



As we reflect on the meaningful moments that define our mission, I am filled with gratitude and pride as I share highlights from our recent National Sew Day on February 7.



*Kryste Wallen
Executive Director*

National Sew Day is more than a date on the calendar—it is a powerful reminder of who we are and why we serve. Across the country, our dedicated members gathered in churches, community centers, quilting shops, and living rooms to stitch together not only beautiful quilts, but also messages of honor, gratitude, and healing for our nation’s veterans and service members.

From the first cut of fabric to the final binding stitch, every quilt created on February 7 represents countless hours of skill, patience, and heartfelt appreciation. These quilts are tangible expressions of thanks to those who have sacrificed so much in service to our country. For many recipients, being wrapped in one of our quilts is more than a ceremonial gesture—it is a deeply personal moment of recognition and affirmation.

This year’s National Sew Day was especially inspiring. Participation was inspiring, as both longtime members and first-time volunteers joined together in fellowship and purpose. Experienced quilters mentored newcomers, sharing techniques and stories alike. Laughter mingled with quiet moments of reflection as members paused to remember the service and courage of those we honor.

What makes National Sew Day extraordinary is not only the number of quilts completed, but the spirit behind them. Each square tells a story. Each stitch carries intention. Each finished quilt is a symbol of a grateful nation.

Our mission depends entirely on the generosity and commitment of our members and supporters. Because of you, we are able to continue honoring veterans and service members with quilts that say what words alone often cannot: “You are seen. You are valued. You are remembered.”

To everyone who participated on February 7—whether you sewed, cut, ironed, coordinated, donated supplies, or offered encouragement—thank you. Your dedication strengthens our organization and ensures that our tradition of honor continues for generations to come.

As we move forward into the year ahead, I encourage each of you to carry the spirit of National Sew Day with you. Every quilt we create is a bridge between our communities and those who have served. Together, stitch by stitch, we are wrapping our veterans and service members in comfort, dignity, and gratitude.

With sincere appreciation,

Kryste M Wallen

COUNTRY STAR QUILTERS

Submitted by Sue Deyo, Group Leader of Country Star Quilters

The Country Star Quilters’ Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) ceremony was held on January 20, 2026, in Jacksonville, Florida, where 12 beautifully handcrafted Quilts of Valor were presented to veterans in recognition of their service.



PARTNERS CORNER

Quilts of Valor Patriotic Thread Sets from Superior Threads

[MasterPiece Quilts of Valor 5 Spool Set](#)

is a curated set of 5 MasterPiece thread spools in patriotic colors themed for Quilts of Valor. MasterPiece is a high-quality quilting and sewing thread (typically 40 wt) that works well on both home machines and longarms projects.



[So Fine! Quilts of Valor 5 Spool Set](#)

is another patriotic set and is a popular 50 wt polyester quilting thread known for smooth stitching and low lint.



[Learn more about Superior Threads here.](#)



Thank-You Cards by Deborah Fisher

This set of four thank-you cards, designed by artist Deborah Fisher, celebrates the 2024 QOVF Block of the Year—the Ohio Star—and features messages of gratitude on the front. Each set includes one of each design. [Purchase your set today.](#)

Quilts of Valor Quilt Kits from Connecting Threads

Basics Traverse Quilts Of Valor Red White Blue Cotton Quilt Kit

Patriotic red, white, and blue quilt kit designed for Quilts of Valor projects.

Cerulean Gems Quilts of Valor Quilt Project Bundle

Quilts of Valor quilt project bundle featuring coordinating fabrics in patriotic tones.

Daisy Delight – Dark Quilts of Valor Quilt Project Bundle

Another banded quilt project bundle with Quilts of Valor styling and fabrics.

[Purchase your quilt kits here.](#)



Keystone Carving offers Hard Maple and Solid Cherry American-made wooden Quilters Clappers. If you're interested in purchasing a QOV Clapper for your QOV Group or your own sewing room, [click here.](#)

Janome 3160 Quilts of Valor edition sewing machine!

This fantastic machine comes with a quilting attachment kit that includes both a free-motion quilting foot and a walking foot. Take advantage of this great option for your quilting projects! [Click here](#) to purchase a 3160 QOV edition sewing machine.



Purchase Your 12 Quilts of Valor Pack Made by Villa Rosa Designs!

