



From the Executive Director

First there was Black Friday, then Cyber Monday, now it's #Giving Tuesday—a global day of giving observed on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. It kicks off the charitable season when the focus is on giving.



*Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director*

Plan now to make a donation to your local QOVF group or online to the Quilts of Valor Foundation® [here](#).

There are many celebrations and award ceremonies planned for November. Thank you to everyone who has had a part in honoring our active-duty service personnel and veterans.

The time and resources you provide are truly amazing and result in the beautiful QOVs you award. You truly are living “Service, not Self.”

The Board of Directors meet every month via teleconference and for the November/December meeting they will gather in person at the National Headquarters in Winterset, IA. You are always welcome to contribute your thoughts to this group by sending an email to myself or any board member. Their contact information can be found on page four of this newsletter, but an easy way to remember their email is this—it is always the board member’s name with a “period” in the middle such as sue.reich@QOVF.org or ann.rehbein@QOVF.org.

Check the web page under Events for information on National Sew Day registration and the 2018 Conference

Information. The 2018 Block Drive is announced elsewhere in this newsletter and it is a fun block to make. Remember if you know a federal employee that the Combined Federal Campaign is still open. The Quilts of Valor Foundation CFC number is 62675.

I wish for everyone a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving. Erma Bombeck summed up Thanksgiving with this thought. “Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence.”

I’ll conclude by saying a personal thank you to everyone for all you do every day to enrich the life of a veteran. Until next time, quilt with peace and happiness knowing you are making a difference.

“BONE YARD” WARRIOR RECEIVES QOV

By Phyllis Schoenholz

Visualize a hot and dry Afghanistan desert. It’s a dark and quiet night for five US soldiers in two vehicles patrolling “The Bone Yard,” the vehicle graveyard for abandoned Russian war machines. Suddenly, green tracers flying overhead indicate an impending hostile firefight. Dramatically outgunned and outnumbered, the men scramble for cover. During the night as Colonel Tom Brewer commands the small unit, he is shot six times.



Members of Lincoln’s Piecemakers QOV group, Senator Brewer, and quilt maker Megann Freese display Liberty Eagle. Brewer’s quilt is the sixth QOV Megann has made, the first she has had the opportunity to award in person. (Photo by Gordon Harrod Photography)

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The complete details of this October 2003 event in Kabul Province can be found in *The Bone Yard*, by James F. Christ—including Brewer's unexpected rescue and erratic ambulance transport to a military hospital and then to a medical facility in Germany. Once returned to the US, Brewer's journey involves thirty-four surgeries over two years. Back in his home state of Nebraska, he becomes concerned about local veterans affairs and Native American issues. With hard

campaigning, Tom, a Native American military leader, becomes a member of the Nebraska legislature.

Now visualize a beautiful spring morning in Lincoln. The State Capitol Rotunda fills with fellow senators, legislative staff, military friends, family members, and members of the Piecemakers QOV group. Brewer, a retired colonel and now a freshman Senator, is wrapped in his QOV by Megann Freese—the college student who made it. The assembled audience learns about Catherine Roberts' dream of a soldier comforted by a quilt, and about

the growth and development of QOVF. Senator Brewer's QOV has its own story to tell. Freese created Liberty Eagle between her freshman and sophomore years as a fashion merchandising major at UNL. From the sewing table, the completed quilt traveled to the Jefferson County Fair, the Nebraska State Fair, and then on to a special display on the University of Nebraska campus. The 4-H award-winning quilt will be featured in the soon-to-be-published book featuring a QOV from each state.



In the rotunda of the Nebraska State Capitol, Senator and Army veteran Tom Brewer talks about his military service to those assembled at his QOV award ceremony. Quilt maker Megann Freese, at right, began making QOVs at age 14. (Photo by Gordon Harrod Photography)

SMILE! IT'S EASY TO DONATE TO QOVF

Information provided by Tony Jacobson

Here's an easy way to donate to QOVF while barely lifting a finger. When you're doing your online shopping on Amazon, you can raise money for QOVF by simply using AmazonSmile! Take a few seconds to sign into Amazon through this Special Amazon [link](#), select the Quilts of Valor



Foundation, and every purchase you make generates a donation to QOVF. No added cost to you, no added fee, no catch. Just log into your Amazon account

through the link, and you're now supporting QOVF. Nothing could be easier!

