



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by *Lori Thompson*

This month we celebrate National Volunteer Month! Since 1974, National Volunteer Month has been celebrated across the country to recognize volunteer efforts and encourage others to volunteer. QOVF's mission has primarily been met



Lori Thompson
Executive Director

by volunteers for 20 years. Currently, QOVF has over 10,000 amazing volunteers who create and award an average of 30,000 Quilts of Valor® each year to our service members and veterans. Many of these volunteers also support QOVF by being part of QOVF's volunteer committees. I'd love to share more about their work today.

• **Regional, State, and District Coordinators**

We have over 90 volunteers who represent QOVF and spend many hours each month supporting groups and members in their areas. To thank your area coordinators, check out this [link](#) and consider emailing them a note of thanks.

• **The IT Review Committee**

This volunteer team works closely with staff and IT vendors to support QOVF IT systems. This team was responsible for a smooth NAMS transition for our recent nomination system conversion. They spent 1,000s of hours managing data, working closely with our IT vendor to design our new system, and manage the conversion.

Thank you to Les Wallace, Susan Lane, Elayne Gassett, Karen Northrup, Suzanne DiCarlo, and Susan Dombek!

• **Training Committee**

This knowledgeable group created and taught NAMS training to over 300 members. The team has created an online NAMS training and is now focusing on developing group leader training. Thank you to Karen Northrup, Debra Bennett, Susan Dombek, Darlene Berwick, Suzanne DiCarlo, Sheila Gordon, Les Wallace!

• **Outreach Committee**

This active committee coordinates coverage for over 50 quilt show booths across the country and coordinates external partnerships like Letters From Home, Homes for our Troops, and more. Thank you to Ginger Fondren, Nancy Cann, Maggie Klenke, and Sue Reich!

• **The 20th Anniversary Planning Committee**

This dedicated group has been working on our 20th Anniversary Conference for almost two years. They have been busy planning a fun conference to celebrate this big QOVF milestone. Thank you to Ruth Ann Bosworth, Pat Forshaw, Jackie McKinstry, Mary Kerr, and Sue Reich!

• **Threads Newsletter Team**

Each issue of Threads is created by our talented Newsletter Team. These volunteers are fantastic editors and designers who create this wonderful newsletter to share our members' and QOVF's stories in the best way possible. Thank you to Lou Ann Lee, Tony Jacobson, Maureen Gregoire, and Stephanie Tinnirello!

QOVF is blessed to have these

volunteers support our organization in these roles. I hope you'll join me in celebrating their efforts and the efforts of all our members and volunteers who ensure our veterans and service members are wrapped in Quilts of Valor. Happy National Volunteer Month!

NAVY VETERANS AWARDED AT LETTERS FROM HOME CONCERT

Submitted by Kathleen McCarthy
Group Co-Facilitator, Pocono Mountain PA QOV #88526

A great time was had by all during the Letters From Home—50 States Tour show at the Sherman Theater in Stroudsburg, PA, with QOVs being presented to husband & wife, Wilson & Julia G., veterans of the U.S. Navy. The QOVs were awarded by the newly formed group, the Pocono Mountain Quilts of Valor #88526, with fabrics donated by the Pocono Mountain Quilters Guild.



ACCUQUILT PROVIDES MORE SUPPORT TO QOVF

Submitted by AccuQuilt

AccuQuilt, a fabric cutting machine and die manufacturer, is proud to have had a partnership with the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) since 2015. AccuQuilt has recognized QOVF on their blog and livestream events to raise awareness of this touching organization's mission and increase the number of quilts being made to honor veterans.

Recently, AccuQuilt has teamed up with QOVF to contribute to their 2023 Block Drive to create the 2023 Block, the [Split Back Star](#). AccuQuilt's [GO! Qube Mix & Match 8" Block](#), a boxed set of eight geometric dies to cut out 8" pieced blocks, can be utilized to make the QOVF's Block of the Year. To financially support this project, AccuQuilt will be donating \$20 to the QOVF from every purchase of a GO! Qube Mix & Match 8" Block during specific times of the year.

AccuQuilt has already featured QOVF on their March 29 livestream event and plans to discuss their Block Drive more on May 24, the end of July, and on November 8.



