



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Lori Thompson

Last month, we celebrated QOVF's 20th Anniversary Conference and enjoyed celebrating at our first conference together in four years! We kicked off the conference on the evening of September 13 with the beautiful All-Star Quilts of Valor exhibit at the National Quilt Museum. We were lucky to be joined by Tony Jacobson, Sue Reich, Mary Kerr, and Marianne Fons, who each designed a quilt for the book.



Lori Thompson
Executive Director

Over the next two days, we honored our history and made plans to forge QOVF's future. Special guests joined us, sharing their experiences and contributions to QOVF's history. Partners came and celebrated, too, sharing their connections to QOVF and future projects to help continue supporting QOVF's mission. It was wonderful to meet so many QOVF members in person! After meeting with so many people online for the past two years, it was great to be together in the same room.

There were many great moments at the conference, but my favorite was the Anniversary Retrospective during

the conference opening session. Susan Gordon and Ann Rehbein, former QOVF Executive Directors; Marianne Fons, Board Member; and Chaplain John Kallerson each shared special memories and important moments about their chapters with QOVF. There was so much to learn about QOVF from each speaker's perspective! It was inspiring to hear about how Catherine Roberts and Chaplain Kallerson met and how the first QOVs were awarded at Walter Reed Hospital. It was impressive how this fledgling grassroots movement gained momentum as more people learned about Quilts of Valor.

During Susan Gordon's chapter, it was impressive to see how volunteers came together across the country to create the foundation, policies, and procedures that structure and govern our organization today. Many of those volunteers are still active today and their legacy continues to support QOVF.

Connection to the quilting industry was the hallmark of Marianne Fons' chapter. It was great to see how Marianne connected QOVF and raised our profile with the industry, connecting us to partners we still work with today. Marianne's work also laid the foundation of QOVF's presence in Winterset, Iowa, where our brick-and-mortar office is today.

It was impressive to see the exponential growth during Ann Rehbein's chapter when membership and quilt awards grew significantly. I

can't imagine it was easy to support such incredible growth in a short period of time. But Ann built a solid volunteer executive staff that helped create a solid foundation for QOVF during this time and also for the future.

My chapter focused on where we've been the last two years. I was a bit emotional talking about keeping our community connected with the challenge of the pandemic, given the different impact across the country. I shared stories from members setting up drive-up awards, Zoom ceremonies, and other ways members pivoted to award quilts during this challenging time. I also shared how our members stayed strong and committed during this time, with membership staying pretty steady despite the challenges. We also celebrated being back together making and awarding QOVs and being together after four long years.

While listening to each chapter in our history, it became clear to me that we have all had a special place in QOVF's history. Our efforts have mattered. Throughout the last 20 years, we've come together, addressing the challenges and leveraging the opportunities to ensure those we serve are wrapped in Quilts of Valor. I hope you will take a moment and think about your history with QOVF and what you've contributed to our larger story. Your efforts have mattered. Thank you for being a part of QOVF and being on this journey together!

20TH ANNIVERSARY RECAP

The Quilts of Valor Foundation would like to thank everyone who attended our 20th Anniversary Conference in Paducah, Kentucky. A special thank you to all our sponsors and supporters and to Letters From Home. We have videos on our YouTube channel to share with you from our conference. One of our videos includes Chaplain John Kallerson being awarded his QOV during our 20th Anniversary Conference. Click [here](#) to view the videos.



Sue Reich, QOVF Board President, with her one of two designs. This one is called Thank You for Your Service that includes fabrics designed by Northcott Fabrics for QOVF.



Team and Conference Committee setting up and preparing for the conference.



The Swag Bags attendees received were filled with a lot of items from our sponsors and supporters.





20th Anniversary Conference Opening Reception at the National Quilt Museum exhibiting 24 quilts from The All Star Quilts of Valor book. These quilts will be on display until November 10 as they will be awarded on that day.

About the Exhibition

Leading quilt industry professionals created patriotic quilts for Veterans and active duty members who have faithfully served our country. Each quilt is stitched together with the thoughts and prayers of the maker. These quilts will be awarded on November 10, 2023 at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, KY in appreciation to the men and women of our nation who defended our freedoms.