QOVs PROVIDE THERAPY FOR FAMILY MEMBERS, TOO

Information provided by
Group Leader Barb Frost

Earlier this year, the Finger Lakes QOV group of Rochester, NY, received a request: This nomination is for my 95 year-old-father, Frederick D. Hawke, Jr., who served in the US Marine Corp for both WWII and the Korean Conflict. My father's memory and body may be fading but his respect for his fellow servicemen in the Marines never has diminished. Thank you for considering my request for my father—Nancy Simonds.

Group members Barb Frost and Karen Dobbs conducted the award ceremony on June 14, Flag Day, awarding Fred a quilt made by group member Marianne Hirsch.

Nancy's follow-up note read:

Dear Barb and Karen, Our family can never thank you both enough for the beautiful quilt you presented to my dad. The presentation was wonderful, and he also enjoyed the certificate. He was so incredibly touched. When a friend asked him how he felt, he responded that his chest was bursting with pride. Again many thanks to you and your quilters!

The next note from Nancy was dated nine days later, June 23:

Dear Barb and Karen, First, I want to once again thank you for the lovely Quilt of Valor for my dad. He was so proud and showed EVERYONE his treasured quilt.

It is especially meaningful because my wonderful, kind, patient father passed away in his sleep last night. He had his quilt over him so it wrapped him up for his trip to heaven. His death was unexpected, and he had even been joking with the staff an hour before. He died peacefully and in no pain, so how can I ask for more? After I was called, I went there and was able to sit with him until the funeral home came, fingering the quilt, looking at the stitching patterns for solace. You will never know how much comfort it gave me, simply the family member. Again, true heartfelt thanks.

Barb Frost commented, “we recognize our military by awarding QOVs, but it’s important to realize our awards are also extremely important to recipients’ families.”

The Finger Lakes QOV group, which meets at Jackie Lynn’s Fabric Center in Rochester, has 30 members and many other participants who help cut and sew.



WWII and Korean Conflict veteran Frederick D. Hawke, Jr., received his QOV nine days before his peaceful passing. With him at his ceremony are Barb Frost and Karen Dobbs (left) and Fred's family members, son-in-law Gary Simonds, granddaughter Kalina, and daughter Nancy Simonds. (Photo used with permission.)

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2018



Plan ahead and mark your calendars now! Save the dates—May 19 & 20—for the 2018 Annual QOVF Conference! Next year’s conference will be held at the Bay Watch Resort and Conference Center in North Myrtle Beach, SC. Details and reservation information to come as soon as everything is confirmed, but for now, keep the dates open. It’s an event you won’t want to miss!

2018 Block Drive



The 2018 Quilts of Valor Block Drive features a beginner-friendly Friendship Star with a pinwheel center. The purpose of the national Block Drive is to give individuals or groups who wish to make just a few blocks, but not assemble a quilt, to have their block(s) made into QOVs across the nation. These blocks can be assembled many ways into a QOV. Our hope is to assist State Coordinators with blocks to help fill requests not covered by local groups.

Once completed, please send your finished Friendship Star blocks to the Block Drive Coordinator for distribution nationwide. Blocks received by May 1, 2018, will be distributed at QOVF National Conference to State Coordinators based on the number of blocks received from their states. If you wish to keep the blocks you make in your group, you may do so. Please report the total number of blocks your group makes to suzanne.dicarlo@QOVF.org so a final tally can be shared at the conclusion of the National Conference in May 2018.

Ready to get started? Instructions and mailing information can be found [here](#).

QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

Welcome aboard to our newest members of the Certified Quilt Shop Program. The following shop completed certification this month:

The Picket Fence Prairie du Chien, WI

There are now six certified QOVF shops in Wisconsin. Our program now has 77 shops in 34 states.

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

Quilts Reported

2012: 6,169

2013: 12,314

2014: 17,373

2015: 18,772

2016: 19,051

2017: 16,714

Total: 171,070

(as of 31 Oct. 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

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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 <https://www.qovf.org/meet-us/>

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Newsletter

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