



**From the Executive Director**

What an amazing time this is for Quilts of Valor Foundation. All over this great nation, commemorative 200,000th QOVs have been awarded in recent weeks.



*Ann Rehbein,  
Executive Director*

Thank you for sharing stories of your awards and helping to contribute to the festivities. You can see just a few of the award photos elsewhere in this edition of THREADS.

Many exciting products and opportunities are coming, and new partnerships are forming. Heartfelt thanks to Mary Kerr and Tony Jacobson, Quilting Industry Liaisons for the Board of Directors, who worked very hard establishing relationships at the International Quilt Market. Many thanks also to Sue Reich, Ginger Fondren, and Jackie Dudek. We manned the QOVF booth at the International Quilt Festival and met so many nice people who wanted to learn more about Quilts of Valor. Especially touching were the stories from the veterans who had already been awarded

a QOV. They always say thank you and what a great organization QOVF is.

YOU are the ones who make this great organization. Your undying love for making the life of a veteran brighter is unparalleled. You finish one quilt and can't wait to start on another. Whatever your role is in QOVF, thank you for all you do, every day.

I would like to wish you the merriest of holidays, may they be joyous and fun, filled with good times and family. May 2019 be your best year ever, taking time for yourself as you continue the mission. Until next time, quilt with peace and happiness, knowing you are making a difference.

**UNDER OUR WINGS SOARS WITH SCOUTS**

*Information provided by  
Pattilynne Miller-Mitchem*

Late last year, Pattilynne Miller-Mitchem, a member of a QOV sewing group in Baldwin, AL, was working with a troop of Girl Scouts, making QOVs. She contacted Under Our Wings® (UOW) Coordinator Sandra Chambers to ask how she could turn her Girl Scout sewing group into a UOW program. Pattilynne states, "This whole project resulted from one email contact that I made to the National Girl Scout website. I briefly explained the Under the Wings program and solicited any troop leader with girls interested in learning to sew quilt tops to contact me. It took a few months, but once they made contact the project has birthed into a great effort."

During six months of sewing and learning under the mentorship of the Baldwin QOV Group, members of Girl



*Some of the Baldwin, AL, Under Our Wings mentees display their QOVF Achievement Award Certificates. At left is Jennifer Bishop, Troop 8004 Leader. Catherine Zubler, Claire Upchurch, Breanna Faulkner, Lauren Godwin, Abbie Bishop, Madison Bankston and front row kneeling is Corbin Bishop. (Photo used with permission.)*

Scouts of Southern Alabama Troop 8004 made three quilts each. The UOW group that emerged included six Girl Scouts and one Boy Scout who was a brother of one of the girls. Mentors started the young people off with kits that were pre-cut by the mentors—first a very simple

stacked book pattern and next a pinwheel block. Each Scout chose a favorite of the two designs, and then the troop went shopping for fabric. QOV mentors assisted the Scouts with cutting and sewing their third quilt.

The Scouts were next charged with identifying a veteran in the community to be their awardee and acquiring funding for the quilt they would make for him or her. Several in the group made more than one quilt. All quilts produced in the Scout sewing sessions were long armed by four of the QOV mentors and included in the awards.

"Thanks to Troop 8004 we are able to have two award ceremonies this year," reported Pattilynne. "The Scouts participated in our first spring award ceremony and awarded the first 21 of 25 quilts awarded on May 23rd." Five additional quilts were awarded over the next few weeks on an individual basis,

*Continued on page 2*



Baldwin County, AL, veterans display QOVs created for them by Scouts who learned sewing and national service skills through the Under Our Wings mentorship program. (Photos used with permission.)



due to health conditions of the recipients.

Saundra provided the young people with achievement award certificates from QOVF for completion of 50 hours of service. She also sent them Under Our Wings pins for their participation in the making and awarding of QOVs.

Pattilynne wrote, "Because so many veterans live in Baldwin County, we had hoped this year to double the number

of QOVs from what we awarded last year. Our group of Scouts is helping us move forward on this goal. I would urge any QOV group to reach out to the Girl Scouts."