Villa Rosa Designs created a pack of 12 patterns that perfectly align with the Quilts of Valor standards, making your creations not just beautiful, but also meaningful. The pack of patterns can be purchased through the QOVF Shop [on our website.](#)

MEMBER ONLY SPECIALS

MJ Kinman – Honor & Courage Pattern

Over the past year, QOVF members enjoyed a 20% discount on MJ Kinman's *Honor & Courage* pattern, originally set to expire on December 31, 2025. We are pleased to announce that the coupon code expiration is extended through December 31, 2027.

This collaboration with MJ Kinman, creator of the *Honor & Courage* pattern, pays tribute to the many men and women awarded the Purple Heart. Originally introduced as Annie, in honor of the first woman to receive a Purple Heart, the pattern was later resized to meet Quilts of Valor® requirements.



The discount code is available in the Member-Only Specials section of the Member Dashboard.

Fons & Porter – Love of Quilting

Through our partnership with Fons & Porter, QOVF members can subscribe to *Love of Quilting* magazine for just \$15, a 75% savings off the cover price. Discount link available in Member-Only Specials on the Member Dashboard

Superior Threads

Special pricing on Superior Threads products is available to QOVF members year-round. Access via the Superior Threads QOVF Program in the Member-Only Specials section of the Member Dashboard

Foust Textiles

Foust Textiles offers special QOV pricing with specific ordering instructions. Details available on the Member Dashboard under Member Information

Legit Kits – Land of the Free

QOVF members receive an exclusive 10% discount on Legit Kits' *Land of the Free* Kit, Pattern, and Fabric Packs. Coupon code expiration: December 31, 2026 and is available in Member-Only Specials on the Member Dashboard

Marshall Dry Goods

Marshall Dry Goods provides special pricing for QOV members. Ordering instructions and price lists are available on the Member Dashboard under Member Information

Pellon

Pellon offers discounted pricing on fabric and batting, allowing Group Leaders to use available Group Funds for purchases. Ordering documents are available under Member Information on the Member Dashboard.



QUILT SUBMISSIONS FOR THE AQS QUILTWEEK

This month kicks off the [American Quilter's Society \(AQS\) QuiltWeek](#) in Daytona Beach, Florida!

We are honored to share that AQS QuiltWeek will feature a special Quilts of Valor exhibit celebrating America's 250th birthday. This commemorative exhibit showcases quilts created by Quilts of Valor groups using the QOVF / Northcott Semiquincentennial Quilt Panel.

Beginning this month and continuing throughout the year, we will be sharing additional quilt submissions on our social media platforms and in our Threads Newsletter.

Maker's name: Pat Forshaw, Group Leader of New Mexico Happy Scrappers based in Albuquerque, NM

Quilt size: The quilt measures 61x79

Pattern name: Pat's version of "A Winter's Hike."

Pat's Story + Inspiration: It is a joy to sew along with my wonderful and dedicated friends and group members. I sewed my first QOV in 2013 for a friend, a US Marine, who served in Vietnam. When I saw the emotion and appreciation that this brought from Ben, I knew that I would sew for the QOVF as long as I am able to sew. I feel we are blessed to have the opportunity to meet so many men and women who signed up to protect and defend our nation.

I really enjoy working with panels, and having the opportunity to join in the fun of a friendly competition between fellow members was great. My rule when planning a panel top is to never compete with the panel, but to highlight it. My goal is for the observer's eye to always go to the panel first. Simple can be better. I liked working with the 250th panel because of my love of our country. Due to the level of detail in the picture, I opted for a simple design. The pattern is my version of "A Winter's Hike". I used what Northcott fabric I have in my stash, but also knew I wanted to incorporate the words fabric of the writing of the Constitution (not Northcott). The large center of the stars provided that.



Traditional quilters may comment that using a panel is "cheating". My response is that our recipients really like the panel QOVs! Before and during the Covid pandemic, I had the privilege of working with the Albuquerque chapter of the CVMA. It was fun to see those "tough" motorcycle men and women look forward to seeing the panel QOVs that each was being awarded every other month, and they were all panels. It is fun, and often a challenge, to make your vision fit, but I encourage you to try. You might get hooked as I did.



Submission Name: Don Dixon, the Group Leader of Freedom Stitchers of Iowa

Don's Story + Inspiration: The Freedom Stitchers of Iowa was founded in 2014 through the shared vision of Ralph Osenbaugh, a Vietnam veteran, and his longtime friend, Elayne Gassett. Ralph reached out to the community for veteran nominations, while Elayne gathered quilters from the Eastern Iowa Heirloom Quilt Guild to create the quilts. In that first year alone, 23 veterans were honored with Quilts of Valor. Quilt production took place in the basement of Elayne's home until January 2023, when her cancer came out of remission and she moved to a care facility.

