



From the Executive Director

It's that time of year already. Soon, school bells will be ringing, football games will be played, crops will be harvested, gardening days will dwindle, and our thoughts will turn back to piecing or quilting our next, best Quilt of Valor.



*Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director*

The 200,000th QOV will be awarded sometime this fall. Of course we have no way of knowing for sure when or where, but what an unbelievable accomplishment. In the December 2004 newsletter, Founder Catherine

Roberts, wrote this, "According to my calculations, we have awarded over 181 QOVs since last November!" This year alone, reported awards of QOVs are 13,448 through the month of July. All of you have truly embraced Catherine Roberts' vision as you continue to award QOVs to veterans and active duty service personnel of the Armed Forces.

Another extraordinary person in the history of QOVF is June Moore. June has been involved with QOV from the beginning and is retiring again—this time from her position on the Board of Directors. You can read elsewhere in this newsletter about June. I wish you "fair winds and following seas" in your days ahead, June. Thank you for all you have done for QOVF.

How can you help ensure that

the vision continues? One way is by volunteering your time and resources as a longarm. Volunteer longarmers provide the thread, batting, and return shipping of finished tops to toppers. Complete this [form](#) to volunteer your longarm services.

The Quilts of Valor—A 50 State Salute book will be published this fall. This book traces the history of military quilts since our nation's beginning and features a QOV to represent each of our 50 states. Also included are 16 quilt patterns to choose from, to inspire you to make your own QOV. A copy can be ordered [here](#).

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

**BETTY GORE, WWII
"ROSIE," GETS HER QOV**

Information provided by Jeff Gore

Betty Gore's husband was a tank commander in the US Army in the Battle of the Bulge during WWII, but Betty, like many other women whose husbands or sons fought in Europe or Asia, did not sit home idly. She was one of the six million women who worked in the US defense industry or factories during the war. They were collectively nicknamed "Rosie the Riveter," as many took hard physical jobs to replace absent men. They were celebrated in a 1942 poster of a woman in a red bandana flexing her biceps. But Betty Gore flexed her mental muscles during WWII, not her physical ones.



At left, Betty Gore flexes her biceps at age 88. Betty worked to break Japanese military codes during WWII. At right, veteran Betty Gore.

"Rosie" picture reprinted with permission from an article in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, June 15th, 2007.

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Betty was a high school teacher in North Carolina prior to WWII. On September 1, 1943, she received a telegram from the War Department (now the Department of Defense), telling her to report to Arlington Hall, VA. In her words, "I kissed my teaching job goodbye and packed my bags." Betty became a member of a top-secret cryptography unit, which worked to break Japanese military codes. The work was so secret that not only were cryptographers unable to tell family or friends what they did, they were not allowed to discuss what part of the code they were solving with their coworkers! Betty's elite unit was ultimately successful at breaking the Japanese code, predicting the movement of Japanese ships, and even knew about the Japanese surrender prior to some Japanese military units. Her story has been published in the book "103 Rosie the Riveter Stories" (American Rosie the Riveter Association, 2001).

Betty's QOV was presented to her recently by Rita Clifton, herself a Vietnam veteran, and Irene Webb. Betty's son, Jeff Gore, was also awarded a



Rita Clifton (left) and Irene Webb (center) present Betty Gore (right) her QOV award. Betty's quilt was made by Betty Heathman and other members of "On Eagle Wings" QOV group, GA.

QOV last year for his service in Vietnam, as he carried on the family tradition of military service. Jeff says, "we had a very warm reception, and we all appreciated being awarded QOVs." Jeff is currently an officer in the Vietnam Veterans

of America, Chapter 772, as well as American Legion Post 16, and his wife is an officer in the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 772.

JUNE MOORE: QOVF "ORIGINAL" By Marianne Fons

It probably occurs in the infancy of any national foundation—that moment when the founder is at burnout and early followers feel overwhelmed by what lies ahead. Later on, what a mature organization needs most is a link to its legacy. Throughout the history of QOVF, June Moore has been a dedicated torchbearer, at one time lighting an uncertain future, while later on illuminating our past.

June began as a longarm volunteer in 2005, barely two years after the foundation's inception, when QOVF was no more than a loosely organized group of volunteers spread across the country. Within six months, she became the foundation's first Longarm Coordinator. Six years and thousands of QOVs later, she stepped into the role of executive director (ED) at a time—according to former Assistant Executive Director (AED) Sharon Ledbetter—when the



June Moore

foundation was extremely vulnerable. June served for two years, retiring in 2013. Founder Catherine Roberts later commented, "Without June, QOVF would not be here today."

