



### From the Executive Director

It's hard to believe that it's August already. Summer vacations and gardening are winding down and back to school items are the hot commodity. As our thoughts turn toward autumn, let us remember those who need comfort and healing—those veterans and active duty service personnel who have not yet been covered by a QOV. There are many states with large backlogs of requests. If you have an extra quilt or five, please consider helping out your fellow quilters. Right now, South Carolina tops



*Ann Rehbein,  
Executive Director*

the list with over 1,200 QOV requests. Anne Mixon is the contact person and she can be contacted at [anne.mixon@QOVF.org](mailto:anne.mixon@QOVF.org).

QOVF has much to celebrate. The new web site at [www.QOVF.org](http://www.QOVF.org) has been receiving super reviews. A new tracking system has been introduced to state coordinators and this same system will eventually filter down for all members to use. The Trello platform follows a request that originates through the web site portal from the beginning to the end. If the request is for a QOV, the request is forwarded to the state coordinator, she assigns it to an area or group leader, who can then use a checklist to follow the QOV from a quilter, to a longarmer, and eventually to its awardee. The request is then closed and QOVF has a permanent

record with a file number for future reference. A new calendar feature has been added to the website. If you have an upcoming show or exhibit, there is a link on the webpage where you can submit that information.

Another exciting announcement—drum roll please—QOVF has been accepted into the Combined Federal Campaign system. Read more about the program later in this newsletter.

As the leaves start to change colors and the days become shorter, I know that each of you will be doing something to contribute to the mission of QOVF. Whatever that is, thank you. You are enriching the lives of many others, as well as your own. Until next time, quilt in peace and happiness knowing that you make a difference.

### WOMEN WARRIORS RETREAT AWARDS QOVs

*Information provided by Diane Watters,  
Eastern WA Coordinator*

A Cowgirls and Women Warriors Retreat in Colbert, WA, was the setting on May 21, 2017, where 36 female veterans were awarded QOVs. Cowgirls and Women Warriors is a non-profit organization that offers weekend retreats to female veterans in the Northwest providing hope, health, healing, and other nurturing programs. Retreats are open to all female veterans in the Northwest at no cost. The events focus on activities relevant to the specific needs of returning female veterans; Women have a chance to relax and connect with others who share their



healing needs and armed-service experiences.

Working through a local veterans' center, the Greater Spokane QOV Group (GSQOV) of Spokane, WA, had

many helping hands involved in working toward this successful QOV award ceremony. When a call for help went out across the state, a contribution of

20 quilts added to the 25 that GSQOV had set aside for the event. A total of 45 quilts were on hand for the anticipated turnout and the majority of the veterans receiving quilts were from Washington state, with a few recipients from Idaho.

The QOVs were about 10 months in the making, and their presentation was accomplished during the retreat's closing ceremonies. Part of the message

given during the awards speech included "as there are those resolved to serve their country, so are we resolved to honor and comfort them." This theme walked alongside both the GSQOV mission and the Cowgirls and Women Warriors Retreat that day.

There were lots of oohs and aahs as each quilt was unfurled for the veterans. Many of them were surprised at how well their quilts were matched

up to them exclaiming, "How did you know this one was perfect for me?" The veterans had a wonderful relaxing weekend and there were lots of smiling, happy faces at the end of their retreat as they were wrapped in their QOVs.

What a great opportunity it was to award QOVs at a retreat dedicated also to providing hope and healing to those who have served our nation. We look forward to doing the same next year!

## QOVs AWARDED DURING SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICE

Information provided by Nancy Thomson, NJ State Coordinator

A parishioner of St. Alban's Episcopal Church of New Brunswick, NJ, learned about Quilts of Valor by chance and nominated nine fellow church members to receive QOVs. The award ceremony took place this past April during a Sunday service. Each recipient was introduced in turn and given the opportunity to talk to the congregation about their time in the military. Special music that day included the official song of each branch.

A luncheon followed the award event, with each honoree represented by a display board featuring more information about his or her time in the military.

