



**From the Executive Director**

By Tammany McDaniel

Welcome to 2020! Much of last year was devoted to making changes in how QOVF handles reimbursements, the level of customer service we provide, and our ability to improve the efficiency and effectiveness in how we function.



Tammany McDaniel  
Executive Director

In 2020, our focus is on supporting volunteer leadership by offering both regional training and an annual conference. We hope to host between two and four regional events this year. The content of these events will be designed to support our leadership in two ways:

- 1) Building skills for volunteer engagement and fundraising.
- 2) Teaching and supporting our community how to interact with QOVF systems.

Our first regional event will be March 14, 2020, in Duluth, GA. It will be a six-hour event. Click [here](#) for details.

In 2021, QOVF will return to its annual conference format at a more modest-style accommodation. This two-and-a-half day event will include a mix of quilting and leadership learning sessions. We believe this mix of regional and national events will support those who are not able to travel far, as well as those who enjoy and are able to travel greater distances.

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**NEBRASKA QOV GROUP  
FILMED BY PBS**

Information provided by Julia Schroeder, Lincoln QOV Group Leader, and Cheryl Kupcinski

Lincoln QOV Group members were filmed by PBS on National Quilting Day at the International Quilt Museum in Lincoln, NE. The group is part of a PBS episode, "Craft in America: QUILTS," which premiered in December 2019. A clip of the show can be viewed [here](#).

The Lincoln QOV group began in 2009 and currently has 37 members.

They meet each month for a "Sew Day" at the International Quilt Museum. The group awards QOVs once a month at the local VA Hospital's Coffeehaus, a musical entertainment event for veterans. In addition the group awards QOVs to meet the local hospice needs and for in-home awards. The Lincoln group has also been involved with several large group awards, including the 2018 All-Female Honor Flight and the 2019 Purple Heart Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.



Members of the Lincoln QOV group were featured in a PBS episode of the "Crafts in America" series. They were filmed during National Quilting Day 2019 at the International Quilt Museum in Lincoln, NE.

It's also the time of year that we greet incoming board members and thank those who are departing. Welcome to incoming board members, Rebecca Glasby and John "Rowdy" Oxley. Watch future issues of *Threads* for articles and more information on our new board members. Many thanks to Vice President Renelda Peldunas-Harter as she leaves the board. Renelda worked with QOVF on strategy; look for her article below. She plans to keep on quilting and, as you may know, she is an author. We hope to see more from her and her group. We also want to thank

Mary Persyn, QOVF Board Member At-Large. Mary also has an article featured in this issue on page 3. QOVF turned to Mary for support in rules of order and an overview of legal documents. She has often been noted to say, "I'm not a lawyer," but her advice has always been sound.

The "50 State Salute" exhibit closed on January 14th at The National Quilt Museum. We awarded 22 QOVs to veterans at a closing ceremony. Our State Coordinator, Nancy Cann, and QOVF Board President Sue Reich were there with me. I hope you had the opportunity to drop by. The National Quilt Museum is our partner and we

appreciate their collaboration on this project.

National Sew Day will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2020. Groups, volunteers, and businesses from around the nation will join us in making quilt blocks. Our National Block Drive 2020 will benefit from all the participation. The featured block for 2020 is a Nine-Patch. Your registration is free and you will receive two entries for the chance to win a Janome 3160QOV. If you haven't joined yet, please register [here](#).

Again, Happy New Year. May it be a wonderful year where your hopes are fulfilled. Thank you.

## A FAREWELL MESSAGE

by Renelda Peldunas-Harter, COL (Ret.), U.S. and outgoing QOVF Board Vice President

As my term on the QOVF Board of Directors comes to an end, I'd like to reflect on a few topics.

**SERVICE:** It has been my honor to serve our nation's service members and veterans as a member of the QOVF Board. My term began in June 2016, and I found my niche as the strategic planner. In that role, I made some inroads into QOVF's long-term stability. However, I wasn't able to shepherd the board into thinking in broad operational and strategic strokes about the future direction of QOVF, a regret of mine.

**THE SERVICE MEMBERS and VETERANS:** WOW!! Thank you for my freedom! You are the reason QOVF members buy fabric, measure fabric, cut and piece, sew and quilt. Accept this healing quilt as a token of our love, comfort and appreciation and the hug as our way of saying "welcome home." I, too, have spent holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries separated from family and loved ones in faraway duty stations. I would do it all over again so all the young men and women would not have to.

**THE QUILTERS:** You are the backbone of QOVF. Thank you for all you do for our service members and veterans. I know you put a piece of yourselves into each quilt top and think about the awardee as you quilt or

longarm. I know when I'm at an awards ceremony and see an awardee wipe a tear away, they have no idea how much satisfaction is gained from that gesture of comfort.

