



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Lori Thompson

It's hard to believe that it is August already! This summer has been flying by. Hopefully, you all have been staying cool during these warm days. In Colorado, it's been warm, but manageable and we've been blessed with a lot of rain this



Lori Thompson
Executive Director

summer. After several arid summers, it's nice to see things so lush and green.

It's also hard to believe we are less than 30 days away from our 20th Anniversary Conference. Our Conference Planning Committee began planning this special event over two years ago. Their hard work is paying off as the conference is shaping up to become a memorable event with lots of celebration and connection!

Honoring our Past, Forging our Future, the theme of the conference sums up this special event perfectly.

We'll open the conference on Thursday with a retrospective with some very special guests from those early years. We'll welcome Chaplain Kallerson, who awarded the first Quilts of Valor® to service members and veterans at Walter Reed Hospital. There's a retrospective planned with past Executive Directors, Susan Gordon and Ann Rehbein, and Marianne Fons, who had an important role in QOVF's history. I'm excited, too, to share our recent chapter with QOVF as well as other special guests throughout the conference.

We'll also enjoy some great QOVF and quilting classes. I'm looking forward to the opening reception at the National Quilt Museum featuring the actual quilts from the QOVF All-Star Quilts of Valor book. I think those of you attending the reception will really enjoy seeing these quilts. Several designers in our QOVF network will be attending the conference, so don't forget your book for our book signing time.

I am especially looking forward to gathering with so many QOVF members at the conference. While we celebrate the special milestone of QOVF's

20th Anniversary, this conference is particularly special because we have not hosted a conference since 2019. To me, this conference is also a time to celebrate how resilient and committed our wonderful members are to our mission, especially after the last few challenging years.

For this conference, we're offering a new video ticket, offering members who could not attend the conference in person to join us during the opening session on Thursday morning to celebrate our history. We understand that it was not easy for everyone to attend the conference and we hope this opportunity will allow members to also celebrate at home. You can find more information about the video ticket on the next page.

I want to thank our 20th Anniversary Conference Committee—Ruth Ann Bosworth, Pat Forshaw, Mary Kerr, Jacquelyn McKinstry, and Sue Reich for all the hours and effort they have put into planning this milestone event. They have gone above and beyond to create a special event for us! I hope you all enjoy these last days of summer and I'll see many of you in Paducah next month!

103-YEAR-OLD WWII WAR HERO HONORED

Submitted by Laurie Battiston,
QOV volunteer

Retired Major Julius O. was honored by being awarded a Quilt of Valor at a party and presentation at his son's home in St. Petersburg, FL, in January. Conducting the presentation was Norene D. of the Suncoast Patriotic

Quilters QOV group, along with Mary T. of Northwest Quilters of Portland, OR, and photographer, Bob M. In attendance were many of his weekly golf buddies, many friends, several nieces and nephews, as well as three of his children and four of his grandchildren. His quilt was made by his daughter, Laurie B., a QOV volunteer, and quilted by his daughter and her friend, Pam S. of KY. Included in its design was a



continued on page 2

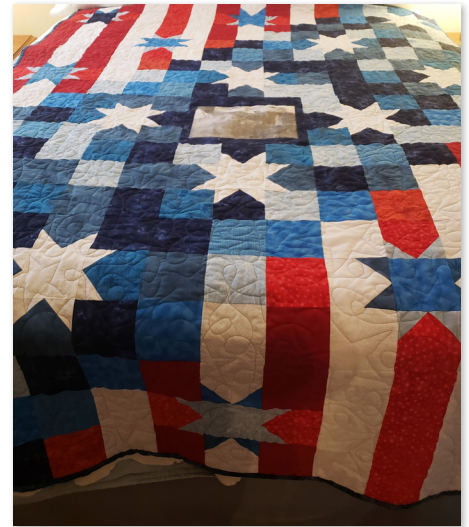
fabric picture of Julius with his airplane during World War II. His grandchildren wrapped him with his quilt during the presentation.

This active centenarian enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force on May 27, 1942. After completing P-40 fighter and P-51 reconnaissance training, he deployed to England in February 1944 as part of the 9th Air Force, 67th Group, 107th Squadron, where he flew bombing and reconnaissance missions over France, Belgium and Germany. After D-Day, he was moved to the 89th Group in Paris, continuing his missions in following the line of fighting. Major Julius flew 89 successful missions throughout the European theater and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with 15 Oak Leaf Clusters, the European-



African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal for service over England, Belgium, France, and Germany; and six Unit Citations. He returned stateside in August 1945 and remained active in the Air Force Reserves until June 1964.