New Jersey SC Nancy Thomson, who with others coordinated the ceremony, was particularly touched by Angela Anderson's story. Angela emigrated to the US from Jamaica and joined the military as a way to serve and better her life. During Gulf Wars deployment, she was separated from her two-year-old daughter for eight months. She eventually earned a graduate degree and now works as an IT specialist for



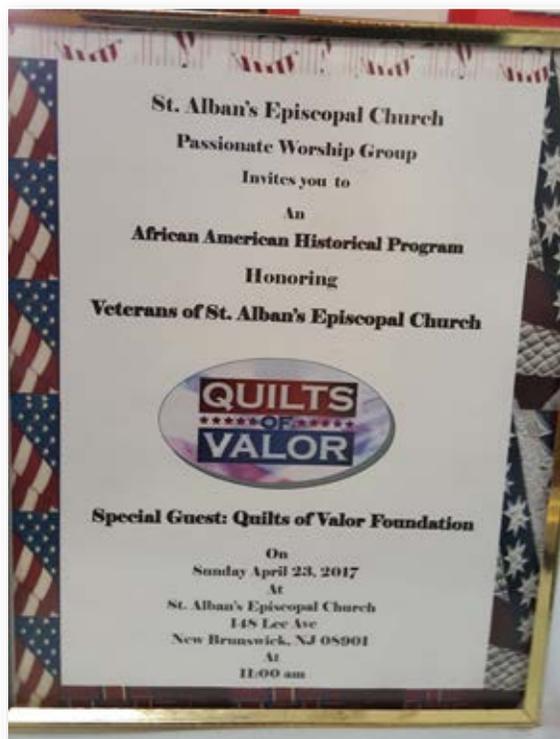
Angela Anderson (far right) and eight other parishioners received QOVs at a special award ceremony at their church, St. Albans Episcopal in New Brunswick, NJ. Pictured from left are June Joseph, Nancy Thomson, New Jersey State Coordinator, and Glenda Simmons. Glenda and Angela were cochairs of the event. (Photo by Barry McClean.)

the Veterans Administration. Angela stated, "When I can meet a fellow veteran, listen, and help, that is my reward."

St. Albans was formally organized as an Episcopal Mission on Tuesday, June 14, 1921.



A poster displayed at St. Albans Episcopal Church on Sunday, April 23, 2017, invited all to participate in the QOV award ceremony. (Photo by Barry McClean.)

