



From the Executive Director

The calendar says it's spring and although Mother Nature is still having the last laugh in many parts of the country, Spring brings forth the promise of new beginnings, fresh ideas, and revitalizing and energizing each of us. QOVF continues to grow and succeed because of the great volunteers who give tirelessly of their time, talent, and resources. You can help to energize other volunteers by taking some of the burden from them. Financial donations are always welcome, as



*Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director*

is the gift of your time. State coordinators especially need assistance in award ceremonies that are far away from their homes. You can volunteer to be an area coordinator within your state. Ready to find out more? Write to Ginger at Ginger.fondren@QOVF.org. Or, contact a local group to see what their needs are. You can find them [here](#).

We are pleased to announce two new QOVF board members who will concentrate on fundraising for all aspects of QOVF. Read more about them later in this newsletter on page 3.

Mark your calendars for June 5-6, 2017. The QOVF Annual Conference will be held then at the Elegante Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO. The conference is open to any member or guest. See the

[Events](#) page for more information. Set in the foothills of the Rockies, it is a beautiful and energizing place to spend a few days with your friends and to make new friends. You will be the first to see Mary Kerr's new exhibit "[Old Glory](#)." Aliza Sherman will be a guest speaker and the executive staff will bring new information and updates. A new web page will be unveiled, along with a new tracking system for quilts. Make your plans now to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

I hope each of you has a happy spring, with new energy and new ideas. Thank you for all you do. Quilt in peace and happiness, knowing you are making a difference in the life of those who gave and continue to give so much so that we have the freedoms we enjoy today.

QOVF: Our Mission Has Meaning

Information provided by Bobbie Sanford, Blue Star Mom

Vietnam veteran Sandra Spatz was awarded a QOV on March 18, 2017. Joined by her husband, family, and a large group of female marines, it was a very emotional ceremony. Sandra's note to QOVF member Bobbie Sanford following the ceremony was an acknowledgement of the importance of what QOVF does and why we do it.

Letters, such as this one from Sandra, continue to reaffirm our mission. This thanks is for everyone, reminding us of what we do for those who have been touched by war and how they are helped on the path to healing by a QOV.



The QOV award ceremony for Vietnam veteran Sandra Spatz was held in her Lake Oswego, Oregon, home.

Dear Bobbie,

Words still fail me. DeAnna Conley's quilt is a masterpiece. Saturday when we unfolded the quilt and I saw its symbols, I was too touched to speak. I could not for the life of me have read its inscription. I do not know what DeAnna knew about me, but the images she chose to use in her QOV capture the essence of who I am, and what underpins my love for my country.

I am originally from Reading, Pennsylvania, and grew up pledging allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, visiting historic sites, and learning about the cost of allegiance to Old Glory for so many men and women.

I never expected to find myself in the uniform of a female Marine, nor could I ever have imagined serving in a war-torn country called Vietnam. But interfacing with Marine casualties at Bethesda Naval Hospital in 1967-68 sobered me to the fact that our

country was at war.

My enlistment was up. I could have left the Marine Corps. But I was asked to extend another year to go and serve in Vietnam. DeAnna's QOV depicts why I went. I love freedom. I love liberty. Both call for protection only secured by service.

I feel so moved by the whole concept of QOVF and its mission. The Foundation, which is each one of you, gets to the heart of matters. I needed to be one of your recipients. And to tell you the truth, needing something is hard for a caretaker to admit.

As a female Marine who served at Bethesda Naval Hospital interfacing with injured Marines evacuated from Vietnam before, during, and after Tet, and as an in-country veteran bearing further witness to



Joining Sandra Spatz at her awards ceremony were fellow female Marines and her family.

war, I needed the tangible comfort that the wrap of your QOV provides.

You have my heartfelt thanks for presenting me with this expression of compassion, understanding, and love in my



home among loving family, female Marines, and friends.

May God bless you and all the hearts and hands of the QOVF.

Sandra Spatz—a grateful QOV recipient

VETERANS COURT SUPPORT FROM WASHINGTON GROUP

By Judy Hensley and Patsy Nedrow

Ruby Street Quiltworks QOV group was organized in February 2009 by Linda Schmitt. Members, now numbering 27, meet monthly at Ruby Street Quiltworks in Tumwater, Washington.

For the first few years the group's focus was making quilts and shipping them overseas for distribution to wounded service members. Currently we regularly host award ceremonies in conjunction with VFW Post 318. Today, the majority of the group's quilts are awarded to veterans living in a three-county area.



Judge Buckley congratulates a recent graduate from the Veteran's Court program.

Each summer during the Thurston County Fair we prepare a large QOV display, share the QOV story with attendees and encourage them to submit a quilt request.

Last December, at the request of the Honorable Judge M. Brett Buckley, an army veteran and previous QOV recipient who presides over the Thurston County Veterans Court, our group also began awarding quilts to graduates of the court.

