



From the Executive Director

By Tammany McDaniel

Organizations experiencing significant growth must learn how to invite collaboration and embrace change. We are growing! We've leapt from 10,000 to 11,000 members in just under



Tammany McDaniel
Executive Director

two months. Increasing membership has allowed us the opportunity to review our processes and what support will be needed to meet an exciting new future. With that in mind, QOVF is restructuring the Executive Staff and reevaluating the workloads of each member. This includes a new look at increasing the foundation's support of State Coordinators through training, materials, and other aid. Please watch for upcoming e-mail blasts regarding new positions and new ways to volunteer with QOVF. We'll be seeking skill sets that encompass marketing, donor relations, volunteer engagement, and training. It is a giant undertaking, but

I believe that with the support of our members, we are equal to the challenge. We anticipate the process to take three months at a minimum, but are also allowing for unforeseen information and local conditions that might see us continuing to restructure through the summer. The feedback received thus far is mostly positive and we are grateful for those who have expressed concern as it allows us insight into items that may have been overlooked. Our goal is a unified group that comforts and heals by awarding QOVs throughout the nation.

We're also going to be welcoming a new QOVF Board Treasurer, Brenda Edwards. We'll include an introduction article next month. She'll be reviewing our banking and other financial relationships and making recommendations on improved financial efficiencies.

The QOVF Board has approved the completion of agreements with varied partners. In brief, we'll be working with Authentically American on opening a company store that enhances our ability to fundraise. It is exciting to note that QOVs will be incorporated into a Hallmark/Crown Media fiction publication that is a story about a

woman and her completion of a QOV. QOVF is also partnering with the American Gold Star Mothers and the Eyes of Freedom Memorial to cooperate in coming years and raise awareness of each organization. A chart-topping Bluegrass group, Nu-Blu, is working with QOVF on a music and pattern compilation, QOVF cruises to Mexico and Alaska, and some long-term artistic projects. We are in discussion with Keepsake Quilting on catalog advertising and their desire to support QOVF by hosting donor requests through their catalogue. The Quilt Shop Navigator will run free ads in each publication, again, to help raise awareness of QOVF's mission and to call for volunteers. We've received sponsorship for our logo to be placed on five Falci Adaptive Motorsports vehicles thanks to John 'Rowdy' Oxley. These adaptive technology cars allow for mobility challenged drivers to continue to race. We'll have a newsletter article highlighting this and all of our partnerships in the coming months.

It is my hope that we explore these new possibilities with a heart of gratitude and that we find joy in meeting new members and partners. Thank you.

**DECADES LATER;
MANY THANKS**

Information provided by Carla Kilgore

On a cold February afternoon in Union, MO, the Show-Me QOV group of Franklin County awarded

five area veterans QOVs at a ceremony in town. Among the award recipients was hometown veteran Jesse Stricker. When asked about his military service several days prior to the ceremony, Mr. Stricker shared his thoughts in writing as follows:

I entered the Air Force on August 27, 1969, at the age of nineteen. It just seemed like the right thing to do. (Besides, as I learned later, I had a very low lottery number and would have been drafted in October anyway).

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QOVF VISION: Creating Quilts of Valor as tangible expressions of gratitude for every service member and veteran.

I was sent to South Korea where our mission was to prevent escalation of the ongoing conflict with North Korea, a wound that never healed and almost split wide open in 1968 after the capture of the USS Pueblo, and then again in April 1969 when North Korea shot down an intelligence gathering US Navy aircraft killing 31 Navy personnel.

By the time I finished my four-year commitment I was a 23-year-old Staff Sergeant at Clovis, NM. The civilian world in August 1973 (five months after US troops had been withdrawn from Vietnam) was a very different place than today. It was not popular to be in the military. Not many cared about your service to the country. No one wanted to talk about it. It wasn't until just the past few years that I heard anyone say, "Thank you for your service" (not that it was ever expected). That's why this recognition, fifty years later by Quilts of Valor, (also never expected), is so very special. I am filled with gratitude and pride, and at the same time humbled with a stronger appreciation for family, friends, community, God, and country.

