purchase the book, head to our website and select our [Shop](#). Please email executive.director@qovf.org if you have questions.



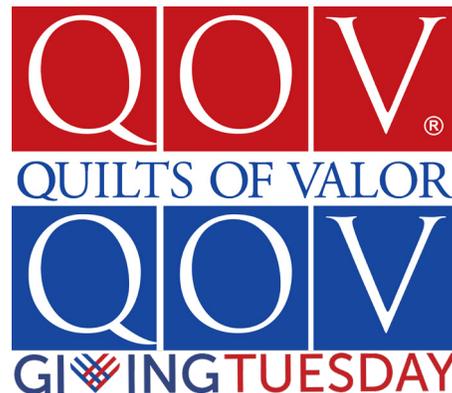
GIVING TUESDAY TIPS

Mark your calendars for Giving Tuesday, November 29, 2022. QOVF and QOVF groups will participate in this international day of giving by encouraging others in their communities to share time and resources to support QOVF’s mission of providing comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

Giving Tuesday is a fundraising movement that began in 2012 to encourage others to give during the holiday season and as an alternative to Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping.

There’s still time for interested QOVF groups to participate in Giving Tuesday. Here are some simple ideas and ways to participate:

- ✦ **Start by thinking about why your group wants to raise money on Giving Tuesday.** Do you have a goal of awarding a certain number of Quilts of Valor? Or does your group need funds for batting, fabric, or other supplies? Be specific and share your needs when you share info about how others can donate to your group during Giving Tuesday.
- ✦ **If your group has a Facebook page, set up a Giving Tuesday Facebook fundraiser.** You can find more information about how to set up a Facebook fundraiser with the Quick Reference Guide—Facebook Fundraising on the Member Dashboard of the QOVF website.
- ✦ **Consider making a flier or postcard to share with potential supporters who may not be online.** Be sure to include why your group is raising funds (see the first tip), who it will benefit, and how others can support your group. Add your group’s unique



QOVF fundraising link on the flier. Don’t know your group’s fundraising link? Email membership@qovf.org for more information.

- ✦ **Think about creating a QR code for your group’s fundraising link.** A QR code is a great way to direct people to your fundraising link either online or through a print flier. You can easily create a QR code by searching for a QR code generator online or contact QOVF at marketing@qovf.org for assistance.
- ✦ **Share non-monetary ways that others can support your group.** It’s a great time to share about your group and how others can join, help create, or award Quilts of Valor. Many nonprofits in past years have reported finding new volunteers or non-monetary support through Giving Tuesday.

We hope these tips will help our QOVF groups participate and benefit from Giving Tuesday. Do you have a great tip you can share? Feel free to share or reach out with any questions to executive.director@qovf.org.

JUST A LITTLE TIDBIT

By Leo & Joanne McClure

This may not be a big deal but just to let you know—this summer my wife and I completed five Quilts of Valor. With the help of Donna Swanson, we presented three of them—two to neighbors and one to the husband of a quilting friend. Not bad for an 88-year-old quilter.

AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

SGT Mike, USMC, 1984-1988, was awarded his QOV by Yakima QOV group members Larry and Shirleen. This quilt was pieced by Karen Dehne Bissell, quilted and bound by Melinda Warren.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

For almost 30 years, Wreaths Across America (WAA) has worked with volunteers to lay wreaths on veterans' graves during the month of December. This year, QOVF is proud to help support WAA's mission and provide QOVF groups an opportunity to raise money. Starting this fall, QOVF groups will have the opportunity to participate in WAA's Group Sponsorship Program. As a WAA Group Sponsor partner, our QOVF groups will receive \$5 for each \$15 wreath sold through November 28, 2022.

It's easy to participate in the program. Interested QOVF groups can sign up [here](#) to create a webpage for your QOVF group. Each participating group will receive a unique URL for a fundraising page where Wreath Sponsorships can be purchased directly. Sponsorships sold through November 28, 2022, will count for this year's program.

For more information, interested QOVF groups can find the Wreaths Across America fundraising guide on the QOVF Member Dashboard under the fundraising section. WAA also has regional liaisons available to directly help QOVF groups.

