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.)
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 mem-
ories 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!

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 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 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.

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 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.
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.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides handmade quilts to service members and veterans of all eras who have been touched by war.

Quilts Reported

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>6,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>12,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>17,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>18,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>19,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>24,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>3,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>181,935</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 181,935
(from date of first award through 28 February 2018)

QOVF Core Values

• Treating people with respect
• Promoting excellence
• Valuing service over self
• Being accountable

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!

(Myna Coddens is the QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program Coordinator. Contact Myna at myra.coddens@qovf.org.)