



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Lori Thompson

It is hard to believe we are almost two months into 2023! I do believe time flies when you are having fun. From what I have observed, our QOVF group members and QOV recipients had a fun year full of great experiences and moments.



Lori Thompson  
Executive Director

QOVF had a strong finish in 2022 and is gearing up for a historical and exciting year in 2023! In 2022 members created and awarded 33,349 Quilts of Valor®, exceeding 30,000 awards for the second year in a row. It is exciting to think about how many veterans and active-duty service members were wrapped in quilts. Thank you to all of you who made these awards possible!

This year, we have many exciting milestones to look forward to and celebrate! This biggest milestone is QOVF's 20th Anniversary. This means QOVF has been offering comfort and healing to Quilt of Valor recipients for two decades, and that is something to truly celebrate! I am looking forward to the 20th Anniversary QOVF Conference in Paducah, KY, on September 13-15, 2023. Conference and registration information will be shared next month, so keep an eye on your

email and our March *Threads* issue for more information.

It is great to hear how many of you are planning to come. Many conversations I've had about the conference have ended with "See you in Paducah!" I think it's a great sentiment and it makes me smile every time I hear it.

This year, another big milestone is the 350,000 Quilt of Valor award. We think the award will happen sometime this late spring/early summer. Like the 300,000 QOV, we'll encourage anyone interested to award an honorary quilt and share stories about the quilt recipient.

Our Take 5 event returns on May 20, 2023. Our QOVF supporters and members will have the chance to don their athletic shoes and quilt notions to run, walk, and block again to raise awareness about QOVF and our mission. Look for registration information coming soon.

These are just a few events that are coming up. It's going to be a very special year and I feel very privileged to experience it with you all! It's always inspiring to hear about QOVF's past and the continued commitment and contributions of our members and supporters.

So, let's make this a great year! Please reach out to me at [executive.director@qovf.org](mailto:executive.director@qovf.org) if there's anything I can do to help you make it a great year. I'll look forward to experiencing it all with you and seeing you in Paducah!

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

### SAVE THE DATE

by QOVF Marketing

Save the date to celebrate the QOVF 20th Anniversary Conference in Paducah, KY, on September 13-15, 2023. The three-day conference will kick off with a private reception at the National Quilt Museum and a 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 when the quilts will be awarded to area veterans and active-duty service members.

On Thursday the 14th, QOVF will open the 20th Anniversary conference with a keynote address and luncheon. Both days will feature speakers,



## ANNIVERSARY

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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.

Paducah 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. Be on the lookout for more information in next month's *Threads* issue and your email inbox. We hope to see you in Paducah!

## UP TO THE CHALLENGE

by Jennifer Winkler

On a Saturday in November, members of the Jefferson City Quilters, a local chapter that creates and awards veterans with Quilts of Valor throughout the Lakeway Area in East Tennessee, had their diligence and hard work generously rewarded.

Last fall, an anonymous supporting member of the group, who now lives out of state, posed a challenge to all 30 members: anyone who completes 10 quilts in one year will be awarded \$500. Unclear if there would be one recipient or multiple, all members set to work with their usual fervor completing 184 quilts this year! The group's Christmas party opened with a presentation of awards for five quilters who had successfully completed the challenge. The winners were Shirley Dominick, Tracy Ray, Tonia Collins, Kathy Juroff, and Helen Bailey.

"We were amazed," said member Helen Bailey, speaking on behalf of all recipients, "we thought it was only for



the first person to finish ten quilts!" The winners were already talking about planning a shopping trip to purchase fabric for their group's purpose: making more quilts for area veterans.

Bailey offered a few tips for how one might find the time to complete a quilt, let alone ten:

- Having a dedicated workspace or sewing room is helpful, but not necessary;
- Work in chunks of time, such as 30 minutes, especially if spare time is difficult to come by between work,

family, and other obligations;

- Have the project in mind or a portion of it prepped to focus on; and finally,
- Pet the cat first so they hopefully won't linger as long on your workstation where your attention will be focused.

If you are interested in sewing with the group or know of a veteran that has not received a Quilt of Valor, please contact Kathleen VanOrsdel at 865-262-8019.

**BENEFACTOR PANEL  
TRANSFORMED**

Another beautiful example of the Board of Director benefactor panel getting incorporated into the award presentations of a QOVF group, this one by the Freedom Stitchers of Iowa. A QOV was awarded a few months ago and the spouse of that veteran was so impressed with the organization that she joined their group. That spouse was the longarmer of this beautiful banner.



