



From the Executive Director

Pumpkins, goblins, ghosts, and superheroes are everywhere. Halloween is just around the corner and one of the fun things about this holiday is that it allows children and adults to creatively express themselves.



Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director

If you are a QOV quilter, you don't need a special holiday to express yourself. You do it every day using those beautiful patriotic colors that are so favored by the recipients of QOVs.

October 28, 2017 is "Make a Difference Day." As stated on www.makeadifferenceday.com, "volunteers from across the country will unite for

one of the largest single days of service to improve the lives of others." What a great day for your group to gather and make QOVs. Of course, QOVF has its own Make a Difference Day. It's called National Sew Day and it will be held February 3, 2018. Start making plans now for your activities.

If you have an event coming up that is open to the public be sure to list it on the events and calendar [page](#). It's exciting to see what you are planning!

Veterans Day will soon be here and I know many of you are planning award ceremonies both as group presentations and individually. I want to personally thank you for the many hours of devotion and the resources spent to make a beautiful QOV. I also want to share these thoughts from a Vietnam Veteran.

"I have never felt that anybody cared about us Vietnam Veterans. It seems

like, in the last few years, people will walk up and say welcome home but I would just thank them and go on my way. I felt it was a little late to start acting like anybody, other than family and friends, really cared if we came home or not. When I was presented this quilt, hand made from hands of some really caring people I was overwhelmed. I know how much work goes into these quilts because it brought back memories of my grandmother quilting and it brought back those good memories of family. I want to thank all of you for this for us; you will never know how much it means to me. Thank all of you for really welcoming us home and really caring. I will cherish this quilt forever."

Until next time, quilt in peace and happiness, knowing that you make a difference.

PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT TO QOVF THROUGH CFC

Information provided by Ann Rehbein

QOVF is 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.

QOVF's Combined Federal Campaign number is 62675.



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).

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

WWII VETERAN RECEIVES QOV

By Cindy Hval (reprinted with permission of The Spokesman-Review, Spokane, WA)

It's surprisingly easy to make a Marine cry. At least it is when you surprise him with a beautifully made Quilt of Valor.

On July 19, Jack Rasmussen, 93, wiped tears from his cheeks as he was presented with a Quilt of Valor by members of the Greater Spokane QOV group. It was a surprise that had been months in the making.

The group was contacted by Rasmussen's daughter, Terese Pratt, and the presentation was carefully orchestrated. Rasmussen, a WWII veteran, thought he was attending a talk by the Marine Corps League about Toys for Tots at Touchmark on South Hill. He's a longtime member of the League. Instead, after a brief talk about

the program by a representative, Diane Watters, QOVF Eastern Washington coordinator, presented him with the quilt.

Bordered in blue with large, cream-colored stars, the quilt features a bald eagle hovering over an American flag – fitting for a man who was on Iwo Jima when that flag was raised.

“The making of this Quilt of Valor for you is our way of saying thank you for all you have done for all of us by stepping up to answer the call to duty, knowing not only that you could, but that you would put yourself in harm's way for others,” Watters said.

Indeed, Rasmussen was often in harm's way and has a Purple Heart to prove it.

He grew up in a small town in Utah and enlisted in the Marines at 19, two days after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Soon he was off to Guadalcanal.

He's never forgotten his first night there.

“The Japanese flew over and I jumped into the first ditch I could find,” he said. Then he laughed. “It was the latrine! The next day we got busy digging foxholes.”

He still has scars from the jungle rot he endured while there, but even that became a source of amusement.

“We turned yellow from the quinine tablets they gave us. Then they had us paint ourselves with purple medicine for the jungle rot and told us to go naked!”

Rasmussen didn't find much to laugh about at his next posting—Bougainville, where he spent two brutal months on the front line.

“It wasn't such a bad thing,” he said, shrugging.

Perhaps that was because so much worse was to come—the battle for Guam.

Continued on page 3



93-year-old Jack Rasmussen, a WWII Marine and Purple Heart recipient, poses for a photo with Diane Watters, Eastern Washington coordinator for QOVF, after she presented him with a QOV on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, in Spokane, WA. (photographer Tyler Tjomsland / The Spokesman-Review)

“Guam was my bloodiest battle in the whole thing,” Rasmussen recalled.

His company was part of the first wave of the invasion and his company commander, platoon lieutenant and platoon sergeant were all wounded on the first morning. After receiving first aid, all three returned to battle, only to be killed by the end of the day.

“Me and another corporal took control,” he said.

They remained in command for five days until replacements arrived.

“People asked me if I prayed,” Rasmussen said, shaking his head. “Oh, yes, I had a prayer on my mind the whole time. I prayed, ‘God help me to be a good Marine and bless the Marine on the right of me and the Marine on the left.’”

From there he was sent to Iwo Jima, arriving on the third day of fighting. By the time the battle was over, all but two men in his platoon were either killed or wounded.