When it became necessary to relocate Elayne's entire quilt-production inventory, Lindale Mall management generously partnered with the new leadership team to lease 3,000 square feet of unused space at an extremely affordable rate. Thanks to grants awarded by the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, all operating expenses have been fully funded to date.



With 74 dedicated volunteers, the Freedom Stitchers creates a meaningful two-way impact. Members generously share their time and talents to create quilts and often take part in presentation ceremonies. Our visible location within the mall also invites community connection—shoppers frequently stop in to learn about our mission, and many leave inspired, with some choosing to join our group. This space has also allowed us to host the National QOVF Sew Day with 32 participants, along with an additional 16 guests for a Quilts of Valor presentation.

As a textile artist, I naturally pay close attention to the work of other artists and the thoughtful choices they make. While studying the design of the 250th panel, I wanted to honor its creativity and respect both the design and its color palette. As I developed my own quilt design, I was careful not to compete with the bold colors of the crossed flags. Instead, I chose to echo the black and rust tones of the men's clothing, the soft creams of the documents, and the warm golds of the table covering and chair.

While the quilt blocks themselves are not my original design, I believe that careful, intentional choices allow the quilt to support the artwork and invite viewers to pause and reflect on the significance of the men signing the Declaration of Independence.



WHEN SERVICE TAKES FLIGHT – AN F-16 PILOT'S GIFT TO QUILTS OF VALOR

Submitted by Cheryl Homme, Group Leader of the Forget-Me-Not Quilters of Alaska

At a recent Quilts Of Valor ceremony in Palmer, Alaska, something extraordinary happened—something that reminded all of us why this mission matters so deeply. One of the honorees, active-duty F-16 pilot, Eli M., knew he would soon be receiving a Quilt Of Valor. Before returning home, he placed a brand-new American flag on the dashboard of his jet and carried it with him as he flew over Europe. He even arranged for a high-speed camera to capture his takeoff, and in the photograph he later shared, the flag is clearly visible inside the cockpit. What he didn't know was that our group was in urgent need of a new flag. His gesture became a moment none of us will forget.



F16 jet flown by Eli M with an American Flag he presented to the Forget-Me-Nots



Left to right, Rebekah M, Eli M, Andy M, and Thomas A

On September 17, 2025, the Forget-Me-Not Quilters of Alaska honored two veterans and two active-duty service members at American Legion Post 15 in Palmer. Chaplain Thomas A., a US Navy Vietnam veteran, received a special QOV made by Forget-Me-Not member Ruth S. The other three recipients came from one remarkable Palmer family: father Andy, son Eli, and daughter-in-law Rebekah, all proudly serving in the United States Air Force.

Despite the tight timing—Eli and Rebekah had been back in Palmer for only 11 hours before the ceremony and were redeployed

the following week—the event came together with purpose and heart. At the close of the ceremony, Eli presented our group with the very flag he had flown in his F-16, along with a certificate and the cockpit photograph. The room fell silent, then emotional, as everyone realized the significance of the gift. Without knowing it, Eli had delivered exactly what our group needed most. It felt like a tribute carried home on the wings of service and patriotism.

This ceremony also highlighted the power of coordination, communication, and community partnership. We worked closely with Palmer's American Legion Post 15, our local volunteers, and our QOV awards team to ensure every detail honored the service of the QOV recipients. The moments that lingered afterward were the handshakes, the hugs, a few words from the Chaplain, and the quiet tears shared as our volunteers visited with the honorees and their families.

This ceremony, and the quilts awarded, were made possible through a \$1,000 grant from the Palmer Community Foundation. Every dollar was spent on patriotic fabric proudly purchased locally at Stitchn' Time and Luna's Magic Quilts and Quilting. As an all-volunteer organization, every cent goes directly into creating quilts that honor the courage, sacrifice, and devotion of our nation's heroes.



With tears of gratitude, Group Leader Cheryl Homme accepts the flag on Sept. 17, 2025 at the American Legion

LIBERTY'S BEACON – A TAKE 5 2025 QUILT OF VALOR

Submitted by Beverly Randolph, QOVF Member

During Take 5 2025, blocks were created with a shared vision – not to mail them in, but to come together and complete a Quilt of Valor to be awarded later in the year.

