



NEW BEGINNINGS

by ED Lexie Millikan

My first few weeks here at the Quilts of Valor Foundation have been full and productive. I have had the honor of meeting many of our members; group, state, and regional leaders; and board members, who all contribute to the success of the organization. Of course,



Lexie Millikan
Executive Director

I have had many virtual meetings, as well, which reminds me how lucky we are to live in our current time, where we have access to each other across thousands of miles of our country. In February, I traveled to our office headquarters in Winterset, Iowa and to a quilt show in North Carolina to meet staff and industry partners. I also attended AQS QuiltWeek in Branson and got to meet many of you who visited our booth. Through these travels and meetings, I'm continually amazed at the number of dedicated people it takes to fulfill our mission.

QOVF has experienced tremendous growth over the past few months and as you know, with growth comes pain. I commend you all for your continued work with the organization as we evolve and as our next twenty years unfolds ahead of us. I look forward to growing with you!

As I learn more about the QOVF community, I am reminded of the history of quilt making in our country and how it has brought people together for generations, to fulfill a common goal of creating an object of comfort. The incredible care that it takes to create a handmade quilt from start to finish is a testament to each maker's tenacity. The veterans and service members that we serve feel that care, without a doubt, and that is why it is vital for us to continue this mission as a united and cooperative organization. I would like for you to consider how extraordinary it is that there are thousands of QOVF volunteers across the United States, working towards one common goal, and using the beautiful craft of quilting to connect with each other.

Over the next few months, I'm looking forward to meeting more of you and hearing your stories. I hope you'll make plans to visit the QOV booth at the AQS Paducah show in April and say hello. As a textile educator, researcher, and curator, I love to learn about the creative process that quilt makers use to turn an idea into a unique handmade object.

Thank you for your warm welcome to the Quilts of Valor Foundation! I look forward to working with each of you and thank you sincerely for your continued work towards our mission of covering service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

VETERANS AND FRIENDS ENJOY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Submitted by Judy Williams,
Country Quilts and Fabric QOV
Mendocino County, California

Our local newspaper, The Ukiah Daily Journal, printed on the front page an article on this event, sponsored by the American Legion and the VFW. A QOV quilt was awarded to Commanders of the American Legion and the VFW. Below is the article written by Carole Hester of the Ukiah Daily Journal.

On December 16, about 140 Veterans and guests enjoyed a scrumptious Christmas dinner with all the trimmings sponsored by the local Ukiah American Legion Post 76 and VFW Post 1900 and hosted at the Ukiah Senior Center.

This annual event is free to all Veterans. In addition to tasty food and fellowship, all enjoyed traditional Christmas music, and a fun gift raffle with amazing prizes donated by a host of generous local merchants.

Duane Grilli, a member of American Legion Post 76, served as this year's Chairperson and Master of Ceremonies for the event. Special recognition was given to 101-year-old Veteran Gaylord D. Starin and 98-year-old Veteran William Smith, both having served in World War II.

"Quilts of Valor," a local quilting group, presented Army Veteran Ralph Paulin and Navy Veteran Mary Ann Gonzalez with beautiful hand-crafted quilts recognizing them for their years of military duty and continued service to Veterans. Their service to the community through years of active participation and leadership in local American Legion Post 76, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1900 was also recognized.

FIRE DIDN'T DESTROY THE MISSION OF THE QOV GROUP

*Submitted by Diane Watters,
Greater Spokane QOV*

From August 18 to September 1st of last year, the devastating Gray fire near Medical Lake, WA, raged over 10,000 acres destroying 240 homes in its path. U.S. Air Force veteran Col. Larry K. (QOV recipient 7-23-21) and his wife Karen lost everything in that fire.



Veteran's home destroyed; his flag still flying after devastating fire.



After visiting the area, Greater Spokane QOV (GSQOV) member Margie Richards realized she made her first award there for our group. Upon this discovery, plans were initiated for a new mission...to replace the veteran's quilt. The original piecer, Loretta Brickell, volunteered to reproduce the quilt top using the same pattern; Margie did the quilting and binding; and the embroidered label was recreated for the quilt by Glenda Haddican.

