



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by *Lori Thompson*

The cold winter days have faded, and we are enjoying sunshine and warmer temperatures here in Colorado. Spring in Colorado comes about a month later than in other parts of the country. Things are starting to sprout, and the trees are starting to grow their leaves. During the past two months I have been lucky to travel to Florida, Missouri, Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky and have enjoyed their earlier spring months and blossoming trees and flowers.



Lori Thompson
Executive Director

Last month my travels took me to Quilt Week, the AQS show in Paducah, Kentucky, the city that will also be the site of our 20th Anniversary Conference, September 13-15, 2023. I thought I would share more about Paducah and our upcoming conference. To me, Paducah is a quilters' haven and a great location for our conference. The city is proud of its quilting heritage and offers much for quilters.

A big treat for me was visiting the National Quilt Museum (NQM) where I enjoyed the Kaffe: 85 & Fantastic exhibit honoring Kaffe Fassett's birthday, which lived up to its title with beautiful colorful quilts made from his trademark fabrics. The Larger-than-Life exhibit featuring quilt murals created by California artist Velda Newman was amazing, too! The NQM has offered over 250 exhibits in the 32 years of its

existence. I'm excited that QOVF will have a new exhibit featuring the *All-Star Quilts of Valor* from QOVF's latest book. Those of you attending the conference will get to enjoy this exhibit at our conference opening reception.

Another treat was shopping at Hancock's of Paducah. The store is one of the biggest quilt stores I've been to. There were rows and rows of fabric bolts, and bins of kits and pre-cuts. Their staff was fun and really efficient during a busy quilt week. I'm looking forward to visiting again in September and will remember to leave more room in my suitcase!

My husband traveled with me and one of our favorite things was exploring downtown Paducah. We found some great restaurants and shops where I found funny quilting stickers to share with friends and the perfect shirt for the next retreat. We enjoyed walking next to the Ohio River and I marveled at the size of the river.

The next time I visit Paducah will be during QOVF's 20th Anniversary Conference. Our Conference Planning Committee has worked hard for almost two years to plan the conference and it's hard to believe it will be here soon. The committee is busy coordinating the final touches to a program that celebrates where QOVF has been and its future. Look for the conference program coming soon. You can find the latest information and how to register [here](#).

The Conference Committee also recognizes that travel costs have increased, and the current economic challenges can make travel tough. Please know we are listening and exploring what can be done. Feel free to contact me at

executive.director@qovf.org with any questions or feedback.

Thank you to our conference committee members: Ruth Ann Bosworth, Pat Forshaw, Mary Kerr, Jackie McKinstry, and Sue Reich! I hope you all enjoy spring in your part of the country, and I hope to see you soon in Paducah later this summer!

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.



QOVF 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Submitted By QOVF Marketing



Quilts of Valor Foundation is headed to Paducah, Kentucky, to host its 20th Anniversary Conference on September 13-15, 2023, at the Paducah Convention Center. This is the first conference QOVF has hosted since 2019. To register, please go [here](#).

The three-day conference will kick off on 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.

Thursday and Friday will feature speakers, quilting, networking opportunities, 11 QOVF group workshops, and more. During the three-day conference, there will be vendors, QOVF merchandise available for sale,



and Amy Milne from Quilters Alliance will be on hand to record QOVF quilters' stories and memories.

To register, please go [here](#). Conference registration is open to QOVF members. You must be a member to register for this event. To check the status of your membership, please contact membership@qovf.org.

To sign up as a member, please go [here](#).

Have you registered? Still need a hotel room? Stay tuned to your email and our blog for important updates and a complete schedule of sessions. You can also view any updates on our [conference page](#).

Have any questions? Please contact conference@qovf.org.