During QOVF's "adolescent" years, before membership fees were in place to provide basic operating expenses, our EDs donated hundreds of hours of work per month, and also paid personally for travel, phone calls, printing, shipping, and more. When I once asked June about this, she said she and Mike figured it cost approximately \$10,000 a year to serve, and that didn't count fabric,

thread, or batting. (This was true during Susan Gordon's tenure as ED as well.)

Eventually, QOVF "got its legs." We surpassed the 100,000-QOVs-awarded marker, established our membership structure, and soon, skilled persons from inside and outside the quilting industry began to say "yes" when asked to join the board of directors. What was missing was someone who had been there almost from the beginning, someone who remembered our early struggles as we moved ever closer to being the foundation Catherine, June, and Lori Kutch (QOVF's first "Deputy Director") envisioned. At that precise moment, June agreed to serve (again) as QOVF Board Secretary.

June has probably retired from more QOVF positions than any other person in the foundation (Longarm Coordinator, Executive Director, IT troubleshooter, Board Secretary, champion of Al Lind), and now she's doing it again—her recent two-year tenure

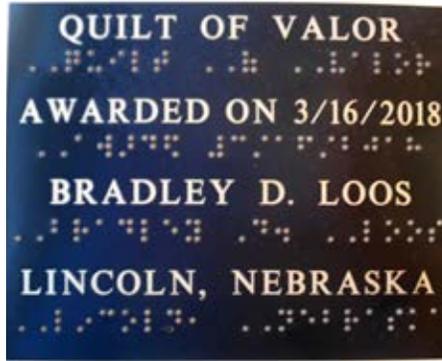
SPECIAL QOV & LABEL FOR BLIND VETERAN

Written by Kay Hoff

In Lincoln, NE, the Lincoln QOV group has developed a wonderful working relationship with the VA Medical Center where QOVs are awarded each month during a Coffeehaus. Snacks, music, and QOV presentations are part of the program.

The group received a request to award a QOV to a Navy veteran who was blinded by his injuries while on duty. The “quilt ladies,” as the Coffeehaus veterans refer to them, began to think of ways this QOV award could be especially meaningful. To add texture, chenille was used for the stars on the quilt, and the longarm quilting included a special raised script of the words “Thank You” that could be easily felt.

The group also explored ways to have the certificate and the quilt label printed in braille. Working with the Prose



The QOV label was printed on plastic so braille could be added.



The award certificate also included braille.



The QOV awarded to veteran Bradley D. Loos, who was blinded by his injuries in the service, included special braille and tactile fabric elements.

and Cons Braille Unit in NE, this was accomplished. The quilt label was made of plastic and an “envelope” was added to the back of the quilt to hold the label and allow for its removal for washing.

The quilters were very proud to award this QOV to Bradley D. Loos on March 16, 2018. His wife and daughter were present to witness his awarding. By coincidence, the date of the awarding was the same date on which he was injured in 1977.

If others across the country are making QOVs for blind veterans, this type of label and/or certificate can be obtained by contacting the Prose and Cons Braille Unit by email at proseandconsbraille@nebraska.gov. The cost is \$25 for both label and certificate.

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as Secretary ended around the Fourth of July. June wrote, “I promised to serve on the board for two years, and am so proud that so much progress towards sustaining Catherine Robert’s vision of our mission to honor and comfort those who have been touched by war has been made.”

Lori Kutch recently recalled those early days, when she, Catherine, and June referred to themselves as QOVF’s “three-legged stool,” each sturdy leg ensuring the foundation didn’t topple. Somewhere alongside that metaphor there has to be a place for June’s husband Mike Moore, supporting those three legs with words of support, a ready seam ripper, and homemade cookies.

Please join me in thanking June Moore, strong and faithful, one of “the QOVF originals” for her long service to Quilts of Valor! Email her at jqquilts.wa@gmail.com, or send a note to June & Mike Moore, 14505 RD 12 SW, Royal City, WA 99357.



June Moore and her friend Al Lind, WWII veteran and maker of hundreds of QOVs in his retirement years. After his passing, June oversaw the completion of Al’s tops that were unquilted at the time.

...it started as a dream...

Save the Date

Conference 2019

August 19-20 Grand Rapids, Michigan



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:

Prairie Flower Quilts	Leoti, KS
Shiny Thimble	Mt. Vernon, OR
Cedar Ridge Quilts	Oregon City, OR
Serendipity Quilting Studio	Lake Ridge, VA

When completing the New Quilt Shop registration form, please note that if a current QOV Group is working with the shop, there is no need to send an additional annual fee; this has already been paid through the QOV Group. Note: To simplify renewals and reduce confusion going forward, QOV Group and QOVF Certified Quilt Shop renewal dates are being recalibrated to the same date, regardless of when a shop originally registered. This will eliminate the need to track differing renewal dates..

(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: 14,681

Total: 193,046

(from date of first award through
31 July 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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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
www.qovf.org/meet-us/

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