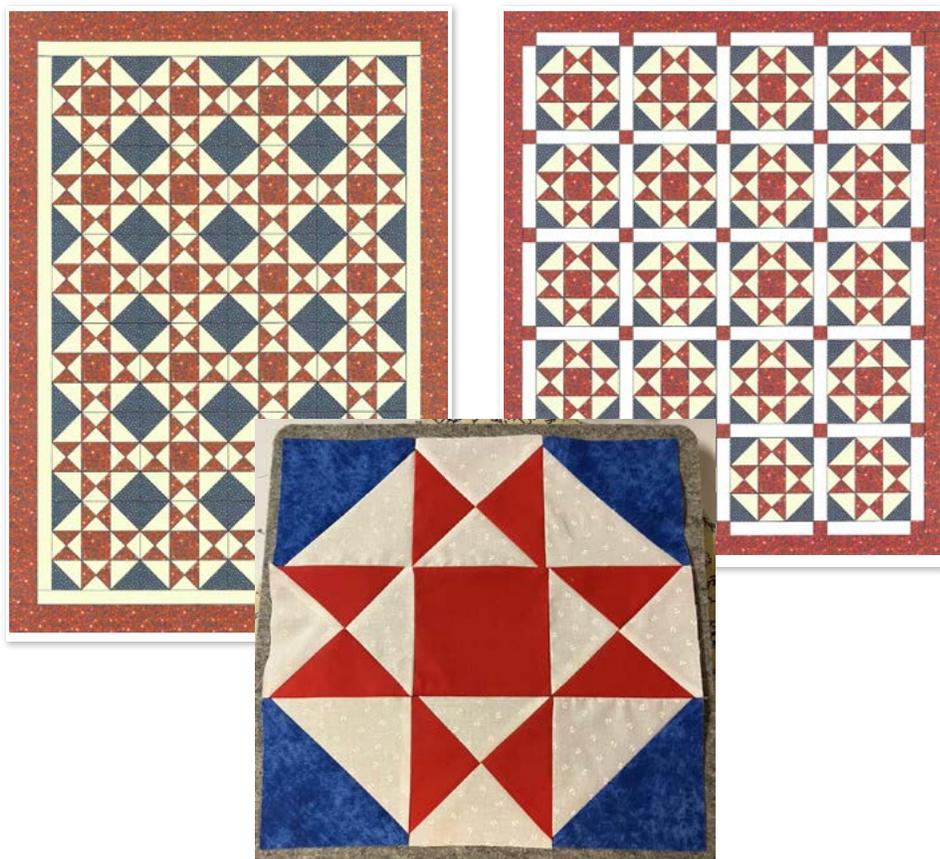
On December 20, 2023, Larry received his replacement quilt...once again presented by Margie with her husband, Jeff, assisting that day. Larry was very touched and grateful for all involved in the efforts to replace his QOV. Our veteran was once again wrapped in love and appreciation for his service. Thank you to everyone in our group who made the fulfillment of this effort possible.

OHIO STAR BLOCK

Submitted by QOVF Marketing

This year's block is the Ohio Star. Ohio Star was designed and written by Nancy Cann. The patterns for the first two quilts and more information about this year's National Block Drive are on QOVF's [website](#).

We cannot wait to see the many photographs of this Block and feature them in our Threads newsletter and social media platforms. Consider tagging QOVF and using #QOVFNationalBlockDrive2024, #QOVF2024Block and #QOVFOhioStarBlock with your social media posts. For those not on social media, you can submit a photograph to marketing@qovf.org or send your photographs to newslettersubmission@qovf.org to be featured in our Threads newsletter.



QUILTS OF VALOR TAKE 5: RUN, WALK, BLOCK

We invite you to [Take 5](#) with us, and Run, Walk, Block on May 18, 2024, the official day of Armed Forces Day. Runners, walkers, sewists and quilters of ALL ages and abilities are invited to participate! Proceeds from race registrations supports the QOVF mission to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

The [Take 5 concept](#) allows you to be creative! For instance, you can run 5 miles, racewalk 5K, walk the dog 5 blocks, or walk multiple 5K (or 5 blocks) intervals with 5-minute breaks. If you're a sewist or quilter, you can sew 5 quilt blocks, sew blocks for 5 hours, or sew blocks with a "5-chocolates reward." You get the idea!

The race is a virtual 5K race and participants are encouraged to sign up now and complete the race between May 11-18, 2024. Registration fee is \$35.00.

New this year, participants will have a choice between a runners packet, sewing packet, or no packet. More information coming soon regarding the swag contents of each packet!

We encourage QOVF Groups to use Take 5 as a group fundraiser. To fundraise for your QOVF group, first register as a race participant. Once registered, you can download the group fundraising packet from the Member dashboard here ([link](#)) and use the forms in the packet to solicit pledges and donations. A Take 5 flier is included, that can be shared as needed. Questions can be sent to take5@qovf.org.



FOUNDER OF HERO KIDS FOUNDATION RECOGNIZED

John, the Founder of Hero Kids Foundation, was honored with a handmade quilt from the dedicated members of The Evening Star Quilt Guild in Belvidere, New Jersey.

