



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Lori Thompson

Last month, I had the privilege of seeing the *All-Star Quilts of Valor®* exhibit at the Daytona AQS show. I made a point to come early one morning to walk the exhibit quietly before the crowds entered the building. The quilts were beautiful, something very special to see in person! I was awestruck looking at each lovely quilt and taking in all the unique details of each quilt.



Lori Thompson  
Executive Director

As I walked the exhibit, I kept thinking about all the stitches and care that goes into all Quilts of Valor. I thought of our QOVF community and how we all come together to make

Quilts of Valor and wrap them around our veterans and service members' shoulders. I thought about how we are all part of something greater than ourselves.

Community is one of QOVF's greatest strengths. Our community is vast and diverse as we all come from different parts of the country and connect to QOVF in different ways. Many of us use different quilting techniques to accomplish the same goal - creating Quilts of Valor. But there's one thing that unites us: the belief in our mission to offer comfort and healing to veterans and service members.

Our QOVF community is a place for everyone who wants to help us fulfill our mission. That includes quilters, longarmers, those that love to award quilts, and those who are expert organizers keeping us all moving forward and on track, as well as those who don't quilt but who want to be a part of what we do.

Sometimes being part of a community can be challenging. We may not always agree on things or may feel like there's a better way to do things. When that happens, it's my hope that we all will work things out together, respectfully and kindly. I encourage us all to remember our mission and find a place for those who want to be a part of our community and leverage their unique talents.

I also encourage us to invite others into our community. It's a great time to connect others to QOVF! With QOVF celebrating its 20th Anniversary and the upcoming 350,000th quilt award, we have a lot to celebrate and offer. So, I encourage you to reach out to anyone interested in joining a local group or to an organization that may be a great partner in your community.

Thank you for being a part of this great QOVF community!

## AQS SPECIAL EXHIBIT FEATURES ALL-STAR QOV'S

The quilts from QOVF's new *All-Star Quilts of Valor®* book are featured in a traveling exhibit at three of the American Quilter's Society shows this year. The exhibit launched at the AQS Daytona Show, February 22-25, and will be featured at the AQS Branson Show, March 22-25, and the AQS Paducah Show, April 26-29. The exhibit is open to attendees at the show and is included in the admission price.

The *All-Star Quilts of Valor* book and exhibit feature Quilts of Valor from quilt industry designers, several who have supported QOVF through the years. At Daytona, designer and author Sue Reich and designer Robin Koehler were at the show signing books. Sue serves as QOVF's Board Chair and Robin serves as a QOVF Board Member.

After the AQS Show in Paducah, the quilts from the exhibit will go to the National Quilt Museum for a special

exhibit through Veterans Day 2023. These quilts will be awarded as Quilts of Valor to local veterans and service members. QOVF members attending QOVF's 20th Anniversary Conference will be able to see the exhibit at a special reception to kick off the conference.

The *All-Star Quilts of Valor* book is for sale on QOVF's [website](https://www.quilts-of-valor.org/) as well as at QOVF's booth at the AQS shows in Branson and Paducah, and the AQS booth at the Des Moines show in September 2023.

## FENDER BENDER BRINGS VETERANS TOGETHER

Submitted by Ellie Mills,  
Mid-MS Coordinator

What do Olney, IL, Atlanta, GA, and Raymond, MS, have in common? It's easy, veterans Robert B. and Delores M. who met accidentally during a fender bender in Atlanta. After checking for damages, they hit it off. Robert was a trucker out of Atlanta and Delores was traveling through the area. But there's more...

Delores is an avid quilter and works with the Olney Quilters awarding Quilts of Valor to veterans. When she returned to Olney, she and her friends made this beautiful QOV for Robert. She contacted me to see if I could do the award. Lucky me!! I was able to meet Robert and his lovely wife Sherry.

Robert entered the Air Force out of high school and went immediately to Okinawa. Later he served in the Mississippi Air National Guard. He was on our first line of defense as a trucker during Covid and recently retired from the truck line. What an honor it was to award this quilt to him.