Catherine Roberts' Dream

Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 with a dream, literally a dream. Founder Catherine Roberts' son Nat was deployed in Iraq. According to Catherine:

"The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war-torn clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. There, as if witnessing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change. The message of my dream was Quilts = Healing."

The QOVF Mission
The Quilt of Valor Foundation appreciates the service and sacrifice of those who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces and protect our freedoms. In 2003, Catherine Roberts, the QOVF Founder, created the concepts that underpin this mission statement: To cover Service Members and Veterans touched by the war in Iraq.

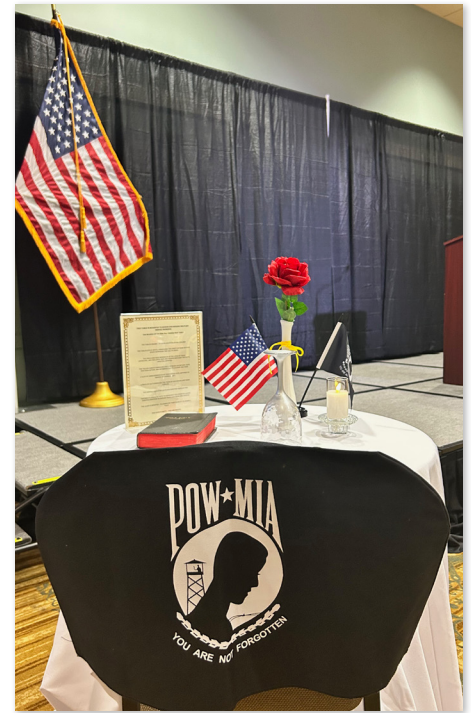
"Not everyone answers the call to serve our country. It is those rare individuals who are selfless enough to sacrifice so much so we can all enjoy the freedom we have. We'll never know exactly what each Veteran experiences and how they are touched by war. But we can welcome our Veterans home, support them and their families, and thank them for their service, however possible."

David Thompson, Executive Director, 21





QOVF Conference Committee members—Jackie McKinstry, Mary Kerr, and Pat Forshaw, QOVF Executive Director—Lori Thompson, and QOVF Board President—Sue Reich with Letters From Home performers Erinn Dearth and Dan Beckmann.



A special table in honor of POW/MIA Recognition Day.

CHAPLAIN KALLERSON AWARDED HIS OWN QOV

By Lori Thompson, Executive Director

A special highlight at QOVF's 20th Anniversary Conference was the awarding of a Quilt of Valor® to Chaplain John Kallerson. Chaplain Kallerson worked with Catherine Roberts to award the first Quilt of Valor at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., in the early 2000s. During the conference Chaplain Kallerson shared how he met Catherine and how she encouraged him to award quilts in the hospital. He shared how the awards grew with just a few quilts and how the quilts outgrew his office, then a storage cabinet, finally growing into a large storage closet at the hospital.

It was not surprising that he had not received his own Quilt of Valor, ensuring that other service members received one to provide comfort and healing. Several QOVF members felt it was time to remedy this and award the chaplain his own quilt. On Friday morning of the conference, Sue Reich, Michelle Nelson, and Nancy Cann awarded Chaplain



Kallerson a beautiful Quilt of Valor made by Nancy.

Chaplain Kallerson served in the U.S. Army for 34 years and rose to the rank of Colonel. He spent 24 years of his military career serving as a chaplain. Chaplain Kallerson served with the Rangers 82nd Airborne and was deployed to Iraq, El Salvador, as well as other duty stations.

He comes from a long legacy of military service in his family dating back to the War of 1812. It was our privilege to honor Chaplain Kallerson with his own Quilt of Valor and thank him for all the comfort and healing he has provided for the groundbreaking work he did awarding QOVs at Walter Reed Hospital.

HONORING A WWII HERO

By Carole McLean, Holland, MI

On July 8, 2023, the Michigan community came together to honor Louis S., a valiant WWII veteran who served with distinction from 1943 to 1945 in the United States Army 179th Infantry Division, known as the Thunderbirds. In a heartfelt ceremony, Louis was bestowed with a well-deserved Quilt of Valor, symbolizing gratitude and admiration for his service. Throughout his military career, Louis exhibited immense bravery and dedication, earning two Purple Hearts for his sacrifices in combat in Africa and Europe.