QOVF TAKE 5: WALK, RUN OR BLOCK

Submitted by QOVF Marketing

On May 20, 2023, we'll be running, walking, and quilt blocking. QOVF Take 5 is a race where participants can choose to run, walk, or make quilt blocks for Quilts of Valor. The race is a virtual 5K that benefits QOVF and supports its mission to "cover service members and veterans touched by war" with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. Learn more about QOVF Take 5 [here](#).

Race participants are encouraged to sign up and plan to complete the race between May 13-20, 2023. All ages, young and old, are welcome to participate in Take 5. Forming teams are also encouraged to join.

This year we are happy to announce our sponsor is the National Quilt



Museum, the location of our kickoff event during our 20th Anniversary Conference.

All participants will receive a special race medal, a fun race pack, and other surprises. Stay tuned to QOVF social media and the QOVF blog for updates on the race goodies.

To sign-up for the Take 5, click [here](#).



99-YEAR-OLD NAVY VETERAN RECOGNIZED AT LFH CONCERT

Submitted by Lou Ann Lee,
ND State Coordinator

The North Dakota venue for the *Letters From Home—50 States Tour* (LFH) was at the North Dakota Veterans Home in Lisbon. Staff at the Veterans Home told me they had hosted this concert in previous years, prior to LFH teaming up with Quilts of Valor. We had no idea what to expect but were blown away by the amazing concert. Since the home still requires limited access and masking, the audience was primarily the residents and staff with just a few additional family members in attendance. The Stitching Hearts QOV group awarded a QOV to 99-year-old Delvin O., a Navy veteran who served from 1943 to 1945. Delvin, dressed in his full uniform, was accompanied by his two daughters at the concert. His smiles throughout the entire concert said it all! What an amazing group to put on shows like this throughout the United States. Later,



while surfing the web, I shared with our members a show I came upon that LFH recorded in 2020: [Letters from Home Digital Show—YouTube](#). Enjoy!



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 and one 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*. 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 20th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

QOVF invites members to the 20th Anniversary Conference planned for September 13-15, 2023, in Paducah, Kentucky. This is the first conference QOVF has hosted since 2019. The three-day conference kicks off the evening of Wednesday, September 13, with a private reception at the National Quilt Museum featuring quilts from the *All-Star Quilts of Valor* book.

Activities planned for Thursday and Friday will feature speakers, quilting, QOVF group workshops, networking opportunities and more. Amy Milne with the Quilters Alliance will be on hand to record QOVF quilters' stories and memories. There will also be vendors and QOVF merchandise available for sale.

The cost is \$250 per person and includes the opening reception, lunch on Thursday and Friday, workshops, and a conference bag. To register and for more information, including hotel and travel information, please go [here](#). Questions? Please contact conference@qovf.org. We hope to see you in Paducah!

**FRENCH LEGION HONOREE
RECEIVES QUILT OF VALOR**

*Submitted by Phyllis Schoenholz, NE
South Central Coordinator*

Retired Corporal Edward M. of the U.S. Army was thanked and honored for his service to the United States with a Quilt of Valor during an award ceremony at Trinity Village in Papillion, NE. Edward enlisted in the Army at the age of seventeen in January 1941. After basic training, he was assigned to the First Infantry Division, "The Big Red One." He spent 3 years, 1 month and 11 days in foreign service. As a member of the First Infantry, he was one of 34,000 Allied Forces that landed on Omaha Beach in Normandy on D-Day. He was also at the Battle of the Bulge, in Poland, and several places in Africa and Italy.

Edward was awarded a U.S. Bronze Star for shooting a German dive bomber with a heavy machine gun. He also

received a French Legion of Honor medal, which is the highest French decoration and one of the most famous in the world. For two centuries, this medal has been presented on behalf of the French Head of State to reward those most deserving. He was honorably discharged on 20th of September, 1945 at the rank of Corporal Tec-5.

Saluting Edward and thanking him for his service was Terry J., lifetime

member of the American Legion Post #32 in South Omaha. Others attending the award ceremony were Edward's son, Jeff, and grandson, Eddie of Omaha.

The QOV was made by Jackie M. of Papillion, quilted by Kathy H., and bound by 100-year-old Ruby H., who is also a resident of Trinity Village. Trinity resident Nona M. and Piecemakers' QOV Group volunteer Jackie M. planned and facilitated the ceremony.



