



From the Executive Director

Only ten days until Spring! In my area of the country crocuses and daffodils are poking through the frost and will soon be followed by lilacs and tulips. I love the new beginning of this new season and the freshness it brings. At QOVF, we also have many new beginnings to celebrate. First, I'd like to welcome three new members to the QOVF Board of Directors. You can read more about them elsewhere in this newsletter, but join me in welcoming



*Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director*

Mary Kerr, Marianne Elliott, and Tony Jacobson.

The QOV book will debut at the Annual Conference. The book will feature quilts from makers from all 50 states and will include patterns for some of the quilts showcased. If you are attending the [Annual Conference](#), these quilts will be on display there. There will be more information coming soon on how to order.

Another new beginning is a [Fundraiser Dinner](#) to be held on May 17, 2018, preceding the QOVF Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC. This will be a fun evening, geared towards corporations and businesses that want to support QOVF with pledges and ongoing support.

I would also like to welcome the new members, groups, and quilt shops who have recently joined QOV. Please do not hesitate to contact any of our staff members if you have questions. Their names and contact information are all listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Finally, if you have an event coming up that you would like posted on the QOVF calendar—found at the bottom of the [Events](#) page on the web site—just click on “Submit an Entry to the Calendar.” I hope to see many fun events soon!

My wish for you is that your springtime be everything you want it to be. Until next time, quilt with peace and happiness, knowing you are making a difference.

QOV AWARDS MAKE 50TH REUNION SPECIAL

By Terry O’Connell

Almost three years ago, when my fiftieth high school reunion was on the horizon, I decided I wanted to award Quilts of Valor to my veteran classmates. I live in Connecticut now, but grew up in a suburb of Los Angeles and graduated in a class of 900. In 1967, the Vietnam War was much on our minds. Many of my classmates were drafted or enlisted.

The chairperson for the reunion could not have been more supportive and helpful, committing immediately to my vision; in fact, all the committee members helped identify and locate recipients. Fourteen of the veterans contacted made plans to attend after being told they would be honored. Others had such bad memories and experiences they refused



Recipients “wearing” their QOVs awarded during a surprise ceremony at their 50th class reunion. Standing with them (without quilts) are veterans who already have QOVs. These fellow former classmates assisted awarding quilts. (Photo used with permission.)

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to come. In the end, nineteen attended—several of them husbands of graduates—and were awarded their QOVs.

At the award ceremony, two veterans who had previously received quilts assisted in wrapping their classmates, which was extremely moving. Everything went exactly as planned, and I was told over and over the presentation of the quilts was the highlight of the evening. My goal, aside from the actual awards, was to allow recipients to connect with others from our class who had served—to know that they were not alone. It was great to see the awardees mingling and talking with one another, including my friend Virginia, the only woman in our class to enlist in the Armed Forces, serving in the Navy.

Here are a few of the comments received:

- ✦ *Bruce flew 25 missions over Vietnam while in the Air Force. Receiving this quilt is the first public recognition of his service to our country. Thank you.*
- ✦ *My quilt will go with me to my grave.*
- ✦ *My time in the Navy was sometimes crazy dangerous, and I have many terrible memories and scars to this day. Your ceremony brought me to a place where I could recall the past and observe it from a perspective of life experience and wisdom. You are part of the best of our country, and you give hope for a future where people with no voice are heard and valued.*

Three veterans—spouses of classmates—were unknown to me until several days after the event. All three are Navy veterans, and I will be able to send quilts for an upcoming family celebration. State Coordinators have been very helpful!



Birmingham (California) High School alums look on as former class members receive their Quilts of Valor during a surprise ceremony at their 50th class reunion. At right is Virginia (Steckel) Jorgenson, the only woman in the class of 1967 to enlist in the Armed Forces. (Photo used with permission.)



Terry O'Connell (third from left) and fellow former high school classmates prepare for the surprise QOV ceremony that Terry coordinated for her 50th class reunion. Nineteen quilts were awarded and two additional ones are planned. (Photo used with permission.)

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2018 QOV ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By Ann Rehbein

Registration for the QOV National Conference, May 19-20, 2018 is now open. Please complete the registration form available on our [website](#). The

registration fee is \$100 for members and \$125 for non-members. Your registration fee covers the conference, all meetings, all materials, a meet-and-greet with Marianne Fons, and breakfast, lunch, snacks, and refreshments on Saturday and Sunday. This is going to be a fun filled conference full of ideas, discussions, question-and-answer periods, and surprises! We look forward to seeing you at the Quilts of

Valor National Conference in beautiful North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina!