In addition to his military service, Major Julius joined government service as an Air Traffic Controller for the Federal Aviation Administration, rising to the position of Crew Chief until



his retirement in 1974. Today, Julius remains active in his weekly 18-hole golf scramble and regular bingo and blackjack games. He enjoys time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

CELEBRATE OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME!

by QOVF Marketing

QOVF is excited to announce we are now including a Letters From Home performance with your [video ticket](#) purchase. We are offering a video ticket for the three hour opening session of the conference taking place the morning of September 14th and for a special Letters From Home performance that will take place later in the day on September 14th. Click [here](#) to register for your Video Ticket.

We partnered with [Letters From Home](#) from January 2023 to June 2023, in every state, to award QOVs to service members and veterans. QOVF is thrilled to share this special performance with QOVF members! To ensure our membership has access to this great event, the committee hired a videographer to broadcast the event and live stream it into your home for your own front row seat.

The video ticket is great for individual members or groups who



want to gather and view it together. Whether you choose to view in solo or as a QOVF group, the sign up is \$30. Also, all video ticket holders will have a replay recorded link for those who will miss any part of the opening session or Letters From Home performance.

Video Ticket Cost: \$30.00

Video Ticket Registration:

August 1, 2023–September 10, 2023

Opening Session Day + Time:

September 14, 2023 from
9 AM–11 AM Central time

Letters From Home Performance:

September 14, 2023 at 4:30 PM
Central time



Click [here](#) to register for your Video Ticket.

Please note that Video Tickets are limited. Purchase your ticket today.

Any questions about the conference, please email conference@qovf.org.

****The Conference Video Ticket registration is open to QOVF members. You must be a current QOVF member to register. To check the status of your membership, please contact membership@qovf.org. To sign up as a member, please go [here](#).**

350TH QUILT OF VALOR AWARDED IN COLORADO

*Submitted by Lori Thompson,
Executive Director*

QOVF celebrated another award milestone recently by awarding the 350,000th Quilt of Valor® to Representative Jason Crow (CO-06), a former Army Ranger and Bronze Star Recipient. QOVF area leaders gathered to honor and award Rep. Crow his Quilt of Valor on May 4, 2023, at his local congressional office in Aurora, Colorado.

Rep. Crow began his military career in the National Guard. After graduating from college, he joined the active duty Army and served our country in three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Rep. Crow rose to the rank of Captain and was decorated for his actions during the Battle of Samawah.

After his military service, Rep. Crow served on the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs from 2009 to 2014. In 2019, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent Colorado's 6th District where he continues to serve.

Rep. Crow's Quilt of Valor was made by Sue McCormick, member of the Front Range QOVF group. Sandra Lazaroff, Colorado State Coordinator and Front Range QOVF Group Leader conducted the ceremony. Other area leaders in attendance were Bob Lazaroff,



Front Range QOVF member; Debbie Patterson, Lois Wagneck, and Connie Johnson from the Windsor Gardens QOVF group, and Lori Thompson, QOVF Executive Director.

Rep. Crow shared closing remarks at the ceremony, telling the story of how different cultures support their soldiers. He relayed how in Native American cultures warriors are celebrated and were encouraged to share their experiences with all members of the tribe. In contrast these days, many soldiers here in the U.S. don't have the opportunity or support to share about their experiences. He encouraged QOVF members to continue to provide comfort and healing for our service members and veterans.



QOVF will continue to celebrate the 350,000th QOV milestone by encouraging QOVF groups to make and award an honorary quilt to a veteran of their choice. Groups and members are encouraged to share their stories by emailing 350QOV@qovf.org. QOVF will be collecting the stories and creating a historical record.

QOVF EVENTS

By QOVF Marketing

Save the date for QOVF National Sew Day 2024.

Join us on February 3, 2024, for QOVF National Sew Day. Stay tuned for more information on the 2024 block and registration coming this fall. In the meantime, report your 2023 Split Back Star blocks to BlockDrive@qovf.org. For more information on our National Block Drive, click [here](#).



Save the Date for QOVF Take 5 in 2024!!

Join us as we will run, walk, and quilt blocks again on May 18, 2024, the official day of Armed Forces Day. Registration will open on February 5, 2024. For more information on Take 5 and to start preparing for 2024, click [here](#).



