



From the Executive Director

What a memorable year 2018 was as we awarded Quilts of Valor in every state in the nation to the brave men and women who have served our country. QOVF marked the 200,000th award individually and in groups in commemorative ceremonies. Feel free to carry on this commemoration and award a 200,000th commemorative quilt to a veteran near you and then share it on the QOVF [Facebook](#) page.



*Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director*

I am excited and very happy to introduce you to the new QOVF Executive Director, Tammany McDaniel. She and I are working together to transition information and responsibilities over the next couple of months. You may reach Tammany at tammany.mcdaniel@qovf.org or executive.director@qovf.org. I would also like to welcome Maggie Klenke as the new QOVF Board Secretary. Maggie may be reached at Maggie.klenke@qovf.org. More details on both women appear elsewhere in this issue.

National Sew Day is February 2, 2019. It's a day to get together with all your sewing buddies and enjoy the 3 F's – food, fellowship and fun! Let others know what you are doing that

day by posting and sharing your photos on the QOVF [Facebook](#) page. Those brief stories are so fun to read as you continue the mission to honor our veterans.

The QOVF Conference Agenda and registration fee details will be released very soon! The Annual Conference Committee has been working hard to bring you an experience to remember. Check out all things conference related [here](#).

I wish for you the best year ever. May you never have to rip out a seam or recut a piece, may your needle never come unthreaded, and your blocks always line up. Until next time, quilt with peace and happiness, knowing you are making a difference.

War and Peace: Veteran Awarded QOV in AL

by Kathleen Decker

Sam Boswell is a living example of both the American dream and American family values. Sam's father died two months before he was born. Raised on a farm in AL, he quit school in eighth grade to assist his mother on the farm. At the age of sixteen, he enlisted first in the National Guard, then converted to the Army. He was already an active duty soldier when the war in Vietnam began.

Sam served two tours in Vietnam, first in an armored division (25th Infantry), then transferred to aviation where he was a door gunner. He balanced service to his country with growing family obligations, and after serving nine years and eight months, Sam became a civilian.

He began working as a car salesman and immediately demonstrated strong leadership qualities. He was promoted to manager after working at the business only a few months. He began his own car dealership in 1989 and became full owner in 1995. After a lifetime of service to country and family, Sam retired in 2007. His son, O'Neal, purchased the car

dealership, Sam Boswell Honda, and continues Sam's legacy of service to country and family. Sam says of his award, "I'm really pleased to receive a QOV. My friend got one a few years ago. It's a great honor, especially since Vietnam vets were not looked upon greatly in the past."

Jacquelyn McKinstry (QOVF State Coordinator, AL) made Sam's QOV. It



Sam Boswell (center) is awarded his quilt by Jacquelyn Rae McKinstry (right) and VFW Auxiliary President Post 6683, Nancy Rathburn (left).



was quilted by Becky Clayton (Opelika, AL). As Jacquelyn got to know the people at her local VFW, she discovered that there were several older veterans that need QOVs. Since they had little quilt availability in the region, she formed an "Under our Wings" program at Fort Rucker, with the assistance of Nancy Rathburn and other women in the

VFW auxiliary. Members of her local quilt guild, Enterprising Quilters Guild, mentor local students in the "Under our Wings" program. In doing so, Nancy and the quilting community have fostered connections between students, veterans, and active duty personnel, building a foundation for future QOV awards in their area.

WELCOME NEW QOVF BOARD MEMBERS

by Ann Rehbein

The QOVF Board of Directors would like to extend a welcome to Tammany McDaniel, the new Executive Director, and to Maggie Klenke, the new Secretary. Please join us in welcoming these women to the QOVF Board as we move forward to award the 300,000th QOV.



Tammany McDaniel

Tammany has extensive experience in both the corporate and non-profit settings. She has worked in finance and accounting for Environmental Lighting Concepts, Inc., which many of you may know as Ott-Lite. She served as a volunteer on the Mohave/La Paz Workforce Development Board and served as a volunteer Military Navigator for the AZ Coalition of Military Families throughout the Mohave County area of AZ. Tammany brings knowledge of federal and state funding, grant writing, and grant administration.