That vision became *Liberty's Beacon*.

The Quilt of Valor was awarded to Raul R., USMC (1967-1970), who served during the Vietnam era. The presentation took place on Saturday, September 27, 2025, in Corpus Christi, Texas, as part of a special Quilts of Valor presentation ceremony.

Raul was one of eleven veterans honored with a Quilt of Valor that day – a powerful reminder of the impact of collective hands and grateful hearts.



Julie Schulze, QOV member and volunteer quilt maker, Raul R., USMC 1967-1970 (Viet Nam era), Carol Duque, QOV Longarmy member



Beverly Randolph, QOV member and quilt maker

CALICO CUT-UPS QUILTS OF VALOR SEW DAY AND AWARD CEREMONY

Submitted by Lisa Meier, Group Leader of Bella Vista Calico Cut-Ups

What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday!

I recently became the Group Leader for our Guild's Quilts of Valor small group, and although I knew from my predecessor what to expect logistically, I had never attended an Award Ceremony. I wasn't sure what to expect emotionally or personally. What I can say today is simply this: Wow, I'm so glad to be a part of this - for our Guild, our nation, and especially our Veterans.

We began the morning setting up for Sew Day in our space at St. Theodore's Senegal Hall, where we hold most of our Guild meetings. About 20 members were in attendance sewing, serving, and helping prepare for our Award Ceremony.

We had previously cut and packaged our blocks for six quilt tops, and today was our time to assemble them. Throughout the day, we were able to sew most of the blocks, and now have three of the six quilt tops ready to sew!



At 11:30, we went into the sanctuary where six Veterans were to be awarded their quilts. The Honor Guard from American Legion Post 341, our vocalist, our pianist and her husband, and a Pastor were all ready to do their part to make the ceremony special. Susan Richmond, our QOV Area Director, opened with a history of QOV and then led us through draping the six Veterans, with help from Guild members Mary Alice Estes and Mona Cochran. I was honored to present five of the Veterans with their Vietnam Veterans lapel pin, the last of those that we had.

Each Veteran shared a bit of their military history and it was interesting to hear their individual journeys. One theme stood out among them all: their pride in service. It was a heart-warming ceremony with a large audience of family, friends and many Guild members. Afterward, we took time to photograph each Veteran with their loved ones. The smiles were big and genuine.

We were also fortunate to have members of the Woodman Life Insurance group join us. Their volunteer outreach program selected our Sew Day and Award Ceremony as their service project. Not only did they help with sewing, but they also participated in the ceremony, as two of the recipients - a husband and wife - were Woodman members. The Woodman group generously provided all the food, cake and drinks, and then blessed our QOV group with a \$500 donation.

To say this was a blessed day is an understatement. Our hope and goal for this year is to award many, many more quilts to Veterans, as we see the deep appreciation in each one when they are honored for their service. We also want to encourage more Guild members to attend a ceremony as they will leave with a very different feeling in both heart and soul.

THERE ARE NO VETERANS, JUST MEMBERS INVOLVED IN THE QOVF MISSION!

Submitted by Mary Quinan, member of Capital City QOV

The Capital City Quilts of Valor group from Frankfort, KY was invited to march in the city's annual Veteran's Day parade. We decided that each marcher would wear a quilt around their shoulders so the public could clearly see and understand our mission. It turned out to be a great idea.

The quilts made a beautiful display of Quilts of Valor, and at the start of the parade it was thirty degrees, with a windchill that made it feel like 23 degrees. The extra warmth was greatly appreciated!



Left to right: Larry C., Wayne H., James M., Jeffery M., Jaunita M., Craig R.

CREATING SPACE FOR SERVICE: WHY MINIMIZING MATTERS IN OUR QUILT ROOMS AND OUR LIVES

Submitted by Barbara Vonada, QOVF Administrative Assistant

Within the Quilts of Valor® Foundation, many of us share a common experience: over time, our sewing rooms, storage areas, and quilt spaces begin to fill with fabric, tools, patterns, and well-intentioned supplies. These items often arrive with purpose; donations from guild members, remnants from past projects, patriotic prints saved “just in case,” or materials inherited from parents and loved ones who valued resourcefulness.

Yet even with the best intentions, “too much stuff” can quietly become a barrier to the very mission we care about. When our quilt rooms become crowded, our work becomes harder, our time less efficient, and our creative energy more strained. For many volunteers, especially those balancing caregiving, family responsibilities, and leadership roles, minimizing is not simply a preference - it is a practical necessity.

