



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by *Lori Thompson*

For almost two years, I have enjoyed working with our QOVF members to fulfill our mission of offering comforting and healing Quilts of Valor® to the service members and veterans our organization serves. The time has flown by and has been filled with many great experiences with our members and those we serve.



Lori Thompson
Executive Director

I recently had to make a very difficult decision that will affect my time here at QOVF. I will be leaving my position as QOVF's Executive Director at the

end of the year when my contract is up to work in a family business. It was not an easy decision for me. I have really enjoyed working with our QOVF staff, board, volunteers, and groups across the country!

It's been great to meet so many of you and be inspired by your commitment and passion for QOVF's mission. I've worked for nonprofits for 20 years and have found QOVF members to be some of the most dedicated volunteers. I think one of the biggest treasures QOVF has is our community of dedicated and generous members. I will value the experiences and time I've spent with all of you and those that we serve.

I am working closely with the QOVF Board during this transitional time to support the organization as best as possible during this change in leadership.

The QOVF will begin an internal job search for the next Executive Director. The goal is to hire a new Executive Director over the next 90 days and then have the new director and I work closely together for the rest of this transitional time.

The Executive Director job posting is listed on our QOVF website at www.qovf.org/open-positions. For any questions or inquiries, please contact executive.search.committee@qovf.org.

There's still a lot of great things ahead this year—our 20th Anniversary Conference, many great awards, and more! I look forward to celebrating these things and continuing to support all of you as you continue to wrap our service members and veterans in Quilts of Valor during the coming months.

NATIONAL BLOCK DRIVE DESIGNER GOES OVER AND BEYOND

Submitted by *Cheryl Burck*,
Sunshine Quilters Guild, Ocala, FL

The 2023 National Block Drive designer, Kim DiJoseph, taught the Split Back Star Block to The Sunshine Quilters Guild in Ocala, FL. The class was held at their regular meeting on May 30 for the guild's observance of Memorial Day. Kits were passed out to 30 participants and Kim did a great job, teaching the block step-by-step like a mystery block. Her design board was very helpful to follow, and 34 blocks were completed that day. After the

blocks were done, she demonstrated different layouts for them.

Kim is also a member of the guild and devotes many hours towards making Quilts of Valor which are awarded locally. She designed this block in 2018 for her small Facebook block swap group, the "QOV Stars." QOVF contacted her last year for permission to use the design nationally, making her the well-deserved national designer for 2023. The floating star and the split red/blue diagonal make it easy for the blocks to be squared up for assembly into a full quilt top. We all know 30 quilters making blocks = 30 different slight and not-so-slight variations in size! Beginning quilters to advanced quilters in the guild all enjoyed helping Kim in



her mission to cover service members and veterans "touched by war" with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. Great job, Kim!

VETERAN AND POLICE OFFICER RECEIVES QOV FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Submitted by Sharon Cumiskey, Bridgewater, MA

I recently had the honor of bestowing a Quilt of Valor on AJ L., a former student and son of one of my high school classmates. This decorated veteran of the US Army has dedicated his life to protecting others. He served two tours with Operation Enduring Freedom and one tour with Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a Special Forces member, AJ received two Bronze Stars and numerous other awards.

AJ also served in his hometown, Middleborough, MA, as a Police Officer for many years and is much admired for his professionalism and dedication. He is best known for his mentoring of new officers.

AJ is now suffering from cancers that are common to many veterans who

served in the Middle East. Numerous surgeries and rounds of chemo and radiation have paid a toll on his health, but not on his fervor or desire to serve others. On the day the Quilt of Valor was awarded, one end of his living room was filled with his fellow officers and police officers from surrounding towns. The other end of the room was filled with his buddies from Special Forces who came to honor a man who stood with them in battle and supported them on the home front. There were many tears and smiles that day!



