



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by *Lori Thompson*

Happy Holidays! I hope you are making holiday plans to spend time with your loved ones and looking forward to the festive season. My family will enjoy Christmas at home here in Colorado. Some of our family traditions we'll enjoy are making toffee to share, looking at Christmas lights, and a nice, casual family holiday dinner. We've got our fingers crossed for snow, which I think always makes the holidays a bit more magical.



Lori Thompson
Executive Director

Time has flown this year! It's hard to believe it's December already. It's been a great year here at QOVF. It's been so inspiring to see all the Quilts of Valor® awarded and wrapped around so many veterans this year! One of my favorite Monday morning routines is looking forward to "happy email," the Google alerts in my inbox for news articles and social media posts about QOVF awards. A big thanks goes to Norma Ogard, our

QOVF volunteer who coordinates and sends the alerts each week to ensure our QOVF team stays informed about happenings across the country!

These email alerts have shown that our members have been very busy this year. QOVF is on track to award over 30,000 by the end of this year thanks to the dedication and hard work of our volunteers. Another great milestone we celebrated earlier this year was awarding the 300,000th Quilt of Valor. Many QOVF groups and members also celebrated by awarding honorary 300,000th quilts. The stories and photos shared of these special awards were so moving.

There have been other milestones this year. QOVF was able to share more about our mission as more quilt shows, events, and conferences returned this year. QOVF hosted booths at over 30 shows nationwide where many local groups stepped up to host booths in their area to share our mission and award more Quilts of Valor at these shows. At new partner events, QOVF awarded quilts at Home For Our Troops key ceremonies across the country and participated in the first Honoring Our Heroes Festival.

Looking forward to 2023, we have more milestones to celebrate. QOVF will celebrate its 20th anniversary and host its first conference in three years in Paducah, Kentucky, September 13-15, 2023. Please mark your calendar for this special event and look for more information coming soon! I am particularly excited about this opportunity for our members to gather after two very challenging years. I am looking forward to seeing so many of you in person at the conference that I've only met virtually up to now!

As this year ends, I hope you'll take some time to reflect on what you all have achieved. For our members, please look back and think about all the quilts you have created and awarded this year. Please think about what those meant to the veterans who received them. Thank you for all you have done to help us further our mission and provide comfort and healing to those who received a Quilt of Valor.

I hope you all have a wonderful and restful holiday season. We'll need it—next year is going to be busy with lots of fun opportunities. Happy Holidays!



ALL-STAR QUILTS OF VALOR BOOK RELEASED!

From QOVF Marketing

QOVF's new book, *All-Star Quilts of Valor: 25 Patriotic Patterns from Star Designers* is here! 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 who created these new patterns for Quilts of Valor to share the organization's commitment "to cover our veterans and service members with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor." 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. The book 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.



ELECTRIC QUILT COMPANY PARTNERS WITH QOVF ON DESIGN COLLABORATION

QOVF is teaming up with the Electric Quilt Company for a Quilt of Valor® Design Collaboration. From now until July 4, 2023, QOVF members and supporters can share QOVs designed in Electric Quilt to enter a contest for the chance to win a prize pack. To enter, go to the Electric Quilt Company's blog [here](#) for contest rules and instructions on how to submit your design and quilt photos.

At the end of the collaboration, two winners will be chosen (one by EQ and one by QOV) to receive a bundle of Northcott Stars and Stripes fabric and a \$25 American Express gift card! One grand-prize winner, selected by both EQ and QOV, will receive a super bundle of Northcott Stars and Stripes fabric consisting of 13, one-yard pieces and one panel, and a \$100 American Express gift card!! All three winners will also receive a copy of the new QOV book, [All-Star Quilts of Valor!](#) The winners will be chosen from all submissions, meaning previously and newly made quilts are all eligible, as long as they comply with the rules.



EQ Software Giveaway

To kick off this new partnership, we're giving away a copy of the latest EQ 8 design software, generously donated by the Electric Quilt Company. To enter, go to QOVF's entry form [here](#). **Deadline to enter is December 20, 2022.** The contest is only open to QOVF members with a current membership.