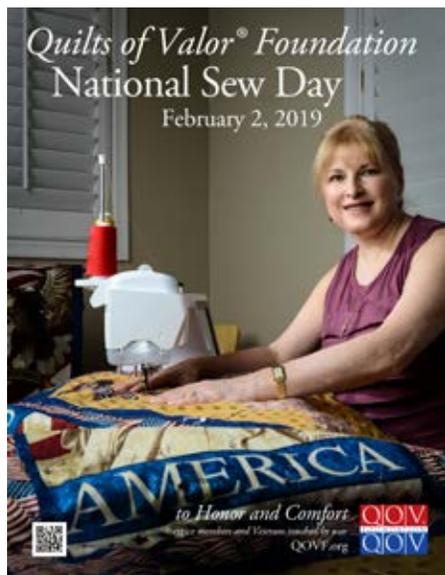
To view (and like) the Baldwin group's Facebook page, click [here](#). For questions about Under Our Wings®, contact Saundra Chambers at [saundra.chambers@QOVF.org](mailto:saundra.chambers@QOVF.org).

## SEW DAY: OUR WAY TO 300,000 QOVs

Our annual Sew Day began in 2014 under the direction of Betsy Podriznik, Special Events Coordinator, and Susan Gordon, Executive Director. See the [January 2014 issue of Threads](#).

We were stitching towards the 100,000th QOV. Only four years later, we have awarded the 200,000th quilt.

Join us for fun, fellowship, and, of course, prizes (you must register to win). Check the National Sew Day [webpage](#) for printable posters, tips, tools and ideas, and to register.



## MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY WISH LIST... ATTEND THE CONFERENCE!

You wished for quilt making classes, patterns, new techniques, and inspiration—well your wishes came true!

Here's a sneak peek at the conference agenda:

- Nancy Clark McNally will showcase her original pattern using Northcott

Patriotic fabrics. Check out Nancy's [website](#).

- Pam Heller from AccuQuilt will design her pattern using Northcott Patriotic fabrics and dies from the AccuQuilt GO! Qube 8" cutting system as well as other companion dies needed to complete the pattern. Check out [AccuQuilt](#) and Pam's creative side.

## Getting To Know: Membership Director Jackie Dudek

A quick read through a few FAQs might help QOVF membership better understand the procedures and responsibilities of Membership Director Jackie Dudek.

### Why should I become a member of Quilts of Valor?

By becoming a member, your support is directly contributing to keeping QOVF in compliance with the IRS as a non-profit organization. Membership also allows official QOVF groups to raise funds in the name of QOVF to help with funding the QOVs their groups create. As an official member, you should believe in the mission of QOVF and endeavor to support that mission.

### Do I have to be a QOV member of every group I attend? Do I have to be an individual member along with being a member of a group?

Each member only has one membership, whether it's a group membership or an individual membership. Each of our members is welcome to attend and work with as many groups as they wish. A group member has official membership with a group to whom they pay their annual support.

### There is no group near me, but I do not wish to be an individual member. How can I join?

Please contact your state coordinator (listed on the website at About QOV and then Meet Us) or you may contact [Jackie.Dudek@QOVF.org](mailto:Jackie.Dudek@QOVF.org) directly. There are two National Groups that were formed for this purpose—the National

Continued on page 3

Topper Group and the National Longarm Group. Neither of these groups raise funds, but each of their members has the same benefits as an individual member or group member of a local area group.

**I am a group member, how do I renew my membership?**

All group members must renew through their group leader. (Please do not login to your account and renew directly.) Some changes in how groups

renew are being undertaken, so your contacting your group leader for membership renewals is greatly appreciated.

**How do I start a new group in my area?**

On the website go to MEMBERSHIP, then JOIN. You must print out the forms and submit them all by mail, along with a check. (The option to type all the information into the online forms before printing them is available for your

convenience.) All new groups must start with a minimum of two members (one of which is identified as the group leader). QOVF is working to allow new groups to submit online forms and credit card payments in the future, but is currently unable to accommodate such requests.

If you have any questions, please contact Membership Director Jackie Dudek at [Jackie.dudek@qovf.org](mailto:Jackie.dudek@qovf.org).

**QOVF OUTSTANDING MEMBER RECOGNITION AWARDS**

By Sue Reich

As we celebrate the success of QOVF reaching the milestone of awarding the 200,000th quilt, the QOVF Directors would like to express our sincere gratitude to all members, group leaders, state coordinators, and executive staff. You are the backbone of the foundation and are directly responsible for our continuing national benevolent quilting achievements.