Most recently, Tammany assisted with the Giving Tuesday initiative in South Carolina. Currently, she calls AZ, SC, and FL home: splitting time in her three favorite places to live. She will be on duty for QOVF beginning January 1, 2019. The official transition date will be released at a later time. Please join us in welcoming Tammany at Tammany.mcdaniel@qovf.org.



Maggie Klenke

Maggie Klenke recently retired from the business industry, and has served in the secretary role for many organizations over the years including the University of TN Extension Service's Community Education County Council, and the American Beefalo Association. In her free time, Maggie contributes to QOVF as a long-arm quilter, a much-needed service to fulfilling the mission of "covering military touched by war." Thank you, Maggie. Please join us in welcoming Maggie at Maggie.klenke@qovf.org.

WE ARE 10,000

by Tammany McDaniel

As I consider the opportunities awaiting QOVF in the coming months, I'm very excited. Although we will miss Ann Rehbein, Executive Director, we know that she valued our efforts; still values our efforts. She loves our collective heart and believes in what we do.

Under her leadership, we reached the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, Alaska. We ventured down to the Ten Thousand Islands in the Everglades. Crossing the

country, we followed the land of 10,000 trails through Tennessee and Kentucky before setting sail in the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," Minnesota. We are 10,000.

It is with a thankful heart that I begin transition to attempt to take Ann's place, to further the foundation she's prepared. My gratitude lies in knowing we are stronger together and that you will be as much a support to me as you were to Ann. My gratitude lies in knowing that we seek to honor and comfort those who protect us. We are 10,000.

TAKE A SNEAK PEEK CONFERENCE 2019

The agenda for QOVF Annual Conference on August 19-20, 2019, continues to unfold with general sessions, breakouts, classes, Q&As, and more. Topics include:

- Grow your group! Breakout sessions for Group Leaders
- IT is our friend! Information Technology (IT) and how it works
- Getting the message out. "FUN"-raising and Marketing!
- Looking beyond the border. State Coordinators session
- Quilting classes, patterns, and new techniques
- Ask your questions! The QOVF Board and Executive Staff answer
- You want me to do what? Fun activities for all
- And much more!

Check the [webpage](#) for more details and hotel information. Conference registration information and conference fee updates coming in February, 2019.



DID YOU KNOW?

Check out the QOVF [webpage](#). Did you know you could learn more about the QOVF Board of Directors, Executive Staff, and State Coordinators [here](#)? Click through on the photos you see on the pages and find contact information and biographies. At the bottom of every web page there is a place to submit your questions through the [Help Desk](#). From there, the questions are forwarded to the correct person to answer them. All of the back issues of [Threads](#) are available here. They are a great resource for history and inspiration. Enjoy exploring!

QOVF BOARD OPEN POSITION FOR TREASURER

The QOVF nominating committee is soliciting applications for the position of QOVF Board Treasurer. The duties include producing and maintaining the foundation's budget, maintaining financial records, following proper procedures for approving expenditures, and maintaining the financial integrity of QOVF.

For a full position description, please email nominatingcommittee@qovf.org.

NATIONAL SEW DAY REGISTER TODAY

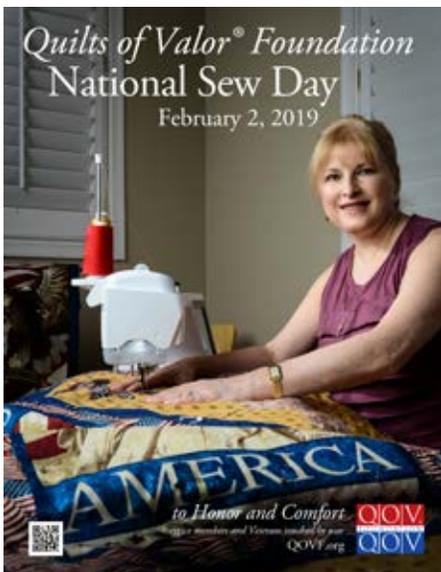
Information provided by Marianne Elliot

In just a few short weeks, thousands of quilters will begin stitching to create QOVs for our armed forces service members and veterans touched by war. Whether you sew with a group or at home alone, National Sew Day on February 2, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. promises to continue traditions and add a few new twists that you will not want to miss.