EQ Software Discount Code

If you don't own our quilt-design software, check out [EQ8](#). To encourage you to join in this heartwarming endeavor and honor a veteran, you can save 25% on your order on the Electric Quilt Company's website by applying this code in your cart: VALOR25.

QOVF is grateful to work with the Electric Quilt Company on this collaboration. Look for more coverage on both EQ and QOVF's blog and social media to check out entries and more ideas!

LETTERS FROM HOME SINGERS PARTNER WITH QOVF TO AWARD MORE QUILTS OF VALOR®

By QOVF Marketing

QOVF is excited to announce a new collaboration with the Letters from Home Singers. QOVF groups will have the opportunity to award Quilts of Valor at performances across the country hosted by Letters from Home. The Letters from Home Singers host USO-style performances with high energy singing and tap dancing that are intended to inspire and uplift their audiences.

Letters From Home is partnering with QOVF to host awards ceremonies at each 2023 performance. QOVF groups will also have the opportunity to host an information table in the lobby of each performance to share QOVF's mission with attendees.

The 2023 tour kicks off in early January and continues through May. QOVF State Coordinators and QOVF groups are busy making plans to award quilts at shows in their area. QOVF is excited to partner with Letters from Home and is grateful for the opportunity to award more Quilts of Valor at their shows. To learn more about Letters from Home and purchase tickets for their 2023 tour, visit www.lettersfromhomesingers.com.



SAVE THE DATE!

NATIONAL SEW DAY

By QOVF Marketing

Join us for National Sew Day on February 4, 2023! This year we're celebrating the 10th Anniversary of National Sew Day. For over 10 years members have gathered during this event to celebrate community and our QOVF mission of awarding comforting and healing Quilts of Valor®.

This year we'll kick things off with a Facebook Live and plan to have even more giveaways for QOVF members. We're reaching out to partners to invite them to join the fun, so stay tuned for



more information and activities coming soon!

In the meantime, it's a great time to make plans for your own QOVF Sew Day. Many QOVF groups gather on a regular basis and plan a fun day for National Sew Day. If you are an individual member who is not part of a group, consider gathering with your quilting friends and ask them to help sew QOVs. It's a great reason to gather and sew and connect with others!

Let us know what you are planning for National Sew Day. Do you have a great idea or special way you plan to participate? We'd love to share more on social media and in future issues of *Threads*. You are welcome to email us at marketing@qovf.org.

QOVF ANNOUNCES 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

By 20th Anniversary Planning Committee

Save the date! QOVF is headed to Paducah, KY, to celebrate and host its 20th Anniversary Conference, September 13-15, 2023. The three-day conference will kick off with a private reception at the National Quilt Museum and viewing of the Quilts of Valor® featured in QOVF's All-Star Quilts of Valor book on Wednesday, September 13. These quilts will be part of a traveling exhibit in early 2023 with the American Quilt Society Shows in Daytona Beach, FL; Branson, MO; and Paducah. The quilts will then be part of a public exhibit at the National Quilt Museum until Veterans Day 2023 when the quilts will be awarded to area veterans and active-duty service members.



On Thursday, QOVF will open the 20th Anniversary conference with a keynote address and luncheon. Both days of the conference will feature speakers, networking opportunities, classes, breakout sessions, and more.

This is the first conference QOVF has hosted since 2019. Hosting this conference in conjunction with QOVF's 20th Anniversary is a special milestone for our organization.

continued on page 4



Paducah, KY, is known as Quilt City USA and is home to many quilt shops and events in the Quilting Industry. The city boasts many good restaurants, shops, and the beautiful scenery of the nearby Ohio River.

Look for more information about hotels, registration, and conference events coming soon. We hope to see you in Paducah!

AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

A CW4 Apache pilot and instructor with the US Army with deployments to Somalia, Hurricane Andrew, and Iraq twice. He enlisted in 1990 and retired in 2013. His QOV was presented by the DAR from Wolfboro, NH.



