

MARCH 2019

From the Executive Director

By Tammany McDaniel

QOVF has reached significant milestones in the past several months. As many of you know, we've awarded more than 212,000 quilts throughout our nation to date. Our membership coordinator reported membership has grown to more than 10,300. Our National Sew Day team reported a record 4,123 registrations; for those of you who won a prize, I hear they're on their way!

The Marketing and Branding Committee is working on new material,



Tammany McDaniel
Executive Director

including "On Our Way to 300,000." We'll be testing the message and graphics soon. The Conference Planning Committee is preparing to release more details of the events and training topics. It will be 'Grand' at the QOVF Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, MI, August 19–20, 2019.

For myself, I am learning about our organization, its members and volunteers, the executive staff and our state coordinators. In February I traveled to Iowa to visit our corporate headquarters. I attended the South Carolina Group Leaders semi-annual meeting, which was held on February 16th. As well, it was a pleasure to address the state coordinators during their February teleconference. Then, I visited QuiltCon in Nashville and headed down to Daytona, FL, for the AQS Show.

**threads NEWSLETTER**

The QOVF Board of Directors meets in early March and I anticipate providing an overview of the meeting in our April newsletter. Did you know that a 501(c)(3) board of directors is an all-volunteer group? The IRS does not allow for any compensation to the board. They are dedicated to advancing QOVF's mission and working to award as many veterans as possible. Thank you to our dedicated board members.

As always, this article ends with *hope, joy, and gratitude*. I hope we continue to grow and recognize those who have served our nation. I have *joy* in my work and find it fulfilling. My deepest *gratitude* goes out to our member volunteers, newsletter recipients who spread the word of our mission, and our invaluable donors and supporters; YOU make a difference.

**AIR FORCE VET
LONGARMS QOV'S**

By Denise Halvorsen

For Major Jean L. Carson, (Ret.), the seeds were planted early to become a pilot. His parents report that at age six months he rode in the front seat of a WWI biplane on his mother's lap as his dad flew the plane from Texas to Oklahoma.

In the fall of 1950 the Korean War was in full swing. Jean left his studies at West Texas State to enlist in the Air Force. He became a pilot and brought many wounded out of Korea during the war. During the Vietnam War he flew in the Air Evacuation Squadron and again saw many of the wounded as they were transferred from hospital to hospital.

In 2005, a Bible camp Jean visited in Minnesota was having an annual quilt



Jean Carson shows his longarm quilting.

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Air Force pilot Jean Carson stands beside his T-6 Texan.



Young Jean Carson in his first plane.

auction. Jean saw the benefit of the auction and decided to learn to make quilts. He took several classes—learning to cut fabric, piece, and bind quilts. Eventually he encountered a longarm machine. He bought one and practiced. He offered each of his thirteen grandchildren a quilt of their own including choice of colors and pattern. The kids had little interest until they saw the first “kid quilt” he made. After making each grandchild a quilt or two, Jean then began making quilts for the Bible camp auctions.

When Jean saw a news segment about QOVF, he immediately understood

the benefit of giving a quilt to a wounded warrior. Soon he was quilting 35 to 40 quilts a year and to date has quilted more than 200 QOVs.

I first met Jean at a local quilt group. He showed a QOV he had pieced and quilted. During his presentation he said to the group, “We should all be doing more for our veterans.” I felt his message and within the next few months enlisted three neighbors to start our local QOV Group.

Jean quilted our first quilt, which was displayed and awarded on Veterans Day in 2015 at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, KY. Since that

time, Jean has quilted all of our group’s QOVs. He insists on the best materials and workmanship for our veterans. He puts a quilt for a veteran first in line when we take one to him.

I’m grateful for Jean’s service with the U.S. Air Force, and appreciate that he continues to support veterans in such a big way. I’ve come to know Jean as a talented craftsman, but also as a kind, generous and giving man. Regarding his involvement with QOVF, he recently said, “It has been much fun to be involved with the making and presenting QOVs to veterans. At age 88 I still find much fun and satisfaction in quilting.”

TAYLOR HOWARD: CENTENNIAL CELEBRANT

Information provided by Joyce Reed,
QOV Stars Over Mobile, AL

On October 12, 2018, veteran Taylor Howard turned 100 years old. At a community-wide celebration and program at Riverside Baptist Church in Mobile, AL, he celebrated with family and friends. Mr. Howard received special commendations from the city and state, and was recognized during the event by the local city council, the Alabama House of Representatives, the local VFW, and representatives from the QOV Stars Over Mobile group.

QOV Stars Over Mobile has a monthly workday at the SAIL Parkway Senior



Clockwise from left, QOV Group Stars Over Mobile members Tia Bourke, Diane Engels, and Joyce Reed commemorate the QOV Award to centenarian Taylor Howard at his 100th birthday celebration.