The first program of its kind in Washington state, the Thurston County Veterans Court combines rigorous treatment and accountability to veterans and active duty military personnel facing incarceration. Many veterans who appear in front of the court struggle with military-related PTSD, other mental illness, and sometimes substance addictions. Participants sign a contract to complete the voluntary 18–24 month program to reduce or avoid jail time. The program combines ongoing judicial supervision and intensive monitoring with input from a professional team led by the judge. The goal, according to Judge Buckley is to “hold individuals accountable for their actions, but also to help them in their efforts to get sober, get treatment, and find stability with their families.”

The court welcomes family and community member involvement. Each participant is treated with respect,



During the Thurston County Fair, Ruby Street Quiltworks QOV group shares the QOV story with fairgoers. Two surprise quilt presentations are awarded on Military Day during the fair.

dignity, and support. It is a great honor for our group to participate with the Veterans Court. We look forward to awarding a “comforting and healing” quilt to each graduate.

As a QOV Group we take pride in participating in our surrounding communities. The mission of Veterans Court—Supporting those who have defended us—dovetails well with the mission of QOV. We continually strive to fulfill the many QOV requests that we receive throughout the year.

WELCOME NEW QOVF BOARD MEMBERS

By Ann Rehbein

Please welcome two new board members who will be concentrating on fundraising activities for the QOVF.

Catherine Courreges is Operations Manager for a major software and programing corporation. She is active with QOV as a member of the West Brandywine group in Coatesville, PA. In her new role, her duties will concentrate on assisting QOV Groups with local fundraising to help defray the costs associated with making QOVs.

Her contact information is catherine.courreges@QOVF.org.

Liz Nolan is a semi-retired, independent contractor specializing in the science and technology sector. She is a member of the Garden City Quilters in Aiken, SC. In her new role, her fundraising responsibilities will concentrate on national donors and the establishment of a QOVF endowment. Her contact information is Elizabeth.nolan@QOVF.org.

Liz and Catherine will work together to help QOVF raise money to fulfill our mission, "...to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor."

QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

Welcome aboard to our newest members of the Certified Quilt Shop Program. As of the end of last month, three more shops completed certification:

Quilts & Lace	Melbourne, FL
The Quilt Cupboard	Berwick, LA
The Quilted Crow	Palmerton, PA

To date, we have 53 certified shops in 28 states. How do you find a list of QOVF Certified Quilt Shops? Follow these simple steps.

To Find a Listing of **All** Certified QOVF Quilt Shops:

1. Go to www.QOVF.org
2. Scroll to down the home page and find the blue box called "Who's In My Area"
3. Click on the link in this box
4. On the right hand side, under **LOCATE**: click the checkbox next to **Official QOV Quilt Shop**
5. Click **Search**
6. A map will appear on the left with pins for all the shops in the selected state. Below the map is a listing of all the Certified QOVF Quilt Shops.
7. Listed is each shop name, town, and a link to their website or Facebook page

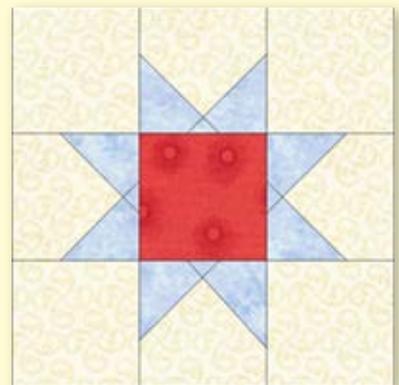
To Find a Listing of Certified QOVF Quilt Shops **for a Particular State**:

8. Follow steps 1-4 above, then next to the **Search** box, click on **-Select-**
9. From the dropdown listing of the state abbreviations, select the state you want to search, then click **Search** (A word of explanation—if you see a map with Paris, France, in the center and nothing below the map, that means there are no QOVF Certified Quilt Shops in the area you searched.)

Thanks to all shops for supporting QOVF.

(Myra Coddens is the QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program Coordinator. Contact Myra at myra.coddens@qovf.org.)

The 2017 Block Drive
is now underway.
Snowball and Floating Star
blocks are being
collected by
Karen Demaree,
Wisconsin State Coordinator.
For more
information, see
<http://www.qovf.org/events/>.



Reporting QOV Awards

By Ginger Fondren

If you are having problems reporting quilts awarded, please use the following method:

Access the QOV home page by typing in the website address (www.qovf.org), selecting TAKE ACTION then selecting REPORT AWARDED QOVs. DO NOT use a bookmark or saved link. We have determined that by using bookmarks or saved links, the award information was being sent to the old location and was not being counted. By going through the web page, this will ensure the report will go to the right area. The website link has been corrected.

You may still occasionally experience the time out (little swirling motion) and those issues will be resolved shortly.

If after using this method you STILL have problems, email ginger.fondren@QOVF.org and I will forward the information on to the IT Director. Thank you for your patience as we work through this issue.

Quilts Reported

2012: 6,169

2013: 12,314

2014: 17,373

2015: 18,772

2016: 19,051

2017: 4,069

Total: 158,311

(as of 31 March 2017)

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
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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 (SCs) go to <http://www.qovf.org/content/about-us.html>.

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Newsletter

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