The Emotional Roots of Accumulation

Many of us grew up in households where saving items was an expression of care, security, and preparedness. Parents who lived through periods of scarcity or uncertainty often held onto belongings because they represented stability. Their habits were shaped by lived experience, not excess.

As we take on the responsibility of managing our own homes, and in some cases, the belongings of aging parents, we inherit not only objects but also the emotional weight attached to them. This is especially true when those items belonged to people who shaped our values, supported our service, or even encouraged our quilting.

Honoring their memory does not require holding onto everything. It requires choosing what truly reflects their legacy.

Why Minimizing Supports the QOV Mission

Minimizing is not about having less. It is about creating space for meaningful work.

1. A Functional Quilt Room Enhances Productivity

A well-organized quilt room allows us to:

- locate fabric quickly
- maintain clean work surfaces
- streamline cutting and piecing
- reduce duplicate purchases
- focus on the quilt rather than the clutter

When the room supports the work, the work becomes joyful again.

2. Minimizing Reduces Stress and Decision Fatigue

Every item in a sewing space requires attention—sorting, storing, or deciding. Reducing the volume of materials reduces the mental load, especially for those managing multiple responsibilities at home and within QOVF.

3. It Preserves Time for What Matters Most

Many volunteers juggle caregiving, family commitments, and leadership roles. A simplified quilt room saves time; time that can be redirected toward sewing, awarding quilts, or supporting fellow volunteers.

4. It Ensures Future Sustainability

By minimizing now, we prevent the next generation from inheriting overwhelming volumes of supplies. This is an act of stewardship and ensures that what remains is usable.

Honoring While Creating Space

For many, the quilt room holds passed down items such as fabric, tools, or keepsakes tied to meaningful memories. Minimizing does not diminish those memories. Instead, it allows us to preserve the most significant pieces while letting go of what no longer serves our work or our well-being.

A single cherished quilt, a favorite tool, or a small selection of meaningful fabrics can honor a legacy far more effectively than boxes of unused items.

A Quilt Room That Reflects Our Purpose

As QOVF volunteers, our quilt rooms are more than hobby spaces. They are mission spaces.

Minimizing helps ensure that these spaces remain places of purpose and are calm, functional, and ready for the next Quilt of Valor.

By choosing to keep only what supports our mission, we create room for creativity, and continued service. And in doing so, we honor not only our veterans, but also the families and experiences that shaped us into the volunteers we are today.

Here are a few strategies to start organizing and minimizing today:

- **Identify and Reduce:** Start by identifying items that you can easily reduce in your home. A list of [101 Physical Things That Can Be Reduced In Your Home](#) that can be reduced can help guide you.
- **Declutter Regularly:** Make decluttering a regular habit. Go through your belongings periodically and remove items you no longer need or use.
- **Go Digital:** If you have physical media like books, CDs, or DVDs, consider going digital to save space.
- **Limit New Purchases:** Be mindful of new purchases and avoid buying items that you don't truly need. This helps prevent clutter from accumulating.
- **Learn to Repair:** Instead of replacing items, learn how to fix them. This can help you keep your belongings longer and reduce waste.

By implementing these strategies, you can create a more organized and simplified space.

DENNIS'S QUILT OF VALOR STORY

Submitted by Laura Winckel, Group Leader for Quilters with a Heart - from the wife of a Veteran.

To Whom It May Concern:

This is just a note to say, "Thank you so much!" to Laura Winckel and the Quilts of Valor Foundation. On the December 19, 2025, Laura made a personal home visit to present a beautiful Quilt of Valor to my husband, Dennis K. C. Ng. The special significance is that Dennis is now dealing with a combination of Dementia, Alzheimer's, and a Traumatic Brain Injury.

Dennis served a total of 24 years on active duty in various locations and 5 years with the Reserves in Honolulu, Hawaii, his home of record. Dennis enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 18 in April 1968 as a Military Policeman. Because of Junior ROTC training in high school, he quickly earned the rank of Private First Class and went to serve in Vietnam. Within 18 months of his enlistment, he was promoted to Sergeant and earned a Bronze Star Medal. He also earned the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and 3 Overseas Bars.