In 2014, we were stitching toward the 100,000th QOV. Just four years later, we have awarded the 200,000th quilt. Now we are on our way to 300,000 QOVs!

Join in the fun, fellowship, and, of course, prizes (everyone must be registered individually to win).

Check the National Sew Day webpage for printable posters, tips, tools, and ideas. To register, go [here](#).



QOV AWARD TO US ARMY WAR VETERAN RON HILL

Information provided by Karen Trombley

Retired Captain/Sergeant Major Ron Hill of Sautee Nacoochee, GA, was awarded a QOV on October 11, 2018. The presentation was made by GA QOV volunteer members Karen Trombley and Terry Wright. In addition to the presentation, Trombley and Wright told the audience of the Northeast GA Veterans Society about the mission of QOVF “to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing QOVs.”

During the ceremony, the meaning behind the three layers that are used to construct a quilt was shared. “The top of the quilt with its many colors, shapes, and fabrics, represents the communities and the many individuals we are. The batting, the filler, is the center of the quilt, its warmth. It represents our hope that this quilt will bring warmth, comfort, peace, and healing to the individual who receives it. The backing is the strength that supports the other layers. It represents the strength of the recipient, the support of his or her family, our communities, and our nation. Each stitch that holds the layers together represents love, gratitude, and sometimes the tears of the maker.”



The presentation concluded with a short biography of Ron's service in the US Army, which included his service in the Korean War (1953-54), Vietnam War (1969-70), and Desert Storm (1991).

As the quilt was draped over his shoulders, Ron's smile made all of our efforts worthwhile. We could tell that he was very pleased with the award and understood its meaning. Every stitch in this quilt was made with thanks to Ron for his service to our country.

FUNDS FLOW TO GROUPS MORE QOVs TO BE CREATED

Information from the QOVF Board of Directors, Group Funds Distribution Committee

QOVF is pleased to announce the results of the inaugural Group Funds Distribution Program.

This new program provides direct financial support to groups to create and award comforting and healing QOVs to veterans and service members of the Armed Forces touched by war.

Funds from QOVF fundraising activities and a generous donation through a deceased QOVF member's bequest were distributed at the end of 2018. The donor specifically stipulated that the funds were to be distributed to groups to support creating QOVs. The foundation is indebted to our member who embodied

QOVF's core value—Valuing service over self—QOV recipients come first.

The Funds Distribution Committee reviewed 180 applications from 41 states. The committee's task was difficult as it was evident that all are dedicated to the QOVF mission. In the end, 82 groups and three state coordinators received funds.

Congratulations to all the successful applicants. A list can be found [here](#).

Donors to QOVF may request that their contributions be designated for specific purposes such as this general group fund, a specific group, or other programs or activities. The group fund account will also be supported by contributions from other QOVF fundraising programs and initiatives. A designated account within the foundation is used to manage and distribute these funds.

Questions may be directed to the Group Funds Distribution Committee at fundsdistribution@qovf.org.

QOVF Certified Quilt Business Program

By Myra Coddens

The program is now called the Certified Quilt Business Program because its members are expanding to include businesses in addition to quilt shops. These include sewing machine shops, longarm quilting businesses, and quilting retreat centers. If you're an owner of a quilting business, please consider joining as a Certified Quilt Business. If you know of businesses who might be interested in joining, please consider sharing information with them about QOVF.

The website and registration process is undergoing changes, so please be patient as improvements are implemented.

Welcome aboard to our newest members of the Certified Quilt Business Program. The following businesses completed certification since the last newsletter:

Mystic Maine Quilts	Chelsea, ME
3 Red Hens	Saint Thomas, ND
Teays River Quilts	Scott Depot, WV

Welcome to North Dakota who has joined the states with Certified Quilt Businesses!

Quilts Reported

2012: 6,169

2013: 12,314

2014: 17,373

2015: 18,772

2016: 19,051

2017: 24,009

2018: 31,259

Total: 209,111

(from date of first recorded award through 31 December 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
Walt Davis
Marianne Fons
Eric McCarty
June Moore

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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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amazon smile [here](#)

Newsletter

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