I certainly didn't do anything extraordinary to deserve this, but I thank you for acknowledging me, and by extension, the many others who are more worthy, especially those who gave it all.

Valuable skills and principles learned in the military last a lifetime and I still draw from them in my daily life and in the running of our business, Intek Corp. here in Union, MO.

One Bible scripture, Colossians 3:23, helps me summarize and keep this in perspective:

"Whatever you do, work heartily as for the Lord and not for men."



Veteran Jesse Stricker (US Air Force) stands next to his QOV awarded in his hometown of Union, MO, by the Show-Me QOV group of Franklin County, pieced by Dolores Keaton and quilted by Lisa Rickmeyer.

BLOCKBUSTER BLOCK PARTY

Information provided by
Amador Valley Quilters QOV group

This year, the Amador Valley Quilters group held a "Block Party" on National Sew Day with 43 enthusiastic QOV sewers. Precut block kits were prepared ahead of time. All participants began by making the QOV 2019 block. Once this

block was completed, the participants moved on to other blocks. Throughout the day, three alternate block styles were also constructed. The blocks were then gathered and packaged for quilt top construction by volunteers.

The final activity of the day and a highlight for all was the QOV awards presentation to two Korean War Air Force veterans. It was truly a blockbuster day!



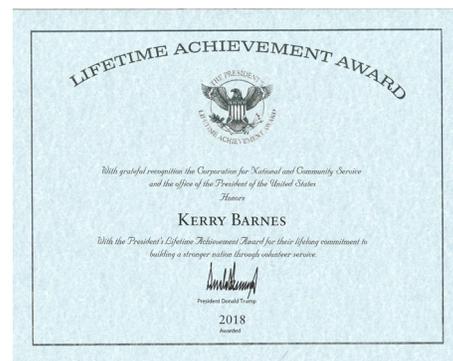
The Amador Valley Quilters QOV group displays some of the fruits of National Sew Day success from the "Block Party" they hosted.

PRESIDENTIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

By Tammany McDaniel

We are pleased to announce the President's Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Kerry Barnes, State Coordinator, NY. Kerry was presented this honor in recognition of over 4,000 hours of service. In the letter she received from President Trump, he stated, "You have served as a model of the American spirit. Your many hours of service have strengthened the bonds of cooperation and trust that bring people together, while helping to address some of the greatest challenges of our time. One of our nation's greatest strengths remains the compassion of our everyday citizens, who give so willingly of themselves and their lives for the benefit of others."

Kerry, QOVF also thanks you and considers it a privilege to serve our mission alongside you.



Kerry Barnes holds her Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award signed by President Trump, recognizing her exemplary volunteer service.

SPREADING THE QOV MESSAGE

By Kathleen Decker

As of early 2018, the state of Virginia had just three QOV groups. Fast forward to 2019 and there were seven. Recently, I had the pleasure of assisting the Northern Neck Patriotic Piecers in northern Virginia to form the eighth QOV group in the state. I've written an article titled "How to Form a QOV Group" for an upcoming issue of the American Quilt Society magazine, so I won't repeat details covered there. However, I would like to share some thoughts about the importance of sharing the QOVF message to build our network of volunteers.

The state of Virginia is an excellent example of the magnitude of the issue. Per the official 2016 Veterans Affairs report, 733,046 veterans lived in the state. Of those, 593,215 are considered wartime veterans. In addition, there are more than 500,000 wartime veterans each in California, Florida, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas. How can QOVF approach the challenging but beloved task of honoring and comforting those touched by war when there are so many veterans?