In April 1971, he left active duty and returned home to Hawaii, where he attended the University of Hawaii, enrolled in ROTC, and served simultaneously in the Reserves with the 100th Infantry Battalion. He graduated in June and began his next stint in the U.S. Army in May 1973 when he contracted into the Regular Army. In 1975, as a ROTC Cadet, he completed Ranger School. Graduating in May 1976 as a Distinguished Military Graduate, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant into the Armor Corps and completed Airborne School. In November 1979, after tours in South Korea and Fort Bragg, NC, he completed Flight School at Fort Rucker, AL and went on to fly Huey and Blackhawk helicopters. Dennis served 20 years as a commissioned officer and retired from the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Inspector General's Office.

Throughout his retirement, he continued to serve in many volunteer capacities in our local community. When Laura briefed our local Rotary Club in Harker Heights, TX, I asked whether Dennis might qualify for a quilt. I explained his physical limitations, and she immediately offered to make a private presentation.

When she arrived, she greeted Dennis and he simply stared at her. With the progression of his Dementia, he has been non-verbal for several years. So, he just looked at her. After 46 years as his wife, I know that he still takes in a lot, though how it processes in his mind is often unclear, and I frequently see looks of confusion. To present the quilt, we moved to the living room and Dennis sat on the sofa. Laura sat beside him. As she read the certificate, Dennis looked intently at her. When she presented the quilt, he just let it sit on his lap. He did speak or show signs that he understood the significance of the moment. We took pictures and were grateful for the gift of love. But what truly blessed my heart happened a couple of days later.

I had gotten into the habit of helping him into his recliner and then moving the quilt from the loveseat to cover him in case he chose to nap. One day, as he sat in his recliner, he looked over to the arm of the loveseat, saw "his quilt," got up to retrieve it, and settled back in his recliner, working to spread it out. Another time, he did the same thing while sitting on the sofa. I was overwhelmed. I sent photos to Laura because I wanted her to know the depth of love and joy he felt with such a meaningful gift. I want to let all the quilters know that your efforts are never in vain, even if you don't see a response from the individual receiving the quilt.

From our family (our Ohana) to yours, we want to say a great Thank You! Mahalo nui, nui loa!



JAMES LUCKY

Submitted by Jan K Juenemann, group leader of Sheridan CO KS QOV

James "Lucky" B. was presented with a Quilt of Valor on January 25, 2026, by the Sheridan CO KS QOV. Lucky graduated from Sheridan County Community High School in 1955, then was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving from 1958-1960. His training began at Fort Dix, NJ, followed by six months of officer training at Fort Benning, GA. He was one of only eight chosen to serve as a platoon sergeant for 40 men.



Lucky also brought an unexpected flair to Army life by entertaining troops with his sword swallowing ability. While on board the US General Mann en route to Korea, he swallowed rifle cleaning rods and long handled soup spoons, and he was even known for swallowing a jeep dipstick. After all, swords aren't exactly standard-issue Army equipment.

Not only did James serve on the front lines in Korea, carrying weapons, ammunition, and leading troops, but he also provided laughter and levity for soldiers who desperately needed moments of relief in the midst of war. Thank you, Lucky, for your Service.



The Back of the quilt – Swords – Betty Hickert made the quilt top and Vonnie Merit Longarm quilting volunteer

SEW DAY 2026 RECAP

Corry Guier, member of Illinois Valley Quilt of Valor.



The Illinois Valley Quilts of Valor group had 26 ladies participating in QOV Sew Day at the Princeton Moose Lodge, which graciously served as the host location. In the afternoon, the group awarded 12 Quilts of Valor to deserving veterans in a heartfelt presentation ceremony.



Darlene Mossman, Group Leader of Welcome Home Veterans Quilts of Valor



We had a full house at Cuppa Tea Quilting in Priest River, ID. Fourteen ladies are busy at it! We created kits with all of the fabric cut into specific sizes, so the gals just have to sew today. We have runners who are pressing, unsewing, etc. We set it up as a mystery. Clue one started at 10am and clues will be provided when each sewist completes the previous clue. No one knows what the finished top will look like until the end of the day pot luck.

One of our group won the Liberty Box!!
WhooHooo!

QOV Sew Day 2026 with Pieceful Posity in Eugene, Oregon.



Sharon A. Kalinowski, member of Volusia County Quilts of Valor



The mighty team of Volusia County Quilts of Valor participated in QOV Sew Day, making it both fun and rewarding!

Claire Lum Lee, group leader of Northern Neck Patriotic Piecers

Northern Neck Patriotic Piecers joined in on Sew Day, spending the day working on patriotic quilts and the new QOV 250 tote bags.