**“CHOSIN FEW”**

*Submitted by Lauri Leirdahl, QOVF BOD Secretary and Stars and Stripes member, Olympia, WA.*

In a quiet, small town in Grays Harbor County, Washington, lives an unassuming hero. On Saturday, December 5, 2022, James E. and his wife invited me into their home. It was standing room only as their friends and family gathered to share in this celebration and watch James receive a Quilt of Valor. Rita filled the kitchen with snacks, cakes, and coffee. Seated in his recliner, 95-year-old Corporal James welcomed everyone with a smile and a hug. The natural chatter in the room quieted as I described his service.

Corporal James joined the Merchant Marines and served from 1945-1947. In 1949 he joined several of his friends in Baker Company of the 11th Infantry Battalion of the US Marine Corps Reserve where he served from 1949-1952.

In August 1950, his reserve unit was mobilized to re-enforce the 1st Marine Division. After boot camp training at Camp Pendleton, he deployed to Korea arriving in November 1950 as part of the replacement troops for 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, 1st Division. He was assigned as an ammunition bearer in Baker Company’s machine gun platoon. His unit was sent to seize high ground on Hill 1081. Corporal James was awarded the Purple Heart and the



Korean Service Medal with two service stars.

What an honor and privilege it was to wrap this amazing veteran in his Quilt of Valor. He was one of the “Chosin few” who fought in one of the United States’ most historic battles—the battle of the Chosin Reservoir.

The Korean war is often described as the forgotten war. Cpl James has not forgotten the war and his friends and family have not forgotten him. John Hughes authored an article about James. It can be found [here](#).

I could not have chosen a better way to spend an afternoon.

**ONLY IN ALASKA**

*by Patricia Livingston*

Another “only in Alaska.” What a great way to finish the year. On New Year's Eve, at the outdoor ice rink in Talkeetna, Alaska, under the lights at a local hockey game, Quilts of Valor were presented to brothers-in-law Jacob, U.S. Navy, and Andrew, US Army. Claire, member of Forget-Me-Not Quilters of Alaska, made the presentations. Claire was also the quilt maker of both quilts. Thank you, gentlemen, for your service.



## WOMEN VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATED IN WASHINGTON

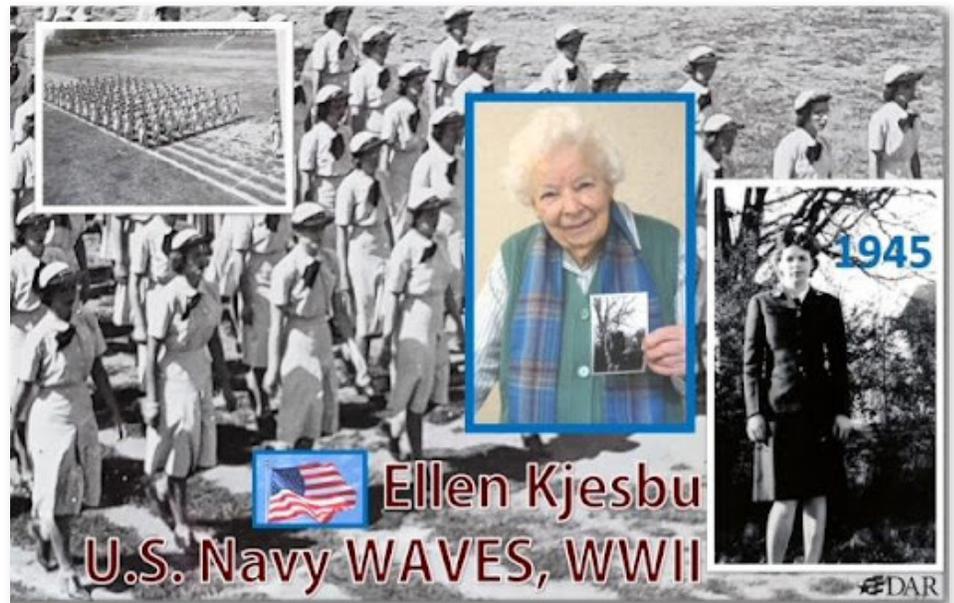
Submitted by Lauri Leirdahl, QOVF BOD Secretary and Stars and Stripes member; and Carolyn Miles, the American History Chairman for the Sacajawea Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Stars and Stripes member, Olympia, WA.

Carolyn was the emcee for a celebration where 100-year-old Ellen was presented with the Women in American History Award on Washington's first Women's Veteran Day 2022. As part of the ceremony, Carolyn asked fellow Stars and Stripes QOV group members (WA State Coordinator Cindy Hoover, BOD Lauri Leirdahl, and Group Leader Sherry Houser) to help award Ellen a Quilt of Valor.