Expressing gratitude for service is the hallmark of QOVF. As we close a very productive 2018, we would like to thank a few individuals who deserve special recognition. Understand that when contacted about receiving these Outstanding Member Recognition Awards, each nominee responded with humility, suggesting that other QOVF volunteers were more deserving. Nonetheless, the board is honored to feature their individual contributions and present them with our service coin in sincere gratitude for all they do for QOVF.

The QOVF Outstanding Member Recognition Awards and QOVF Service Coins for 2018 are presented to:

- Sue Selby Moats, Gaithersburg, MD
- Donna Bryant, Conway County, AR
- Jan Roberta, North Franklin, CT
- Elaine Alexander and Lynn Lindsey, Kansas City, MO
- Marjorie Woody, Burien, WA
- Susan Calabrese, Corning, NY



Capital Quilts QOVF Group, Gaithersburg, MD, Sue Moats is in the center.

Please join in thanking each of them for their exceptional contributions. Following are a few of the highlights of their service to QOVF.

**Sue Selby Moats  
Gaithersburg, MD**

For Sue Moats, QOVF is all about “we” and not about me. Expressing the same humility that many veteran awardees do, Sue stresses that her contributions to QOVF’s success are a small part of the bigger picture. Sue began with QOVF as a longarm quilter and organized a QOVF group at Capital Quilts in Gaithersburg, MD. This active group shares quilts with Mother Seton Parish Quilting Angels awarding quilts in Maryland.

**Donna Bryant  
Conway County, AR**

Donna Bryant of Northeast Conway County, AR, has been volunteering for QOVF for over six years. Donna opens her sewing room monthly to her QOVF group, “A Second Tour,” and even provides the main course at lunch time. As a longarm quilter, Donna has quilted and bound nearly 550 quilts. Awarding quilts



Donna and Michael Bryant work together to honor “military touched by war” in central AR.

is a family affair both Donna and her husband, Michael. They travel across the state to honor our nation’s military with QOVs.

Continued on page 4



Jan Roberta stands next to Janet who has sewn over 100 QOV labels and is nearly 90 years old.

**Jan Roberta  
North Franklin, CT**

Jan Roberta is a QOVF powerhouse in eastern CT. Shortly after opening Stitch Chicks Quilt Shop, she held a QOV Sew Day and developed a partnership with her local VFW Post. Through Jan's efforts, the VFW is one of QOVF's biggest supporters. They hold fundraisers and make breakfast for Sew Days. Jan has reached out to other organizations as well. The QOVF group Jan started now has more than 100 volunteers. The Stitch Chicks wrap over 200 veterans each year. A satellite group begun in Niantic has hosted QOV Sew Days for three years. State coordinators consider Jan to be CT's Wonder Woman.

**Elaine Alexander and Lynn Lindsey  
Kansas City, MO**

Elaine Alexander and Lynn Lindsey are founding members of the Kansas City QOV group established in 2006. The group covers 26 counties. This dynamic duo is involved in every aspect of the QOV process from making quilts, to recruiting and working with volunteer longarmers, to conducting QOV award ceremonies. Elaine and Lynn were involved in several large group presentations for local deployed military units at Fort Riley, Afghanistan, Fort Leavenworth, Kuwait, and Guantanamo Bay. In total,

they have been involved in over 400 QOV ceremonies. After twelve years of extraordinary dedication to QOVF, Elaine and Lynn announced their retirement in August of this year.



Elaine Alexander and Lynn Lindsey recently retired after serving QOVF at the group level in the Kansas City, MO, area. Thank you for your service and enjoy your retirement.

**Marjorie Woody  
Burien, WA**

In 2012, Marj Woody began her commitment to QOVF. She made a quilt and was included in the award ceremony. After that experience, she was hooked as a QOV member piecing a QOV every month. Marj began a QOVF group which now has 37 members. Since 2012, the group has awarded 443 quilts including 86 QOVs in 2018. Marj is the strong motivational force. She creates quilt kits, longarms all her quilts, and embroiders her own labels. Marj says that the best part of being a QOV member is being with recipients and meeting their families. "They are so appreciative," she says.



Marjorie Woody of Burien, Washington displays a label on a QOV.