PATRIOTISM

*Submitted by Charlene Roche,
Bare Bones Quilters Group, New Hampshire*

When I was 12 years old, the school held an essay contest entitled “What does Americanism Mean to Me?” Born a few months prior to Pearl Harbor and with indelible memories of standing on the rooftop of the town hall with my mother, a toddler holding a card of airplane silhouettes and scanning the sky for shapes and sounds, it seemed an important question. As I wrote the essay, it was a formative assignment. I don’t recall what I wrote, but it must have resonated with the sponsors, as in a school assembly, I found out I had won first prize—a brand new unabridged dictionary.

Patriotism, as an identity based on principles and ideals which arose from the US Constitution and guides our country, has always been the foundation of my beliefs. Thinking of the uncles who had served during WWII—it is really miraculous that they all returned home. Respecting the flag with the Pledge of Allegiance in the classroom, noting the significance my parents placed on voting, valuing ration cards, watering Victory Gardens, watching my father count canned goods as a kind of currency on the kitchen shelf, getting under our desks and sitting on school hallway floors for bomb drills, hearing that townspeople were building bomb shelters,...were realities absorbed with a sense of duty and fear. Kate Smith singing her signature song, Irving Berlin’s “God Bless America”—a prayer for our country, Uncle Deane’s

patriotic painting of Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr. US Army Air Force, Mom’s eternal request that we be good citizens, “the poor starving children in China,” Memorial Day parades, bikes and baby carriages decorated with red, white and blue crepe paper streamers...all things we grew up with, thinking they were normal.

Had the US military accepted women, I would have signed up. Instead, I had to seek other ways to serve. Uncle Deane wrote letters dissuading me from going into the Peace Corps. He said I needed to use my brain. Following Kennedy’s Cuban Missile Crisis speech, I went into the dean’s office at Connecticut College and changed my major from French to Russian. We, as a family, know the path that was taken. It was with apprehensive trepidation as I had no idea the depth of commitment and courage it would take to do what we had to do. It is why I still serve, now as a member of an Emergency Services aircrew in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), an auxiliary of the US Air Force. During WWII, CAP filled many missions, including submarine and border patrols.

The point of all of this is younger generations are rarely exposed to the pillars of integrity, excellence, responsibility, commitment, and selflessness that formed our characters. Civics is no longer taught in most schools. Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, saluting the flag, standing for the National Anthem...are voluntary. Removing “under God” from the pledge is under debate. As of 2021, only 6.4% of the US population have served and

are veterans. The fabric of the country we stood up for, risked our lives for, to serve without question, is being ripped apart by the seams. There are too few opportunities for youth to witness and to celebrate honor.

A QOV presentation is one of those symbolic times. Patriotism is the foundation and heat of Quilts of Valor. It is a quilt of a country. America is made up of different peoples from many lands and cultures, each one a patch on a quilt. All are different yet connected, interwoven, and working together toward a common goal. Patriots, from the time of the US Revolution to now, are honored for defending our freedoms.

It is easy to give a gift. It takes far more grace to receive a gift. My brothers, Russ and Dave, are giving us a gift by allowing us to stand together as a family—sister, brother-in-law, wives, sons, daughter, daughters-in-law, grandsons, niece and nephews—with thanks for leaving the comfort of family, job and home to answer your country’s call to go to an unknown land, to do unknown tasks, with risk as the only certainty. It is a moment of recognition and honor that we as the gift givers need in our collective hearts to give to you. Receiving a gift often entails denial of worth by the humble recipient, along with embarrassment at being a center of attention. Receive the quilt as a matter of respect. Later pass it on to family, so they may remember that their ancestor contributed to and played a part in what Americanism truly means.

Love, Lonnie
(sister to veterans Russ and Dave)

ELECTRIC QUILT COMPANY COLLABORATION

By QOVF Marketing

Last November, QOVF and the Electric Quilt Company kicked off a collaboration to highlight Quilts of Valor® designed in their EQ software. Over the past eight months we have shared details about the collaboration and ways QOVF members and supporters could enter their designs to win a prize pack. The contest wrapped on July 4th. EQ directly contacted all winners.



Thank you to everyone who submitted their quilts and to Electric Quilt Company for their support and collaboration over these past few months.

We welcome all to [watch the video](#) to see all the Quilts of Valor submitted!

FLAG MOUNTAIN HONOR GUARD QUILTS OF VALOR GROUP RECEIVES ACTS OF EXCELLENCE AWARD FROM THE SOUTH DAKOTA HALL OF FAME

Submitted by Ardys Roseland, Flag Mount Honor Guard historian

On Saturday, April 22, 2023, the South Dakota Hall of Fame granted an Act of Excellence Award to Quilts of Valor, Flag Mountain Honor Guard, in Pierre, South Dakota. The award was presented to the organization by Laurie Becvar, CEO of the South Dakota Hall of Fame, and Board Director Gerry Likness of Watertown, SD.