IRAQ VETERAN AWARDED FOR SERVICE

Submitted by Melissa Mathews, Central Florida QOV

On Wednesday, April 12, 2023, Central Florida QOV had the privilege of awarding a Quilt of Valor to Cory, an Iraq War veteran and current member of the United States House of Representatives for Florida District 7. Congressman Cory served in the United States Army with the 82nd Airborne Division from 1999 to 2007, rising to the rank of Sergeant. He served in Iraq,

Afghanistan, and Kosovo working in security as a member of conventional Army support for Joint Operations Task Force Command in Iraq, and provided Anti-Terrorism Assistance Training to Kurdish Forces in Northern Iraq. Congressman Cory was twice wounded in 2006 while serving in Iraq. For his service to our country, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. He continued to serve our country after leaving the Army as a Department of Defense advisor to the Pentagon and a foreign policy expert appearing on various media networks.



VIETNAM VETERAN TURNS FEELINGS INTO POETRY

Submitted by Diane Weide, QOV North Central IA, Clear Lake

Master Sergeant Glen P. served in the United States Army from 1966 to 1968 and in the Army National Guard from 1978 to 2001. Glen had basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. Glen was sent to Vietnam where he received sniper training. Upon his return to the states, he worked as a sniper instructor at Fort Bragg until the time of his discharge from the Army. While in the National Guard, Glen received water purification training at Fort Lee, VA. Glen was deployed to Iraq during Desert Storm from 1990 to 1991, working in water purification. He also worked with physical security at Camp Dodge. During his service time, Glen received various ribbons and achievements, including the Meritorious Service Medal.

Glen, similar to many veterans from the Vietnam era, did not talk about his service experiences after his return home. He was a trained sniper who was stationed in an active war zone, did his job, and came home. Years later, when there was a focus on recognition and treatment for PTSD, he had an opportunity to visit a trained medical doctor. The physician noticed Glen had strong communication skills when relating to people, so suggested that Glen write down his thoughts. Glen ran with this suggestion and eventually put his thoughts into beginning, middle, and end creating poems. Glen first shared his poems with other veterans and now enjoys speaking at veteran and Memorial Day events.

On January 14, 2023, Glen was awarded his Quilt of Valor at the All-Veterans Center in Mason City, IA. He ended the Quilts of Valor award ceremony by reading the following poem.



ISOLATION

by Glen P., Master Sergeant-Vietnam Veteran

*You do not think when drafted that we should have served in Nam.
You never asked us what we thought. I doubt you gave a damn.
A lot of us were sent to fight; we simply had no choice.
We served with pride, we did our best; please listen, hear our voice.
The draft would take the young men, then so proud to do their best.
We quickly found how ill-prepared we were to face this test.
The nightmare and reality still seem like yesterday.
The pain and anguish of friends we lost will never go away.
Through nights of mortar, shot and shell, we still cry, scream and pray.
For friends who died before our eyes, in our minds and thoughts they stay.
Then came the day of going home—no worries, no more fears.
The shock and shame, you slapped our face; look closely see the tears.
We came home and needed friends to talk with, care and share.
The hate at home from our old friends was worse than over there.
A soldier knows that death may come and sometimes leave again,
But you have caused far greater harm; you kill us from within.
Many vets just couldn't cope; they formed a hardened shell.
Your scorn and isolation, pushed us into hell.
By pressures brought to bear on us, for this, you share the blame.
History shows that from your hate we'll never be the same.
It hurts me so to realize that you will not accept.
My plea and hand in friendship's sake, because I am a vet.
If you'd like to share your thoughts or have a talk with me,
Let's do so with intent to learn, not animosity.
With grant intent and purpose pure and deeds still proud of yet,
We served with pride, had faith in God, and are the Vietnam Vets.
We did our tour, we pulled our time, and showed respect for you,
Be damned to those, who do not think, we have earned some too.*

DOES YOUR COLORED FABRIC BLEED?

Submitted by Joyce Franklin at Piece Works Quilt Shop, Winterset, IA

Migration of color (bleeding) most often happens when fabric has not been prewashed. Normally, I'm not a pre-washer because I get too excited to sew my new fabric. Strong colors like red and navy against white will sometimes bleed. Also, since we are often using donated fabrics and don't know their origins or previous circumstances, this can cause a problem the first time they are laundered.