The presentation took place in the company of his beloved adopted family, Jason & Amy and their five children;



Jason's parents, as well as his brother, wife and three children. In addition, in attendance were members from the American Legion in Holland and Zeeland; representatives from the local VFW; retired Army veterans Norm & Cindy B.; along with Vern & Ken B. from the Quest Ministries, which raises funds for annual retreats for Purple Heart recipients.

As Louis approaches his centennial in December, it is remarkable to witness his vitality and the love he shares with his adopted families in Michigan & Florida. The Quilt of Valor was crafted by Carole McLean who has made over 100 quilts for servicemembers. Fueled by deep respect for veterans, Carole gladly accepted the task of creating a unique quilt for Louis, adorned with service pictures of him and his family that surrounded an American Flag panel.

It is through the generosity and dedication of community members



like these that we ensure our veterans' sacrifices are never forgotten. The Quilt of Valor serves as a reminder of our deep appreciation for those who have selflessly defended our freedom. Let us continue to celebrate and cherish the stories of these remarkable individuals, preserving the legacies for generations to come. Their courage and sacrifices have paved the way for the freedom and security we enjoy today.

AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

Submitted by Shirleen Wilhelm

SGT Michael B. was awarded his Quilt of Valor on August 4 with his wife of 51 years! SGT Michael served four years in the US Air Force during the Vietnam Era. He was also pinned with the Vietnam War 50th Commemorative Pin.



2023—A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

*Submitted by Col. (Retired) Waleska Pizarro
QOV Volunteer Member*

Dear friends invited us to join them on an RV summer trip along the northeast United States. My husband and I immediately accepted this journey, one full of beauty and history at the same time. Having our dearest friends with us was to become “A Summer to Remember.” It also occurred to me that this journey would present the perfect opportunity to award Colonel (Retired) Ivan M. a well-deserved Quilt of Valor.

Ivan and I were deployed with the United States Army to Afghanistan at the same time, but in different military units. I knew Ivan was eligible and deserving of a QOV, so I consulted with his wife Josie to find the perfect moment for this beautiful ceremony to take place. We decided to award the QOV during one of his favorite parts of the day: sunrise. Ivan was awarded his Quilt of Valor immediately after watching the sunrise at the Acadia National Park Cadillac Mountain

summit (1,530 feet) in Bar Harbor, Maine. Cadillac Mountain is the highest point in the eastern seaboard of the United States. The views were spectacular, and the moment was perfect for such a solemn event. Many were in awe of the ceremony taking place.

Ivan is a native of Bronx, New York. He enlisted in the Army in 1980 as a Material Storage and Handling Supply Specialist. In May of 1990 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps through the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps from the University of Puerto Rico. Ivan had years of distinguished service to his country including serving in various positions at Company, Battalion, and Brigade level and also served in numerous staff positions at different levels of command. His command assignments consisted of the 25th Signal Battalion, Bagram, Afghanistan, Operation Enduring Freedom; San Juan Recruiting Company, Miami Recruiting Battalion; and HHD 41st Signal Battalion, Yongsan, Korea. Other deployments include Restore



Hope, Mogadishu, Somalia. Col. Ivan has been married to Josie for 35 years, and they are blessed with two children. The journey along the northeast states was fantastic, sewing this quilt was very special and heartfelt, but making this QOV award presentation possible was an honor for all of us.

AN UPDATE FROM THE TAKE 5 2023

Submitted by Cheryl Emanuel

I wish to start off by saying what a privilege it is to be a part of this organization! You featured my quilts in a story regarding the Take Five Challenge in the June/July newsletter. My sisters and I were able to make it happen with an award wrapping ceremony in mid-August. My four brothers were wrapped with QOVs during a ceremony with family and friends present. They were deeply touched to be remembered in this way! I will be forever grateful to the organization and will continue to do what I can so more veterans will be honored in this way!!



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 Take 5 2024.



