



Leading a nonprofit organization rooted in the quilting industry—particularly one dedicated to honoring veterans—offers a perspective that is both humbling and deeply inspiring. At first glance, quilting may appear to be a quiet, solitary craft. But step closer, and you’ll discover a vibrant, committed community whose creativity, precision, and generosity rival that of any professional field. As an executive leader in this space, I’ve come to see quilting not just as an art form, but as a powerful vehicle for connection, healing, and purpose.



Kryste Wallen, Executive Director

Quilters are, by nature, storytellers. Every fabric choice, every stitch, every carefully aligned block reflects intention and meaning. What stands out most is their extraordinary attention to detail. A quilt is not rushed—it is measured, re-calibrated, and refined. Seams must align perfectly. Patterns must balance visually and structurally. Colors are chosen not only for beauty but for emotional resonance. This level of care mirrors the discipline and precision we see in the veterans and service members we serve.

Our organization works to provide healing quilts to veterans—tangible expressions of gratitude that also offer comfort and a sense of being seen. In this mission, the alignment between quilters and veterans becomes strikingly clear. Veterans bring dedication, resilience, and a commitment to something greater than themselves. Quilters bring those same qualities into their craft. They dedicate hours—often days or weeks—to creating a single quilt, knowing it will be given to someone they may never meet, but deeply respect.

There is also an undeniable creativity in quilting that deserves recognition. While patterns and traditions exist, no two quilts are ever truly alike. Quilters innovate constantly, blending colors, textures, and techniques in ways that reflect both individuality and shared heritage.

Similarly, veterans embody adaptability and ingenuity, having navigated complex and often unpredictable circumstances during their service. Both groups demonstrate a remarkable ability to create something meaningful under constraint—whether that constraint is fabric and thread or the realities of military life.

One of the most profound lessons I’ve learned is the depth of dedication within our quilting community. Many of our members are volunteers who balance careers, families, and personal challenges, yet still make time to contribute. They sew late into the night, organize fabric drives, mentor new quilters, and participate in community events—all driven by a shared mission. This mirrors the selflessness we honor in our veterans, whose service required sacrifice, discipline, and an unwavering sense of duty.

What makes this work especially powerful is the intersection of these two worlds. When a veteran receives a quilt, they are not just receiving a blanket—they are receiving a symbol of care, respect, and recognition. Every stitch represents time given freely. Every pattern reflects thoughtfulness. And every finished quilt carries with it the collective gratitude of a community that understands the value of service.

As a leader, I am continually inspired by how these parallel forms of dedication reinforce one another. The quilting industry, often underestimated, is in fact a space of immense skill and heart. It teaches patience, precision, and perseverance—qualities that resonate deeply with the experiences of those who have served in uniform.

In bridging these communities, we do more than distribute quilts—we build connections. We remind veterans that their service is honored, and we give quilters a meaningful way to channel their talents. In doing so, we create something larger than either group alone: a shared expression of humanity, stitched together with purpose, compassion, and respect. Thank you for all you do to support this mission, I am honored to serve alongside you.

2026 ORIGINAL SEWING & QUILT EXPO

Don't miss these exciting opportunities to learn new techniques, shop the latest tools and fabrics, and be inspired!

Event Dates and Locations:

Dallas-Irving, TX | July 30–August 1

Kansas City–Overland Park, KS | August 6–8

Fredericksburg, VA | September 24–26

Nashville–Lebanon, TN | October 1–3

Cincinnati–Sharonville, OH | October 15–17

Detroit–Novi, MI | November 6–7

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



Submitted by Tammy Arnold, Florida State Coordinator

Left to Right: Lt. Col. Sammie H., CW2 Lagena B., SSG James B., and PO2 Keith B. awarded during OSQE Lakeland, FL

AMERICAN QUILTER'S SOCIETY QUILTWEEK



Come experience this traveling exhibit at American Quilter's Society QuiltWeek 2026 with just two stops remaining:

Grand Rapids, MI | August 19–22

Columbus, OH | September 23–26.



Don't miss your chance to see these incredible quilts up close and be part of this special experience.