Barbara Baranski, Cathy Ortiz, Edie Hemingway and Ellen Hollows

Sew Day at Black Creek QOV in Hartsville, SC brought together Rosemary, GwynAnne, and Carol Ann of Blackcreek QOV in Florence, SC for a day of stitching.



Sue Fender, member of Sew Happy Scrappers

Sue spent her Sewing Day retreat putting the finishing touches on four quilt tops over the course of three days using the QOV/Northcott Semiquincentennial Quilt Panel.



SEW DAY 2026 RECAP (CONTINUED)

Sue Reich, QOVF Board Member

Quilts of Valor Sew Day 2026 is a wrap at Candy Cotton Quilt Shop in Brookfield, CT. We spent 4 hours sewing the blocks for this quilt on the coldest, blustery day this winter. It's 6 degrees with the wind making it feel like -15. Nothing deters quilters on a Quilts of Valor mission to make quilts for our veterans and military service members.



Julie Johnston, QOVF member



Our group gathered for Sew Day. It was a fun and productive day with 15 of us working together to cut and sew three quilt tops.



NATIONAL SEW DAY AND MISS ARKANSAS TOO

Submitted by Donna Hardin, member of River Valley Stars QOV

The River Valley Stars group had a memorial first part of February. First, of course, was National Sew Day. Although we meet once a month anyway to sew together, National Sew Day always feels more exciting. We even give prizes on NSD; every lady leaves with a gift. We encourage everyone to sew on whatever they wish when we gather, but typically some of us will lint roll each finished quilt, fan-fold the quilts, and tag each one (Pieced or panel? Branch specific? Directional fabric?). This helps when choosing quilts to award. Other members sew on labels for upcoming presentations, some sew on binding, and others hand sew the binding down. All the while there is laughter, joking, solving the world's problems, and of course, eating a pot-luck lunch. We get a lot done while having a blast.

The following Wednesday our group held an award presentation for seven or eight deserving Veterans and we had a surprise guest. Miss Arkansas 2025 attended because her Grandpa was one of the recipients. We had no idea she was coming. She even sang the National Anthem (no music)!



A typical ceremony for us includes an opening prayer, the Marine Corps League presenting the colors and leading the Pledge of Allegiance, and, if school is in session, the Jr. ROTC presenting the Missing Man ceremony. We can almost get through that without crying. Then we proceed with the awards, which is always deeply satisfying for all of us.

Miss Arkansas, Kennedy Holland, was there for her Grandpa, Sydney J, a Vietnam Veteran. Pictured with his quilt are his wife and granddaughter. She was so gracious and happily posed with different groups present, including one with River Valley Stars.

We feel so blessed to have found QOV and to be able to honor our Veterans.

NOW AVAILABLE: ALL-STAR QUILTS OF VALOR, 2ND EDITION, 37 PATRIOTIC PATTERNS FROM STAR DESIGNERS

An updated, expanded volume of inspiring quilt patterns from an organization dedicated to honoring US military veterans—including 12 new projects.

The second edition of this bestselling volume is revised to include updates about the quilts' impacts on veterans and 12 additional patterns. Plus, a new spiral binding (often requested by quilters) makes it even easier to use!

- Mix and match colors and fabrics to make your own personal version.
- *All-Star Quilts of Valor* features a foreword by award-winning quilter, fabric designer, and CRAFTSY/Blueprint host Kimberly Einmo.
- Each quilt includes clear, easy cutting and assembly instructions, materials lists, and diagrams.

This book will empower community groups, military family members, and quilters at any level to make patriotic quilts for special service members or to donate to honor a worthy Quilts of Valor recipient.

Books are priced at \$29.99 each, with a flat shipping and handling fee of \$7.95 per order listed on our website. Please allow 5-7 business days for order processing. This timeframe reflects processing only and does not include shipping or delivery time. Orders ship from our office on Wednesdays.



HONORING ROMEO J. – 101 YEARS YOUNG

Submitted by Jennifer Wise, member of The Crossing QOV



At 101 years young, World War II veteran Romeo J. is a living testament to service, strength, and resilience. Enlisting in the U.S. Navy at just 18 years old in 1943, Romeo answered the call to serve his country during one of its most pivotal moments in history.