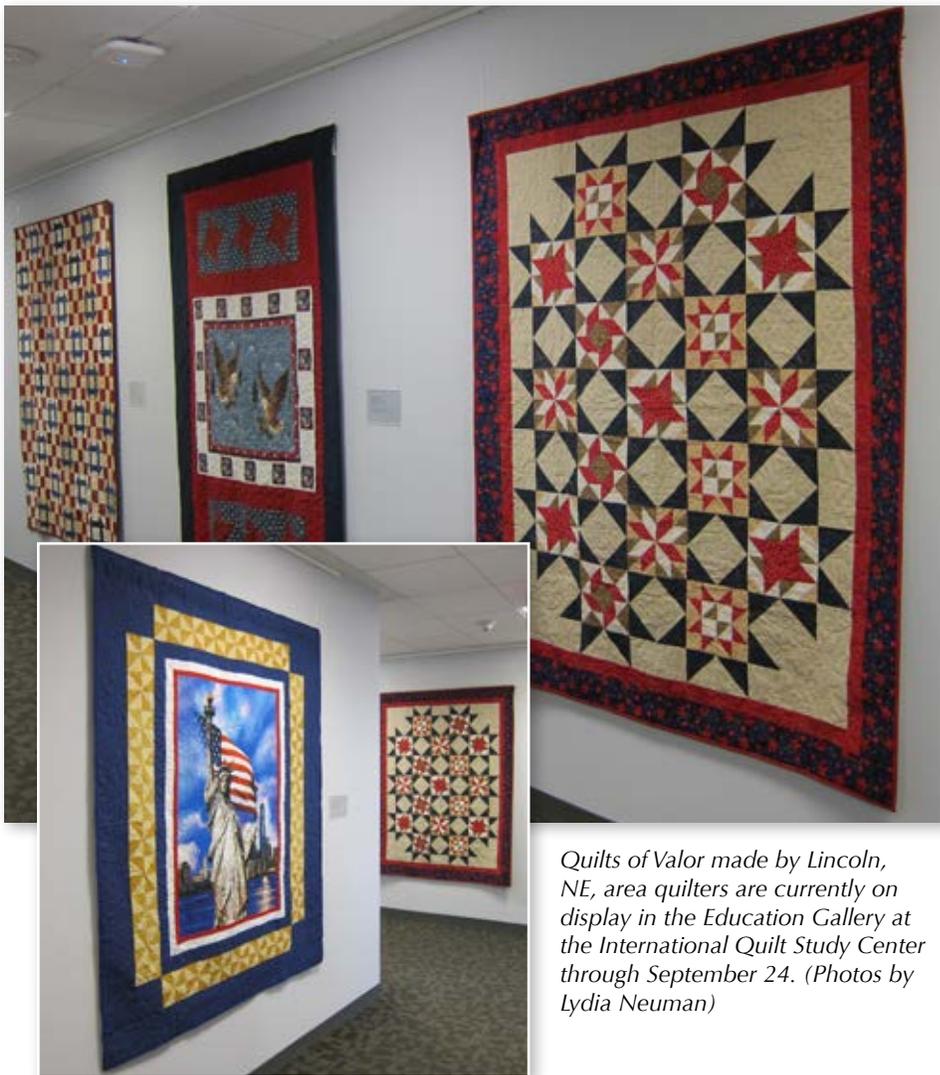


## QOVs ON DISPLAY AT IQSC& MUSEUM

Information provided by Sara Kenny and IQSC staff members Laura Chapman, and Lydia Neuman

For quilters traveling through Nebraska, a must-stop is the International Quilt Study Center & Museum (IQSC&M) in Lincoln. The facility, part of the University of Nebraska, contains the largest publicly held quilt collection in the world.

Now through September 24, seven Quilts of Valor—all made by members of the Lincoln QOV group and Lincoln Quilters Guild—are on display in the museum's Third Floor Education Gallery. On July 7, the museum hosted a Facebook Live Q&A (the museum's first) with Assistant Curator of Exhibitions Jonathan Gregory on hand to answer questions about patriotic quilts. A link to Jonathan's online session is [here](#). For more information on the IQSC&M and museum hours, visit [www.quiltstudy.org](http://www.quiltstudy.org).



Quilts of Valor made by Lincoln, NE, area quilters are currently on display in the Education Gallery at the International Quilt Study Center through September 24. (Photos by Lydia Neuman)

## WARNING! WARNING! WARNING! SUPER EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!

Information provided by Ann Rehbein

QOVF is proud and excited to announce that we are now eligible to be listed in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign raising millions of dollars for charities each year. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season (annually from September 1 to December 15) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout

the world. Donors can make their pledges by entering the five-digit code (62675) on their local campaign region's pledge form or on their campaign's electronic giving system, to include Employee Express (EEX) and myPay (where available).

It has taken several years for QOVF to accomplish this goal. Susan Gordon, former Executive Director, led the way during her tenure by initiating action to have a formal audit completed, which is one of the CFC requirements. Application could then proceed and QOVF was accepted.

If you know of a Federal civilian, postal or military employee, please encourage them to donate through the Combined Federal Campaign.



## Quilts Reported

**2012:** 6,169

**2013:** 12,314

**2014:** 17,373

**2015:** 18,772

**2016:** 19,051

**2017:** 10,803

**Total: 165,045**

(as of 31 July 2017)



## We Need YOU Longarmers

By Elayne Gasset

QOV members all over the country are making tops to be awarded to veterans. More longarmers are needed to quilt those tops. As you can imagine, there are many more tops being pieced than there are people to longarm quilt them.

What is involved? Longarmers for QOV work from a roster. You inform the Longarm Coordinator how many quilts you would like to quilt within a 30-day timeframe. The Longarm Coordinator will email you the name of a QOV topper with tops to be quilted. The tops are shipped to the longarm who provides batting, quilts the top(s) and returns them to the topper within the 30 days. The process is flexible—you can change the number of tops to quilt and take time off the roster for vacations and/or breaks. Communication is the key to the success.

QOVF is growing by leaps and bounds! Since 2003, more than 164,000 veterans have been awarded quilts created totally by volunteers who sew, longarm, and bind.

Are you a Longarmer? Would you like to help? Do you have questions? Please contact the Longarm Coordinator at [elayne.gasset@QOVF.org](mailto:elayne.gasset@QOVF.org). If you're ready to be part of the roster and help us longarm the QOV tops that are being pieced, then please go to the website ([www.QOVF.org](http://www.QOVF.org)). Under the "Take Action" tab (red box) toward the top of the Home Page where you will find a link: "Volunteer to Longarm." Please fill out the form to get started.

Thank you so much for considering helping us award more veterans with QOVs!

*(Elayne Gasset is the QOVF Longarm Coordinator. Contact Elayne at [elayne.gasset@qovf.org](mailto:elayne.gasset@qovf.org).)*

*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 about QOVF, see [www.QOVF.org](http://www.QOVF.org)

For more information about the BOD, the QOVF staff, and how to contact your State Coordinator (SCs) go to <https://www.qovf.org/meet-us/>

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### Newsletter

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