DOUBLY BLESSED

By Sheila Strobel, Parrottsville, TN

On Saturday, August 5, the Parrottsville Quilts of Valor guild awarded six veterans with Quilts of Valor. This unique group of veterans, "US military Vets MC," ride motorcycles. They continue to serve their country after military service by raising money for various organizations in the area. We were blessed to be able to award Quilts of Valor to these veterans. Additionally, their group donated \$1,600 back to our group for a memory quilt featuring Elvis Presley. We were doubly blessed!



AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

Submitted by Shirleen Wilhelm

SPC4 Kevin enlisted into the U.S. Army in 1980 during the Cold War. He served his country stateside, Germany, and Granada for six years before being honorably discharged in 1986. Veteran Kevin was wrapped in his comforting and healing Quilt of Valor by Yakima QOV members with his family and friends present.



QUILT BUSINESS MEMBERS:

WHO'S IN MY AREA

Submitted by QOVF Marketing

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. They have a selection of quality fabrics and needful notions along with their 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 Avenue
Limerick, ME 04048

East

Creekside

Overview: Creekside is a place full of fabric, sewing machines, notions, patterns, classes and yarn where everyone is welcome to come sit, sew, learn, and encourage each other.



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

Contact Info

237 Main St.
Arcade, NY 14009

Mid-Atlantic

Capital Quilts

Overview:

Capital Quilts provides high quality quilting cotton fabrics, quality specialty fabrics, notions, patterns, kits, threads, and other stitching supplies, to inspire your creativity and make your sewing experience more efficient and enjoyable. They are also an authorized dealer for



Janome and Handi Quilter. They offer sales, service, and training of quality sewing machines and longarm quilting machines.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Capital Quilts.

Contact Info

15926 Luanne Dr
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Southeast

Carolina Quilt Studio

Overview:

CQS offers classes on quilting, basic sewing, and longarm quilting. They also offer rentals, sales, service, and parts on all Innova longarms. The studio has a variety of products to help create your unique, beautiful quilt such as fabric, batting, thread, notions, and so on.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Carolina Quilt Studio.

Contact Info

201-A Pelham Davis Circle
Greenville, SC 29615

North Central

Creative Dimensions

Overview: Creative Dimensions is a one stop shop for every aspect of quilt making: from classes, supplies (fabric, batting, backing, etc.), notions, longarm services/supplies, and a rental longarm for people to quilt their own quilts.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Creative Dimensions.

Contact Info

2705 4th Avenue NW
Minot, ND 58703



Great Lakes

Love It Sew

Overview: Love It Sew has a line of BERNINA Sewing Machines, Longarm services, Benartex fabric, Wilmington Prints, Moda and Island Batiks fabrics. Our thread selection contains Aurifil as well as Isacord Embroidery.

Love it Sew

Click [here](#) to learn more about Love It Sew.

Contact Info

7270 E US Hwy 36
Suite 104, Avon, IN 46123

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.

AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!



Submitted by Shirleen Wilhelm

Tabitha's Peaceful Piece Makers, had the honor to present Bill a Quilt of Valor at a recent veteran's lunch.

IOWA MEMBERS RECOGNIZE TEN HEROES

Submitted by Diane Weide, North Central Iowa Quilts of Valor (NCIA-QOV)

Dougherty is a small rural community in Cerro Gordo County of Iowa. The most recent census shows its population as 62. However, its size does not equal its commitment to community, faith, and family. In 2014, under the chairmanship of Dennis C., the not-for-profit S.T.P.A.T.S. (Society to Preserve Antiquated Town Structures) acquired the 142-year-old Catholic Church and former parochial school. The property became a museum and community center. The American Legion Brislin-Hogan Post 354 and Auxiliary use this center for their meetings and programs.

On September 14, 2023, the NCIA-QOV provided an award ceremony at this community center for ten area veterans. Commander Dennis, with the Legion and Auxiliary members, provided the honored veterans, the veterans' family and friends, and the NCIA-QOV members with an evening to remember. It started with a meal for the 90+ attendees. Following the meal was the QOV program that was supplemented with three videos honoring our veterans and country. Commander Dennis was one of the recipients and was awarded the NCIA-QOV version of the 20th Anniversary QOV pattern, "Twenty Stars for Twenty Years."