Ellen and five of her eight siblings served in the US military. In July 1942, President Roosevelt signed the Navy Women's Reserve Act, designed to be a temporary service for the war's duration, plus six months. The service was commonly known as the WAVES—Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service. After hearing women were going to be conscripted, Ellen voluntarily joined the US Navy as a WAVE in 1944.

The Navy sent Ellen to Hunter College in New York for training, along with thousands of other women for military desk jobs, with the intent of freeing up the deskbound men for combat. While in the WAVES, Ellen was stationed at the Tongue Point Naval Air Station near Astoria, Oregon, and worked at the bottom of the flight tower. This is where flight training took place during the war. Though Ellen would love to have served directly in air traffic control, being a woman, she was assigned to a support role, collecting flight plans from the lead pilots, and recording them. During her service, she worked in various clerical positions and in the officers' club.

After WWII, she married, had two children, and worked a career with the State of Washington. She and her husband built a house/garage, planted fruit trees, and raised an annual garden. She is active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of Norway, and the Lutheran Church. In



her long life, she has served her family, community, and nation.

This Women in American History award presented to Ellen consisted of a medal with Ellen's name engraved on the back, along with a certificate.

The Women in American History award is given to women of outstanding achievement and can be awarded to both living recipients and posthumously to the family of the honoree.

## HYVEE GIVES BACK!

by QOVF Marketing

For the months of January and February, the Quilts of Valor Foundation was selected as the beneficiary of the HyVee Reusable Bag Program! QOVF will receive \$1 for every \$2.50 red "My Heart Bag" sold at HyVee, 923 North 1st Street, Winterset, IA. For those of you not located in Winterset, IA, anyone who purchases a bag in January and February can go online using the address on the bag tag and ask that their donation go directly to QOVF.

HyVee operates more than 240 retail stores in eight Midwestern states, including Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Find a [store](#) near you.



## KOOTENAI VALLEY CELEBRATES VETERANS DAY

Submitted by Mary Lou Goodpaster

On November 11, Veterans Day 2022, with the support of Libby VFW Post # 1548, the Kootenai Valley Quilt Guild presented Quilts of Valor to 25 veterans. One hundred twenty veterans and guests were served a delicious meatloaf dinner prepared by the friends of the VFW. During the touching presentation, a brief history and slide show described each veteran, who was then presented their quilt by the individual quilter. Recipients included veterans from WWII to the Afghanistan Conflict, representing the US Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

The Kootenai Valley Quilt Guild has partnered with Libby VFW to provide quilts to local veterans and are proud to be a part of recognizing the commitment and sacrifice they have given. The Guild has been a part of the community for over 30 years. The members include women from all backgrounds and a variety of quilting interests. To date, the Guild has awarded over 50 QOVs to veterans who are connected to Libby and the surrounding areas.

Another QOV presentation is being planned for May of 2023. If you are a veteran, or know of a veteran that would like to receive a QOV, please contact the Kootenai Valley Quilt Guild at [kvqglibby@gmail.com](mailto:kvqglibby@gmail.com).



## QOVF SHOP: ALL-STAR QUILTS OF VALOR: 25 PATRIOTIC PATTERNS FROM STAR DESIGNERS

by QOVF Marketing

The *All-Star Quilts of Valor: 25 Patriotic Patterns from Star Designers* book is available in our QOVF Shop. The cost is \$24.99 + \$5 media mail shipping. All proceeds from the book purchased directly from QOVF or from a QOVF group will go back into QOVF's mission of awarding Quilts of Valor.

The book features 25 quilt 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 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.



**QUILT OF VALOR® DESIGN  
COLLABORATION WITH ELECTRIC  
QUILT COMPANY**  
by QOVF Marketing

From now until July 4, 2023, QOVF members and supporters can share QOVs designed in EQ software to enter a contest to win a prize pack. For contest rules and instructions on how to submit your design and quilt photos, click [here](#).

At the end of the collaboration, two winners will be chosen (1 by EQ and 1 by QOVF) 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 QOVF, will receive a super bundle of Northcott Stars and Stripes fabric consisting of 13 one-yard pieces, a panel, and a \$100 American Express gift card. All winners will also receive a copy of the new QOV book, *All-Star Quilts of Valor: 25 Patriotic Patterns*. 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. Contest rules can be found [here](#) on the Electric Quilt Company's blog.

**EQ Software Discount Code**

If you don't own EQ's 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.