Serving as a Seaman during World War II, Romeo's duties were both demanding and dangerous. He assembled, loaded, and unloaded ammunition on and off ships—work that required precision, endurance, and courage. His service played a vital role in keeping naval operations supplied and moving forward.

Romeo's legacy of service continues through his family. He inspired a proud tradition of military service—his daughter, Terry, served in the U.S. Air Force Reserves, and his son, Kenny, served in the U.S. Navy.

Today, Romeo remains active and independent. He attends church on his own, cooks, and cares for himself. He enjoys watching classic Westerns, fishing, hunting small game, shooting pool, and is an avid Pinochle player three days a week at his senior center. A widower and devoted father, Romeo continues to live life with purpose and determination.

The Crossing Quilts of Valor Group was honored to present Romeo with his Quilt of Valor, recognizing his service, sacrifice, and enduring patriotism. It was a privilege to wrap him in gratitude and appreciation for a lifetime of service to our nation.

SPAM AND PHISHING. IT'S NOT ABOUT FOOD

Submitted by QOVF IT Team

QOVF is not immune to Scams and Phishing. We recently had a rash of fake emails using our president's and other QOVF members' names. While we cannot stop them, we are taking additional measures and you can help us thwart them while staying safe.

If you get an email from any QOVF Board or Staff member asking you to help with money or use a payment system not already in place (i.e. memberships), treat it as a Scam! **The Board of Directors and all Staff members will NEVER ask you to send money or buy gift cards, no matter how official the email or text may look.** The following applies to both emails and phone texts.

What to do if you're unsure:

- Look at the actual email address or phone number. If the email is not sent from an "name"@QOVF.org email address, it should be treated as fake.
- Don't click anything in the email or text including links, pictures, or attachments
- If you want to report a fake email or text to QOVF, go to our website Contact Us page and send us a message there. It is secure and will be routed appropriately.
- Report the email through your provider's "Report Phishing" and/or Spam option
- Delete the message/text if it appears suspicious

Help spread the word to defeat the Scammers. Thank you for your support of the QOVF mission.



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: 22,775	
2021: 29,302	★ ★ ★
2022: 31,707	★ ★ ★
2023: 37,063	★ ★ ★
2024: 38,029	
2025: 35,068	
Total: 437,630	
<i>(from date of first recorded award through January 31, 2026)</i>	

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
 Catherine Roberts
 Eric McCarty
 Marianne Fons
 Walt Davis
 June Moore
 Sue Reich

Board of Directors
 Lauri Leirdahl, President
 Jodi Inman, Vice President
 Nancy Grigsby, Secretary
 Ann Rehbein, Board Treasurer
 Chris Hamp, Member, Development
 John Kline, Member
 Nancy Thomson, Member
 Anna May Nauss, Member
 Jon Neuhaus, Member
 Julie Dodds, Member
 Robin Koehler, Member

Executive Staff
 Kryste Wallen, Executive Director
kryste.wallen@qovf.org
 Kathy Jura, Assistant Executive Director
kathy.jura@qovf.org

Staff
 Barbara Vonada - adminassistant@qovf.org
 Linda Duff - qovfstore@qovf.org
 Stephanie Tinnirello - marketing@qovf.org
 Teresa Nunn - membership@qovf.org
 Billie Haines - accounting@qovf.org

Volunteer Staff
 Crystal Farinella, Longarm Coordinator
LA_coordinators@qovf.org
 Quilt Business Program - quilt.business@qovf.org
 Suzanne DiCarlo, Information and Help Desk Coordinator - info@qovf.org
 Under Our Wings Program - uow@qovf.org

Mailing Address
 Quilts of Valor Foundation
 PO Box 191
 Winterset, IA 50273

For more information about QOVF, go to QOVF.org

For more information about the Board of Directors and how to contact your State Coordinator go to qovf.org/about-qovf/meet-us

Social Media
facebook.com/QOVFoundation
youtube.com/@quiltsofvalorfoundation
x.com/QOVFoundation
instagram.com/quiltsofvalorfoundation
pinterest.com/qovf

Newsletter

Kryste Wallen, *Editorial Director*
 Stephanie Tinnirello, *Editor*
 Kathy Jura, *Editor*
 Barbara Vonada, *Assistant Editor*
 Linda Duff, *Proof Reader*

Do you have an article, idea, or suggestion for Threads? Email it to newslettersubmission@qovf.org. Please include photo release forms for all submitted images.

Photos that appear in Threads are either used with permission or are public domain images. The editorial team makes every effort to credit photographers.