The eldest veteran honored that evening was Carl S. who entered a volunteer program in 1944 at the age of 16. Carl served in the Merchant Marines as part of the United States Coast Guard under federal orders. Carl was part of a mission called the Murmansk Run, also known as a Suicide Run, an Allied convoy of ships that made a dangerous cruise through the Arctic waters during harsh weather. These convoys delivered millions of tons of supplies to the Russian Army and sustained great loss of life. Years later, Carl was invited to the Russian Embassy in Washington, DC, to receive the Russian Hero Medal and the Russian War Medal for his participation in helping the Russian Army remove Hitler. Carl also served two years in the United States Army. Carl enjoyed



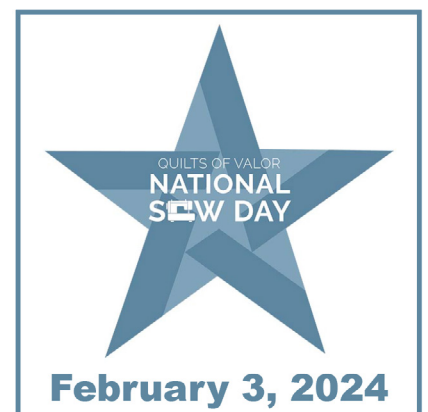
visiting with other veterans about his military experience. Carl's two sons said

they heard more stories that night than they had heard their entire life.

QOVF NATIONAL SEW DAY 2024

Submitted by QOVF Marketing

Save the date for QOVF National Sew Day 2024 on February 3, 2024. Start thinking and planning about how you will spend your Sew Day 2024. More information coming this fall.



MONTANA GROUPS AWARD QOVs

*Submitted by Debbie Tomell, Western
Montana Coordinator*

Over the last eight months the groups from Western and Central Montana had been planning and preparing for one of the largest presentations in Montana at the Columbia Falls Veterans Home. What better place to honor our veterans than at this Veterans Home to fulfill the mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation: to cover veterans touched by war with healing quilts. This facility can house up to 100 veterans and has medical and long-term residents. As the Coordinator for our Western Montana QOV group, I was excited and intimidated by the number of quilts that might be needed for this event.

Our State Coordinator Sue Giskaas obtained the veteran list and the total number of veterans would be 54. Several of the residents had already been honored with quilts in 2019 by the Western Montana QOV group. The Central Montana group would provide 30 of the 54 QOVs needed and Western Montana provided the remainder. These two QOV groups, supported by many Quilt Guild members in Montana, began sewing in preparation for the event. With amazing quilters, we exceeded our goal of 54 quilts and had ample extra quilts for future awards in both groups.

On September 6, 2023, eight representatives of Montana QOV groups were honored to present the 54 quilts at the Columbia Falls Veterans Home. On arrival, our contact gave us a revised list with four new names and a few veterans who were no longer at the facility. We had come prepared with extra quilts, so our group immediately added names to labels and created new certificates and thank you notes.

Approximately 35 veterans gathered in a lovely courtyard to receive their quilts on a bright sunny day. We arranged the quilts with the certificates and thank you letters on tables. For Vietnam-era veterans, a special commemorative lapel pin was also attached to the label of the quilt with a ribbon of blue or red. Debbie Tomell and Sue Giskass presented a short explanation of the purpose of a Quilt

of Valor and to thank each veteran for their courageous service to the United States. The ceremony was attended by many family, friends, and staff, as well as a local broadcasting station, KPAX.

As names were called out, veterans threw up a hand and said "here" or staff assisted in pointing out the more reserved veterans. Six members took turns presenting the beautiful quilts to each veteran. There were many smiles, a few tears, and overall, a great amount of gratitude shown by these worthy men and women. Delicious apple pie and huckleberry ice cream topped off the celebration. Veterans unable to attend

were later presented quilts in their rooms.

KPAX featured the presentation and reported on the QOV process. Thanks to Janet Gustuson, Connee Crieg and Linda Hanson—Western MT QOV, and to Sue Giskaas, Jeanne Ingram, Barb Callender and Vicki Converse, Central MT QOV, for assisting in the presentation. A special thanks to Mike T. and Gus G. for the support and assistance at the event. With the additional quilts prepared, we look forward to covering many more veterans in Montana in the weeks and months to come.



