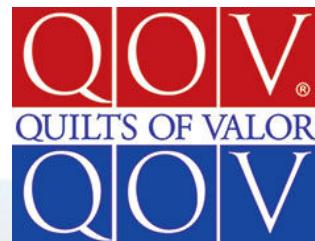


Under Our Wings®

Create An Under Our Wings® Program

“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®.”



FINDING GROUPS

Any group in our community that does community service can have a UOW program.

Contact the Chamber of Commerce for a listing of groups in your area:

- ✓ 4-H
- ✓ Girl or Boy Scouts
- ✓ FFA
- ✓ Boys or Girls Clubs
- ✓ Church Youth Groups
- ✓ DAV
- ✓ Sororities
- ✓ VFW
- ✓ Pilot
- ✓ Jaycees
- ✓ Lions Club
- ✓ Rotary
- ✓ High School Guidance Counselors
- ✓ Senior Citizens Center



COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

- Select Group(s) for a UOW program
- Send a letter describing the UOW program and QOVF's mission
- Follow up with a phone call to set a meeting



FIRST MEETING WITH GROUP AGENDA

- Explain the UOW program and QOVF mission
- Share list of what is needed
 - For Mentor
 - For Group/Leader
- Explain how to select a Recipient
- Go over Award Ceremony
 - Where program will be held
 - Who will participate in ceremony
 - Decide if invitations will be sent
- Decide on pattern
 - Materials needed and how to raise



GUIDELINES FOR MAKING A QUILT OF VALOR



Quilts of Valor® Foundation Quick Reference Guide



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MAKING QUILTS OF VALOR®

Size: Recommended size: 60" × 80" (minimum: 55" × 65"; maximum: 72" × 90")

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Pattern: Use a commercial pattern or your own design. (Avoid full size flag patterns that might resemble a casket flag.)

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Fabrics: Use quality, adult-appropriate, 100% cotton, "quilt weight" fabrics. Avoid juvenile prints. Avoid branch-specific (Army, Navy, etc.) prints unless the recipient is known. A Quilt of Valor does not have to be red, white, and blue, but patriotic colors are most popular with both male and female recipients.

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Workmanship: Do your best. One of our core values is promoting excellence.

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Backing: Use quality, 100% cotton; backings provided to volunteer longarmers must be 4" larger than quilt top on all sides (8" wider in width and 8" longer in length). Wide commercial backings sold at quilt and fabric stores are acceptable. Square up, press, and fold backing neatly before providing to quilter.

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Batting: Use quality, low loft batting such as cotton, cotton blends, polyester, and polyester blends.

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Binding: Double ("French fold") is recommended for durability. Miter corners. Turn by hand or stitch neatly by machine.

Label: The label must state quilt is a Quilt of Valor in order to be awarded as a Quilt of Valor and recorded as such. Make your own label or purchase at quilt shop or online. Use permanent fabric pen when personalizing.

Include name of recipient (first and last name may be included), names of top maker, quilter, and binder (first and last names may be included) city and state of residence if desired, date and location of award. Include washing instructions (cold water, mild detergent, "color catcher," dry low). Religious or political messages may not be included.

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Pre-Laundering: Wash quilt once completed so it is soft and so that any potential fabric dye bleeding issues are resolved. Use cold water, mild detergent, and unscented products. A "color catcher" such as marketed by Tide® will capture fabric dyes in washer.

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Presentation Case: Presentation case (a pillow case made in matching fabrics) is optional. In the early days of Quilts of Valor, many were sent to hospitals, and presentation cases were required.

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Note or letter: A thank you note, card, or letter to the recipient may be included. A journal with information about how the quilt was made, maker's thoughts, etc. may be included.



SELECT A MENTOR



- A Mentor is an experienced quilter that can guide the group to make a QOV from beginning to award
- The Mentor will assist the group leader decide on a pattern and materials
- The Mentor will be critical in the making of the quilt
- The Mentor will help the group enjoy the process



MENTOR – SEWING DAY

- Teach sewing techniques
- Match Corners
- Pin, pin, pin
- Press
- Rip (if needed)
- Help decide on block/strip placement



STEPS FOR GROUP ON QOV SEW DAY

- Show group the pattern and materials
- Ask if anyone in the group is a sewer
- Assign a Cutter – cut material accurately
- Assign Sewer - 1/4” seams for uniformity
- Have Quilt sent to Long Armer
 - Group has a LA who will quilt their quilt
 - Request LA from QOVF
- Decide who will sew on binding
- Make Label and sew on back of quilt



THE AWARD CEREMONY

- ❖ Have information ready to read about the recipient
- ❖ Prepare the Certificate ahead of time
- ❖ Choose who will take part in the ceremony



Quilts of Valor® Foundation Quick Reference Guide

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AWARDING QUILTS OF VALOR®

An award ceremony, no matter how brief, may be as meaningful to the recipient as the QOV itself, so take time to prepare. A written script is helpful.

Invite recipient's family members and friends if appropriate. Dress appropriately. Make sure QOVF is well represented.

An ideal ceremony has five parts:

1) Opening 2) Information about Quilts of Valor Foundation 3) What a Quilt of Valor means 4) Information about the awardee 5) Closing statement. Each part can be as brief or as lengthy as the situation warrants.

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Opening: Introduce yourself, including your title or role (QOVF volunteer, member, executive staff member). *Sample opening:* Thank you for inviting me here today. I'm Susan Smith, and I represent Quilts of Valor members and volunteers all over the country.

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Information about QOVF: Accurately share our foundation's history, mission, core values, and number of QOVs awarded to date. *Sample wording:* In 2003, a quilter named Catherine Roberts started the movement that became Quilts of Valor when her son was deployed in Iraq. Since that time, over _____ Quilts of Valor have been awarded. Our mission is to honor service members and veterans who have been touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

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What a Quilt of Valor means: A Quilt of Valor is a formal expression of appreciation from a grateful nation. *Sample wording:* This quilt is an expression of gratitude meant to thank and comfort you. We honor you for leaving all you hold dear to serve, whether in time of crisis or in time of peace. This Quilt of Valor

unequivocally says thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation.

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Information about the awardee(s): Ask the awardee to stand or come forward. If possible, include a paragraph about his/her service, years served, branch, location of service, etc. *Sample wording:* Fred entered the US Army January 23, 1943, and was trained at gunnery school in Laredo, Texas. During his service, he flew fifty B-17 bombing missions. Fred was awarded the Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters. He was discharged August 29, 1945. Once home, his career was in radio and TV.

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Closing statement: The foundation's tradition is to award the QOV by wrapping the awardee in his/her quilt and offering a hug, but a handshake works, too. You can also present an award certificate. End the ceremony with expressions of gratitude and thank all for attending. *Sample wording:* On behalf of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, Fred, Welcome Home, and thank you for allowing us to recognize you. Thank you everyone, for being here today.

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Cautions: Never ask for donations at an award ceremony. Bring business cards with you so anyone with questions can contact you. Be prepared to give your written script to the awardee or a member of the press. Make sure your contact information is on it.



The QOV Experience! Enjoy!



Thank you to Jeff Thorne Photography for this photo from the Commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day 2016 by the Quilts of Valor Foundation®.