This exhibit also features 12 Quilts of Valor that are in our [All-Star Quilts of Valor 2nd Edition](#) along with [QOV/Northcott Semiquincentennial Quilt Panel](#) featuring the Quilts of Valor Foundation logo.

Learn more [here](#).

WE'RE HEADED TO THE FIBER+FABRIC CRAFT FESTIVAL



On Friday, May 1 at 11:00 AM, Deb Sherrock, QOVF volunteer and member of Land of Lincoln Quilts of Valor, will be speaking about the Quilts of Valor Foundation and presenting two Quilts of Valor to veterans. Stop by and visit us at Booth #1816.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: UPCOMING EVENTS

Stay connected and get involved with these upcoming Quilts of Valor Foundation events:



Quilts of Valor Foundation National CatchUp Day

Friday, June 5, 2026

[Registration](#) is open.



QOV Take 5: Walk, Run, Block

Saturday, June 13, 2026

[Registration](#) is open.

Save the Date: November 2026 - QOVF Fall 2026 Online Quilt Auction. More information is coming this summer.

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.](#)



Exclusive Authentically American Items

Purchase the [QOV logo hat](#) and [exclusive socks](#) from Authentically American, a veteran-owned apparel company. The socks feature the QOVF Block of the Year, [Log Cabin](#) and [Ohio Star](#) and are available in limited quantities.

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.](#)

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.



QOVF MEMBER ONLY SPECIALS

All member only specials are listed in the Member-Only Specials section of the Member Dashboard.

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.

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.

Superior Threads

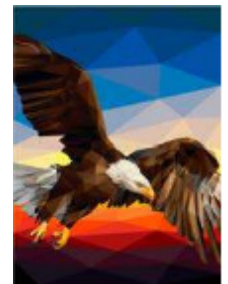
Special pricing on Superior Threads products is available to QOVF members year-round.

Foust Textiles

Foust Textiles offers special QOV pricing with specific ordering instructions.

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.



Marshall Dry Goods

Marshall Dry Goods provides special pricing for QOV members with ordering instructions and price lists.

Pellon

Pellon offers discounted pricing on fabric and batting, allowing Group Leaders to use available Group Funds for purchases.

Purchase Your 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.](#)



COMBAT QUILTERS AWARDING QOVs

Submitted by Janice Klima, member of Combat Quilters

On Tuesday, March 10, seven local Veterans gathered in Hume, NY, at Valley Bread & Bounty for a meaningful Quilts of Valor presentation ceremony.



Each Veteran was honored and awarded a Quilt of Valor in recognition of their service and sacrifice:

Mark S. – Army National Guard/Reservist, Sergeant (1966–1969), served in Hue, Vietnam; awarded the Bronze Star during the Tet Offensive

Richard B. – U.S. Army, Sergeant, Generator Operator (1966–1968), Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Merle N. – U.S. Navy, Petty Officer AC-3, Control Tower Operator (1948–1952)

Floyd M. – U.S. Army, Specialist 5, Cook (1966–1968), Vietnam

Dr. Calvin S. – U.S. Army, Specialist 5, Medical Laboratory Technician (1974–1978), Vietnam; current Commander of the Dee Victor Thomas American Legion – Post 1155; recipient of the 2026 American Legion Department of New York Commander's Award

Harlan M. – U.S. Army, Sergeant, Survey Specialist (1952–1953), Korea; awarded the United Nations Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Korean Service Medal with 3 Bronze Stars, and National Defense Service Medal; selected for an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

James Y. – U.S. Army, 73rd Engineer Company Construction Support, Sergeant (Promotable), Engineer

Quilts of Valor are not charity quilts—they are earned awards. Each quilt represents a commitment to quality, thoughtfully designed with patriotic purpose, and crafted to be both beautiful and durable for everyday use.

KINNI QUILTERS IN RIVER FALLS, WI

Submitted by Carol J Swenson, Group Leader of Kinni Quilters

Kinni Quilters has been busy the past few months! We held a QOV National Sew Day event and pieced Echo and Wave blocks, along with two jelly roll quilts. In March, we hosted our biannual fundraiser, Puzzles with a Purpose, a puzzle exchange and contest. These events are held each March and October.