VETERANS RECOGNIZED AT THE WESTERN MINNESOTA STEAM THREASHERS REUNION

By Pat Otto and Lou Ann Lee, Stitching Hearts QOV group, North Dakota

Every Labor Day weekend the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion (WMSTR) meets in Rollag, Minnesota. This four-day annual event brings visitors from all over the United States and Canada. WMSTR normally highlights a line of steam engines or tractors, but the 2023 theme was "Honoring our Veterans and Military."

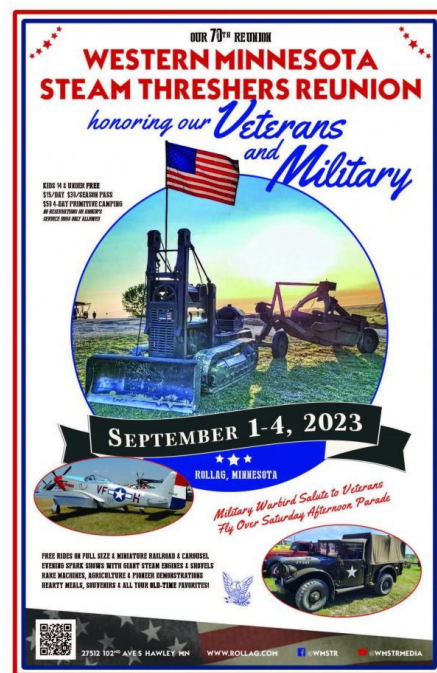
Each year the Expo Building is where the feature for that year is highlighted. WMSTR volunteers were there to register veterans visiting the show. Each veteran was given a special pin that identified them as a veteran. The building also included a display of older military uniforms and weapons, with veterans available to answer questions. There were several older military vehicles and other various equipment on site, a Sherman tank, and a fly over of military warbirds during the parades. Even though it was sweltering hot for all four days, WMSTR registered over 1,300 veterans. The extreme temperatures in the 90s each day limited some of the visitors that normally would have attended the show.

Since a few of our QOVF members are also WMSTR members and had heard in 2022 that veterans and the military would be the theme for the 2023 show, our Stitching Hearts Quilts of Valor group requested to be a part of the exhibition in an effort to spread the word about the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Our QOVF group had a



booth, spreading information about the Quilts of Valor Foundation and where we displayed two finished quilts along with scrapbooks showing awards that had been done over the past few years. Two members manned the booth at all times over the four-day event. We were able to greet the veterans and thank them for their service. We distributed several nomination forms and listened to many stories about their time in service. Tears were shed by a few veterans as they told us about their time in the service and also when they heard that QOVF wanted to recognize them for their service.

Twelve of our fifteen members were able to participate in this event over Labor Day weekend. It was a very heart-warming activity where we spread the word about the Quilts of Valor Foundation to many who had never heard of this wonderful organization.



PARTNERS CORNER

AccuQuilt

AccuQuilt has something each week. Check out the FREE Virtual Events from AccuQuilt [here](#) and register to win door prizes at every event!

National Quilt Museum

The All-Star Quilt of Valor exhibit is running now through November 10, 2023. Check out the quilts from QOVF's latest book. You can find more information [here](#).

Fat Quarter Shop

Check out new fabrics, notions and more from this QOVF partner here. You can find many free block and quilt patterns [here](#).

Original Sewing and Quilt Expo

The last show of 2023 is scheduled for November 9-11 in Detroit, Michigan. Look for QOVF's booth at the show. For more information about the show and upcoming 2024 shows, check [here](#).

Fons and Porter for the Love of Quilting

The show's production crew is busy working on episodes for next season. Check out For the Love of Quilting episodes in 2024 on your local PBS station. QOVF will be featured in two episodes in the new season! For more information about the series, go [here](#).