QOVF encourages those interested in purchasing a Wreath Sponsorship to check with their local QOVF group to see if they are participating in



WREATHS — *across* — AMERICA



this program. QOVF will also have a national page for Wreath Sponsorships at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/qovf where the proceeds will benefit QOVF.

In December 2021, WAA and its national network of volunteers placed 2.4 million veterans' wreaths at 3,137 participating locations in the US and

beyond. This was accomplished with help from some two million volunteers across the country, a third of which were children. National Wreaths Across America Day will be held this year on Saturday, December 17, 2022.

Questions? Please contact executive.director@qovf.org. Thank you!

GRATEFUL DEAD CONNECTION

Submitted by Diane Crossett

I met Ron (RJ) and Colleen in 1987 and my husband Steve met RJ and Colleen a few years later. In 1996, I met my husband, Steve. Through all those convergences and connections, the common thread was the band Grateful Dead. We are all passionate about their music and community.

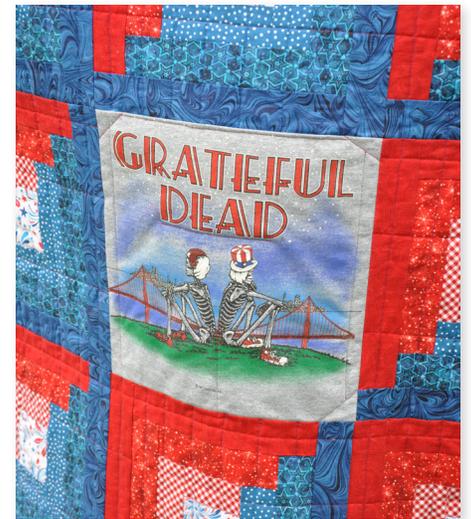
Though I have sewn since I was 10 years old, I only began quilting in 2014. As I absorbed all things quilting, I learned of Quilts of Valor. It has been in the back of my mind that "someday" I would make a Quilt of Valor.

This summer it all came together. I knew I wanted to make a QOV for RJ, a Vietnam veteran, and I wanted to incorporate the Grateful Dead. I dug out my favorite t-shirt I had purchased at a 1982 concert in Iowa City, IA. I



later found out that RJ and Colleen also attended that show.

I was incredibly happy to honor RJ with a quilt and stitched a lot of love into it. "Eyes of the World" is a Grateful



Dead song. A line from that song was included on the quilt label because the song is meaningful to RJ and Colleen. To me, service in Vietnam means you have eyes of the world.

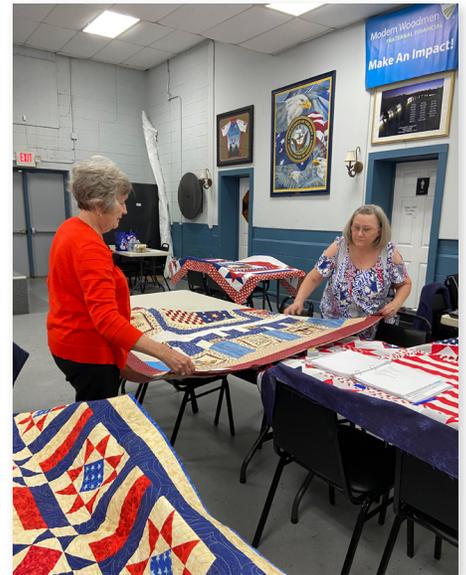
**COWETA QUILTS OF VALOR
GROUP AWARDS 800 QOVS**

From QOVF Marketing

On September 10, 2022, the Coweta County Quilts of Valor celebrated a milestone. They awarded Colonel Catherine H. with a Quilt of Valor, making this the 800th quilt awarded to a veteran or service member by their group. In 2014, Coweta County Quilts of Valor was formed by Cathy Wilson and other local women who sent out emails to gauge interest in starting a group. The group now has 42 members, including the original members and one man. The local chapter includes veterans, current and former spouses of veterans, military supporters, crafters, quilters, and Barbara Pitkanen, an original member, and 13-year-old granddaughter Ava. Cathy now serves as contact for nominations and sets up presentations for approved recipients. She works closely with retired US Air Force Lt. Col. Janice Wilmot, the NW GA coordinator for QOVF. Congratulations Coweta County Quilts of Valor for your milestone.