WEST VIRGINIA AWARDS 17

QOVs

Submitted by Maribeth Shreve, WV SC

On November 6, 2022, our annual awards ceremony was held by the QOV Group Quilts of Valor-West Virginia at Maranatha Fellowship Church in St. Albans, WV. State Coordinator Maribeth Shreve awarded 17 Quilts of Valor to local area veterans who were nominated through the Foundation.

As a tribute to our veterans, 163 Quilts of Valor were displayed on the church pews for the ceremony. These quilts will now be sent out across the state to veterans who have been nominated. Purple Heart Recipient Dan O. asked to speak after he received his award and proceeded to tell how in the past 50 years he had never been recognized until that day.

The quilts on display were made by hundreds of volunteers across West Virginia. West Virginia Quilt Shop in Barboursville, WV, made and donated kits of star blocks using the 2019 block of the year pattern. Once complete, the volunteers returned the blocks to Maribeth where the star blocks were put in kits for the complete quilt top. Using fabric donations received, the star blocks were put in kits and redistributed to sewists across the state to put the top together. When completed, the tops were returned to Maribeth to be quilted, bound, and the label applied.



Maranatha Fellowship Church also hosted a "Military Resource Day" on November 19, where 30 vendors came together to offer free services to active military and veterans, like free flu shots, free haircuts, and many other useful services. We look forward to next year and plan to do it again on the same day as the awards ceremony.



2022 OPERATION GRATITUDE AWARDEES

In 2019, the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) Board of Directors began a program called Operation Gratitude. The QOVF mission is all about showing gratitude to our veterans and service members for their commitment to the peace and security of our nation. Expressing thanks to those who help accomplish that mission day in and day out is also important. QOVF has so many unsung heroes. Much like our veterans, our quilting volunteers often pass off recognition for their service to others in their groups. As we end 2022, we would like to showcase a few of these guys and gals who are representative of our membership as a whole. Sincere gratitude goes out to them and all our members for employing their sewing talents, organizational, technical and leadership skills, and their love for our veterans and service members to fulfill the mission of QOVF.

The purpose of Operation Gratitude is two-fold:

1. The Board was charged with an outreach effort connecting with State Coordinators a few times through the year via email or phone, and
2. to “cover our veterans and service members with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.”

In reality, our QOVF volunteers give 110% to fulfill our mission and sincere gratitude goes out to all of you. The QOVF Board of Directors extend our sincere appreciation to all for your efforts. Our success can be measured by the thousands of service members, retired and active duty, who are wrapped with a QOV, hugged and thanked for their service each year.

As 2022 draws to a close, there are a few members we would like to recognize and honor for their service, talents, and generosity.

• **Christie Hughes, Norwalk, CT.**

Connecticut is often described as a pass-through state as many travelers speed up the I-95 corridor on their way to points north in New England. If you are fortunate enough to not be in



Thank You for Your Service Quilt made by Sue Reich in gratitude to our nation's military.

a hurry, a few miles into Connecticut, just off the interstate in Norwalk, you'll find Christie's Quilting Boutique. Her charming shop on Main Street is chalk full of everything we quilters love. For seven years, Christie has been holding sew days and award ceremonies in her shop to honor our nation's veterans and military service members. She is



Quilts of Valor Award ceremony in Christie's Quilting Boutique, Norwalk, CT



Christie Hughes, quilt shop owner and longarm for Quilts of Valor.

responsible for 150 QOV awards to date! This year in October, Christie's benevolent spirit of patriotism was recognized by the Norwalk-Village Green Chapter, NSDAR, with the Community Service Award for her dedication to our nation's veterans and military service members. Congratulations Christie and thank you!



• **Cindy Hoover—Washington State Coordinator.**

Cindy spent her professional career in education and raising her three children. The service of her husband in the Navy, her brother in the Air Force during the Vietnam war, and her son's service in the Marine Corps inspired Cindy to begin making Quilts of Valor. Described as a QOV dynamo within the state of Washington, Cindy is always on the go representing the Foundation and awarding quilts to deserving veterans and military service members. In Cindy's own words "To me, honoring our veterans and active duty men and women by making comforting patriotic quilts is a most worthy way to use our skills and time." Strong work, Cindy, and thank you!