John stated "As I held the quilt, I felt each stitch's intent—sewn with profound compassion, love, and gratitude. It's more than a piece of fabric; it's a testament to hope, healing, and a heartfelt hug. To say I'm humbled to receive such an emblem of sincere appreciation for my military service would be an understatement."



NATIONAL SEW DAY 2024

Thank you to all who hosted and participated in the 2024 QOVF National Sew Day. We had a total of 3,312 registered which surpassed our 2023 total. For ten years, our members have gathered during this event to celebrate the QOVF mission of awarding comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. If you missed our Retrospective from our 20th Anniversary Conference in Paducah, KY, the video is on our [You Tube Channel](#) and will remain there until mid-March.

A special thank you to our 2024 National Sew Day sponsors: [Northcott](#), [Woodside Quilting](#), [Fat Quarter Shop](#) and [Janome](#). Congratulations to all the winners:

Janome 3160 QOV Edition Sewing Machine:

Charlene S., Nebraska

Northcott Stonehenge Stars and Stripes Panel:

Shannon R., KS
Donna S., NH
Jessica M., WA

Barbara M., AR
Frank K., NY
Barbara Z., PA
Deborah H., PA
Ginger C., AR
Barbara F., NE
Alice J., WI

Set of Fat Quarter Shop notions:

Linda T., CT
Tina M., IN
Trina B., SC
Laura S., IA
Celeste O., WA

Quilting Kit from Woodside Quilting:

Kecia S., KY
Jan J., KS
Frances G., TN
Darlene B., AL
Pat W., CA
Robbie C., WI
Eileen B., PA
Lorraine F., NH
Kathy B., IA
Mandy B., AR
Jeanne S., MN
Robin R., KY
Patricia B., TX
Jenny R., FL
Kathryn S., AL
Lisa G., IA

Patty B., MT
Judy H., SD
Shaunna D., IN
Jeanna W-F., KS
Jill G., MI
Anne G., CT
Brenda H., MS
Linda L., FL
Sue L., WI
Debbie M., SC
Virginia N., WA

Signed All-Star Quilts of Valor Book

Jan C., CA
Erica B., IN



NEW GROUP CELEBRATES SEW DAY

Submitted by Kathleen Armel

QOV Group #51203 Conway Quilters
of SC



Not new to Sew Day, members of the Conway Quilt Guild, and members of the newly formed QOV group, celebrated with 32 members gathering and sewing tops together, along with more than five members working at home sewing,

quilting or finishing quilts! Members received kits and patterns in January, with instructions to precut their quilts

prior to that day. Over 28 quilt tops were completed and turned in for the day!

SEW DAY AT CAPITAL QUILTS GAITHERSBURG, MD

Capital Quilts, a past Quilt Business member, welcomed customers to participate in QOVF Sew Day inside their store, making the Block of the Year, the Ohio Star. Sue Moats runs sessions each month to work on blocks.



NATIONAL SEW DAY IN NEWPORT

Submitted by Darlene Mossman,
Welcome Home Veterans Quilts of Valor
(59527) Newport, WA

We had such a fun day at the National QOV Sew Day! We had 12 sewers and seven runners (pressing, cutting, unsewing) at Cuppa Tea Quilting in Priest River, ID. We had kits made up containing all the fabric for a quilt top. There were three different patterns. Each sewer chose a kit and was provided clues throughout the day for sewing her quilt top. No one knew what the quilt tops were going to look like until the end of the day. Most of the ladies had completed the main portion of the top and will just need to add the borders. Lots of fun, laughter, and oh so many delicious goodies!



SEW DAY 2024



Cheryl Homme from Forget-Me-Not Quilters of Alaska, photo of Call of the Wild Panel Quilt



Jill made this quilt by felting the wool from her husband's navy uniform pants. He was a Navy corpsman stationed with the Marines during the Tet of 1968.



We are a small group, Sew Much Kindness is in King George, VA, and this is our first National Sew Day. We had a blast putting this together today. Leader, Amy Lichonczak and Co-Leader Angelina Hole.



We had a great turnout for the National Sew Day for QOV 2024. Our group is Valor Quilters of Southern Utah. Our current membership is approximately 20 ladies.



SEW DAY 2024 CONTINUED



Arkansas

AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!



Northeast PA Quilts of Valor awarded quilts to a father and his sons, Kevin F. (l), John F.(m), and Michael F.

Submitted by Rebecca Orlowski NEPA QOV Group Leader

Join us on April 27, 2024 for the 1st QOVF Regional Conference!