**Susan Calabrese  
Corning, NY**

Since 2012, Susan Calabrese has served as Group Leader of the QOVF Southern Tier. She is a leader who's inspired nearly 200 QOVs in the past three years. In support of other QOVF groups, her group provided 100 quilt kits and sent over 100 quilts to needy destinations. They hold a Veteran's Day Quilting Marathon, drawing quilters from the area. Susan values her group where members handle quilt tracking, website, fundraising, grant applications, award presentations, and marathon preparations. A superb quilter herself, Susan always finds time to make beautiful QOVs.



Susan Calabrese has served as Group Leader of the QOVF Southern Tier.

*Thank You!  
for your  
continued  
service to*



## A MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT: 200,000TH QUILT AWARD

By Sue Reich

The United States of America has always been known for benevolence. Expressing gratitude is what Quilts of Valor is all about. Whether we “cover a service member touched by war” or pen a thank you note to a longarm quilter, expressing “thank you” defines our mission. Serendipitously, awarding the 200,000th QOV happened in the month of November just as Americans celebrated two special days, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. On Veterans Day, we honor our nation’s service members for committing their lives in the defense of our country. On Thanksgiving, we take the day to reflect upon our harvest and show gratitude for the blessings we, as a nation, have received.

In this final 2018 issue of THREADS, enjoy these images shared of the numerous 200,000th Honorary QOV Awards across our nation. Thank you to those of you who took time to commemorate this milestone for QOVF. As we forge ahead to the 300,000th quilt award, your dedication to honoring our nation’s service members is most heartwarming.



New York’s honorary 200,000th quilt was awarded to Glenn Dodge, a 102-year-old World War II veteran from Sackets Harbor.



QOVF South Jersey Chapter 11255 awarded the 200,000th honorary quilt to Lou Kennan (center), a Navy Corpsman in Vietnam.



Ivan Fierro, US Army, received the Honorary 200,000th quilt at the Cibolo Texas Grange.

Huckleberry Patches, McCall, ID, awarded their Honorary 200,000th QOV to Denise Tangen.



Continued on page 6

## 200,000TH QUILT AWARD

(Continued from page 5)



Ruby Street Quiltworks QOV, Cocke County, TN, awarded the Honorary 200,000th quilt to Dr. Wayne Dickason, who served as a surgeon in Vietnam, 1970-1971.



The Forget Me Not Quilters of Alaska awarded the Honorary 200,000th quilt to Robert K., of Palmer, AK. Robert is a Vietnam veteran.



Hilltop Quilters of Riverside, CA, honored three veterans with the Honorary 200,000th quilt, Donna Hinkle, Vietnam and Desert Storm, and Carl Hinkle, Korea and Vietnam (top photo), and 92 year old Norman Renfro, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam (right photo).



Maine's 200,000th Honorary QOVs were a family affair awarded to this father, son, and father-in-law trio.



An Honorary 200,000th QOV was awarded to Shane Kimbrough (Col. US Army, Ret.), Veteran of Desert Storm and NASA Astronaut, shown in Houston, TX, with the American Legion's award winning Honor Guard.

## 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:

3 Hens and A Chick Quilt Shop	Athens, AL
In Stitches with Gayla	Shreveport, LA
Seacoast Sewing and Quilting	Portsmouth, NH

We extend a welcome to New Hampshire and Alabama who have joined, bringing the total to 44 participating states.

Nearly three year ago, we launched the Certified Quilt Shop Program and it's time to make some changes. Beginning in 2019, QOVF will be expanding the program to include other businesses in addition to quilt shops, such as longarm quilting businesses and retreat centers. Though we expect that many quilt shops will elect to sponsor a QOV Group, it will no longer be required. Watch the website and future editions of THREADS newsletter to learn more as these changes are implemented.

## Quilts Reported

**2012:** 6,169

**2013:** 12,314

**2014:** 17,373

**2015:** 18,772

**2016:** 19,051

**2017:** 24,009

**2018:** 28,738

**Total: 206,589**

*(from date of first recorded award through 30 November 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

**QOVF Founder and Board Member Emeritus**  
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**Board Member Emeritus**  
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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 [www.qovf.org/meet-us/](http://www.qovf.org/meet-us/)

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### Newsletter

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