In April, we're participating in two special community events: the Women Veterans Retreat on April 18 and the local Veterans Resource Fair on April 23. Several members have also been working on special quilts for their family or friends. Carol finally tackled the QOVF/Northcott Semiquincentennial Quilt Panels - one of which will be presented to the keynote speaker at the April 18 event.

Looking ahead, June will feature the Catch-up Day and Take 5 events. Our group will also host a Machine Binding Workshop on June 13 at Top Stitchery in Roberts, WI.

We continue to seek nominations and have awarded four Quilts of Valor so far this year, with four more scheduled for April.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR TAKE 5: WALK, RUN, BLOCK

QOV Take 5: Walk, Run, Block is an opportunity for members and supporters to participate by walking or running a 5K race or making quilt blocks to create Quilts of Valor. To date, we have awarded over 430,000 Quilts of Valor across the United States, with more than 38,000 quilts awarded each year.



This year's event will take place on Saturday, June 13, 2026, choosing the activity that works best for you.

You can decide how you would like to participate in Take 5. Options include coordinating a 5K in your neighborhood,

walking five blocks, or organizing a Sew Day to make quilt blocks. The flexibility of this virtual event allows you to get involved in whatever way works best for you.

Participate with Your Pet:

Once again this year, you can take part in Walk, Run, Block, WOOF by including your furry friends in the event!

Registration Fees:

\$35 – Individual participants (select Walk/Run/Block)

\$45 – Participants + furry friends (select Walk/Run/Block/Woof)

Register [here](#).

How to Register Your QOV Group:

Each group member can register as a race participant. You can also create a Team during registration, and your group members can join the team when they sign up. Be sure to share your Team name with your members so they can easily select it during registration.

How to Create or Join a Team:

Once you select Register, you will have the option to create a team or join an existing team.

If you have questions please email take5@qovf.org, and a member of the Take 5 Committee will respond.

AMERICA 250TH PANEL STILL AVAILABLE IN OUR ONLINE SHOP

The QOV/Northcott Semiquincentennial Quilt Panel is available for [purchase](#), don't miss your chance to own this special commemorative piece.

These exclusive panels feature the Quilts of Valor Foundation logo and are available only through the [QOVF website](#).

Panels are priced at \$10.99 each, with a flat shipping and handling fee of \$7.95 per order. Quantities are limited, so be sure to order yours today.

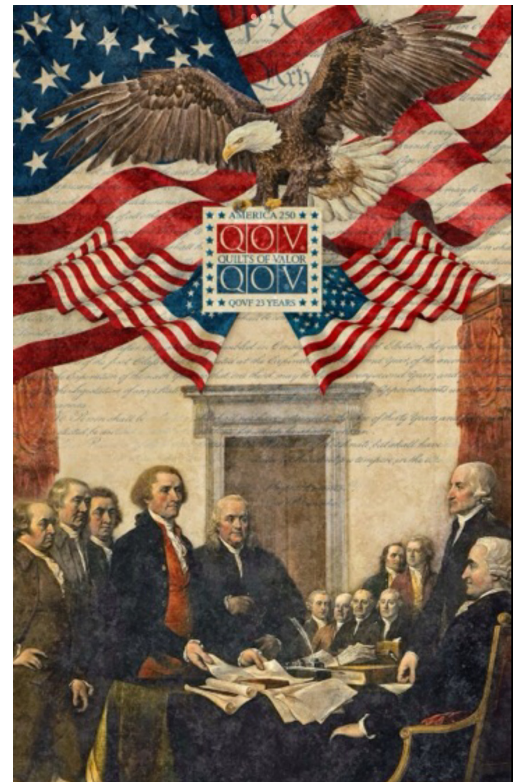
CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY WITH EXCLUSIVE RESOURCES AND MATERIALS AVAILABLE TO QUILTS OF VALOR FOUNDATION MEMBERS!



Our Spoonflower Shop features America's 250th labels, perfect for adding a meaningful, commemorative touch to your quilts

An America's 250th Award Certificate is also available for use during your Quilts of Valor presentations.

