



### From the Executive Director

Happy Valentine's Day! I'm sending virtual hugs and imaginary chocolate kisses to each of you to thank you for all you do for QOV. Of course, hugs and kisses fall far short in payment of the real thanks you deserve. When you volunteer for QOV, you are priceless.



*Ann Rehbein,  
Executive Director*

QOV National Sew Day has come and gone. Congratulations to Candy Shipley of Spokane, WA, the grand prize

winner of an Accuquilt GO! And cutting dies. We sincerely thank Accuquilt for their donation of this fun and timesaving tool. Thanks also go to Northcott Fabrics for panels and fabric kits. It was exciting to talk with the winners. Groups were having a great time sewing with their members and many were sewing individually but the message was the same. We are proud to be part of QOV and to be working alongside our sisters and brothers to honor and comfort our military and veterans.

Registration is open for the Annual Conference to be held May 19-20, 2018, in North Myrtle Beach, SC. You may register [here](#) for the Conference and hotel. Attendees will hear from Mary

Kerr, noted author and speaker, as well as from Sue Reich, QOV Board of Directors President. There will be updates from the Executive Staff on membership, longarming, destinations, Under Our Wings, the Certified Quilt Shop Program, web page and QOV tracking, along with award ceremonies and much more. A special session for State Coordinators is being planned for Friday evening, May 18, 2018. Check out the plans for the Star Spangled Fundraising Dinner on Thursday, May 17, 2018. I hope you can join us in beautiful South Carolina.

As always, quilt with peace and happiness knowing you are making a difference.

### QOV FEATURED AT ACCUQUILT EVENT

*Information provided by AccuQuilt*

Executive Director Ann Rehbein and QOV board member Marianne Fons were featured speakers this past September at AccuQuilt's annual customer appreciation event and luncheon at the company's headquarters in Omaha. Approximately 200 attendees enjoyed the activities, which included the unveiling of the quilt block contest winner for 2017—Reed Johnson of Largo, FL, who was present.

After warehouse tours and demos, customers gathered outdoors under an event tent, where company officers thanked those present for their business and gave away many prizes. Ann and Marianne had the privilege of awarding a Quilt of Valor to Air Force veteran Phillip Armstrong.



*Guests at AccuQuilt's annual customer appreciation event enjoyed a display of QOVs in the company's in-house quilt gallery. (Photo by Brad Havelka, used with permission.)*

*Continued on page 2*

Following the award, Ann spoke to the group (many of whom raised their hands when asked if they had made a Quilt of Valor) about the foundation's beginnings and current work. Marianne shared information about the re-launch of the Under Our Wings program and showed an excerpt from the Iowa Public Television special, "Quilts of Valor II." The segment features Nebraska 4H-ers who have made and awarded hundreds of QOVs in their state. Retired 4H officers Eileen Krumbach and Phyllis Schoenholtz and QOVF SC Sara Kenny, who helped IPTV with the taping, were in the audience and were recognized for their assistance.

## 2018 BLOCK DRIVE

The 2018 Quilts of Valor Block Drive features a beginner-friendly Friendship Star with a pinwheel center. The purpose of the national Block Drive is to give individuals or groups who wish to make just a few blocks, but not assemble a quilt, to have their block(s) made into QOVs across the nation. These blocks can be assembled many ways into a QOV. Our hope is to assist State Coordinators with blocks to help fill requests not covered by local groups.

Once completed, please send your finished Friendship Star blocks to the Block Drive Coordinator for distribution nationwide. Blocks received by May 1, 2018, will be distributed at QOVF National Conference to State Coordinators based on the number of blocks received from their states. If you wish to keep the blocks you make in your group, you may do so. Please report the total number of blocks your group makes to [suzanne.dicarlo@QOVF.org](mailto:suzanne.dicarlo@QOVF.org) so a final tally can be shared at the conclusion of the National Conference in May 2018.

Ready to get started? Instructions and mailing information can be found [here](#).