Washington State Coordinator, Cindy Hoover and her Navy veteran husband, Alan.

• **IT Committee.**

For two years, a few dedicated QOVF members with IT (aka super human) skills have been developing, troubleshooting, and teaching the new QOVF Nomination and Award

continued on page 6

Management System (NAMS). NAMS is the proprietary system that QOVF uses to conduct our business to make and award Quilts of Valor. In the training phase at last, the system is designed for simplicity of use and will focus on tracking and management from the nomination through awarding and award reports. It will eventually be used by all QOV members to make everyone's lives easier.

This giant step forward by QOVF could not have been possible without the Herculean effort and dedication of Les Wallace and his team: Suzanne DiCarlo, Sheila Gordon, Susan Lane, and Elayne Gassett. These IT team members are already familiar to so many of you. They wear many hats of responsibility essential to running the QOVF. They are tried and true volunteers who always raise their hands and pitch in to raise the QOVF to new levels of excellence. Their job is ongoing until everyone gets up to speed on the new process. With the patience and perseverance shown by these behind-the-scenes' volunteers, QOV will be functioning at a more efficient level.



Les Wallace assisting



Elayne Gassett and a Vietnam era Veteran



Suzanne DiCarlo



Susan Lane awarding a Quilt of Valor

27 QOVs AWARDED IN ONE DAY!

Submitted by James T. Burns and Carol Ann R Burns

Our Athens Oconee QOV group awarded 27 QOVs on one day— November 11, 2022. We were pleased that the bagpiper was able to play at the first two presentations. The local high school JROTC cadets were present and assisted with all three presentations.

- Awarded to ten veterans in The Orchard, an assisted living facility at 10 AM.
- Awarded to ten veterans in the Presbyterian Village living facility at 1:30 PM.
- Awarded to seven veterans at the community building at the Franklin Grove subdivision at 5 PM.

It was an inspiring day for members of our local QOV sew group who were able to be present and such a heartwarming ceremony to witness. So that is a total of 27 QOV quilts awarded in one day. Veterans' families and friends were present where possible. Anne Flippan, our coordinator, worked hard with all veterans and families, the bagpiper, and high school cadets to get all presentations scheduled. The day was meaningful to all who were present. We are blessed to be able to do this for our very deserving veterans.

AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

SGT (Ret) Mitch joined the United States Army in 2001 and retired in 2014, serving his country with valor. Yakima Quilts of Valor Group awarded his QOV at the 2022 "Stand Down" Veterans Benefit Fair at the Sundome.

Members Barbara Jacobson and Larry Wilhelm helped award the quilt! This beautiful quilt was pieced by Linda Thomas, quilted by Renee Miles, and bound by Jeanne Kerrigan.



A TRIBUTE TO OUR QOV COORDINATOR

Submitted by Maryann Taliaferro

Our group, the Parnassus United Methodist Church QOV, gathers in the church monthly to enjoy a day of camaraderie as we sew QOVs. We tote our sewing machines, sewing tools, and our lunches as we arrive. We all pitch in to help Dianne Louvet, our coordinator, bring all the boxes, bags, bins, and scrap books from her vehicle. Meanwhile, two very efficient ladies from the church set up extension cords, ironing boards, irons, and tables with cutting mats. We always have "Show and Tell," as we ooh and aah as finished quilts are displayed. Then Dianne gives us our "marching orders" (unfinished projects or new kits) and away we sew, stopping occasionally for snacks or lunch.

Our wonderful coordinator has been a master quilter for years, having taught quilting at a local quilt shop for several years. Our group started in 2012 and, to date, have awarded over 400 quilts to local veterans as well as veterans statewide. Additionally, several have been sent to Walter Reed Hospital, the Wounded Warrior Unit at Ft. Campbell, Germany, Dubai, and other international military bases.

