



From the Executive Director

“If you can’t feed a hundred people, then just feed one.” This advice from Mother Theresa could also be, “If you can’t make a hundred blocks, then just make one.” Every contribution, whether it be one block, one quilt, or a hundred quilts, contributes to the success of QOVF. Thank you for your contributions—one block, \$1, or 100 quilts, \$10,000—each is greatly appreciated.



*Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director*

Spring quilts shows have begun, and QOVF will be represented at many of them. Check out the [QOVF calendar](#) to find an event near you. In many instances, these exhibit booths are offered to QOVF free of charge, and we are grateful to those companies that graciously give space for an exhibit. We will also be exhibiting at the Army Aviation Association of America (QuadA) Conference in Nashville and The American Legion National Convention in Minneapolis.

Are you interested in volunteering a few hours extra? QOVF is currently seeking one or two volunteers to help with membership mailings. The heavy workload period is October through

March. If you are interested, contact me at ann.rehbein@qovf.org or Jackie Dudek, Membership Coordinator, at jackie.dudek@qovf.org.

Have you been doing some spring planting? Another verse comes to mind, a variation on, “Whatever you sow, so shall you reap.” I am always touched by the thank-you letters sent to QOVF from recipients who have reaped the benefits of what you do. Those thank-yous belong to you, also reaping what you have sown (or sewn!).

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

HENRY BLOCH, QOV RECIPIENT AT AGE 95

By Cynthia Parry

Not long ago, my husband Mark and I attended a cocktail party honoring the 95th birthday of Henry Bloch and celebrating the publication of a new biography about him (Henry is the “H” in H&R Block). We were included because Mark is a professor at the Bloch School of Business at the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

At the event, during a presentation about *Navigating a Life; Henry Bloch in World War II*, by John Herron (a professor at UMKC’s Department of History) and Mary Ann Wynkoop, I learned that Mr. Bloch (among his accomplishments) served as navigator on more than 30 WWII B-17 missions. Though I provide six QOVs every year



Henry Bloch, the “H” in H&R Block, and a WWII veteran, received his QOV from Cynthia Parry in his office in Kansas City.

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for the veterans' home in King, WI, I felt intimidated at the thought of making one for Mr. Bloch, even though I immediately wanted to.

After the party, I posted photos I had taken of the favors—cookies with the book cover frosted onto them—before I ate them! Karen Demaree, my Wisconsin QOVF leader, saw the pictures on Facebook and provided the nudge I needed to follow through; my husband connected me with the Bloch family. Because one of my veterans' home quilts was already cut out and ready to sew (and I had plenty of time to replace it), I was able to complete Mr. Bloch's QOV in record time.

In February, in Mr. Bloch's office on Kansas City's Country Club Plaza, I had the honor of awarding a QOV to one of America's great businessmen, philanthropists, and WWII warriors (he would never call himself a hero). Present were the recipient, his son Tom, my husband and myself, and family friend David Miles. I told the gathering about QOVF's origins, how quilts are made, our membership, our award ceremonies, and that over 181,000 quilts had so far been presented.

My efforts were rewarded with two kisses and hugs from Henry, as well as a personalized copy of the new book. The Blochs could not have been more welcoming and gracious, and the award ceremony was a truly lovely and memorable experience. As intimidated as I was at the thought of awarding Henry Bloch (even having met him many times and knowing what a sweet and gentle man he is), I'm very glad I did it, and I thank Karen Demaree for giving me the nudge I needed.

Cynthia Parry, who lives in Kansas City, MO, has been a Wisconsin member of QOVF for three years. She travels to King, WI, several times a year to visit her mother, a resident of the VA home there.

THE LAST MAN STANDING AWARDED QOV

By Jeff Thorne

Rare it is that one has the occasion to meet the first or last of anything. Collectively, we allow life to pass too quickly to fully experience what is present and then we bemoan a loss.

One cool autumn night, our mission was to honor and comfort Retired Sergeant Major Albert Slugocki, U. S. Army—the last known surviving member of the honor guard President Kennedy created.

His story is one of passion to serve, to protect, defend, and defeat the invaders of his homeland—Poland. Albert came to America to escape the takeover of his native country. His calling was to join the U.S. military to fight for freedom of his people and those yearning for freedom around the globe.

His journey of service would take him through the Korean War and the Vietnam War, as well as clandestine missions in Southeast Asia and Europe, as part of the Army's Special Forces.

The man that was to become Sergeant Major (SGM) Albert Slugocki grew into an elite cadre of men—the Army's Green Beret. President Kennedy described them as “. . . a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom.”