New England Regional Conference

Location: Main Street United Methodist Church,
154 Main Street, Nashua, NH

Cost: \$20

Schedule

- 8:30-9:00 a.m Registration
- 9:00 a.m Welcome by Donna Brookings
- 9:15-10:00 a.m Lexie Millikan, QOVF Executive Director
- 10:00-11:00 a.m Quilting in Times of War
- 11:00-12:00 p.m Successful Fundraising Round Table
Discussion
- 12:00-1:00 p.m..... Lunch (included)
- 1:00-2:00 p.m..... The Financial Structure of QOVF
- 2:00-4:00 p.m..... Sharing QOVF: Quilt Booths,
Power Point, QR Codes
- 4:00-5:00 p.m..... Q+A and Show + Tell

Benefits of Attending the Regional Conference

- Opportunity to meet Lexie Millikan, the Executive Director of QOVF
- Opportunity to meet and network with fellow QOVF members
- Opportunity to have your questions about QOVF answered
- Opportunity to attend a QOVF event keeping it affordable
- Opportunity to share the QOVs made by you
- There are many hotels locally to fit your style and pocketbook
- Great Door Prizes!!

RSVP by April 15, 2024

To register: Please send a check made out to QOVF to
Sue Reich, 28 Scofield Hill Road,
Washington Depot, CT 06794
or send your email address to sue.reich@qovf.org
to pay with PayPal.

**For further information contact donna.brookings@qovf.org
or sue.reich@qovf.org**

Hotel Recommendations

All of these exits for Nashua are off of the Everett Turnpike/Route 3

Exit 7 - shortest distance to the church	Exit 1
Clarion 10 St Laurent St Nashua NH 603-883-7700	Sheraton 11 Tara Blvd Nashua NH 603-888-9970

Exit 8
Double Tree 2 Somerset Pkwy Nashua NH 603-886-1200

Residence Inn 25 Trafalgar Square Nashua NH 603-882-8300
Hampton Inn 407 Amherst Street Nashua NH 603-883-5333

Hotels near the Manchester Airport - approximately 30 minutes from venue

Courtyard Marriott 700 Huse Road Manchester, NH 603-641-4900
Spring Hill Suites 975 Perimeter Road Manchester, NH 603-668-9400

SEW DAY IN FLORIDA

Submitted by Renae Butler, Quilting Sisters of Florida #16064

We held a sew day for the National QOV Sew Day with 20+ people and produced 21 blocks in less than 4 hours, with another 9 being completed after our event. To take a break from sewing, we also played a game of Right, Left, Center using RWB fat quarters for our playing pieces. We have completed one quilt center with a 4 x 5 configuration.



AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!



PVT James H. served his country three years during the Vietnam War period. PVT James also received the Vietnam War 50th Commemorative pin. He was awarded this QOV by Yakima QOV members Shirley and Tereica.

ALWAYS NEW IDEAS FOR BLOCKS

Submitted by Leslie Stradley

At the Sewing and Quilt Expo in Dallas, a QOV booth had prepared blocks, about 4½ inch white squares, formed with a blue triangle in one corner and a red triangle in the opposite corner. This arrangement left a long, diagonal white space in the center. They asked people passing by if they would like to sign and/or

leave a positive message in the white space, using permanent markers. The blocks would then be used in Quilts of Valor. I've never seen this before, and my husband and I were happy to add our names to a block. I don't know if it was a local group that put the booth together, but it struck me as a good way to engage the public. I don't know if this is something others would be interested in, but I was intrigued by this idea.

AWARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!



Four students at Great Lakes Boat School were awarded their QOV during a Veterans Day lunch in Cedarville, MI. Submitted by Tammy Cruickshank.



Yakima QOV was honored to have the privilege to award a QOV to Sgt. 1st Class Lewis S., who served his country 21 years, in both the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War Eras. He was pinned with the Vietnam War 50th Commemorative Pin.



Award from Tennessee, by Cathy Shannon QOV leader of TriCo Quilters of Dayton, TN. On Veterans Day, November 11, 2023, 12 veterans from various branches were awarded QOVs.



L.Cpl. Ron enlisted into the USMC during the Vietnam War period. He served his country for two years until he was Honorably Discharged in 1971. He was awarded his Quilt of Valor, along with the Vietnam War 50th Commemorative Pin, by Washington's Yakima QOV group.



On October 14, 2023, nine veterans of the Vietnam War Era, Gulf War, OIF, and OEF were honored with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor at American Legion Post 36 by Washington's Yakima QOV.



Quilts Reported	
2012: 6,169	2021: 30,428
2013: 12,314	2022: 30,978
2014: 17,373	2023: 37,333
2015: 18,772	2024: 3,990
2016: 19,051	Total: 377,384
2017: 24,123	(from date of first recorded award through 29 February 2024)
2018: 30,745	
2019: 33,375	
2020: 23,356	

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
Eric McCarty
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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