CATAWBA HONORS TRUE VETERAN

Submitted by Amanda Truett, Catawba Valley Quilters Guild, Hickory, NC

David H. served in the Army from 1979 through 2012. He convinced his parents to sign him up at age 15 and turned 16 years old during Army boot camp. During his military career, David's occupational specialties were Heavy Artillery, Heavy Explosives, and Transportation. David completed five combat tours, including five years in Iraq and three years as the personal guard for the Adjutant General. David finished his service in the Army in 2012 as a Staff Sergeant E6 and began serving his community in 2014 as a firefighter.

David's QOV nomination was one of the "backlog" requests and was transferred to the Catawba Valley Quilters Guild. We confirmed plans with David and his pastor to complete the Quilt of Valor award ceremony at David's church on June 4, 2023.

When we arrived at David's church on that Sunday morning, David was dressed in his fireman's dress uniform as he would be attending a funeral

that afternoon. While speaking with David about his military service, he mentioned that he had a heart attack and, technically, died the week prior. He explained that on May 26, 2023, David and his Chesterfield Fire Rescue team responded to a fire event and, shortly after arriving, he suffered a heart attack. His fellow firefighters performed CPR and used a defibrillator to bring him back to life. This was stunning! David was walking, talking, even carrying his son around the church.

David selected a Quilt of Valor made by Catawba Valley Quilters Guild member Dotty W. that had a bold American Eagle panel in the center. David said he had always been drawn to the American Eagle and that he even has an Eagle tattoo on his arm to symbolize our great nation.

Every Quilt of Valor presentation is a special event. All of our service members and veterans are heroes. David's QOV presentation was special in a different way. Not only were we able to thank him for his service to our nation, but we were also able to welcome him home and celebrate his return to life!



ENRICHING LIVES CONTINUES IN CODY

By Christine Wolf, Cody, WY

The 2022-2023 school year at Cody Middle School saw 18 students participate in the “Quilts of Valor®” Enrichment program that completed its third year. The quilts were presented on May 17, 2023. Veterans Taylor H. (Marines) received “Anthem,” Alec G. (Army) received “Standing Strong,” Carlos J. received “Carpenters Star,” and Harold J. was the recipient of “Sewing Saturdays.” The quilts contained over 2,195 pieces which the students made from beginning to end.

Cody Middle School “Quilts of Valor®” Enrichment program not only embraced the making of four quilts this school year, but promoted the program through community interaction. The students helped with the setup of the “Yellowstone Quilt Fest,” put together a booth about Quilts of Valor® and spoke to over 200 visitors about their learning experience. They also spoke at the Quick Quilt Retreat about the enrichment program, showed samples of the quilts they were preparing for presentation in May of 2023, and had an opportunity to see the projects other quilters were working on.



103-YEAR-OLD QOV RECIPIENT

Submission by Amy Makson,
Co-Chair Sandhills Quilters
Guild QOV group.
Moore County, NC

Sandhills Quilters Guild of Moore County North Carolina, recently had the honor to present a QOV to Robert L., a WWII veteran and a German POW for 13 months. He uses a walker but otherwise is doing well and his mind is sharp. He has been able to relay many tales of his time in the military.



FATHER'S DAY GATHERING WITH FAMILY

Submitted by Kathleen McCarthy,
Pocono Mountain Quilts of Valor
#88526, PA

Joel S. was presented his QOV surrounded by family and friends at his home on June 16, 2023. Joel S. served in the Air Force from 1964 to 1970 as a Flight Examiner Medic, receiving the National Defense Ribbon and earning the rank of Staff Sergeant. He continued his service as a full-time PA National Guard on regular missions, flying the sick and wounded. Joel has always been active in serving the community and he currently visits the local hospital with Bailey, his latest of a long line of German Shepherd therapy dogs. Thank you and your family, Joel, for your continued service.



Naida S., Joel S., Harriet S., and Howard S.