**WALMART SPARK GOOD
ROUND-UP**

Submitted by QOVF Marketing

Walmart launched [Walmart Spark Good Round-Up](#). Customers can now round up their online purchases to the nearest dollar and donate the change



to their favorite charity. We would love for you to choose [The Quilts of Valor® Foundation](#) as your charity to receive these donations every time you shop on [walmart.com](#). Thank you for your consideration!



FAMILY OF PATRIOTS

by Rose Rhoads, Inland Empire
Quilting Angels, Sun City, CA

In February 2018, our group awarded a Quilt of Valor to John T., the father of Jo Ann, one of our QOV members. John T. served in the Army Air Corp during WWII as a B24 mechanic and flight engineer in Italy. John has since passed away, but we remember him as always patriotic. He enjoyed sharing his stories of being in the military, let us store our group's longarm machine in his home, and accompanied us to other QOV presentations.

Several years later, in 2021, we were honored to award QOVs to second and third generations of this family that Jo Ann made especially for these family members. Her brother, John C.T., was an Army paratrooper and parachute rigger during Vietnam. John's brother-in-law, John D., served in the Marine Corps and was also in Vietnam. John's son-in-law, R.H. (Tripp), still on active duty in the Army, has served in numerous conflicts and was wounded during the Black Hawk Down mission. Tripp himself comes from a long line of Army veterans, with his father and both grandfathers attending West Point.

The most touching letter we have ever received came from John D. He wrote to Jo Ann to thank her for his QOV and we want to share that letter with other QOV members. It is families like this who help keep us free and we are grateful for their service and sacrifice.



R.H., JoAnn B., John C., and John D.



John T.

Dear JoAnn

Thank you, again, for the beautiful Quilt. It is highly treasured and admired. To All those who participate in this endeavor a well done and thanks.

The form you ask me to fill out is enclosed. The question as to how I was touched by the War, while not difficult, needs explaining. As you know, I was raised in a home with honesty, and a positive value system. At the time, I'm not sure I fully understood how important these things were, but I learned and began to appreciate them when in Vietnam.

Combat has been characterized as hours of sheer boredom, interspersed with moments of sheer terror. This is, to some degree, very true. Fear comes in many forms. Knowing you are going to a target that has heavy ground fire is frightening. Knowing you are taking off in the middle of the night in heavy rain and fog is the same. However, the most scared I ever was, occurred when my flight leader, Major Miles Mixson, and I were scrambled off the "hot pad" to provide close air support for a trapped Marine Recon Team. It was almost dark when we flew into stormy weather. As we descended into the target area, the Marine Air Controller gave us our target brief. The weather was 2500 feet overcast, in moderately hilly country. The Marine Recon Team was surrounded by the enemy, who were within 30 meters of the Marine position. We were told to expect heavy small arms fire, and to turn off our running lights. The team had wounded, and was awaiting rescue by several Marine helicopters. I can tell you without reservation I have never been so scared. The thought of dropping napalm that close to friendlies was terrifying. The leader dropped first, and as I rolled in, the controller asked me to drop my napalm slightly closer but a little short. God was with me that night for I dropped exactly where it was needed. The recon team was subsequently extracted, and we completed our bombing of the target. We returned to Chu Lai and an uneventful night.

So, how does all this impact me in my life? I am now more aware that we are not alone in this world. Seldom do we do anything that doesn't involve directly, or indirectly, someone else. In combat you fight for the guy next to you, or, in this case, the guys on the ground who need you. You take care of your buddies, no matter what. I am, now, deeply aware that my actions and words impact others, and learned that I am responsible for my actions. While more outgoing and friendly, I am less tolerant of those who are self-serving and selfish or those who do not share a positive value system.

Jo, please share this with others. Again, Thank You and all those who share our love of this Country.

John

QUILTS OF VALOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY LABELS

Submitted by QOVF Marketing

In honor of our 20th Anniversary, QOVF has Quilts of Valor 20th Anniversary labels available in the [QOVF Spoonflower Store](#). In addition to 20th Anniversary labels, we have custom labels, panels, and even yardage available. Our store also has a popular panel, [QOVF-Eagle with Flag Panel-Blue](#) fabric, for purchase. You can



purchase single designs of different labels or a compilation of labels. Individual labels average 45-50 labels per yard; the compilation yields 30-36. For every order of quilt labels, a percentage of proceeds goes back to the Quilts of Valor® Foundation.