Thanks to all who support the Quilts of Valor Foundation. The smiles of appreciation from our veterans are heartwarming. Quilts not only provide

warmth, but they also provide healing. Please go to [www.QOVF.org](http://www.QOVF.org) and see how you can contribute to this worthy organization.

---

## PARTNERS CORNER

### Northcott Fabrics

Northcott Fabrics has been a longtime supporter of QOVF, donating proceeds from sales from their Stonehenge QOVF line. To view the current fabric collection go [here](#).

### American Quilt Society

AQS hosts their next quilt show in Branson, MO, in March 2023. QOVF will host a booth there and 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 50 State Tour continues. QOVF is partnering with LFHS to award Quilts of Valor® at their performances. Look for your local QOVF group at a performance near you. 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](#).



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER HAMP VISITS LOCAL GROUP

*By Diane Watters, Group Leader,  
Greater Spokane QOV Group, WA*

Chris Hamp, QOVF BOD member, with her husband Duane, joined the Greater Spokane QOV group to see our group in “boots on the ground” action on National Sew Day. Chris, who joined QOVF as a Board Member last year lives in the Spokane area. The 22 members attending the event participated in all phases of quilt preparation. Stations were set up for sewing, binding, backing preparation, and quilt top inspections. Our group was formed in November of 2013 and to date has awarded almost 1,000 QOVs to area veterans. Chris and Duane, along with Bonnie Mitson (also an area Grange & QOVF member), recently donated a roll of batting to our group. Member & group sponsor, Mattie Arnold of Hogwild Quilting, also attended the gathering and continues to offer support for the group. Many thanks to all who are dedicated to



*22 of the 61 members gathered on February 4th for National Sew Day.*



supporting our group in the fulfillment of the QOVF mission!

## NATIONAL CHAPLAIN AWARDED QUILT OF VALOR

*Submitted by Lou Ann Lee, ND State  
Coordinator & Stitching Hearts QOV group*

Over the last several years, my husband and I have attended every winter conference and annual convention for the American Legion in North Dakota. This year, on the night prior to the start of the winter conference, there was a special recognition banquet for the gentleman who had been elected last fall at the National Convention of the American Legion in Indianapolis to be the National Chaplain for the coming year. We had met Mark years earlier when he served as the ND American Legion Chaplain. When I heard that Mark A. was going to be recognized, I knew I needed to check to see if he had ever been awarded a Quilt of Valor.

As we hear from so many veterans who are awarded Quilts of Valor, Mark did not feel he warranted being awarded a QOV. However, after talking to him, it became clear to me that his role over the years provided so much support to our troops over a period of 26 years. Mark served from 1977 to 2003 with the

Army in several different branches: the US Army Reserve, the US Army, and ND Army National Guard. During his military service, Mark was assigned to the 367th Combat Engineer Battalion; the 2nd Brigade out of Fort Jackson; NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium; and a medical group with the ND US Army Reserve. Mark concluded his career as a member of the ND Army National Guard from 1994 to 2003, retiring in 2003 at the rank of Major.

Mark spent his entire career listening, providing support, and ministering to service members and their families. In his 20+ years of counseling, Mark heard many life stories from soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guard members. He helped

prepare thousands of young soldiers for combat duty and said he held it a sacred trust to have heard the life stories of countless veterans, as well as the spouses and family members. Mark said the real heroes are those who endured the hardship on the battlefield.

It was an honor for our Stitching Hearts QOV group to award a QOV to this newly appointed National Chaplain. It was also a special night for me as I was able to personally meet one of my group leaders from the opposite corner of the State and have her assist me in wrapping Mark with his QOV since the conference was being held in the town where she lives. Prior to that night, we had only been phone and email acquaintances.