FROM SAILOR TO QOV TEAM LEADER

Submitted by Maggie Klenke, QOV
Outreach Committee

Robert SJ joined the Navy on his 17th birthday and went to boot camp in San Diego. He was assigned to the USS McMorris DE 1036, a destroyer escort that fired the first naval shots toward North Vietnam targets (and took return fire). Robert made three tours to Southeast Asia. He re-enlisted for six years serving aboard the USS Sturdy, a minesweeper assigned as the recovery ship for the Gemini 3 space launch, and the USS Bennington, an aircraft carrier. He served four years at the anti-submarine warfare training center to teach sonar systems, finishing his 10 years of naval service.

Robert then worked for AT&T for 26 years in a variety of engineering, technical support, and teaching roles, and finally finishing his working career with the Tennessee Department of Health, as director of outpatient services for a drug and alcohol treatment facility.

Woodworking was Robert's hobby and "respite" during his wife Judy's battle with cancer. That ended with her death and his loss of interest. Soon after her passing, he established a lasting interest with Daphna, who was Judy's



co-worker for 30 years. Daphna is an avid quilter and Robert determined that if he were to have any time with her, he needed to learn to quilt. It appealed to the engineer and technician in him, and he found himself enjoying the process as it bore a lot of similarities to woodworking ("measure twice, cut once"). Soon he had his own tools with Daphna's longarm, embroidery machines, and domestic sewing machines. Robert and Daphna were married two years ago.

He was hooked after he was awarded his Quilt of Valor. The first QOV he worked on pictured the USS McMorris. Since then, he has made several quilts and awarded 31 QOVs, twelve of which went to his former shipmates from the USS McMorris at their reunion.

Robert is now the Team Leader for a Quilt of Valor group in Nashville, TN,



aligned with the Music City Quilt Guild. He brings that same patriotic spirit and teaching ability to that role, making and awarding quilts to others.

GREENBRIAR COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES ITS VETERANS

*Submitted by Deborah Ahlden,
Greenbriar Cove, Collegedale, TN*

June 20, 2023, was a special day for many of the Greenbriar Cove Community. A new group of quilters from there joined with the QOV Belles with the heart and labors to honor the veterans of their community. They call themselves the Q2 Belles. Several months ago, they had their first QOV awards for their quilts at Morning Pointe, an Assisted Living Residence in their area. This time, they wanted to honor the first set of veterans in the independent area.

A potluck dinner kicked off the evening with over 50 residents in attendance. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the veterans were honored with quilts after learning of the origins and the mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Some of those quilts were created by the Q2 group, but a couple of others were supplemented by their parent group, QOV Belles.

Frank P., the first recipient, was a Navy Seal during the Vietnam War who served from 1965 to 1969. He spent two years in the jungles of Vietnam. The quilt he received was pieced and bound by Cindy R. and Beth M. was the longarm.

Michael E. was awarded one of the quilts the Q2 group pieced and bound. Michael was a staff sergeant in the US Air Force and who also served in Vietnam from 1967 to 1971. He processed personnel at the airport in and out of Vietnam and back to the United States. Beth again did the quilting of the quilt.

The next recipient was a spry 95-year-old gentleman, Ruben L., who served in the US Army as a medic from 1954 to 1955. He was permitted to graduate from Southern Seventh Day Adventist University before enlistment in the



Korean War. The Q2 Belles pieced and bound this quilt and Beth did the quilting.

Mark H., US Air Force captain, served from 1970 to 1990, with part of this time in Vietnam. The quilt that he was wrapped with was designed and pieced mostly by Sandra W. with Mary Ann helping with the finishing touches to the top. The quilting and binding of this QOV was done by Becky S.

Staff Sgt Floyd W. served in the US

Air Force from 1963 to 1968. He was the administrator of military police. During his time in Southeast Asia, he was stationed in Thailand. Judi D of the Q2 Belles pieced his quilt, QOV Belle Beth M. quilted it, and Mary Ann of the Q2 Belles did the binding and finishing touches.