QUILT BUSINESS MEMBERS:

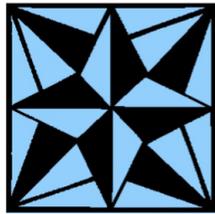
WHO'S IN MY AREA

Submitted by QOVF Marketing

Mid-Atlantic Bolts & Quarters Quilt Shop

Overview: Bolts & Quarters

Quilt Shop offers over 7,000 bolts of high-quality fabrics, notions, sewing machines, quilting longarms, quilting services, machine service & repair, and classes. Click [here](#) to learn more about Bolts & Quarters Quilt Shop.



Contact Info

2595 Dupont Rd E
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Southern Cardinal Creek Quilting

Overview:

Cardinal Creek provides custom longarm service, classes, and a variety



of high-quality fabrics, notions, and threads from leading designers and manufacturers such as Moda, Superior Threads, Northcott, Robert Kaufman, Riley Blake, and Quilting Treasurers. Click [here](#) to learn more about Cardinal Creek.

Contact Info

107 S. Eugenia St
Orange Grove, TX 78372

North Central K&K Logo Designs Inc

Overview: K&K

Logo carries a wide assortment of patriotic fabrics and offers screen printing, embroidery, and promotional product services. Click [here](#) to learn more about K&K Logo Designs.



Contact Info

143 1st Avenue E
Dyersville, IA 52040

Southern Magnolia Heirlooms

Overview:

Magnolia Heirlooms provides all the necessary materials, tools, and services for all of your sewing and quilting projects. Click [here](#) to learn more about Magnolia Heirlooms.



Contact Info

404 Wilkins Wise Rd
Columbus, MS 39705

We have a wide range of [QOVF Quilt Business Members](#) listed on our website from every region, offering QOVF discounts to online classes to quilting supplies and services. Click [here](#) to view the list of our Quilt Business Members. Have a quilt business shop? Are you interested in being a QOVF Quilt Business member? Click [here](#) to learn more about how to register to become a QOVF Quilt Business Member.

AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

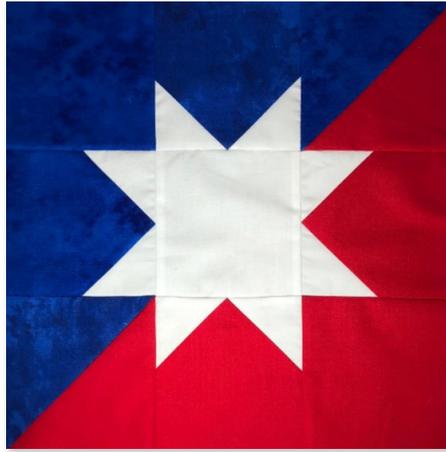
CPL Jonathan served his country for four years in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1990 to 1994 during the Desert Storm era. Semper Fidelis. He was awarded his QOV by members of Yakima WA QOV Group 79602 at his home with his wife Dana, family, and friends.



SPLIT BACK STAR BLOCK

By QOVF Marketing

This year's 2023 pattern, [Split Back Star](#), for our Block Drive is off to a strong start. As we award our veterans and service members with QOVs and plan to mark another milestone of our 350,000 quilt this spring, we encourage members and the many individuals, guilds, and organizations to continue their support by viewing the [QOVF Quilt Business Members](#) and our list of [Partners](#) for fabric and any necessary supplies, and to support our many other partnerships featured in QOVF monthly e-blasts and social media. One of the most frequent questions about the Split Back Star pattern is if only solids are acceptable. It is encouraged to use solids, but patriotic fabrics and patterns are also acceptable.



On social media, you can use the following hashtags to be featured: #QOVFNationalBlockDrive2023 and #QOVFSplitBackStarBlock

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



The Floyd County QOV members made tops with the split back star block on QOVF National Sew Day.

AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

From 1964 to 1966, SPC4 Donald served his Country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War Era. He received the Vietnam War 50th Commemorative Pin. He was awarded his QOV in a private presentation with his wife by members of Yakima WA QOV Group 79602.





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: 7,304

Total: 343,365

(from date of first recorded award through 31 MARCH 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



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Board Member Emeritus
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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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Newsletter

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Do you have an article, idea or suggestion for *Threads*? Email it to us at newslettersubmission@qovf.org. Please include photo releases for all photos submitted.

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