*Mark A., pictured with his wife and daughter, along with Lynn Heald, Peace & Honor QOV, and Lou Ann Lee, Stitching Hearts QOV.*



## MARINE PRESENTED HOME AT KEY CEREMONY

*Submitted by Sally Weeks*

I had the great privilege last October to present a Quilt of Valor to a young veteran who became disabled while serving in Afghanistan. I was initially contacted by a QOVF representative from Kentucky since I lived close to the veteran, at least that is what she hoped. Little did she know that this young Marine was being presented a new home in nearby Indiana by Homes For Our Troops ([www.hfotusa.org](http://www.hfotusa.org)), and that it was about a mile down the road from where I live. Once I learned this veteran had served in the Marine Corps, I knew that I wanted to make an extra special quilt. So, I checked my fabric stash, knowing I had a panel with a Marine Corps theme. From there, I made blocks and added the Corps logo at the top. He loved it and several family members talked to me after the event, telling me how much he appreciated it. It did my heart good to know I had made a special quilt for this young man, but also that I was able to attend such an event. This was the first home presented to a veteran by HFOT in Indiana, and it is beautiful! QOVF has partnered with HFOT so that all those veterans receiving homes also receive quilts at what is called the Key Ceremony (when the veteran officially receives the key to his or her home). What a wonderful partnership!



*Sally Weeks, a QOVF volunteer, awards veteran Bryan with a QOVF.*



*The new home near Attica, IN, built specifically for this former Marine's needs by HFOT.*

## THANK YOU HYVEE!

*Submitted by QOVF Marketing*

The QOVF team would like to thank all of you who purchased the "My Heart Bag" sold at HyVee, 923 North 1st Street, Winterset, IA, and those who made purchases at your local HyVee and asked your donation go to QOVF. A special thank you to the HyVee store in Winterset for selecting Quilts of Valor Foundation as their local charity for the months of January and February in their HyVee Reusable Bag Program.



## AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM

*Submitted by QOVF Marketing*

On February 20, 2023, Amazon ended its Amazon Smile program. Quilts of Valor Foundation would like to thank all who have supported us through Amazon Smile in 10 years of their program. For more ways to continue to support QOVF, please visit <https://www.qovf.org/donate/>. For various other ways to get involved in the QOVF mission, you can select the Get Involved tab on our website.

## NEW JERSEY WRAPS 74 VETERANS

*Submitted by Sharon Rendfrey  
New Jersey State Coordinator*

On Tuesday January 24, 2023, myself, along with eight members of the Turtle Creek Peacemakers Group from Hamilton, NJ, awarded 74 Quilts of Valor to residents of the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park in Edison, NJ. Of the 74 quilts presented, awardees consisted of 47 Korean War veterans, 15 WWII veterans and 12 Vietnam veterans.

The Turtle Creek Peacemakers are based in Central NJ and have about 22 members. Prior to this presentation, they had previously presented about 150 Quilts of Valor. Introductions and an overview of Quilts of Valor and Turtle Creek Peacemakers was made by the NJ State Coordinator. The names of the veterans were read by the Director of Recreation as each veteran was presented with their certificate and wrapped in their Quilt of Valor. The staff at the Veterans Memorial Home assisted in presenting and wrapping the veterans in their quilts. The staff was as excited for this event as the veterans. Some of the quilts will be presented to the veterans in their rooms by staff members due to various medical conditions.

Also present for the presentation were Vincent Solomeno, NJ Acting Deputy Commissioner of Military & Veteran Affairs; Robert Karabinchak, NJ State Assemblyman; Sharon McGreevey, Veterans Advocate for NJ State Senator Joe Vitale; Sam Joshi, Mayor Township



of Edison; Robin Goodrich, NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park Advisory Council Member, along with other members of the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs staff. "These quilts reflect not only the sacrifices of our military community, but the incredible heart of these volunteers who donated their time, quilting skills, and financial resources. The hours and care placed in every stitch reflect tremendous

dedication to our veterans and country," stated US Army Brigadier General Hou.

Five of the veterans who received QOVs will be turning 100 in 2023 and one will be turning 102 in November. US Navy veteran William C., a submarine rescue chief petty officer who served from 1952-1956, compared the experience of receiving one of the quilts to that of receiving a medal. "I've never seen anything like it, I feel proud, I want to cry ... really it's so nice to be recognized."