The quilters are a new team eager to serve their community. We thank all of the men honored for their service and sacrifice for our Nation.



QUILT BUSINESS MEMBERS:

WHO'S IN MY AREA

Submitted by QOVF Marketing

Mid-Atlantic

Fontana Originals

Overview: Online digital pattern

store owned by Mary Anne

Fontana. During

the pandemic she spent the time designing quilts and patterns using either the AccuQuilt cutting system, her own photography as inspiration or a combination of both. Currently, she creates custom patterns and unique quilt blocks using the AccuQuilt cutting system. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Fontana Originals patterns.

Fontana
Originals
Pattern Shop

Contact Info

566 Contemplation Way,
Middletown, DE 19709

Southern

Varsity Vacuums and Stitches

Overview:

Varsity Vacuums and Stitches carries vacuums, cleaning supplies, fragrances for the home and air purification.

They are a full-line Brother dealer carrying sewing, embroidery, multi-needles, scan and cut and sergers. They offer a variety of cotton fabrics, thread, stabilizers and other notions and also offer sewing classes and repair service for vacuums and most brands of sewing and embroidery machines. Click [here](#) to learn more about Varsity Vacuums and Stitches.

Varsity Vacuums
& Stitches

Contact Info

07 Varsity Drive,
Tupelo, MS 38801

Great Lakes

The Quilting Bee

Overview: The Quilting Bee is considered to be a gathering place for quilters. They provide a variety of materials, education, and services to facilitate the quilting process from beginning to end. Click [here](#) to learn more about The Quilting Bee.

THE
QUILTING
BEE

Contact Info

15709 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood,
OH 44107

Northeast

Annie's Teeny Tiny Quilt Shop

Overview:

Annie's

Teeny Tiny Quilt

Shop is a cozy

little country quilt

shop nestled in

the lower village of

Limerick, Maine,

and conveniently

located at 54

Central Ave., just past the shores of

Sokokis Lake. They carry a selection

of quality fabrics and needful notions

along with our own hand-dyed wool, a

great selection of books, and the latest

patterns to inspire your creativity.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Annie's

Teeny Tiny Quilt Shop.



Contact Info

54 Central Ave,
Limerick, ME 04048

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.

QOVF TAKE 5

Submitted by QOVF Marketing

We would like to thank all our attendees who supported and took part in the 2023 Take 5 event. We had an outstanding number of over 300 who participated in this event. The Quilts of Valor Take 5: Run, Walk, Block raised essential funds to help advance

the mission of our foundation: to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

Join us as we will run, walk, and quilt block again on May 18, 2024, the official day for Armed Forces Day. Registration will open on February 5, 2024. Click [here](#) to prepare for 2024 Take 5.



Members Recap of QOVF Take 5–2023



What an ingenious way to celebrate Armed Forces Day! Thank you to the men and women who serve and thank you to the foundation for putting this challenge out there. I spent 5 hours sewing on 5/20 and throughout the week of 5/12–5/20, I cut blocks for this quilt of valor (plus three others) to be awarded to my four brothers who served. I put them in kits and have them ready for when my sisters come to help me put them together. It was a great day! On the first weekend in June, my sisters joined me in completing the four Quilts of Valor for our four brothers. My oldest sister flew in from Phoenix, AZ; one came in from Atchison, KS; two sisters brought their machines from WY; and one sister from NE brought her machine. As I said in an earlier email, I spent the week of May 15 - 20th (Take 5 Challenge) cutting the blocks and prepping the kits, so we could all sew them in a timely fashion. I sewed mine early so they would have one to view. I finished mine in 2-1/2 hours, so I was sure they could each finish the other three in a day. Mission accomplished! They all arrived on Thursday and the three who brought their machines were able to get a quilt done on Friday. Saturday, we faceted with my sister in Texas who wasn't able to attend but who also sews. My family is gathering in NE in

mid-August. My veteran brother from TX and my veteran brother from NM will be there, as will the two veteran brothers who live there. We plan to award the four brothers their Quilts of Valor at that time. Their quilts say, Family Faith Freedom. I feel it's important for us (the family) to witness them receiving this award. It's my way of letting them know how incredibly proud we all are of them.