I use a reactive dye fixative to alleviate the problem. My favorite is Synthrapol by the Jacquard company. The process is to add Synthrapol to your washer, let the top-loading washer fill with water, and then plunge the entire quilt or fabric under the water at the same time. Bleeding will happen if the water runs in on top of the quilt or fabric, as the wet fabric bleeds into the dry fabric.

Maybe the most important process is to get the already bled quilt restored. Hopefully, it was not dried in the dryer after it bled. An already bled-on quilt can be restored by adding the dye fixative to the washer, filling the washer with water and then plunging the whole quilt under the water at the same time. Agitate for a few minutes and then turn off the washer and let the quilt soak for a few hours before continuing to wash. If you take it out of the washer and still see bleeding, repeat. Don't dry in the dryer if you still see colors bleeding.

Note: One of our readers requested this information be shared with our members after she received this information from the quilt shop.

PANDEMIC BLOCKS AWARDED IN NEW JERSEY

Submitted by Bette Comune, Middlesex, NJ

In 2019 the Heritage Quilters from Middlesex, NJ, started a community project by cutting blocks and placing them in the Middlesex Library for anyone who wanted to sew the blocks together so quilts could be made for

Quilts of Valor. It was quite a success!

Then COVID came in 2020 and the blocks were put in a closet at the library. There they sat for two years. Eventually, three ladies (Shirley, Mary and Bette) made two quilts from these long-lost blocks. On April 13, 2023, the quilts were awarded to Martin J., United States Army, and Linda A., United States Army Nurse Corp., both from Middlesex, NJ.



QUILTS OF VALOR PROMOTED AT EVENT

Submitted by Joan Lane, Rainbow Springs QOV, FL

On March 13, 2023, at a meeting of veterans on board the Viking Star and after the traditional toasts "Thank you for your service and Absent Friends," Wing Commander Bill S. OBE RAF (Retired), introduced QOV enthusiasts and fellow guests, Jim and Joan Lane (Rainbow Springs Group Leader). Joan then explained the Quilts of Valor concept to the 45 veterans attending the gathering.

Veterans attending the event included those from the Korean War through the recent campaigns such as

the Gulf War and Afghanistan. The event also included male and female veterans and all service branches—Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and several members of the Coast Guard.

Interestingly, a Korean War veteran shared he had received a Quilt of Valor at a private ceremony and another veteran told the group that his wife was actively producing quilts for the Foundation. Once eligibility was explained by Joan, veterans were encouraged to complete QOV nomination forms. Wing Commander Bill agreed to distribute forms at future gatherings of veterans across the Viking Ocean fleet of cruise ships and to continue to highlight the QOV concept.

QUILT OF VALOR® DESIGN COLLABORATION WITH ELECTRIC QUILT COMPANY

Submitted 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

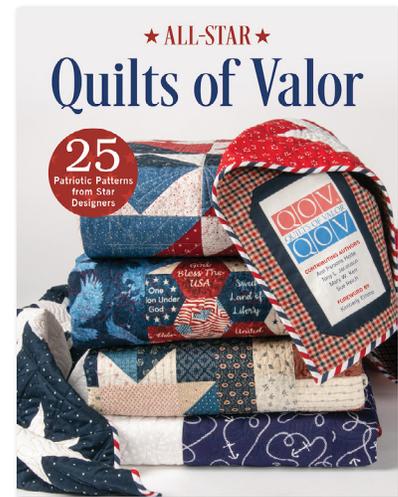


rules and instructions on how to submit your design and quilt photos, click [here](#).

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, *All-Star Quilts of Valor*. Learn more about our *All-Star* contributors who are also some of EQ users [here](#).

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.

AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

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

Andrew M., United States Air Force veteran, was presented his Quilt of Valor on April 27, 2023, at VFW Post #2540 in East Stroudsburg, PA. Accompanied by his wife Nancy and stepson Edward, Andrew was draped and welcomed home. Andrew served from 1966 to 1970 as Assistant Crew Chief and Aircraft Maintenance Technician. His service took him to Texas, Ohio, Okinawa, Thailand, Spain, Alaska, and Great Britain. Today, Andrew continues to serve our community and local veterans as Vice President and Assistant Chaplain of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 678, member of VFW Post 2540, and member of American Legion Post 927. Thank you for your service! The fabrics were donated by the Pocono Mountain Quilters Guild, Stroudsburg, PA.



