



**From the Executive Director**

As I write this, I am just ending an incredible week of listening to stories from honored veterans and your fellow members. Quilts of Valor Foundation hosted an exhibit at the National Convention of The American Legion where information about QOVF was distributed, QOVs were displayed and signature blocks were collected. My sincere thanks to Marsha Strand and the Comstock Lode Quilters of Reno, NV, for manning the booth also. They are an awesome bunch of ladies, truly dedicated to the mission of QOVF.



*Ann Rehbein,  
Executive Director*

I want to pass on what so many

veterans from across the nation stopped to say; and that was simply thank you. Thank you for all that you do, from beginning to end in making and awarding a QOV. They might have been the recipient of a QOV, or they attended an award ceremony for someone else who received one, or perhaps they donated funds to a local QOVF group, but their message was always the same. They were so appreciative of what complete strangers would do for them and others.

I was also privileged to award two QOVs. Both went to US Army Vietnam veterans, one suffering from a disease caused by Agent Orange exposure and the second, a paraplegic who has spent the last 50 years in a wheelchair from his injuries. Please keep them and all veterans in your hearts and thoughts. They have all sacrificed so much for the freedoms we enjoy today.

There are many opportunities for you to gain exposure for QOVF and your group by hosting an exhibit booth of your own. Several quilting industry companies have offered free space to local groups when they have shows in your area. Check out the calendar on the website to find out where they are. Also, if you have an event that is open to the public, you can request to have it added to the calendar by filling out the form on the calendar page. QOVF will be exhibiting at Accuquilt in Omaha, NE, featuring Under Our Wings on September 29, at Quilt Festival in Houston, November 1 to 5, and at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Conference in Indianapolis, IN, again showcasing the Under Our Wings program. Stop by and see us if you are in the area.

Until next time, quilt in peace and happiness, knowing you are making a difference.

**NEVADA GROUPS COVER VETERANS OF THE MONTH**

*Information provided by Victoria Colburn-Hall*

The Nevada Department of Veterans Services each month recognizes a veteran for his or her ongoing support of veterans and their families. Governor Brian Sandoval presents special certificates to awardees in ceremonies that alternate between Las Vegas and Reno. Beginning in March 2017, a QOV presentation became part of the event.

WWII veteran Bill Knapp, 94, was a recent honoree. Bill is a member of the Southern Nevada Patriot Guard Riders, whose members ensure a deceased veteran will never have to take "the final walk" alone. During "Ceremonies for



*WWII veteran Bill Knapp looks on as his QOV is displayed at his recognition ceremony in Las Vegas. (Photo by Scott Oates)*

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the Unaccompanied” at the Southern Nevada State Veterans Cemetery in Boulder City, Bill accepts the American flag on behalf of WWII veterans. Every week, he places a flag on the graves of fellow WWII veterans who have passed.

Bill served in the 82nd Airborne Division, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, from 1942-1946, receiving Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals and a battlefield commission. In 2015,



Members of Valor Quilters of Nevada wrap Bill Knapp. “I never did anything heroic,” Bill said during the Veteran of the Month ceremony. “I just did my job.” (Photo by Scott Oates)

he was awarded the French Legion of Honor, the highest French order of merit for military and civil deeds.

Bill’s QOV was awarded by Las Vegas area Valor Quilters of Nevada. Ceremonies in Reno are covered by Comstock Lode Quilters.

## HOSPICE VOLUNTEER VETERANS RECEIVE QOVs

*Editor’s Note:* The following letter of appreciation was sent to Executive Director Ann Rehbein along with a request to share the message with all QOVF members.

My name is Mary Fedor and I’m the hospice volunteer coordinator for Good Samaritan Society Hospice in Nisswa, MN.

Recently, I had the honor of awarding two Good Samaritan Society (GSS) veteran hospice volunteers with beautiful QOVs from your

organization—made by the QOV quilters in Brainerd, MN.

I wanted to share two photos from the awards with your members.

The first photo (*below on left*) is of veteran Walter Karrick and his daughter Cris. Walt served in the USMC 1st and 3rd Divisions, serving in WWII, South Pacific Theater. Walt has graciously given of his time as a hospice volunteer with GSS since June of 2013. Last year, Walt donated 203 hours of his time.