Center where Mr. Howard frequently spends time with friends. QOV group members were asked to help him celebrate his birthday with a QOV, which they gladly awarded to him during the celebration.

Throughout the years, Mr. Howard has endeavored to create a better life for himself and others, crediting his longevity to that servant spirit. He served in the

Army's 92nd Infantry during WWII from 1942 to 1945 in the European Theater. He returned home to Biloxi, MS, where he learned the construction trade under his brother's tutelage. Over the years, Mr. Howard owned his own construction business, built numerous houses and churches, and also owned two local theaters. In addition, he was a community activist who helped to bring

the Head Start program to his local area. Always an eager volunteer, he was active in his children's school PTA, the local Red Cross, and many other community activities. For 85 years, he faithfully served his Biloxi, MS, church in many capacities before moving to Mobile, AL, to be closer to family.

His motto is "I plan to wear out not rust out."

6TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SEW DAY "COUNTING WHAT COUNTS"

Submitted by the QOVF 2019 National Sew Day Committee

The 2019 National Sew Day theme "On our way to 300,000" was a challenge as well as a celebration. In 2014 volunteers were stitching towards the 100,000th QOV. Only four years later, the 200,000th QOV was awarded. Now we on our way to 300,000!

On February 2, 2019, QOVF sponsored its 6th annual National Sew Day. Dedicated volunteers across the US, Canada, and Australia gathered together or sewed alone. Many volunteers connected with others via social media to share their creations and their stories.

While groups and individual volunteers were encouraged to "count what counts" and submit their sew day tallies, the numbers are only the first part of the story.

Sew Day efforts resulted in completed quilts and tops, and enough blocks to create nearly 1,297 QOVs. Over 4,100—more than double of last year—volunteered to sew, quilt (longarm or machine quilt), cut, press, and beyond.

If the sheer numbers aren't impressive enough, the many heartfelt comments that volunteers shared were exceptionally moving. Volunteers quoted below believe what QOVF's Founder, Catherine Roberts, believed when she started QOVF over fifteen years ago from her sewing room in Seaford, DE.

"I believe it is a great way to let our armed forces know we love them and their service hasn't been forgotten."

"Even though I was sewing alone at home, I felt a connection to other quilters working together for a very wonderful cause."



The Leatherneck Kilted Quilter, Les Page, a Marine Vietnam Combat veteran, from Not Forgotten QOV group in VA, took a break from longarming QOVs to call the lucky prize winners on National Sew Day.

[Read more](#) inspiring and fun comments from National Sew Day participants; the prize winner list; and sew day supporters that provided almost \$5,000 in prizes.

QOVF's annual sew day started in 2014 under the direction of Betsy Podriznik, Special Events Coordinator, and Susan Gordon, Executive

Director. See the [January 2014 issue](#) of THREADS for photos.

Mark your calendars now for next year so you won't miss participating in next year's National Sew Day on Saturday, February 1, 2020.

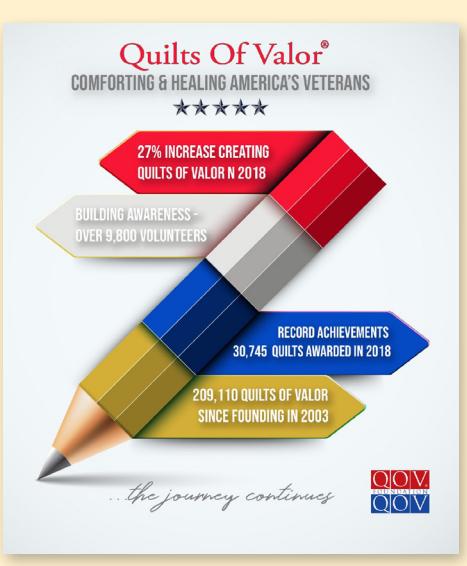
Contact Special Events Coordinator at events@QOVF.org for more information.

COMFORTING AND HEALING AMERICA'S VETERANS

QOVF volunteers wrapped 30,745 veterans and service members touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor in 2018 and more than 209,110 since 2003.

As one recipient said, "Receiving it, I was not prepared for the emotions that coursed through me from wonder to tears. I am not sure what it means to have total strangers care for you in this way!"

Thank you for your dedication, your time, and your talent—QOVF appreciates all you do.



Quilts Reported

2012: 6,169

2013: 12,314

2014: 17,373

2015: 18,772

2016: 19,051

2017: 24,123

2018: 30,745

2019: 3,806

Total: 212,916

(from date of first recorded award through 28 February 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 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](#)

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