Dianne has apparently dedicated her life and her home to QOV for these past ten years. She has spent hours taking care of all the needs of our group: purchasing fabrics and batting; creating kits; keeping records of who has been assigned each kit; locating long-armers and delivering quilt tops, batting, and backing to them and subsequently retrieving the quilt sandwiches once they are finished being quilted. She makes sure that the original quilter gets the "sandwich" for binding, washing, and labeling. She ensures we have pillowcases for all quilts by assigning two or three quilters to make them. Dianne also oversees all expenditures and communicates all awards to QOVF. Dianne could run a military base as efficiently as any commanding general!

Dianne has a room where she has organized all of the quilts in progress,



the fabrics, and the mountains of scraps and orphan quilt blocks. Her wonderful husband Mike has been a staunch supporter of her dedication to our QOV group. Undoubtedly, he has been her partner in much of the "heavy lifting" over the years and has helped with award ceremonies.

With all the quilting at our monthly workshops, we amass bins of scraps and orphan blocks. Once scraps are relegated to the "bins," all these scraps now end up in the sewing room of one of our quilters! A friend of this person whose daughter worked at the local hospital had mentioned they needed hospice lap quilts for veterans. Apparently, this quilter is a puzzle nut and enjoys making "something out of nothing." Dianne set aside a monthly workshop for making the first round of these lap quilts. Labels are always affixed to the lap quilts, but we do not use the QOV name because we found we were not permitted to use them as official Quilts of Valor. We have delivered at least 75 lap quilts to Hospice, with another 25 expected in January 2023.

Dianne's health is not so good right now, so members of the group have helped in the relocation of all the quilting materials from her home to the church. Some of our quilters have



also had health issues, so we are now a smaller group. But we are not to be deterred! We learned from Dianne and will endeavor to carry on with her as a guide.

Dianne is our mainstay, and she isn't counting herself out of this love of QOV work. Fortunately, she has trained us so well that we are now able to do the "heavy lifting" and she can "coordinate" differently using her time and management skills. We hope other groups are also as lucky as this group!

THE 2,000TH QUILT OF VALOR AWARDED

*Submitted by Terry Austin,
Quad City QOV, IL*

I took the group leader position in 2012. It was offered because the former leader was moving to another state. I had initially turned the position down because my husband had just retired. He convinced me to take this position and said he didn't know anybody better for our vets. So, I took it, then he passed a year later. I could not have asked for a better legacy for my life.

This is the 10th anniversary for me as group leader, plus we hit our 2,000th awarded quilt. Sgt. Major Pat C. was thrilled to receive his QOV. He was drafted in December of 1969, with duty stations in Fort Gordo, GA; Fort Sill, OK; and Camp Page, South Korea. After separating he joined the Army Reserve and had several duty stations in the United States. He



retired in September 2002 but was recalled to active duty in February 2003 and deployed to Bagram Airbase

in Afghanistan. After returning from deployment, he continued to serve in the Reserves until his retirement in February 2010, completing 38 years of service. His awards and decorations include Army Reserve Overseas Training ribbon, Army Service ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve medal, Korean Defense Service medal, Afghanistan Campaign medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary medal, National Defense Service medal, Army Achievement medal, Army Commendation medal, Meritorious Service medal, Bronze Star and Legion of Merit.

So, thank you, Pat, for your service and sacrifice to our great nation and Welcome Home! Since this picture was taken, we have now awarded a total of 2,042 for the Quad City QOV group. There were about 10 in the group in 2012 and now I am blessed to have 70+ volunteers to help achieve this feat! I think my passion for Quilts of Valor has become contagious!

VETERAN ARTISTS HONORED

*Submitted by Sara Sherman,
Director of Strategic Partnerships
at Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services*

The Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services and the Maine Arts Commission hosted Veterans in the Arts and Humanities Day at the State House—Hall of Flags on November 1, honoring Maine's veteran artists whose works will hang in

the Cross Building through December. The event also included the reveal of the State of Maine Honorable Service Plaque, which honors all Maine veterans, past and present, regardless of their branch or era of service and was created by Georgette L. Kanach of Gray, ME. The Maine Quilts of Valor group presented handmade quilts to all of the veteran artists.