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Take 5 continued from page 7

By: Robin Harris, Stars and Stripes, FL
Our take on Take 5 was when we invited our local guild and our Stars & Stripes FL group members to Make 5 blocks and Earn 5 Tickets. Tickets went into a bin, for a chance to win 5 prizes. We received 20 blocks, half of a quilt top, and a great time was had by all. Then we went to lunch where they were having a ½ or 50% off special!



By: Jeff Hubright, at Lenora Park located Gwinnett County GA



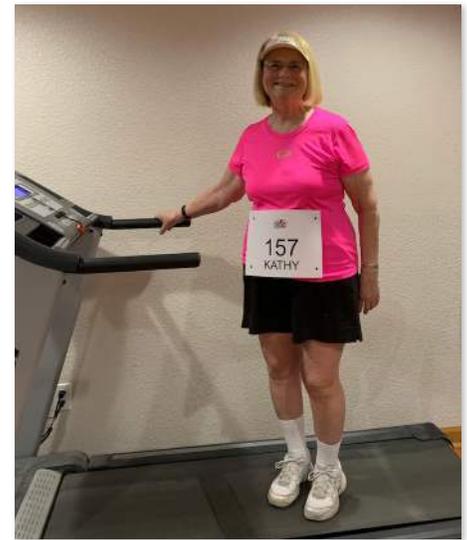
By: Sue
I have walked at least 5 miles and made a Quilt of Valor quilt with my 5 squares. What fun. It seemed once I got going on the quilt squares at the beginning of the challenge, I just kept going.



Diane Richardson Race Day!



Cindy Hoover and her goldendoodle Dude, working on our 5k



Kathy Thomas walked 5K on her treadmill.

KOOTENAI VALLEY AWARDS

18 QOVs

Submitted by Mary Lou Goodpaster,
Libby, MT

On Saturday, May 6, the Kootenai Valley Quilt Guild held another “Quilts of Valor” presentation at the VFW Post #1548 in Libby. The presentation followed a delicious dinner, prepared by the friends of the VFW, which was served to approximately 70 veterans, active service members and guests. With guests watching, members of the Guild awarded 18 quilts to the many deserving veterans and service members serving the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. The presentation included a slide show highlighting the service of each hero and included a current photo and a service photo. The presentation also included five area veterans who received Quilts of Valor since the last event.

The Kootenai Valley Quilt Guild’s participation in the Quilts of Valor program is part of the Guild’s annual community service commitment. Each quilt has been made by a Guild member as a way to say, “Thank you for your



service, sacrifice and valor.” The quilts were made with the hope that they would offer healing and comfort to each “hero.” Each quilt is registered with the Quilts of Valor Foundation and includes an award certificate.

To date, the Guild has awarded 70 quilts to veterans and service members, with another presentation planned for the fall. If you know of a veteran or service member who would like to receive a “Quilt of Valor”, please contact the VFW at 406-293-7316 or email the Guild at kvqglibby@gmail.com.

SPLIT BACK STAR BLOCK

By QOVF Marketing, Photo submitted by
Dianne Weide

[Split Back Star](#), our block for 2023, is continuing strong this summer. As we award more veterans and service members with QOVs and recently marked another milestone of our 350,000th quilt, 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.

Our National Block Drive page provides mailing instructions to our national block drive address and how to report your blocks either by our national block drive or a local group in your area. Click [here](#) for more information. 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.

Bonnie H. (on the left) and Dianne W. (on the right) worked together on Split Star Quilt block that was the QOVF national sew day 2023. Bonnie and Dianne are part of the North Central Iowa quilt group.



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: 15,774

Total: 351,835

(from date of first recorded award through 30 June 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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