Jack, our only male in the group



Brenda and Beverly measuring



Marina, a veteran who sews for other veterans



Ava, the youngest member of the group at 13



Stash of quilts turned in on sew day



Pam, a veteran sewing for other veterans



Father and son get quilts

continued on page 5



Cindy and Gabby—mom and daughter



Karen pondering



Kirstie receiving recognition for the needle going through her finger

GAIN WEIGHT THEY SAID!

Submitted by Jenny Fields,
New River Valley QOV Quilters

It is a great privilege and an honor to award a Quilt of Valor to a veteran. The veteran in this story is Ernest F., 96 years old and a proud veteran of World War II.

When the war broke out, Ernest was 15 years old and eager to serve his country. Naturally, he had to “fudge” a bit about his age—but it worked. Ernest told us that he had been on his own for a while and wanted to have three meals a day and a bed and, of course, he wanted to see the world!

He went directly to the Recruiting Station in Charleston, WV, to sign up! It was during his physical that he was given the bad news, “you don’t weigh enough kid.” That would never do. Ernest was four pounds under the 104-pound requirement, so he had to gain weight fast. He was determined and wasn’t going to take “no” for an answer. He went to a neighborhood grocery store, bought and ate four pounds of bananas and rushed back for another shot at joining up. Success! He met the weight requirement, and the rest is history.

Ernest joined the Navy and was a 2nd Class Petty Officer. His job started as a Navy cook. However, during the



war his job was dropping depth charges from USS PC-624 patrol craft to destroy enemy mines. His boat was off the coast of Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, D-Day. His job was to clear the way for the landing craft that were bringing the soldiers ashore.

After his honorable discharge from the Navy, Ernest worked in the coal mines for four years. He prepared



for the ministry and was ordained in the Pentecostal Church in 1950. Ernest is well and living currently in Christiansburg, VA.

What an honor it was for me, as a QOV volunteer, to wrap Retired 2nd Class Petty Officer Ernest in his Quilt of Valor on December 2, 2021, at VFW Post 5311 in Christiansburg. WELCOME HOME, Ernest!



**MONTANA CELEBRATES
QUILT OF VALOR #300,000**

*Submitted by Deborah Tomell,
Western MT QOV Coordinator*

What an honor to meet our 300,000 honorary Quilt of Valor recipient! This young woman epitomizes the veterans we need to honor. She has overcome amazing odds to celebrate and embrace her service. It was the pleasure of the Western Montana QOV group to honor Keturah “Katie” G. with a QOV on April 30, 2022, at the Conrad Mansion in Kalispell, MT, surrounded by family and friends.

Katie served in Iraq, ready to neutralize weapons of mass destruction. She was a bomb specialist, trained to neutralize threats. She cleared the area for others to navigate and helped ensure the safety of her fellow service members. She is humble about the role she played in her service. She was doing her job.

When she came home, after multiple deployments to Iraq, she came home with nightmares about her experiences. Her family struggled with her; she lost touch with her daughter. She struggled daily and sought help from the Veterans Administration and is making strides to return to a peaceful life. She has turned the corner and is making advances to refresh her life.



Sherry Gay, Janet Gustafson, and Debbie Tomell, QOVF members, were honored to meet her and her family at the Daly Mansion in Kalispell where she volunteered at this historic site. Katie has found help in honoring fallen veterans during internment services for

them. What an inspiration for veterans and others! We were all impressed with her smile and determination to make the best of what life has to offer. Thank you, Katie, for your service and for inspiring us to be better every day.

RITA COMPLETES HER 100TH QUILTS OF VALOR

By Valerie Close,
Editor of Vinton Today in Iowas

Rita M. has found what some might call "a ministry." Using her ability to sew has turned into a way to help others on their way to healing. It might just be a small way to help on that journey for so many, but it might also be the key. Rita has given many hours to make that healing happen for several area veterans: 100 to be exact!