In addition, members can access 11 exclusive quilt patterns in the Members Only Patterns section of the Member Dashboard. These special designs were featured in the National Quilt Museum's "Countdown to America 250" exhibition, which was on display from October through December 2025.



HOW MANY SCISSORS ARE TOO MANY?

A philosophical inquiry and celebration of our favorite sharp-edged companions.

Submitted by Barbara Vonada, QOVF Administrative Assistant

If you've been quilting longer than ten minutes, you already know the answer: **There is no such thing as too many scissors.**

But for the sake of community education, and perhaps to reassure our families, we should at least pretend to explore the question.

The Craft-Room Classics

Every quilter starts with the basics:

- Fabric shears (the good ones, the ones no one else is allowed to touch)
- Paper scissors (the decoys, strategically placed to protect the good ones)
- Thread snips (which disappear and reappear like mischievous woodland creatures)

At this point, you're still within the realm of "reasonable." But quilting is a slippery slope.

The "Specialty" Scissors That Suddenly Become Essential

Before long, you've added:

- Pinking shears
- Appliqué scissors
- Duckbill scissors
- Micro-tips for precision
- Embroidery scissors shaped like storks, unicorns, or Victorian ghosts

You tell yourself each pair serves a unique purpose. And honestly, they do.

Scissors Beyond the Craft Room

This is where things get interesting. Quilters don't just own scissors, they deploy them.

You might find:

- A pair in the car, for emergency thread-snipping at red lights
- A pair in the kitchen, because that's where the mail gets opened
- A pair in the purse, because you never know when you'll need to cut a loose thread (yours or someone else's)
- A pair in the bedroom, because late-night binding requires preparedness
- A pair in the living room, tucked under a cushion like a

tiny steel security blanket

And of course, the pair you swear you left on the ironing board but is now missing entirely. (Check the freezer. Stranger things have happened.)

The Scissor Economy

Quilters also maintain a thriving internal scissor economy:

- We loan scissors with the solemnity of a legal contract
- We hide the good ones from spouses, children, and unsuspecting houseguests.
- We mourn the loss of a favorite pair like a fallen comrade
- We celebrate new scissors with the joy of a national holiday.

So... How Many Is Too Many?

If your scissors have:

- Their own drawer
- Their own travel case
- Their own labeling system
- Their own insurance policy (don't laugh - someone has done it)

...you might be approaching the upper limit.

But honestly? Quilters are artists, engineers, and fabric surgeons. We deserve tools that spark joy, cut cleanly, and make us feel unstoppable.

So the real answer is simple: You have enough scissors when you stop losing them. Which is to say... you'll probably need a few more.

AMERICAN QUILTER'S SOCIETY QUILTWEK IN NEW ENGLAND

Submitted by Sue Reich, QOVF Board Member



Barbara Sisneros traveled all the way from Corona, California, to view her Quilt of Valor exhibit in the AQS New England show in Hartford, CT, in April.

AWARD NIGHT FROM STITCHIN' WITCHES OF NORTHEAST OHIO

Submitted by Brenda Scinto, Group Leader of Stitchin Witches

Stitchin' Witches of Northeast Ohio held a special award night on March 10, 2026, honoring five Veterans in a memorable evening generously sponsored by Mission BBQ in Mentor, OH.

Group members in attendance included Brenda Scinto, Lesa Kempert, Lisa DeMario, and Dawn Farrell. All five honorees served in the U.S. Army, including two remarkable WWII Veterans whom we were especially proud to recognize.

First, our younger Veterans (left to right): Timothy B., Shannon D., and Wanda A. Timothy's quilt was made by Lisa DeMario, while Shannon and Wanda's quilts were created by the Little Miami Quilt Guild and generously donated to our group.

Next, we honored 95-year-old Charles L., the first of our WWII Veterans, whose quilt was made by Lisa DeMario.

Finally, 100-year-old Cyril Z. received his Quilt of Valor, beautifully made by Group Leader Brenda Scinto and Co-founder Dawn Bailey.