The Flag Mountain Honor Guard (FMHG) presents over 20 quilts each year. The South Dakota Hall of Fame paid special tribute to Ardys Roseland for her long-standing membership in the group and for making the most quilts, as well as recognizing co-leaders Barb Vankeerbrook and Charlene Sundstrom.



The Flag Mountain Honor Guard receives Acts of Excellence Award from the South Dakota Hall of Fame. Pictured (left to right): Barb Vankeerbrook, Ardys Roseland, SD Hall of Fame Board Director Gerry Likness, and Charlene Sundstrom

The Quilts of Valor's mission is to make and award quilts to provide comfort and healing to veterans and active service members. The quilts acknowledge the wounds, both seen and unseen, of veterans and appreciation for the personal sacrifices they have made in protecting our freedoms and guarding our homeland.

The FMHG QOV group began in Pierre in 2018 by Janet Kay Livermont whose passion for quilting and veterans led her to start the local chapter of the national Quilts of Valor project. The Pierre chapter grew from nine charter members to 40 active members at its height. Presently, 22 members comprise the organization, and it is open to anyone who wishes to make quilts to honor veterans. Separate groups are now branching out in Mitchell and



The Flag Mountain Honor Guard poses with Board Director Gerry Likness and a recent quilt project.

Huron with the hope that chapters will continue to spread throughout the state.

Quilt tops are being made by FMHG members with a volunteer long-armed in Watertown and in other locations, along with members who have their own long-arm machines. Each member chooses patterns. Quilting costs, including fabric and sewing supplies, are approximately \$250 per quilt, with volunteer labor of approximately 150 hours per quilt.

The South Dakota Hall of Fame is a 501(c)(3) organization designed to Honor, Inspire, and Educate. The Hall's mission is to Champion a Culture of Excellence and the SD Hall of Fame lives out its mission through its programming, including the Acts of Excellence Program. Twelve organizations or individuals have been chosen for their Acts of Excellence in 2023.

AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

Mike W. is a retired Army vet from the Vietnam era. He was awarded a Quilt of Valor by Cheryl Blue.



QUILT BUSINESS MEMBERS:

WHO'S IN MY AREA

Submitted by QOVF Marketing

Great Lakes

Warm N' Cozy Quilting

Overview: Warm
N' Cozy Quilting

strives to carry
the highest quality quilting fabrics and
supplies and has a long list of classes to
attend for your quilting needs. They also
have information on how to support
QOVF in the area—

[https://www.warmncozyquilting.com/
quilts-of-valor-qov-veterans.htm](https://www.warmncozyquilting.com/quilts-of-valor-qov-veterans.htm).

Click [here](#) to learn more about Warm
N' Cozy Quilting.

Contact Info

816 S Main Street
Columbia, IL 62236



Click [here](#) to learn more about TLC
Quilting.

Contact Info

2900 E. Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057

North Central Heartfelt Quilt Shop



Overview: Heartfelt Quilt Shop is a
brick and mortar store selling quality
quilting fabrics, wool, notions of all
kinds, embroidery and cross stitch
supplies and host a variety of clubs and
classes.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Heartfelt
Quilt Shop.

Contact Info

640 Heritage Drive
Spearfish, SD 57783

Southeast Blue Heron Stitchery

Overview: Blue
Heron Stitchery has
a great selection of
modern & eclectic
fabrics, sewing
notions, patterns, &
handmade goods.



Click [here](#) to learn more about Blue
Heron Stitchery.

Contact Info

1233 May River Road
Bluffton, SC 29910

North Central Prairie Point Quilt & Fabric Shop



Overview: Prairie Point Quilt & Fabric
Shop provides high-quality fabrics,
notions, patterns, books, service and
inspiration to meet your sewing needs.
They are expanding sewing projects to
include not only quilts, but bags, more
small projects, clothing and home decor.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Prairie
Point Quilt & Fabric Shop.

Contact Info

12116 W 95th Street
Lenexa, KS 66215

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.

Mid-Atlantic TLC Quilting

Overview:

TLC Quilting has
a wide selection of
Batik, 45" Cotton
fabric, 108" and some
118" wide backing
fabrics. They also
offer a wide range of
classes from introductory quilting to
advanced longarm quilting and are also
an AccuQuilt dealer.

TLC - QUILTING





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: 18,651

Total: 354,712

(from date of first recorded award through
31 July 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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Board Member Emeritus
Walt Davis
Marianne Fons
Eric McCarty
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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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