QOVF must grow globally by recruiting locally. How? Consider this example. I traveled 50 miles away to Heathsville, VA, to speak to the Tavern Guild, a local quilt guild, about the increasing need for QOV groups in our state. Two veterans, Claire Lum Lee (Army) and Denise Munns (Air Force), who are also



Claire Lum Lee (left) of Northern Neck Patriotic Piecers (Reedville, VA) and Kathleen Decker (right) of Peninsula Patriots (Williamsburg, VA) hold up one of the QOVs Kathleen shared as examples during her guild talk. Photo Courtesy of Rose Schlatter.

quilters, wanted support to establish their new local QOV group, Northern Neck Patriotic Piecers. I emphasized in my talk that no matter how much one participates, it helps, and that there is especially a backlog for longarmers. Finally, I showed nearly 20 examples of QOVs that my QOV group, the Peninsula Patriots, has created, which sparked enthusiasm (and possibly healthy competition) to create their own heirloom quilts.

At the beginning of my talk, the Northern Neck Patriotic Piecers had two members—Claire and Denise. At the end of the Tavern Guild meeting, 16 women had signed up to participate in

the group. Additionally, the American Legion Post 117 in Reedville, VA, has already welcomed the new QOV group with open arms, and invited their group to use their facilities.

If every group leader and QOVF member took up the challenge to visit nearby guilds to share information about how important the QOVF mission is, we might enjoy exponential growth in membership. And if more QOV groups are spawned because of these visits, QOVF would have a greater ability to award QOVs. Consider this your personal challenge to go out and spread the mission and message!

QOVF CONFERENCE OFFERS HANDS-ON QUILTING CLASSES

Spring into action and register for hands-on quilting classes at the 2019 QOVF annual conference in Grand Rapids, MI.

Two well-known instructors, Nancy McNally and Pam Heller, will teach quilting classes featuring their newly-designed patterns just for the QOVF Conference using Northcott cotton fabrics.

• **One Stitch At A Time*** with Nancy McNally on August 18 (pre-conference class)

- **From the Design Wall to You!*** with Nancy McNally on August 19 and 20
- **A Quilt to Cut and Die For!*** with Pam Heller, AccuQuilt, on August 19 and 20

Sewing machines for all classes are provided courtesy of Janome.

*Participants must bring their own basic sewing kit supplies to all classes.

August 19-20 quilting classes include the following as part of the conference fee:

- Patterns for all classes courtesy of the instructors
- Pre-cut kits for the quilt tops for Aug. 19-20 classes courtesy of Northcott Fabrics from their brand new patriotic collection for QOVF

PRE-REGISTRATION is required for all quilting classes. Click [here](#) to learn more and to register for the conference and a class.

Complete conference registration information is [here](#).

Questions?

Email conference2019@QOVF.org

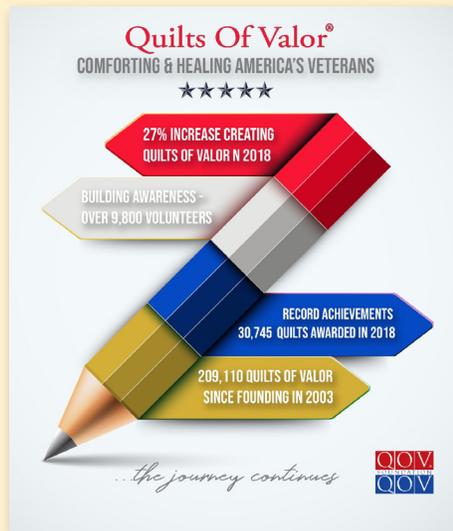


COMFORTING AND HEALING AMERICA'S VETERANS

QOVF volunteers wrapped 30,745 veterans and service members touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor in 2018 and more than 214,000 since 2003.

As one recipient said, "Receiving it, I was not prepared for the emotions that coursed through me from wonder to tears. I am not sure what it means to have total strangers care for you in this way!"

Thank you for your dedication, your time, and your talent—QOVF appreciates all you do.



Quilts Reported

2012: 6,169
2013: 12,314
2014: 17,373
2015: 18,772
2016: 19,051
2017: 24,123
2018: 30,745
2019: 5,783

Total: 214,893

(from date of first recorded award through 31 March 2019)

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 (SC) go to www.qovf.org/meet-us/

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