**EQ8 DESIGNED QUILT**

*Submitted by Cindy Meyer,  
Glory Quilters QOV*

As part of the EQ8/QOVF QOV design partnership, I designed a quilt submission and awarded the quilt on January 2 to James J., a Vietnam era veteran and member of the Lake Country Detachment Marine Corps League. I told him that if his quilt wins, I would NOT share the fabric prize with him. He was fine with that arrangement!

The Glory Quilters also awarded eleven other QOVs to members of the Lake Country Detachment on that day. Not all eleven were able to be in attendance. Happy New Year!



**SOUTH DAKOTA CAPITOL  
SHOWCASES QOVF AT  
CHRISTMAS**

*Submitted by Ardys Roseland, Flag  
Mountain Honor Guard Group*

The South Dakota State Capitol displays themed Christmas trees every year and this year QOV Flag Mountain Honor Guard group of Pierre, SD, had the pleasure of decorating one special tree, featuring handmade ornaments from their QOV fabric along with award photos (with recipients' permission, of course). The tree was on display through the 2022 holiday season.



## WWII VETERAN RECOGNIZED FOR HIS SERVICE

Submitted by Cindy Meyer,  
Glory Quilters Group Leader

On December 4, 2022, the Glory Quilters were honored to award a Quilt of Valor to Richard R., a 101-year-old WWII veteran. Richard is one of the last living aircrew members of the US Navy Blimp Squadrons that were a key part of the Battle of the Atlantic. It is hard to believe, but 81 years ago, the coastal waters of the United States were a war zone. Born and raised on a farm in Nottoway, VA, Richard was in trade school in Wisconsin when he volunteered for the Navy. Ironically, while he was in Navy boot camp, he received notification from the Draft Board telling him he was categorized "1A" or a priority for draft selection.



Richard dropped several bombs during his service, some on suspected submarines, and others for training purposes. He sat between the pilot and co-pilot and was the one to drop the bombs. He also worked on the rudders. The pilot and navigator set the course and the blimp was flown by compass.

Richard was honorably discharged on December 23, 1943, with a little over three years of service that included more than 2,300 hours in the air. His squadron conducted over 7,300 flights logging more than 81,500 hours in the air while escorting 3,791 allied naval and merchant ships through submarine infested waters.

He returned home, met the love of his life and raised a family. He loves to talk about his time in the service and was honored to be presented his Quilt of Valor which includes a patch from his ZP-21 Blimp Squadron.

## PARTNERS CORNER

### American Quilt Society

AQS kicks off their first 2023 Quilt Week in Daytona Beach this month. Join QOVF at the Daytona Beach AQS show, February 22-25, 2023. The quilts from QOVF's latest book, *All Star Quilts of Valor* will be featured in a special show exhibit. For more information or to purchase tickets, go [here](#).

AccuQuilt has something each week. Check out the [FREE Virtual Events](#) from AccuQuilt and register to win door prizes at every event!



### Letters From Home

The Letters From Home Singers kicked off their 2023 50 State Tour last month. QOVF is partnering with LFHS to award Quilts of Valor® at their performances. Look for your local QOVF group at a performance near year. You can find ticket information [here](#).

### Electric Quilt

The Electric Quilt QOVF collaboration is still in full swing. Share your QOV designed in EQ software through July 4, 2023, to enter a contest to win some fabulous prizes. You can find more information and enter [here](#).

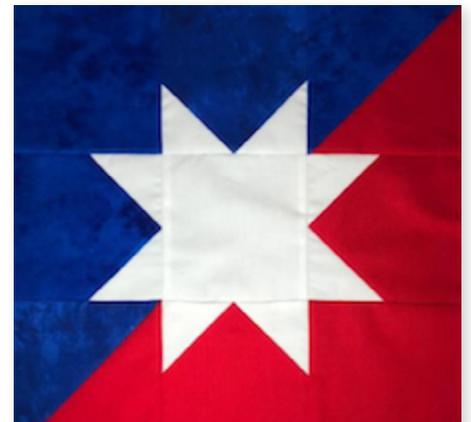
## 2023 NATIONAL BLOCK DRIVE by QOVF Marketing

In 2022, QOVF received over 7,000 Floating Churn Dash blocks. Without the support of our members and the many individuals, guilds, and organizations, we would not be as far along in our mission of wrapping our military veterans and service members in comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. This year's 2023 pattern is Split Back Star Block. The Split Back Star

Block was designed and written by Kim DiJoseph.

We cannot wait to see the many photographs of quilts using the 2023 block and will feature them monthly. On social media, you can use the following hashtags to be featured: #QOVFNationalBlockDrive2023 and #QOVFSplitBackStarBlock.

Click [here](#) for instructions. Click [here](#) for more information about mailing your blocks.