The Veterans Memorial Home has 188 veterans, so we anticipate returning in the future to present the remaining 114 veterans with quilts. A special thank you goes to Terry Dearden, DMAVA, and Christine Caratozzolo, Director of Recreation, for all their assistance in working with us in order to coordinate this event, which was a huge success.

## QOVF NATIONAL SEW DAY 2023

*Submitted by QOVF Marketing*

For over ten years, our members have gathered during QOVF National Sew Day to celebrate the community and our QOVF mission of awarding comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. Thank you to all who participated in QOVF National Sew Day. We loved seeing your photographs throughout the day and all the quilt guilds, organizations, and groups' stories. Our 2023 National Sew Day Facebook Live video is on our YouTube Channel. Click [here](#) to view the video..



For all who registered for our Sew Day event, we had an overwhelming 2,083 attendees which surpassed our 2022 total. To our Sew Day winners, you have been notified by email and prizes have been mailed in February or early March. Please contact [marketing@qovf.org](mailto:marketing@qovf.org) if you have not received your prize. Here is a full list of our Sew Day winners:

### Connecting Threads QOVF Sets

Nicole Zylstra, AL  
Carol Flax, CO  
Julia Cummings, AZ

*continued on page 6*



Diane Chambers, WA  
Sandra Fisher, TX  
**Warm and Natural Cotton Needled Batting**

Valerie Schissel, IL  
Patricia Holien, WA  
Lisa Montalbano, TN  
Regina Harris-Holcomb, TX  
Shelly Kice, TN  
Irene Klingemann, WI  
Marianne Woodside, OH  
Marty Kaminski, NC

**Northcott 10th Anniversary Stars and Stripes 10" layer cakes**

Sarah Yu, MD

**Wilmington Prints 5 Karat All**

**American Charm Packs**

Marcia Doyle, IL  
Linda Ashcraft, WV

**Eagle Panels for QOVF on Spoonflower**

Mary Steffen, NE  
Michelle Fennell, FL

Kathleen Cosand, TX  
Kerry Barnes, NY  
Sandra Olson, OR  
**Janome 3160 QOV Edition Sewing Machine**

Shelia Simpson, GA  
**Hancocks of Paducah Gift Card**

Renee Stewart, PA  
**David Textiles Panels—National Treasures Eagle Panel**

Karen Nichols, MI  
Ruby Shepley, PA  
Julie Sumner, WA  
Denie Picoult, OR  
Lauren Byrne, TN

**David Textiles—Heritage Panel**

Don Dixon, IA  
Ginger Michael, SC  
Nancy Bossi, NH  
Linda Scott, KY  
Nancy F. O'Neal, TX

**Northcott Chips**

Liz A Piacenti, IL  
Diana Leetch, CO  
Martha Stone, GA

Jean A Bower, NC  
Collene Munn, PA  
Linda Ashcraft, WV  
Linda Lively, TX  
Pam Hanson, SC  
Diann Gibson, TN  
Dawn Sharafi, OR  
Valerie Watkins, ID  
Lisa Conner, KS  
Stephany Schwartz, IA  
Melissa Ewing, NE  
Brenda Bunch, CA  
Tammy Cruickshank, MI  
Linda Heltz, AR  
Neoma Burch, WA  
Donna Martin, MO  
Diane D. Rankin, TX  
Mary Giusti, MA  
Katherine (Kathy) Abbott, TN  
Joyce Holm, NV  
Janice Puccio, NJ  
Cheryl Balconi, MI

**QUILT BUSINESS MEMBERS:**

**WHO'S IN MY AREA**

Submitted by QOVF Marketing

With the wide range of [QOVF Quilt Business Members](#) we have listed on our website, QOVF Marketing will be promoting up to five businesses per issue on *Threads* and one business weekly on QOVF social media platforms starting in March.

We are thankful to our Quilt Business Members for their continued support of QOVF. Their generosity, time, and talents are greatly appreciated and have gone a long way to help our members create and award over 30,000 quilts in 2022.



**North Central**

**First City Quilts LLC**

**Overview:** First City Quilts LLC is located in historical Leavenworth, KS, and has the largest selection of solids and blender fabrics in the KC Metro area.