To reserve your room for the conference please call the Baywatch Resort at 877-779-7379 and ask for the Quilts of Valor room block. The rooms are discounted for our group. A deposit is required to reserve a room and the balance is due at check-in. Gather your friends, come to the beach, and join us for a fun conference!

SCOTTISH SOCIETIES AWARD QUILT OF VALOR

By Marianne Elliott

Two Scottish societies partnered last year with the Quilts of Valor Foundation to award a QOV to Korean War veteran Alfred E. Schudel, Jr. The St. Andrew's Society of Baltimore (SASB) and the Scottish American Military Society (SAMS) are both charitable, not-for-profit organizations for individuals of Scottish descent.

Schudel, Jr., a retired US Marine staff sergeant and longtime SASB member, received his quilt at a surprise ceremony in a room packed with SASB members as well as family, friends, his wife Donna, and SAMS members.

Al served during the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, in the northeast part of the Korean peninsula, where temperatures can plunge to as low as -35° F. These conditions created frozen ground, danger of frostbite casualties, icy roads, and weapon malfunctions. Medical supplies froze and, morphine syringes had to be defrosted in a medic's mouth before they could be injected. Cutting off clothing to dress a wound could result in gangrene and frostbite.

Al, overwhelmed the evening of his award, called me afterwards to express thanks and to learn more about his quilt and its makers, whose names were on



Al Schudel, Jr. (seated), is awarded his QOV by Ralph Wallace (center) and Bill Elliott (right), members of SAMS, Post #2, Post of the Potomac, at the St. Andrew's Society of Baltimore meeting in Towson, MD. (Photo by Herbert S. Glasby III, Past President, St. Andrew's Society of Baltimore. Used with permission.)

its label. I stitched the top—using fabrics from my stash. Vietnam War combat veteran Les Page did the longarming. Al was impressed and pleased that a fellow Marine had a part in his QOV. Our hope is that Al's quilt will provide warmth and comfort against

his memories of that cold campaign so many years ago.

More information about the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, considered by some historians one of the greatest accomplishments in American military history, can be found [here](#).

WELCOME NEW QOVF BOARD MEMBERS

By Sue Reich, QOVF Board
President

With great pleasure, I introduce the QOVF's three new Board members, Marianne Elliott, Tony Jacobson, and Mary Kerr.

Marianne Elliott was able to advance her pursuit of sewing and quilting after serving in the US Navy. Upon retirement, she worked for universities, the government, the US Army, and US Navy, addressing ethical issues when research involves humans.



Marianne Elliott

Marianne has volunteered with QOV groups in NY, MD, and VA, and previously served as the QOVF Newsletter Managing Editor.

Tony Jacobson is a nationally-known quilt designer and teacher. His designs have appeared in *Fons & Porter's Love of Quilting*, *Easy Quilts*, *Quilting Quickly*, *Quiltfolk*, and *Quilt Sampler*. In 1992, he co-authored *Quilting Around Your Home*.



Tony Jacobson

When not designing quilts and teaching widely, Tony operates Piece Works Quilt Shop in Winterset, IA, chosen as a Top 10 Shop by *Quilt Sampler* for Spring 2018. For many years, he has served as QOVF Graphic Designer.

Mary Wilson Kerr is a retired Army wife of 22 years. She has volunteered in numerous capacities to enhance family life at their multiple military assignments, working with family team building and the Family Readiness Group, and the struggles of ongoing deployments.



Mary Wilson Kerr

Mary is a nationally recognized quilt teacher and author of seven quilt books. Among her dozens of traveling quilt exhibits, Mary conceived the QOVF "Old Glory" quilt exhibit, to raise awareness for QOVF.

Please join me in welcoming these three new board members in their latest service to QOVF.

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:

Quilter's Store Sedona	Sedona, AZ
Cottage Creations & Quilts	St. Gabriel, LA
Southern Maryland Vacuum and Sewing Center	Lexington Park, MD
Sew Orchid Design	Norway, ME
Vicki's Quilts	Missoula, MT
Quilt Stitches	Beatrice, NE
Country Traditions	Fremont, NE
Quilting Post	Stillwater, OK
Fletcher's Homemade	Elizabethton, TN
Common Threads Quilting	Waxahachie, TX

Our program currently has 98 shops enrolled in 38 states. A special note of thanks to all the shops who hosted groups for QOVF National Sew Day!

(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: 3,570

Total: 181,935

(from date of first award through
28 February 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 <https://www.qovf.org/meet-us/>

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Newsletter

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