SGM Slugocki said that President Kennedy personally gave him a beret in 1962. He was with the President twice—he stood beside him in life, and stood beside his casket in death.

Although wounded several times during his tenure of service, Albert continued to serve until his retirement. On the morning following the award of his QOV, SGM Slugocki took a special journey to lay his Green Beret at the gravesite of President Kennedy.



Sergeant Major Albert Slugocki, U. S. Army, is awarded his Quilt of Valor by Kathy Thorne (left) and Sharon Brzostowski (right) co-leaders of the Mother Seton Parish Quilting Angels from Gaithersburg, MD. Kathy created and quilted the QOV.

GETTING TO KNOW:

Suzanne Di Carlo

What's happening with my request? Where do I find . . . ? How do I . . . ? Answering these questions is all in a day's work for the Information and Help Desk at QOVF. Last year there were more than 5,800 requests for information through the QOVF website. Volunteer Suzanne DiCarlo enjoys helping and informing people about QOVF, which is why she volunteers for the position.

"I connect individuals with the right person, if I cannot answer their inquiry myself. The largest numbers of requests center around the following: where is my request, what's going on with it, did you get it, I haven't heard from anyone. As groups it is vital that we communicate when a request is assigned to us. It gives the requestor key information about who we are, and lets them know that we are the local contact for their request. It allows us to gather information to make the award personal and allows others to know we are working on their request.

"Information is important. The QOVF website and this newsletter are our vehicles to communicate. All members have their own sign in and can access the Members Only page to find out what's new and where our most often used forms are located. It's the way we communicate and let members know how to order items, and what's newly available.

"My favorite part of this role is when I receive a thank you from a recipient. Sometimes recipients don't know who to thank or how to get in touch with them. It keeps me centered on why we do QOVs. I do my best to pass them on, researching where and who awarded the QOV. Our volunteers are great people doing acts of kindness. Please consider writing and sharing stories so we all know about your group's efforts.

"Special thanks to all the staff and State Coordinators who help answer questions and disseminate information to individuals and groups. It is important that we communicate who QOVF is, what we do, and keep our image a positive one."

Thanks for sharing your role in QOVF Suzanne. Need more information? This is the [Help Desk](#) link.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2018 QOVF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By Ann Rehbein

Registration for the QOV National Conference, May 19-20, 2018, is now open. For details and to sign up please complete the registration form available on our website (www.QOVF.org). The registration fee is \$100.00 for members and \$125.00 for non-members. This is going to be a fun-filled conference full of ideas, discussions, and surprises! We look forward to seeing you at the QOV National Conference in beautiful North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina!

To reserve your room for conference please call the Baywatch Resort at 877-779-7379 and ask for the Quilts of Valor room block. The rooms are discounted for our group. A deposit is required to reserve a room, and the balance is due at check-in. Gather your friends, come to the beach, and join us for a fun conference!

HELP WANTED: ARE WE LOOKING FOR YOU?

Are you interested in volunteering a few hours extra? QOVF is currently seeking one or two volunteers to help with membership mailings. The heavy workload is from October–March. If you are interested, contact Ann Rehbein at ann.rehbein@qovf.org or Jackie Dudek, Membership Coordinator at jackie.dudek@qovf.org

Do you enjoy writing? A wealth of stories come to QOVF through emails about local events. A writer is needed to organize the narrative, put it into the newsletter's format and voice, fact check it with the originator, and obtain photo images. Sound like you? For more information about writing for QOVF Threads, contact ann.rehbein@qovf.org.



2018 STAR SPANGLED EVENING BENEFIT

All proceeds go to the Quilts of Valor® Foundation to support, honor, and comfort U.S. veterans and active duty service members.

Thursday evening, May 17, 2018

6 PM Cocktails and "Silent" Auction Preview

7 PM Dinner and Short Presentation followed by the fun, Not-So-Silent Auction

Bay Watch Resort & Conference Center
2701 S. Ocean Blvd., North Myrtle Beach, SC

Register at
<https://www.qovf.org/events/>

Enjoy an evening of getting to know us at Quilts of Valor Foundation with cocktails, dinner, music and a short informational presentation while meeting local veterans and service members.

Evening or Business Attire: Look & Feel YOUR Best!

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 since the last newsletter:

Lucky Quilt Company	Pecatonica, IL
Quilter's Square	Lexington, KY
Midsouth Sewing Center	Murfreesboro, TN

Our program now has 100 shops in 38 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: 24,009

2018: 5,564

Total: 183,929

(from date of first award through
31 March 2018)

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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Board Member Emeritus**
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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 [https://
www.qovf.org/meet-us/](https://www.qovf.org/meet-us/)

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Newsletter

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