FEMALE COMMANDS "OLD IRONSIDES"

Submitted by Terri Solsbury,
Golden Quilts of Valor Trenton, Kentucky

In 1998, high schooler Billie Farrell posed for a photo beside the USS Constitution, the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat, while visiting Boston from her hometown of Paducah, KY. She had no idea, at that time, that she would become the 70th Commander and first woman to command the USS Constitution in its 225-year history.

Billie and her grandfather, Benny, both joined the Navy. Billie, a 2004 graduate of the Naval Academy, took command of the historic warship USS Constitution in January 2022. She is one of 70,000 active-duty women serving in the Navy and one of only 26 commanders.

The USS Constitution, "Old Ironsides," is a three masted, wooden hulled heavy frigate of the US Navy. The Constitution is the world's oldest ship still afloat. It was launched in 1797, one of six original frigates authorized for construction by the Naval Act of 1794 and the third constructed by command of George Washington.

One of Commander Billie's duties include traveling and recruiting for the Navy. In August of 2022 that duty brought her home to Paducah and allowed her time to visit with friends and family. On this visit, the Museum of the American Quilters Society and Golden Quilts of Valor hosted a QOV awards ceremony. In the company of her friends and family, including her



proud grandfather and fellow Naval veteran and old family friend Dr. Krause, she received her Quilt of Valor. The friendship between Dr. Krause

and her grandfather began during their service in the Navy when serving in Korea and has remained strong as they returned to civilian life after returning from the Korean War. During this time, Dr. Krause followed the naval career of Cmdr. Billie as well.

When Quilts of Valor came to Dr. Krause's attention, he took up needle and thread for the first time and made his first QOV for his friend Benny, Billie's grandfather. He has made many since then and remains an active member of Golden QOV based in Trenton, KY. Dr. Krause was instrumental in the ceremony and made the quilt for Billie, as he did for her grandfather.

THE MEANING OF SPECIAL MEDALS

By Ginger Fondren, Tennessee

I recently attended the funeral for my daughter-in-law's grandfather who was a Vietnam veteran and the recipient of the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, three Purple Hearts, and the Army Air Medal. During the service, the minister asked what the Bronze Star was for. Sadly, I did not know so I did a little research and found that in addition to the "regular" medals, there are approximately



20 different special medals which are given for service above and beyond the call of duty. We are often requested to honor veterans or service members who have received these medals. Over the

next few months, we will be publishing a series of articles regarding the specifics of particular medals. The information is taken from Wikipedia and The Veterans Site.

The Medal of Honor is the United States government's highest and most prestigious military decoration that may be awarded to recognize American soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, guardians, and coast guardsmen who have distinguished themselves by acts of valor. The medal is normally awarded

continued on page 10

by the president of the United States, but as it is presented "in the name of the United States Congress," it is often erroneously referred to as the "Congressional Medal of Honor."

There are three distinct variants of the medal: one for the Department of the Army, awarded to soldiers; one for the Department of the Navy, awarded to sailors and marines, as well as coast guardsmen of the Department of Homeland Security; and one for the Department of the Air Force, awarded to airmen and Space Force guardians. The Medal of Honor was introduced for the Department of the Navy in 1861, soon followed by the Department of the Army's version in 1862. The Department of the Air Force used the Department of the Army's version until they received their own distinctive version in 1965. The Medal of Honor is the oldest continuously issued combat decoration of the United States Armed Forces. The president typically presents the Medal of Honor at a formal ceremony intended to represent the gratitude of the American people, with posthumous presentations made to the primary next of kin.

QOV RETREAT

By QOVF Marketing

At the Piece Works Quilt Shop QOV Retreat in Winterset, IA, attendees worked together on the QOVF Mission: to cover Service Members and Veterans "touched by war" with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. Iowa State Coordinator, Kathy Jones, also attended and spoke with the group.