It started in 2016, just a mere six years ago. Rita discovered a group that could use her talent. It requires a skill that few people have today. Quilt making! She said she learned it from her Grandma Penny. When she was looking at a career right out of high school, she had thought of being a Home Economics teacher. Later she was told that she would have been "too hard on her students," she said with a laugh. She likes her sewing projects to be perfect. Each of her quilts reflects that perfection. Her grandmother was a professional quilter and taught Rita all the necessary skills for sewing.

A few weeks ago, Rita presented her 88th or 89th Quilt of Valor, but she wasn't sure which it was. For a few years now she had said, "I'll probably quit when I hit 100." I asked her to let me know when she hit that number. She just received her 100th quilt back from the quilter. She doesn't like to brag about the work that she does. But she does keep a scrapbook of all the quilts that she's made.

Dawn Gifford is very familiar with Rita's work. She is the one that Rita goes to when she has another quilt ready to be put on the long arm quilting machine. Gifford owns Prairie Quilt Studio in Urbana. She also used to be the IT Director for Quilts of Valor and that's where she met Rita. "The first thing I noticed about Rita was her incredible dedication to Quilts of Valor

and her drive to make sure every WWII veteran in Benton County had a Quilts of Valor. Rita is a get-it-done person and never sits still," Gifford said. "I have a hard time keeping up with quilting all of her creations! I have long arm quilted about 1/2 of Rita's 100 Quilts of Valor quilts." Gifford is building a new store in Urbana, it's the big red prairie-style barn under construction near Casey's. Gifford said that she plans to dedicate a corner of the store to quilting supplies

for the Quilts of Valor program and name it "Rita's Corner."

When I talked to Rita to do the story about her 100th quilt, I wasn't at all surprised when she told me that she had quilt number 101 in the works along with a few other quilts planned. As a tribute to Rita, Gifford added an inscription to the quilt with Rita's name and noted that this was her 100th quilt. Congratulations, Rita, on meeting your 100-quilt goal!



★ ★ REMINDERS WHEN SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THREADS ★ ★

When submitting articles for publication in the Threads newsletter, please ensure you also include a photo release for all individuals shown in your photos!

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—[Ongoing Events for the rest of 2022](#).

QOVF is excited to announce a new partnership with **Letters from Home**, a USO-style show that celebrates veterans across the country. Letters from Home will kick off a 50-state tour in 2023 and partner with QOVF to award Quilts of Valor at each show next year. We'll have more info soon on how QOVF groups



can participate. For more information about Letters from Home, check it out [here](#).

The **International Brotherhood of Teamsters** has been a long-time QOVF supporter. Teamster trucks that represent regional leadership each have a QOVF supporter decal. The truck pictured here is based in Denver, CO, and travels the Southwest US region. QOVF thanks the International Brotherhood of Teamsters for their ongoing support!



American Quilter's Society—[Ongoing events in 2023](#)

Sewing, Quilting, Needle Arts—[Ongoing Events](#) for the rest of 2022 and in 2023

FROM QOVF MARKETING

Memorable Moments Submissions

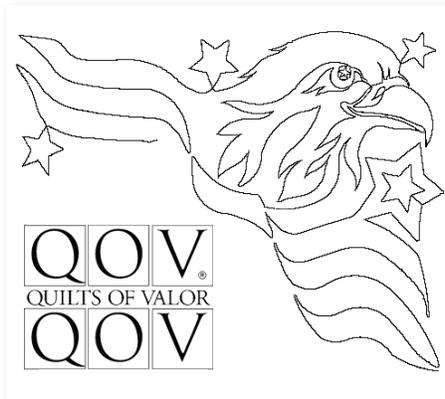
Help us continue to build the QOVF scrapbook of Memorable Moments! Many of you who do awards have thank you notes that are just as memorable as a photograph and deserve to be shared, which is why we are continuing submissions for the Memorable Moments page.

To submit a Thank You note: Within the Member Dashboard, there are two documents: Memorable Moment—Thank You Template 01 and Template 02. Pick your preferred style, fill in the information from the Thank You, and send it to marketing@qovf.org.