BROTHERS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR SERVICE

*Submitted by Joanie Findle
Pocono Mountain Quilts of Valor,
Stroudsburg, PA*

On September 5, 2023, family and friends of Joseph and Vincent K. gathered at Joseph's Perryopolis, PA, home to honor and thank the two brothers for their service to our country. Joanie, daughter of Vincent and niece of Joseph, pieced the quilts specifically for each recipient, and Laura quilted Joseph's quilt, the backing of which portrays various WWII era aircraft, including a B-24 Liberator, the type of plane Joseph flew on his missions during WWII. Joanie, a member of the Pocono Mountain Quilts of Valor chapter, presented the quilts to the heroes with the help of her sister Genie and cousin JoAnne. Family friends, Harold and Joanne, captured the evening with photos and video, allowing extended family across the country to share in the special gathering.

In 1942, while still in high school, Joseph served as a Civil Air Patrol cadet, an Air Raid Warden, and as an Airplane Spotter with the Civil Defense in Uniontown, PA. Upon graduating from high school in 1943, Joseph enlisted in the Army Air Corp and was called up on January 5, 1944. Prior to his enlistment, he became the first Eagle Scout from Uniontown BSA Troop #2 and later served as their scoutmaster. In the Army Air Corp he flew as a ball turret gunner on a B-24 Liberator with the 15th Air Force, 464th Bomb Group, in Italy. Joseph completed 35 combat missions and was awarded the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, the European Theater Operations Medal with five Battle Stars, the American Defense Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the WWII Victory Medal. The 464th Bomb Group was awarded a Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation for its combat action in leading the 55th Bombardment Wing formation through an extremely heavy anti-aircraft barrage and 60 aggressive enemy fighter aircraft, to bomb the oil refineries in Vienna, Austria, resulting in the complete destruction of vital installations critical to the German war effort. His five battle stars were awarded for his participation



Vincent on left, Joseph on right.

in the following major campaigns: Battle of the North Apennines, Air War Balkans, Battle of Central Europe, Battle of the Rhineland, and Battle for Po Valley. Joseph was honorably discharged in October 1945 with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

After the war, Joseph earned his degree from Duquesne University and subsequently worked as an engineer for Westinghouse Electric Corporation, retiring in 1986. Joseph and his wife Phyllis have 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild (with another on the way). Joseph, an avid model plane builder, passed on his interest in aviation to a son and grandson who became licensed pilots, enabling the decorated veteran to once again leave the bounds of the earth for the skies.

Vincent, a Korean War veteran, enlisted in the Army on December 8, 1950, and reported to Basic Training at Fort Knox, KY. This assignment was followed by Signal School at Fort Devens, MA; additional basic training at Camp Pickett, VA; and Maneuver Exercises at Southern Pines, NC, near Fort Bragg. In the fall of 1951, Vincent departed from Oakland, CA, for Yokohama, Japan, where he boarded a ship that took him to Pusan, South Korea. After a month of instruction in the Chinese language, Vincent moved north as a member of the 12-man 329th Comm Recon Company. The eight operators of this team were assigned to various Marine and Army units to gather intelligence, and they broke all

thirteen known Chinese codes within four weeks, an accomplishment for which Vincent and his team were awarded citations. In recognition of his distinguished service and performance, Vincent earned an additional citation, as well as the Ambassador for Peace Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Korean War Medal, the National Defense Medal, the United Nations Medal, and the Korean Service Medal with two battle stars.

Vincent spent a year stateside as an instructor in the Army. He was honorably discharged at the rank of Technical Sergeant in December 1953, and shortly after, enrolled in the University of Pittsburgh where he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. Vincent met his wife-to-be in 1954, and they married in August 1959. The young couple moved to Rochester, NY, and Vincent earned his master's degree in applied mathematics from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1968. He applied his expertise at General Railway Signal, where he accrued six patents, retiring in 1994 after thirty years with the company.

Vincent and his wife Frances still live in the Rochester, NY, area. For several decades they trained their golden retrievers and traveled the East Coast for field trial competitions. Vincent continues to enjoy the lifelong passions of gardening and woodworking, and his optimism, compassion, and work ethic continue to enrich the lives of those who know him.



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: 23,666

Total: 359,727

(from date of first recorded award through 30 September 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



QOVF Founder and Board Member Emeritus
Catherine Roberts

Board Member Emeritus
Walt Davis
Marianne Fons
Eric McCarty
June Moore

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For more information about QOVF, see www.QOVF.org

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