On the last day of the Piece Works Quilt Shop QOV Retreat, they honored Gary W., a military serviceman of the US Navy in 1961. Gary's neighbor, volunteer Lori Clark, videoed the award ceremony for his son and family. Gary's quilt was pieced by Jeri Beem, (the blocks were made by volunteer

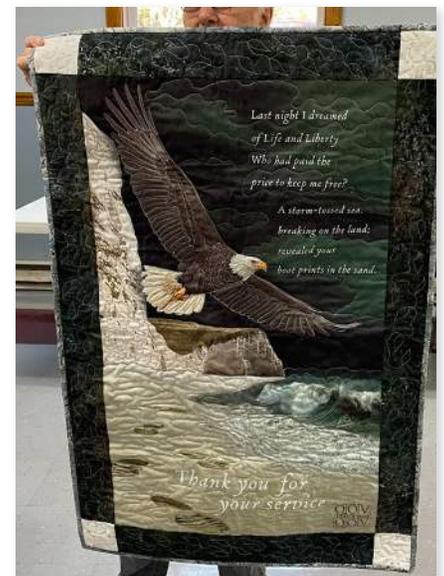


Lisa Samuelson of West Des Moines), quilted by volunteer Marlene Mullin of Creston, and bound by volunteer Ashley Haines of Winterset.



QOV PANEL GIVEN SPECIAL USE

Northeast PA Quilts of Valor group received the beautiful, donated panel from QOV, and they decided to do something a little different with it. They loved the panel and the saying so much that the group decided to turn it into a wall hanging that can be used at presentation award ceremonies. Group Leader Rebecca Orłowski stated: "The saying is just lovely and the appreciation for their service is such a nice sentiment that we wanted to be able to share with all our veterans, and not just in one quilt. It will make a beautiful backdrop for their photos and will help to raise awareness about the foundation." The wall hanging was completely made by Jan Davis.



WI ALUMNI SPEAKS AT UWSP CELEBRATION

by Mary Fawcett

Mary Fawcett from the Elroy ALA QOV was invited to do a presentation at the 120th Celebration of Home Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) on November 12, 2022. Mary, a December 1972 UWSP Home Economics Education graduate, was excited to accept the invite. The highlight of the event was the awarding of Quilts of Valor to three veterans with connections to UWSP - alumni Paul M. and John B. and Chancellor Emeritus Bernie S.

Paul received a letter from Uncle Sam requesting his service 10,000 miles from home. It was 1967 and he went to Fort Campbell, KY, for basic training. From KY Paul went to Fort Huachuca, AZ, an army fort established in 1877 as Camp Huachuca. In Arizona Paul trained for his Advanced Individual Training (AIT), driving trucks and jeeps. Paul drove in a convoy in the 533 Transportation Company serving in Thuduc, Vietnam, between Saigon and Bihn. One of his medals was from the 1968 TET Offensive, a major escalation and one of the largest military campaigns of the Vietnam War. Paul extended his service in Vietnam in order to secure an early discharge from the Army.

Using a slide presentation, Paul told junior and high school students about his service in Vietnam. Paul had two goals when discharged. One was to go to UWSP, which he did on the GI Bill. The other goal was to marry his high school sweetheart. Paul and his girlfriend Patricia were the junior prom king and queen and now have been married 53 years.

Paul's wife and his friend Jim Campbell, one of the co-founders of the Wausau Honor Flight, were in attendance to wrap Paul in his quilt. While Paul walked to the front of the room to be awarded, Mary played a YouTube video of the Lemon Pipers performing the Green Tambourine, the first song Paul heard when he arrived in Vietnam. Fittingly, Paul wore the uniform shirt he wore when he returned home from Vietnam. Paul's quilt was pieced by Gail Hitchcock



and Shirley Schweiger from the Elroy Nifty Needlers. It was long-armed by Kristy Bender, a volunteer long-armed also from Elroy, and bound by Joanne Wopat of the Elroy ALA QOV group. It was made from a jelly roll pattern.