*To submit a photograph: Send an email to marketing@qovf.org with photographs and the first name with last initial of veteran(s)/service member(s), name of title and service, and with any presentation and quilt information you wish to provide. We will make sure it gets uploaded to the website. To view the current Memorable Moments, click [here](#). *Note: The photographs will also be used on social media to honor the many military holidays, so a photo release is necessary.

Volunteer for the LongArmy

Are you a longarmer or know of one? Our requests for LongArmy Volunteers are increasing since National Sew Day and we're looking for additional help. If you can do one a quarter, one a month, or just one in a pinch, we would appreciate the additional help! For more information click [here](#). Any questions, please contact our Longarm Coordinator, Crystal Farinella, by email at LA_coordinators@qovf.org.



Do a Mystery Quilt.

For those of you who are QOVF Members, you know about the QOVF Mystery Quilt that took place during September and early October.

Instructions and clues are on the Member Dashboard listed under Mystery Quilt—Fall 2022. You can also find Mystery Quilt—Spring 2022 still listed on the Member Dashboard for additional quilt making in the fall/winter months.

Our friends at Alycia Quilts have a Quilt of Valor Mystery Quilt offered by Quiltygirl. Information on instructions and clues can be found on their [blog](#).

Purchase a new pattern.

Our friend Mary Anne from FontanaOriginals.com is highlighting her new QOV patterns: American Traveler, Stars & Snowballs, Double Stars & Stripes, and Friendship Stars Quilt on her website. To find the patterns, go to FontanaOriginals.com and click on "QUILTS OF VALOR" and "PATTERNS." There are more QOV patterns for purchase on her Etsy page.

American Traveler Quilt [pattern](#).
American Traveler Quilt [video](#).

AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

Flight Officer Walter served his country from 1940-1945 in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He was awarded his quilt privately by member Shirleen of WA's Yakima QOV group, and his daughters. This quilt was donated to the Yakima QOV group, pieced and bound by Anne of Burien, WA, and quilted by Jeri of San Jacinto, CA.



AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

SPC5 Al served his country in Vietnam. His wife helped to wrap her husband in his Quilt of Valor. Veteran Al was awarded his Quilt of Valor by Yakima Quilts of Valor Group members Larry and Shirleen. This quilt was pieced by Mary Bennett and quilted and bound by Melinda Warren. Welcome home! With gratitude, we thank you and your family for your sacrifices and your service to our country.



AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

Major Jimmy enlisted into the US Army in 1954 and served his country during the Vietnam War in infantry and as a pilot until he retired in 1974. His quilt was pieced by June Wentz, quilted by Chris Gamache, and bound by Janene Westbay, members of the Yakima QOV Group.

Ruben served his country in the USMC from 1968-1970 in security in Vietnam. His quilt was donated to Yakima QOV group by Stars & Stripes QOV member Sherry Houser, pieced by Lita Fox, and quilted by Bill Tate.

Major Jimmy and CPL Ruben were pinned with the Vietnam War 50th Commemorative Pin by Vietnam Veteran SSGT Huskey at the American Legion Post 36 in Yakima, WA. Thank you and your family for your sacrifices and your service to our Country! We hope that your quilt will comfort you! Thank you to the American Legion Post 36 for your support, to the families and friends who supported their veteran, and to our members for your support of being there and to you who made the beautiful quilts.





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: 24,065

Total: 326,777

(from date of first recorded award through 31 OCTOBER 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
 Lauri Leirdahl, Member

Executive Staff
 Executive Director
 Lori Thompson
lori.thompson@qovf.org

Staff
 Membership, Accounting, QOVF Store, Quilt Business Program, and Volunteer Services

Kathleen Boldman
 Doug Chapman
 Michelle Nelson
 Melody Reels
 Stephanie Tinnirello
membership@qovf.org
accounting@qovf.org
qovfstore@qovf.org
quilt.business@qovf.org

Volunteer Staff
 Longarm Coordinator
 Crystal Farinella
LA_coordinators@qovf.org

Destination Coordinator
 Janice Lewis
destination@qovf.org

Information and Help Desk Coordinator
 Suzanne DiCarlo
info@qovf.org

Under Our Wings Program
uow@qovf.org

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

For more information about QOVF, see 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/

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

amazon smile [here](#)

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.