**Contact Info**

514B Delaware Street  
Leavenworth, KS 66048  
[www.firstcityquilts.com](http://www.firstcityquilts.com)

6 March 2023

**Northeast**

**McDarla's Quilting Studio**

**Overview:**

McDarla's Quilting Studio is a longarm quilting service. Darla quilts for several charities. She is a member of the QOVF and enjoys volunteering for QOVF. She also would be happy to assist you in finishing your quilt of any size.



**Contact Info**

187 Hanson Ridge Road  
Springvale, ME 04083  
[mcdarlas.com](http://mcdarlas.com)

**Great Lakes**

**Quilt and Sew at Golden Threads**

**Overview:** Quilt and

Sew at Golden Threads is a friendly community gathering place where you will also find a large selection of 100% cotton fabrics, along with patterns, notions, tools, and other sewing essentials. They also provide a wide range of classes, clubs, and store events.



**Contact Info**

115 South Main St  
Trenton, KY 42286  
[www.quiltandsewatgoldenthreads.com](http://www.quiltandsewatgoldenthreads.com)

**Southeast**

**Sew Blessed Quiltworks**  
**Overview:**

Sew Blessed Quiltworks is a small, one-owner shop open to the public, focusing on those who are interested in sewing and quilting. They offer beginning and advanced quilting classes, longarm quilting services, a variety of fabrics and various sewing notions.

**SEW BLESSED QUILTWORKS**

**Contact Info**

201 Sparta Road, Suite A  
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659  
[www.sewblessedquiltworks.weebly.com](http://www.sewblessedquiltworks.weebly.com)

**Southern**

**Wooden Spool Boutique**

**Overview:**

Wooden Spool Boutique is a gourmet Quilt Shop where traditional meets contemporary. They offer quality quilting fabric, an extensive selection of notions, quilt kits, patterns, books, and so much more. They also offer quilting for the general public.



**Contact Info**

1601 N Grandview Ave  
Odessa, TX 79761  
[www.woodenspoolboutique.com](http://www.woodenspoolboutique.com)

**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 (one by EQ and one 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, one panel, and a \$100 American Express gift card. All winners will also receive a copy of the new QOV book, *AllStar 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. 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.

**JOIN QOVF FOR THE TAKE 5 ON  
MAY 20, 2023!**

We'll be running, walking and quilt blocking again this year. Take 5 means race participants can choose to run, walk, and/or make quilt blocks for Quilts of Valor. The race is a virtual 5K that benefits QOVF to support its mission to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. Race participants are encouraged to sign up now and to plan completing the race between May 13-20, 2023.

We're putting together a fun race pack that will include a special race



medal as well as some other surprises. Stay tuned to see what we include and for more news about the race.

To register click [here](#).

**BATON ROUGE CELEBRATES  
NATIONAL SEW DAY**

By Sherry Herringshaw

Once again local quilters met on the first Saturday in February to participate in the QOVF National Sew Day at St. John's Methodist Church in Baton Rouge. Sewing machines hummed as 37 participants stitched up quilts for local veterans from kits provided by The Giving Quilt and the Wasted Women's Bee. Several tops were completed during the day to a vigorous round of applause and are now ready for the quilting process. Several members took their kits home to be completed. Eight

local veterans were presented with their own QOV at the conclusion of the event. Family members and quilters visited over refreshments and posed for pictures.

The next few months will be busy. The tops started on Sew Day must be quilted and bound so they are ready to present to another group of veterans on another special day. It's an ongoing process. There are always quilts in the pipeline in various stages of construction.

For more information on quilting or nominating a local veteran to receive a QOV, contact [QOVF.org](http://QOVF.org) or [thegivingquiltinc.wordpress.com](http://thegivingquiltinc.wordpress.com).





## 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: 4,345

**Total: 340,406**

(from date of first recorded award through  
28 FEBRUARY 2023)



*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](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/)

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). Please  
include photo releases for all photos  
submitted.

Quilt of Valor®, Quilts of Valor®, and QOV® are registered trademarks of the Quilts of Valor® Foundation.