*Recipient Phillip Armstrong, after taking the microphone, described himself as speechless, but then movingly recognized his wife for the care she took of their family during his twenty years of service in the US Air Force. He served in Vietnam (two assignments) and in Korea, as well as stateside.*

## CALLING ALL LONGARMERS: WE NEED YOU!

*Information provided by  
Elayne Gasset*

Waiting for an invitation to serve? Here it is! Consider this a personal invitation to quilt tops for QOV members across the country who are making them to be awarded to Veterans. We need more longarmers to quilt their tops into completed quilts. As you can imagine, there are more folks making tops than longarm quilters to complete them.

How does it work? Longarmers for QOV work from a roster. You inform the Longarm Coordinator of how many quilts you're able to quilt within a 30-day period. The Longarm Coordinator informs you by email of a topper in your area with tops to be quilted. The tops are shipped to you. The longarmer provides the batting, quilts the tops, and returns them to the topper within 30 days.

Communication is the key to success of the program. You can change the number of tops to quilt, as well as take

time off the roster for vacations or breaks. There is flexibility.

QOVF is growing by leaps and bounds! Since 2003, we have awarded more than 180,000 veterans with a QOV created totally by volunteers who sew, longarm, and bind. Are you a longarmer? Would you please be willing to help in this way? Do you have questions? If so, please contact our Longarm Coordinator Elayne Gasset at [elayne.gasset@QOVF.org](mailto:elayne.gasset@QOVF.org).

If you are ready to be part of the roster and help us longarm the tops that are being created, then please go to our website ([www.QOVF.org](http://www.QOVF.org)). Under the "Take Action" tab (red box) toward the top of the Home Page, find the link: "Volunteer to Longarm." Please fill out the form to get started.

Thank you so much for considering helping us award QOVs to more veterans!

*(Elayne Gasset is the QOVF Longarm Coordinator. Contact Elayne at [elayne.gasset@qovf.org](mailto:elayne.gasset@qovf.org).)*

## SEEK GRANTS TO FUND QOVs

By Gene and Beth Sizemore of Starr Mountain QOV Quilters

Whether you are a new group or have been at it a while, funds for QOVs are always needed. We feel your pain!

Our group's fundraising efforts started small. We set up booths at festivals, veterans' events, quilt shows, and the county fair, always with our little donation jar on the table. In those days, if we had \$30 by the end of the day, we thought we were doing great.

By our third year, we were spending a lot of time weeding through donated fabric—much of it unusable—and using personal money to make kits to pass out to others. Single-block kits were a good idea; if some were not returned, the loss was not too painful.

Because of our local award ceremonies, the newspaper began to take notice, publishing pictures and articles—including ones we submitted. We got further exposure by doing displays and public presentations at major events. Still, donations were slim. We used our own money for labels, fabric, and batting.

When QOVF made local fundraising as a 501(c)3 nonprofit possible (by maintaining and paying for state fundraising permits), we applied for our first grant—from Volunteer Electric CustomerShare. Much to our surprise, we received the grant and we were able to buy batting, labels, and some fabric. Our next grant was from Walmart, then a second from VECustomerShare.

As our tiny group has grown into a somewhat larger one, grant funds have become essential to our work. Little did we know that keeping track of approximate time spent in making each quilt would become important—



Beth Sizemore (center) receives a grant through East Tennessee Foundation from CNS-Y12 Support Service Manager, Alison Sides, and Mike Fierley, Chair: CNS-Y12 Advisory Committee. (Photo used with permission.)

when we applied for the biggest grant, the McMinn Community Grant through East Tennessee Foundation, that information was required. We got it—\$5,000.

Your group can raise money through grant writing, too! Don't be afraid to try. Here are tips to help you succeed:

1. Make sure your group is registered and in good standing with QOVF.
2. Be aware the Group Leader does not have to be the grant writer, but she/he must be willing to administer the funds and meet QOVF's financial requirements.
3. Secure written permission to write grants from the QOVF Executive Director. Remember to renew your

request when the directorship changes. Communication is important!

4. Keep track of volunteer hours and report them in your grant.
5. Start small with local banks, electrical coops, civic groups (men's and women's service clubs such as Rotary, DAR, etc.), and veterans' groups. Find foundations in your area at [www.cfstandards.org/community-foundation-locator](http://www.cfstandards.org/community-foundation-locator). On the site's toolbar titled "About Us," go to Community Foundation Locator.