Rasmussen was told to take a position on the airfield, and within 20 minutes he got shot. Bullets hit his right hand and his gun.

“A corpsman asked if I wanted a shot for the pain,” he recalled. “I said, ‘Hell no, I want to get out of here!’”

Bits of shrapnel are still visible in his elbow and hand.

After his discharge, he attended the University of Utah, becoming the first member of his family to graduate from college. He married his wife, LaRee, and in September they celebrated their 69th anniversary.

Rasmussen spent many years as a soil scientist for the USDA, eventually becoming the State Soil Scientist for Washington before retiring.

Still trim and fit, he is proud of the country he served.

“Patriotism means God bless America,” he said. “I’ve always loved America and I always will.”

As Watters and fellow QOV member Glenda Haddican, herself a veteran, presented him with his quilt, Rasmussen beamed.

“This is a big surprise for me,” he said. “Thank you. I’ll have something to remember the rest of my life.”

QOV Depicted On Freedom Rock

Information provided by Tony Jacobson

Iowan Ray “Bubba” Sorensen is painting a Freedom Rock in each of Iowa’s 99 counties and two in each state.

“My goals for painting Freedom Rocks are to thank our veterans and to promote Iowa tourism. I want each rock to be unique and tied to the community as much as possible. I love to illustrate actual stories, especially veteran stories.” explains Sorensen.

The Freedom Rock in Winterset, IA, has images of veterans from the area who stand out for their contributions. George Stout, whose story was told in the movie “Monuments Men,” was born in Winterset and graduated from Winterset High School.

Along with the images of actual veterans from Madison County, there is also the image of a female veteran draped in a quilt that represents the role of women in service to the United States and the intent of QOVF to welcome home all veterans, wrapped in love and support.

Seven QOVs were awarded to deserving veterans during the dedication ceremony. The Freedom Rock is located just east of the John Wayne Birthplace Museum and is seen by travelers from around the world.

To learn more about the Freedom Rock project, check out the website [here](#).

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!



Grace Davidson, who served in the Iowa National Guard from 1975–1998 and was activated to the regular army for Desert Storm, was awarded a QOV during the Freedom Rock dedication ceremony.



Winterset, Iowa, is the national headquarters for QOVF, and now the Madison County Freedom Rock depicts the foundation’s mission.

QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

Welcome aboard to our newest members of the Certified Quilt Shop Program. The following shops completed certification in September:

The Quilt Corner
Treasured Times Quilting & Gifts

Morton, IL
Billings, MT

Montana is a new addition to our growing list of states with QOVF certified quilt shops. Our program now includes 76 shops in 34 states. Please share information with stores in your local areas so we can further grow our list of certified quilt shops.

(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: 14,959

Total: 169,315

(as of 30 Sept. 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
Catherine Roberts

Board Member Emeritus
Eric McCarty

Board of Directors
Sue Reich, Chair
June Moore, Secretary/Historian
Michelle Leonard, Treasurer
Marianne Fons, Quilting Industry
Walt Davis, VP and Military Affairs
Catherine Courreges, Fundraising
Liz Nolan, Fundraising
Renelda Peldunas-Harter, Member
Mary Persyn, Member

Executive Staff
Ann Rehbein, Executive Director
ann.rehbein@QOVF.org

Ginger Fondren, Assistant Executive Director
ginger.fondren@QOVF.org

Jackie Dudek, Director of Membership
jackie.dudek@QOVF.org

Elayne Gassett, Longarm Coordinator
elayne.gassett@QOVF.org

Janice Lewis, Destination Coordinator
Janice.lewis@QOVF.org

Debra Coppa, Coordinator of Individual Requests
debra.coppa@QOVF.org

Jeff Thorne, Marketing and Public Relations Director
jeff.thorne@QOVF.org

Suzanne DiCarlo, Information Desk Coordinator
suzanne.dicarlo@QOVF.org

Debra Kaldenberg, Special Events Coordinator
debra.kaldenberg@QOVF.org

Jennifer Keltner, Managing Editor
jennifer.keltner@QOVF.org

Myra Coddens, Coordinator of Quilt Shop Relationship Development
myra.coddens@QOVF.org

Dawn Gifford, IT Director
dawn.gifford@QOVF.org

Ginger Fondren, Director of Software Management
ginger.fondren@QOVF.org

Sandra Chambers, Under Our Wings Program Coordinator
sandra.chambers@QOVF.org

Mailing Address:
Quilts of Valor Foundation
PO Box 191
Winterset, IA 50273



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/>

Photos that appear in *Threads* are either used with permission or are public domain images. The editorial team makes every effort to credit photographers.

Newsletter

Ann Rehbein, *Editorial Director*
Jennifer Keltner, *Managing Editor*
Tony Jacobson, *Graphic Designer*

Quilt of Valor®, Quilts of Valor®, and QOV® are registered trademarks of the Quilts of Valor Foundation.