Bernie enlisted in the Army in 1968 and packed his duffle bag and headed to Fort Leonard Wood, in the beautiful Missouri Ozarks. He received his AIT at Fort Holabird, MD. Fort Holabird was home to the U.S. Army Intelligence School and Counterintelligence Records Facility. Bernie was trained as a special agent in military intelligence, charged with protecting our nation's secrets. When Mary asked if he had any personal stories he could share, he said they were "classified" and that he was proud to have served. He did not wear a uniform.

In addition to Fort Holabird, Bernie was stationed at Fort Walton Beach, FL. Fort Walton Beach is not an Army fort; it is a resort town. Bernie worked in an office in downtown Fort Walton Beach and received logistical support from nearby Elgin Air Force Base.

According to the Army, Military Intelligence Special Agents must be at least 20 years old at the time of training and pass top-secret clearance. Persons must be personable, mature, effective communicators who possess strong analytical thinking capabilities and have exceptional writing skills as these will be important components of their job. They must be self-motivated and have the ability to conduct thorough research and make sound judgments with

continued on page 12

minimal supervision. They should have good typing skills, good interpersonal skills, be willing to work with people, be open-minded, flexible and able to manage their time. These sound like traits and skills that a college chancellor should have!

Bernie was wrapped in his quilt by friends John and Patty while Patty serenaded the Chancellor Emeritus with the tune "Secret Agent Man." Bernie's quilt was pieced and bound by Jeanne H. and quilted by Amanda H., both from River Falls, and given to our state coordinator for a deserving veteran.

In 1965, John was enrolled at UWSP. When his adviser saw that John,

aka Brandy, was enjoying himself too much and not taking his studies very seriously, he advised John to take a semester off to think about his future. During that semester, John got a letter from Uncle Sam requesting his service.

John was sent to Fort Leonard Wood, MO, for basic training and Fort Polk, LA, for infantry training. At Fort Polk there was a mock Vietnam Village for training. This was a very challenging place for the scared young infantrymen. John said it turned out to be very accurate to the conditions he served. In Vietnam John served in the light infantry, operating a 11B40-M60 machine gun. He served in the First Infantry Division, The Big Red, Second Unit of the 18th Battalion, Company A. He served in the Central Highlands of

Vietnam with their main base at Dian.

When asked what medals and awards John earned, his response was that he didn't want any mention because they belonged to the guys that did not make it home. He added that he was proud to have served with them. John was discharged in 1968 and returned to UWSP on the GI Bill, graduating in December 1971.

John's quilt was pieced by Deb Binger and given to our state coordinator to award. It was quilted by Carol Fischer from Mauston and bound by Karen Bollig.

Thank you, Paul, Bernie, and John, for safeguarding our freedom, raising your right hands, and agreeing to serve. Welcome Home!



PARTNERS CORNER

American Quilt Society

AQS is gearing up for their 2023 Quilt Week shows. QOVF will host a booth at all five national shows in Daytona Beach, Branson, Grand Rapids, Paducah, and Des Moines. Quilts from QOVF's new book, *All-Star Quilts of Valor*, will be a featured exhibit at the Daytona Beach, Branson, and Paducah shows. Registration is already open for the first two shows in 2023. For more information, go [here](#).

AccuQuilt has something each week. Check out the FREE Virtual Events



from AccuQuilt and register to win door prizes at every event! <https://www.accuquilt.com/events>

Foust Textiles

Foust Textiles is a fabric wholesaler that has been offering discounts for QOVF groups for several years. The company is a strong supporter and works closely with QOVF groups to source fabric for QOVs. QOVF is grateful for Foust Textiles' support! For more information about how your QOVF group can buy discounted fabric, look for the Foust vendor guide on the member dashboard on the QOVF website at www.qovf.org.



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: 30,978

Total: 333,690

(from date of first recorded award through
 3 DECEMBER 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 QOVF, see www.QOVF.org

For more information about the BOD, the QOVF staff, and how to contact your State Coordinator go to www.qovf.org/about-qovf/meet-us/

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