## WHAT IS OUTREACH COMMITTEE?

*Outreach Committee: Nancy Cann, Ginger Fondren, Maggie Klenke, and Lori Thompson*

An Outreach Committee was formed from an idea Sue Reich (QOVF BOD president) had during the July 2021 Gold Star Mothers (GSM) annual conference attended by Sue, Nancy Cann and Ginger Fondren, for the purpose of promoting QOVF membership and awarding Quilts of Valor to veteran members of GSM. The ideas discussed during this conference supported creative means by which we can reach out into the greater community to form partnerships with groups and businesses that share our mission and goals to honor veterans. We have grown in concept to also include programs to support the making of the quilts by whatever means we dream up and gain the support of the Executive Director.

Outreach supports partnerships with **American Quilters Society (AQS)** and **Original Sewing and Quilting Expo (OSQE)** trade show booths. Complimentary booths are offered to QOVF to display Quilts of Valor, engage with guests to promote QOVF, opportunities for fundraising, as well as stage opportunities to award Quilts of Valor. Recently OSQE has offered us additional booth space to sponsor "Build a Block", giving show attendees the opportunity to sit and sew a block to be sewn into a Quilt of Valor. We work with other trade shows on show-by-show evaluation to ensure we support each other's missions.

**Homes For Our Troops**, ([hforusa.org](http://hforusa.org)), another partnership, invites QOV to attend their Key Ceremonies to award a Quilt of Valor to a severely injured veteran. A Key Ceremony is the transfer of the keys of the fully adapted home, built specifically for the veteran, from the HFOT organization to the veteran. It is a changing moment in their lives. We often have a short time from notification of the upcoming Key Ceremony to the date of the ceremony. We depend on you, the quilt makers and awarders, to make sure we can cover

## PIECEMAKERS AWARD 10 QOVs IN TEXAS

*by Debbie Stubbs*

Ten Quilts of Valor were awarded to church members at the Clifton Church of Christ, in Clifton, TX, on

December 18, 2022, after their morning church service. These men are members of my church family and are very important to me. I am an individual member of QOV and a member of Texas Patriotic Piecemakers—QOV.



these events. You have consistently not disappointed.

**Letters From Home (LFH)** learned of our organization and sought a partnership with QOVF to invite members the opportunities to share information about Quilts of Valor during their 50 State USO-style show and provide a venue to award a QOV or two. This venue type is a first for QOV and we are learning as we go. Again, we depend on our member participants to help make this a successful experience for the veterans.

**Mystery Quilts** was an "Inreach." We wanted to offer a fun way to encourage

the making of quilts. Although there were a couple of glitches, we count the two mystery quilt experiences as successful, and most participants related positive outcomes. Thank you for your participation. We look forward to offering a new experience soon.

To date the Outreach Committee has created several partnerships and others are in the planning stages. We are looking forward to working with **Tunnels to Towers**, **Gold Star Mothers**, and we have a **Block Of the Month** quilt experience in the planning. Thank you for your support.

## AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

Yakima QOV Group awarded eleven veterans with healing and comforting QOVs. MSgt Retired Billy K., a Vietnam war veteran, pinned our veterans with the Vietnam War Commemorative pin and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Such beautiful quilts from volunteers and members of our group.

Veteran Cpl Samuel served his country four years stateside during the Cold War, right after the Vietnam War. Surrounded by family, he was awarded his QOV on January 28th by Yakima Quilts of Valor Group 79602 members June Wentz and Ellena Hazen.



Veteran Bruce served his country during the Vietnam War in the US Air Force. With family and friends present, he was awarded his QOV at American Legion Post 209, Moses Lake, WA, in January 2023 by QOV member Tereica Kaumheimer.



On Friday, December 12, 2022, three members of the Parchment, Michigan, postal service were awarded QOVs. Sue Fender, a member of Sew Happy Scrappers and fellow postal worker, made the award prior to their daily deliveries! During the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, when they are making sure mail and packages are getting to us, it was gratifying to know that we could "deliver" these special quilts in honor of their service.



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
2023:	2,082
<hr/>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>338,143</b>
<i>(from date of first recorded award through 28 JANUARY 2023)</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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**Executive Staff**  
Executive Director  
Lori Thompson  
[lori.thompson@qovf.org](mailto: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](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 go to [www.qovf.org/about-qovf/meet-us/](http://www.qovf.org/about-qovf/meet-us/)

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**Newsletter**

Lori Thompson, *Editorial Director*  
Lou Ann Lee, *Editor*  
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Maureen Gregorie, *Proofreader*

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