QUILT BUSINESS MEMBERS: WHO'S IN MY AREA

Submitted by QOVF Marketing

Pacific Northwest Enchanted Rose Emporium

Overview: A vintage style gifts and craft supplies shop with high quality supplies for quilting, embroidery, needle tatting, knitting, crocheting, cross-stitch, needle felting, applique, paper quilling, felt flower making, etc. Nostalgic candies and sodas, and vintage style earrings and baby gifts. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Enchanted Rose Emporium.



Contact Info

400 E Evergreen Blvd, Suite 120
Vancouver, WA 98660

Southwest Easy Quilting Corner

Overview: Easy Quilting specialize in long arm quilting and designer fabrics and provide customers with a wide selection of high-quality fabrics, patterns, and quilting supplies. Click [here](#) to learn more about Easy Quilting Corner.



Contact Info

1860 Chicago Avenue, Suite G-15
Riverside, CA 92507

North Central Calico Cottage

Overview: Calico Cottage has been a quilt store for over 35 years and a Quilt of Valor Store since 2016. They are a brick-and-mortar store with an online store and host several educational classes. Click [here](#) to learn more about Calico Cottage.



Contact Info

743 W 2nd St
Hastings, NE 68901

Southern Quilting & Stitches

Overview: From remnants to the newest fabrics, decorative trim to supportive stabilizers, workroom supplies to beautiful, handcrafted products, and much more, Quilting and Stitches has all your sewing and quilting needs in one location. Click [here](#) to learn more about Quilting and Stitches.



Contact Info

168 Cowart St
Lucedale, MS 39452

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. 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.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

Submitted by QOVF Marketing

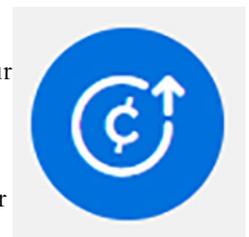
QOVF earned a 2023 Platinum Seal with CandidDotOrg! We are excited to share the work our nonprofit does through our #NonprofitProfile. Learn how you can support us and make a difference. View [here](#) to see the great work we do for our community.

More Ways to Support QOVF

For more ways to support our mission to cover service members and veterans "touched by war" with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor click [here](#).



Did you know as you shop online at Walmart.com, you can round up your online purchases to the nearest dollar and donate the change to your favorite charity. We would love for you to choose The [Quilts of Valor® Foundation](#) as your charity as part of [Walmart Spark Good Round-Up](#). Thank you for your consideration!



**PATCHES4PATRIOTS HONORS
VETERAN WITH AN HONORARY
300,000TH QOV**

*Submitted by Esmeralda Carter,
Group Leader*

The Patches4Patriots group awarded group leader, Esmeralda C., an honorary 300,000th Quilt of Valor on May 2, 2023. Esmeralda is a retired US Navy Petty Officer, Gulf War veteran and local group leader for Iron County, Cedar City, UT. Her husband Bry was also awarded the 20th Anniversary Quilt of Valor. Bry is a retired US Navy Lieutenant Commander and Iraq/ Afghanistan war veteran.

The awards were held in the Heritage Theatre building in Cedar City in conjunction with the Letters from Home concert tour. Also in attendance were group members and family & friends. Quilts were made by Patches4Patriots members and awarded by Crystal Farinella, QOVF State Coordinator for Utah.

Patches4Patriots is one of the 600 QOVF member groups that create quilts and award them to veterans touched by war. Patches4Patriots started in 2021 and has been making and awarding quilts to local veterans. The group invites any interested volunteers that would like to help make quilts, coordinate award ceremonies, or donate to the group to contact the Patches4Patriots group at (757) 438-2371.





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: 9,574

Total: 345,635

(from date of first recorded award through 30 April 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
 Walt Davis
 Marianne Fons
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 June Moore

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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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