Remember, QOVF returns 100% of monies raised by your group. It's worth the effort!



### SAVE THE DATE FOR MAY 2018

Plan ahead and mark your calendars now! Save the dates—May 19 & 20—for the 2018 Annual QOVF Conference!

This year's conference will be held at the Bay Watch Resort and Conference Center in North Myrtle Beach, SC. Details and reservation information is to come, but for now, keep the dates open.

We'd love to have you join us!



## QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

The Certified Quilt Shop Program currently has 87 shops in 36 states enrolled. Shop registration forms continue to arrive in the mail. For shops that have been certified for one year now, renewals are coming due. Shop owners should coordinate with QOVF Group Leaders to be certain renewal forms are submitted.

Once certified, shops are free to use the QOVF logo in their communications and collect donations on behalf of the QOVF Groups. I encourage group leaders to work with shop owners to complete the process for becoming certified.

(Myra Coddens is the QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program Coordinator. Contact Myra at [myra.coddens@qovf.org](mailto: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:** 1,871

**Total: 180,236**

(from date of first award through  
31 Jan. 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**  
Catherine Roberts

**Board Member Emeritus**  
Eric McCarty  
Marianne Fons  
Walt Davis

**Board of Directors**  
Sue Reich, Chair  
June Moore, Secretary/Historian  
Michelle Nelson, Treasurer  
Elizabeth Nolan, Fundraising  
Renelda Peldunas-Harter, Member  
Mary Persyn, Member

**Executive Staff**  
Ann Rehbein, Executive Director  
[ann.rehbein@QOVF.org](mailto:ann.rehbein@QOVF.org)

Ginger Fondren, Assistant Executive  
Director  
[ginger.fondren@QOVF.org](mailto:ginger.fondren@QOVF.org)

Jackie Dudek, Director of Membership  
[jackie.dudek@QOVF.org](mailto:jackie.dudek@QOVF.org)

Elayne Gassett, Longarm Coordinator  
[elayne.gassett@QOVF.org](mailto:elayne.gassett@QOVF.org)

Janice Lewis, Destination Coordinator  
[Janice.lewis@QOVF.org](mailto:Janice.lewis@QOVF.org)

Debra Coppa, Coordinator of  
Individual Requests  
[debra.coppa@QOVF.org](mailto:debra.coppa@QOVF.org)

Jeff Thorne,  
Marketing and Public Relations Director  
[jeff.thorne@QOVF.org](mailto:jeff.thorne@QOVF.org)

Suzanne DiCarlo,  
Information Desk Coordinator  
[suzanne.dicarlo@QOVF.org](mailto:suzanne.dicarlo@QOVF.org)

Jennifer Keltner, Managing Editor  
[jennifer.keltner@QOVF.org](mailto:jennifer.keltner@QOVF.org)

Myra Coddens, Coordinator of Quilt  
Shop Relationship Development  
[myra.coddens@QOVF.org](mailto:myra.coddens@QOVF.org)

G. Ann Bryant  
IT Director  
[ann.bryant@QOVF.org](mailto:ann.bryant@QOVF.org)

Ginger Fondren,  
Director of Software Management  
[ginger.fondren@QOVF.org](mailto:ginger.fondren@QOVF.org)

Sandra Chambers, Special Events  
Coordinator  
Under Our Wings Program Coordinator  
[sandra.chambers@QOVF.org](mailto:sandra.chambers@QOVF.org)

**Facebook/Twitter Admin**  
Terry Burtchell  
[terry.burtchell@QOVF.org](mailto:terry.burtchell@QOVF.org)

Mailing Address:  
Quilts of Valor Foundation  
PO Box 191  
Winterset, IA 50273



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/>

Photos that appear in *Threads* are either used with permission or are public domain images. The editorial team makes every effort to credit photographers.

### Newsletter

Ann Rehbein, *Editorial Director*  
Jennifer Keltner, *Managing Editor*  
Tony Jacobson, *Graphic Designer*

Quilt of Valor®, Quilts of Valor®, and QOV® are registered trademarks of the Quilts of Valor Foundation.