



Stepping into the quilting world as an Executive Director has felt a bit like walking into a living gallery — except this gallery hums with sewing machines, laughter, stories, and an unmistakable spirit of generosity. As someone trained in Fine Art, I have spent years studying composition, color, texture, and the emotional language of visual expression. Yet nothing quite prepared me for the experience of attending my first quilt shows and industry events.

At every turn, I found myself stopping in awe. Quilts towered like stained-glass windows made of fabric. Intricate stitching rivaled the detail of master drawings. Color palettes shifted from bold contemporary abstractions to delicate traditional harmonies that would make any painter pause for admiration. The craftsmanship is extraordinary, but even more remarkable is the heart stitched into every piece.

Unlike many fine art spaces where viewers quietly admire work from a distance, quilt shows feel wonderfully alive. Artists, makers, vendors, teachers, and enthusiasts gather not only to showcase talent but to share knowledge, encouragement, and purpose. There is a generosity in this industry that feels deeply refreshing. Every booth seems to hold a story; every quilt carries the fingerprints of patience, creativity, and care.

What struck me most profoundly is how naturally this artistry aligns with the mission of the foundation: wrapping veterans and service members in healing Quilts of Valor. In the art

world, we often speak about the power of art to comfort, inspire, and connect humanity. Here, that philosophy is not theoretical — it is tangible. It can be held in one's hands. It can be draped across the shoulders of someone who has carried the invisible weight of service.



Watching the quilting community rally around this mission has been nothing short of inspiring. These events are more than exhibitions or trade gatherings; they are opportunities to build bridges between creativity and compassion. Every fabric choice, every stitched line, every volunteered hour becomes part of a much larger masterpiece — one that says to veterans and service members: *you are seen, you are valued, and you are not alone.*

As a newcomer to this remarkable industry, I continue to be amazed by both the artistic excellence and the extraordinary generosity woven into its culture. Quilt shows may dazzle the eye with beauty, but their true brilliance lies in the community they create and the healing they help deliver, one quilt at a time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kryste M Wallen'.

Kryste M. Wallen, Executive Director

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: <https://www.sewingexpo.com/Events> 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 and are available through the [QOVF website](https://www.qovf.org) along with QOVF/Northcott Semiquincentennial Quilt [Panel](#) featuring the Quilts of Valor Foundation logo.

Learn more here: <https://www.americanquilter.com/quiltweek>

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.

QOVF 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 QOV 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

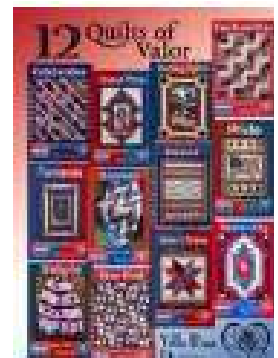
Marshall Dry Goods provides special pricing for QOV members with ordering instructions and price lists.

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.



QOV ON FORT MYERS BEACH

Submitted by Laurie Nienhaus, member of Stars & Stripes FL

On a sunny morning, overlooking the Gulf from the top floor of our library, with its floor-to-ceiling window we knew the day would be special, but no one expected the emotion that would fill the room.



Fort Myers Beach is still recovering from the devastation and loss left by Hurricane Ian. Believing that quilts equal healing, members of the Fort Myers Beach Friends of the Arts wondered how far those healing ripples might spread if beach women came together to create something beautiful and meaningful. Eight women, some of whom had never met, joined forces to create a Quilt of Valor for one of our nation's veterans.

With strong ties to the beach, Vietnam era U.S. Army veteran Joe K. was awarded his quilt amidst much love and tears of joy. He was all smiles!

It was a beautiful day full of ripples. There is now an Honor Flight in Joe's future - and for us, it marked the first time a Quilt of Valor was awarded on Fort Myers Beach, and likely not the last. We also have a small quilt exhibit in the works for January 2027. Most of all, we honored Joe - and healed ourselves some in the process.

The women who worked on Joe's quilt were: Jessie T., Cheryl E., Nancy N., Ginger C., Sheri F., Darlene I., Georgia R., and Laurie N. Laurie is a member of the Stars and Stripes QOVF group in Cape Coral, FL.

A TRIBUTE TO SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

Written by: Jennifer Wise, Pennsylvania Southeast District Coordinator



On April 30th, Korean War veteran Willard L. was honored with a Quilt of Valor in recognition of his service to our nation. He served in the United States Navy from 1953 to 1957 as a Chief Petty Officer Second Class

in Communications aboard eleven aircraft carriers with Carrier Division #1. His role in telecommunications was vital to operations, and he spent long deployments at sea, up to 11 months at a time, over the course of four years, supporting missions connected to Korea.