**THE MISSION:** Always remember—mission first! The mission statement of QOVF can be broken into three parts: (1) to cover service members and veterans (2) touched by war (3) with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. Hearing Catherine Roberts talk about QOVF, I'm always impressed that she addresses the (1) active duty service members (soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and coast guardsmen) and the

veterans who were drafted (WWII, Korea, Vietnam) or who volunteered, as the first priority for our Foundation. She has shared with the board her insight into what she means by all the aspects of (2) 'Touched by war' to include physically, emotionally, psychologically, violently, and tangentially. By awarding our quilts, we offer (3) comforting and healing quilts—Quilts of Valor. Thanks again Catherine for your inspirations!

**QOVF:** Always remember you are a service foundation, serving veterans and service members, not yourselves or your egos.



An all-female QOV awardee ceremony, sponsored by the Patriot's Triangle (Berryville chapter) QOV Group, which took place on December 7, 2019, in Leesburg, VA. QOVs were awarded to eight active-duty service members and veterans from a 99-year-old WWII Army nurse to a recent academy graduate whose classmate had just been shot and killed at Naval Air Station Pensacola during a terror attack.

## REFLECTIONS ON QOVF BOARD SERVICE

By Mary Persyn, outgoing QOVF Board Member

As I conclude my three-year term on the QOVF Board of Directors, I've been thinking about all that has happened during that time. QOVF membership has more than doubled, and we have reported 88,129 quilts awarded from January 2017 through December 2019. Just think about the amount of work that our members have contributed to honor our active-duty personnel and veterans in that time! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

My fondest memories of these past three years are of the award ceremonies that I've attended. At my first National Conference, in Colorado Springs in 2017, we awarded quilts to two women who served in WWII. Helen Rydell was a Women's Army Corp (WAC) member and Millicent "Millie" Young served as a Women's Airforce Service Pilot (WASP). These two women are the ones who remain foremost in my memory. Millie Young will remain in my mind for the rest of my life.

If you are not familiar with the WASPs, they were female pilots who performed duties stateside for the Army Air Corps so that male pilots could train and fight in Europe and the Pacific. Mainly, the women ferried airplanes from one location to another, but Ms. Young was one of the female pilots who towed a target behind her plane so that male trainees could practice air-to-air combat by shooting at the target. That took courage. Until we met, I thought that women served as nurses and



Ms. Helen Rydell, WAC, WWII, and Suzanne DiCarlo.

secretaries in WWII. Her award was a learning experience for me.

At the National Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC, in 2018, John "Rowdy" Oxley spoke about the effect that receiving a QOV at the 2017 Conference had on his life. Rowdy is a new member on the QOVF Board and I will let him share his story in an upcoming issue.

I also remember the family members who have come to award ceremonies to represent their veteran family members. Injuries, both physical and psychological, kept the veterans themselves from coming out in public to receive their QOVs.

I attended a number of local award ceremonies and they are uniformly moving. The gratitude of the veterans makes the efforts that we put into creating these lovely QOVs worthwhile. My local QOV group, the "String-A-Long Stars and Stripes QOV" of Porter County, IN, awards many quilts each



Myra Coddens and Ms. Millicent "Millie" Young, WASP, WWII.

year and has partnered with the "In the Bend QOV" from South Bend, IN, and Yoder's Department Store of Shipshewana, IN, to host a combination award ceremony and block-making event during the Shipshewana Quilt Festival. We set up at Yoder's and invite passers-by to make a simple quilt block or two that can go into future QOVs. It is fun to watch non-quilters and quilters alike sew blocks for service members.

My thanks to my fellow board members who put up with my battles with Google Docs, Executive Directors Ann Rehbein and Tammany McDonald for their guidance, Assistant Executive Director Ginger Fondren for her assistance, and all the staff and volunteers who keep QOV running. Now that my board term is complete, I look forward to getting back to making quilts with the "String-A-Long Stars and Stripes."



At 3:00 pm CST, we will draw for ONE GRAND GIVEAWAY [Janome 3160QOV](#).

The drawing will be conducted randomly based upon your registration for the event. Notification will be made via e-mail. Questions? Please e-mail [nationalsewday@qovf.org](mailto:nationalsewday@qovf.org). Thank you.

## NATIONAL SEW DAY 2020

Registration is open for National Sew Day 2020! Click [HERE](#) for Member Registration.

Not yet a member? Click [HERE](#) for Non-Member Registration.

Our 600+ QOVF Groups, volunteers and other supporters will be holding National Sew Day events on Saturday, February 1, 2020. Regardless of your skill level, WE NEED YOU! If you can't

cut, maybe you can press. If you love colors and want to sort fabric, we could use help packaging kits for toppers/piecers. And yes, toppers, piecers, quilters, and binders. . .COME ONE, COME ALL!

QOV groups in your area will be issuing flyers with specific details of locations and times. Each group will bring their own style and pizzazz to their local events. Food! Friends! Fun!



Members of The Piece Works Quilts of Valor group in Winterset, IA, are hard at work.

## Quilts Reported

**2012:** 6,169  
**2013:** 12,314  
**2014:** 17,373  
**2015:** 18,772  
**2016:** 19,051  
**2017:** 24,123  
**2018:** 30,745  
**2019:** 33,375

**Total: 242,485**

(from date of first recorded award through 31 December, 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](http://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/](http://www.qovf.org/meet-us/)

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### Newsletter

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