The second photo (*below on right*) is of veteran Charles Bair and some of his family members. Chuck served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam

War, serving aboard the USS Midway (CV-41). Chuck has been a GSS hospice volunteer since December 2015 and last year donated 96 hours of his time.

Undoubtedly, both gentlemen were quite touched by the QOV awards, showing their appreciation with their big smiles.

THANK YOU to you and your team for making a difference in so many lives!

Most sincerely,

Mary Fedor  
Hospice Volunteer Coordinator  
Good Samaritan Society Hospice



## AN AWARD WINNING FLOAT HONORS QOVF

Information provided by Jude Casco

QOVF group members of the Southwest New Mexico Quilters Guild (SWNMQG) in Silver City, NM, received the third place ribbon for their 4th of July parade float. This was the first time the guild members entered the parade and QOV coordinator, Jude Casco, was pleased with the results. "When I heard this year's parade theme was 'Honoring our Heroes,' I knew our QOVF group just had to be a part of that."

The guild displayed 14 quilts on a frame built by Gerry Billings, and many guild members and their husbands helped to decorate the float.



There are 35 members in the SWNMQG QOVF group. Since joining the foundation in 2014, they have presented 81 quilts to veterans in Grant

County, NM. The 14 quilts displayed in the parade on the float are soon to be awarded to veterans in the region.

## TRELLO WINS PRAISE FROM ONLINE USERS

With our newly redesigned QOVF website, the Trello online tracking system for all QOV requests was rolled out. Information on the new tracking system was introduced at the 2017 QOVF Annual Conference in May. All State Coordinators have begun working with the new streamlined system. Here are several responses and tips from a few early adopters to Trello. If you're still new to learning the system, learn from the success of others!

• *When we were first informed about the coming of Trello I had a moment of "oh no!" But once I played around, made some mistakes, learned how to fix them, my mind changed. I like it! Less time is spent, less paper wasted, less ink used.*

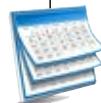
• *The Trello software is so far solving a great problem for me...keeping track of my commitments. I piece tops and longarm for more than one group, and the organization Trello provides is awesome.*

*Thank you for your efforts to get it fully implemented across all of QOVF. It is truly awesome.*



Try these tips that Jan Copeland, QOVF Central IL State Coordinator shared with her group leaders:

- The Red Bell you may see on cards means there has been activity on the card that you have not opened and read.
- When a QOV award is complete, complete the *Completion Checklist*: Quilt awarded, any thank you notes you may need to send, and that you got the signed photo release document if you took pictures at the award ceremony. Now move the card to *Awarded QOVs-Request Complete*. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO RECORD THE AWARD ON THE WEBSITE ANY LONGER. WHEN YOU MOVE THE CARD TO THIS COLUMN IN TRELLO YOU ARE FINISHED.** They are automatically counted and the website numbers will be updated on a regular basis now.



## 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!



## Quilts Reported

**2012:** 6,169  
**2013:** 12,314  
**2014:** 17,373  
**2015:** 18,772  
**2016:** 19,051  
**2017:** 13,092

**Total: 167,448**  
*(as of 31 August 2017)*



## QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

Welcome aboard to our newest members of the Certified Quilt Shop Program. The following shops have completed certification since July, 2017:

Twisted Sister  
The Bernina Connection  
Paradise Sewing  
Magical Stitches  
Birdhouse Quilts  
The Common Thread  
The Quilted Windmill  
Country Stitches  
Decorative Stitch

Eagle River, AK  
Phoenix, AZ  
Poway, CA  
Macon, GA  
Byron, GA  
Dahlonega, GA  
Pella, IA  
East Lansing, MI  
Shelby Twp., MI

Beginnings Quilt Shop  
Needles & Pins Quilt & Fabric Shop  
Fox's Sew & Vac  
The Quilt Shop On Signal

Hendersonville, NC  
Mullica Hill, NJ  
Meadville, PA  
Signal Mountain, TN

Our program continues to expand with 74 shops in 32 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](mailto:myra.coddens@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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