Surrounded by a close-knit unit of 35-40 sailors, Willard demonstrated dedication, resilience, and commitment throughout his service. The Quilt of Valor presentation served as a meaningful tribute to his contributions and sacrifices, honoring his enduring legacy and the impact of his service.

NEW TEAM MEMBER - JOSH FLORES

Josh Flores is currently the Design & Marketing Manager for FAME (Foundation for Art and Music in Education) and is excited to join QOVF as a Design Specialist. Josh has 10 years of graphic design experience and also dabbles in photography. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree with a concentration in Graphic Design from Purdue University.

Being based in Fort Wayne, Indiana and its growing arts community has been a great support to his education and career growth.

Josh gets design inspiration from a variety of sources, with highlights including vintage/retro

design pieces & color palettes, and movies & movie marketing campaigns. Movies serve as a creative outlet and idea generator for Josh and helps get him through burnouts. When he's not working, he is most likely at the movie theater with a large popcorn and diet soda on the weekends!



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 QOV 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.



“The Person With the Most Fabric When They Die Wins”... Or Do They?

An affectionate look at stash-building, stash-managing, and stash-surviving.

Submitted by Barbara Vonada, Administrative Assistant

Quilters have many sayings, but few spark as much knowing laughter as: “The person with the most fabric when they die wins.”

It’s a badge of honor... until it becomes a badge of *overwhelm*. Because let’s be honest—sometimes our fabric stash feels less like a curated collection and more like a textile avalanche waiting for the right sneeze.

FOMO: The Real Culprit Behind Stash Mountain

Fabric FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) is real.

- *What if this line is discontinued?*
- *What if I finally make that quilt I’ve been thinking about since 1998?*
- *What if I need exactly 3 1/8 yards of this obscure green batik someday?*

Suddenly, we’re at the cutting counter saying, “Better make it two yards,” even though we came in for thread.

When the Stash Starts Owning You

A large stash can be a joy... until it isn’t. Beyond the visual chaos, there are practical concerns:

- **Rodents** think your stash is a five-star resort with complimentary bedding.
 - **Fire hazards** increase when fabric towers start leaning like textile Jenga.
 - **Moisture and mildew** can turn your batiks into biology experiments.
 - **Lost projects** hide in the shadows, quietly judging you.
- And let’s not forget the emotional weight of unfinished objects whispering, “Remember me?”

Organization: The Love Letter Your Stash Deserves

A well-organized stash is a gift—to you, your creativity, and anyone who has to walk past it. Consider:

- Sorting by **color, theme, or project**
- Using clear bins so you can see what you actually own.
- Labeling UFOs with notes like “Needs binding” or “What was I thinking?”
- Keeping a running list of projects so nothing gets lost in the fabric fog.

Your future self will thank you. Your family will thank you. Your floor will thank you.

Downsizing Without Tears (Mostly)

If your stash has reached “archaeological dig” status, downsizing can feel daunting. Try:

- Donating to guilds, schools, or charity sewing groups
- Passing along fabric to new quilters (they don’t yet know the danger)
- Making kits from your stash for quick wins
- Setting a “one in, one out” rule—yes, it’s painful

Remember: letting go of fabric is not letting go of your identity as a quilter. It’s making room for inspiration...

and maybe a little breathing space.

Tell Your Family What You Want Done With Your Stash

This part is important. Your family loves you, but they may not understand the value—emotional or financial—of your fabric collection.

Make your wishes known:

- Who should receive the stash
- What should be donated
- What should never be sold for \$5 at a yard sale
- Which UFOs you actually want finished

A little clarity now prevents your loved ones from standing in your sewing room later saying, “What on earth do we do with all of this?”

So... Who Really Wins?

Maybe the winner isn’t the person with the most fabric.

Maybe it’s the person who:

- Enjoys their stash
- Uses it well
- Keeps it safe and organized
- Shares it generously
- And leaves behind a legacy of quilts—not chaos

But if you do end up with the most fabric when you die... well, you’ll still get a ribbon from the rest of us.

SANTA'S POLAR AURORA

Submitted by Melora Saunders, member of Many Hands, One Heart

Many Hands One Heart is my QOV group. They reached out to me in November to see if I would be interested in creating a quilt from the panel for the Quilts of Valor competition. I immediately said yes, I was very interested in creating something we could all be proud of for our group.