Each quilt was presented in a custom-made quilted bag, lovingly created by Lesa Kempert. It was a wonderful evening, with dinner provided for all attendees by Mission BBQ, reflecting their ongoing commitment to serving and honoring Veterans in our community. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the Little Miami Quilt Guild for donating quilt tops to help support our mission.

QUILT OF VALOR TO CORPORAL PAUL H.

Submitted by Karri Groomer, QOVF member

We had the honor of awarding a Quilt of Valor to Corporal Paul H at Ascension Lutheran Church in East Lansing, Michigan.



Pictured left to right: Karri Groomer, Paul H., Pam H., and Pastor Sean McCoy.

Corporal Paul served in the United States Marine Corps from 1967 to 1971. He completed Boot Camp in San Diego, California, followed by Aviation Ordnance School at Naval Air Station Jacksonville in Florida. He was then assigned to Marine Night Fighter Attack Squadron VMFA-531, known as the "Grey Ghosts," an F-4 Phantom squadron based at El Toro, California, where he trained in formation operations.

During his service, Corporal Paul was deployed to South Vietnam, where he worked on the bomb dump and flight line. He later returned to El Toro, serving in an ordnance testing and repair facility.

We are grateful for Corporal Paul's service and sacrifice to our country, and it was a privilege to present him with a Quilt of Valor in recognition of his dedication.

RESTOCK ALERT: ALL-STAR QUILTS OF VALOR, 2ND EDITION



The All-Star Quilts of Valor, 2nd Edition: 37 Patriotic Patterns from Star Designers is back in stock!

This inspiring book empowers community groups, military families, and quilters of all skill levels to create meaningful, patriotic quilts.

Books are priced at \$29.99 each, plus a flat shipping and handling fee of \$7.95.

Book pricing for the Members-Only by the case is \$320.00. Books are sold in full cases of 16 copies, making them a great option for group purchases, sew days, or workshops.

COWETA COUNTY QOV GEORGIA

Submitted by Karen Daniels, Member of Coweta County Quilts of Valor

Coweta County Quilts of Valor (CCQOV) recently presented Quilts of Valor to eleven deserving Veterans in one of our most emotional ceremonies to date. Among those honored were five Vietnam Era Veterans, including one who endured five years as a Prisoner of War. It was a true privilege to wrap each of them in a quilt and offer a heartfelt “Welcome Home”—words that, for some, were long overdue. We are deeply grateful for their service and sacrifice. Thanks to the many dedicated CCQOV members who made this presentation possible.



Honored Veterans (left to right): Kathleen A., Thomas D. (Vietnam, POW), Rochelle Judson K. (Vietnam), Lyle K., Gloria N., Ronald N. (Vietnam), Jerry R., Antonio S., Donald S. (Vietnam), Trent T., and Corton V. (Vietnam).

250TH SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL QUILT

Submitted by Marilyn Markle, member of Sew Sassy Quilters

Marilyn Markle of Sew Sassy Quilters in New Franklin, Ohio, shared the heartfelt inspiration behind her latest Quilt of Valor.



With the encouragement and support of group leader Jeanne Peterson, Marilyn had the opportunity to create a quilt using the beautiful 250th semiquincentennial panel. As she worked, every stitch served as a powerful reminder of the freedoms we enjoy in this great country—freedoms made possible by the service and sacrifice of our Veterans.

QOV AWARDS, TEAM TENNESSEE

Submitted by Robert St. John, member of Team Tennessee

On March 16, 2026, three Veterans were honored with Quilts of Valor in a heartfelt presentation.



The quilts were beautifully crafted by Cheryljo Celia and lovingly wrapped by Cheryljo Celia and Daphna Flegal. The awards were presented by Robert St. John.

We are proud to recognize and honor the service of: George R., Peter P., and John R.





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: 442,142
	(from date of first recorded award through March 31, 2026)

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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 Catherine Roberts

Board Member Emeritus
 Catherine Roberts
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 Under Our Wings

For more information go to QOVF.org

For more information about how to contact your State Coordinator go to qovf.org/about-qovf/meet-us

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