I began searching through my patterns until I decided on a design from eQuilter called Santa’s Polar Aurora.

Their version featured Santa, but I knew our QOV panel would look fabulous framed within that pattern. I consulted with several of our members on the best way to showcase this panel, selecting colors and planning the quilting to reflect just the right amount of patriotism.

Lisa Schott, one of our talented long-arm professionals, readily agreed to quilt it with the flare it deserved. She also finished the quilt beautifully with the binding.

My heart was so full when I completed the quilt! Even though our quilt was not selected for the competition, I knew in our books it was a winner.



FIBER AND FABRIC CRAFT FESTIVAL

Submitted by Deb Sherrock, member of Land of Lincoln Quilts of Valor

On Friday, May 1, I had the honor of speaking about the Quilts of Valor Foundation at the Fiber and Fabric Craft Festival held in Rosemont, Illinois. During the presentation, I invited listeners to join our mission by helping make quilts and by nominating Veterans they know to receive a Quilt of Valor. Following the talk, we awarded Quilts of Valor on the Craft Talks stage to two Veterans:

David M. served in the U.S. Army from 1976-1997. Linda S. was a nurse in the U.S. Air Force from 1969-1971.

On Sunday, May 3, another opportunity to award a Quilt of Valor occurred. Anita A., a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer who served from 1984-2004, stopped by the QOV booth to thank us for supporting Veterans. When we learned she was a Veteran herself, the quilt displayed in the QOV booth was removed, carried to her location, and awarded in front of her colleagues.



Photographer
R. Dennis Smith



Photographer
Barbara Harper

THE GREAT AMERICAN BIRTHDAY QUILT

Submitted by Jenny Fields, member of New River Valley QOV Quilters

Early this year, an invitation was extended by Visit Williamsburg to participate in the creation of THE GREAT AMERICAN BIRTHDAY QUILT. It was a joint art project hosted by Visit Williamsburg and the Art Department of the College of William and Mary. The goal was to have quilt blocks made that show something you love about America and how it inspired you.

Eight hundred blocks were received from all 50 states, and every single one of them was sewn into the quilt. Virginia submitted more than any other state, with 120 blocks, and Philadelphia was second with 75 entries. The final quilt measures 500 feet in length and 5 feet in width!

Following the official "reveal," it was "walked" from Merchants Square on Duke of Gloucester Street in Colonial Williamsburg to the Visitors Center, where it will be on display for our entire birthday year. Learn more here:

<https://www.visitwilliamsburg.com/williamsburg-250/american-birthday-quilt/>

I was inspired to make my block of America's historic ocean liner, the SS United States. She was designed and built in Virginia, at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, just 30 miles from Williamsburg. My grandfather and my uncle were among many immigrants who helped to build it. She is the fastest ocean liner in history. Her current owner is planning to sink her in the Gulf for divers. I volunteer with a Foundation fighting to save her for repurposing as a floating world-class maritime museum.



IN FLANDERS FIELD THE POPPIES GROW: CHERRYWOOD POPPY QUILT CHALLENGE AND QUILTS OF VALOR EXHIBIT

Through July 5, the Iowa Quilt Museum presents In Flanders Field the Poppies Grow: Cherrywood Poppy Quilt Challenge and Quilts of Valor Exhibit. The exhibit features a collection of six Quilts of Valor surrounded by 225 Cherrywood Poppy Quilt Challenge quilts with military and Veteran themes.

The six Quilts of Valor were designed by Tony L. Jacobson (with three quilts featured in the exhibit), Mary W. Kerr, Victoria Findlay Wolfe, and Debra Rowe, Captain, USAF, 1992–1997. On July 4, the Iowa Quilt Museum will formally award all six quilts to Veterans.

Learn more and plan your visit here:

<https://www.iowaquiltmuseum.org/current-exhibits/?utm>



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 per order listed on our website.

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.



Quilts Reported		
2012: 6,169		2020: 22,775 ★ ★ ★
2013: 12,314		2021: 29,302 ★ ★ ★
2014: 17,373		2022: 31,707 ★ ★ ★
2015: 18,772		2023: 37,063 ★ ★ ★
2016: 19,051		2024: 38,029
2017: 24,123		2025: 35,068
2018: 30,745		-----
2019: 33,375		Total: 444,683
		(from date of first recorded award through April 30, 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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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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