



From the Executive Director

The November 2005 QOVF newsletter listed the total number of QOVs awarded as 3,192. Fast-forward to November 2018, and the total number of QOVs awarded will have exceeded 200,000. We



*Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director*

encourage every QOV group to hold its own commemoration of awarding the 200,000th Quilt of Valor. This is truly a remarkable achievement and one that can be celebrated nationwide. Once you've made your award, please share your group's story on our [Facebook](#) page or submit it for publication in this newsletter.

The giving season is here and there are several ways to include QOVF in your

year-end giving plans. [Giving Tuesday](#), Amazon Smile, the Combined Federal Campaign, and planned giving are just a few of the ways you can encourage your family and friends to support your group. See the [Donate](#) page for more ideas.

I was privileged to represent QOVF at the [Tribute to Valor Weekend](#) honoring the Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH) recipients. QOVs were awarded to ten MOH recipients on October 13, 2018, at a luncheon which also honored Dr. Thomas Kennedy for Raytheon's work advocating on behalf of our nation's veterans and their families. American patriot Lee Greenwood was recognized with a lifetime achievement award for his tireless efforts on behalf of those who serve. Watch for the story in a future issue of this newsletter.

It's not too early to start planning for National Sew Day (NSD), February 2, 2019. NSD is a great opportunity to work with your group members,

award a QOV, and raise awareness in your community. Registration will begin soon and there will be a fabulous prize drawing for those registered. The best part of NSD though, is working together to cover America's active duty service personnel and veterans with a comforting and healing QOV.

"We must find the time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives." This quote by John F. Kennedy is appropriate anytime, but especially now during the Thanksgiving season. Each of you has made a difference in a veteran's life and for this I thank you. Your ongoing contributions mean so much to those you touch. Your gifts and talents make days brighter and smiles bigger with every QOV that says "thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation."

Until next time, quilt in peace and happiness, knowing you are making a difference.

PRETEEN MEMBER SEWS UP A STORM IN NV

By Kathleen Decker

Priyasha Landry is one of the youngest volunteers in QOVF. She has already demonstrated dedication, compassion, ingenuity, and entrepreneurship. Priyasha has generated 1,100 presentation cases to date and she provides all the cases for a local QOV group, Comstock Lode Group (NV).

Describing her start in sewing, Priyasha says, "My mom taught me how to sew when I was in kindergarten. When I was six years old I thought I was old enough

to do my own community project. I came up with several ideas before I thought of pillowcases. In December 2013, I wrote a letter to Santa and asked for a sewing machine. He got me a Brother embroidery machine and I made the first pillowcase, adding the name of a little girl battling cancer." (At the age of nine, Priyasha founded a non-profit charity called *Cases of Love*.)

Priyasha's focus shifted to include QOVF after her Girl Scout troop attended a homecoming ceremony for veterans. She noticed the QOVF presentation cases and offered to sew some. She says,

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Priyasha, a 12-year-old QOVF member, with her latest batch of completed presentation cases.

“I have sewn for every Honor Flight in the last two years. I hand out a pillowcase, a box of cookies, and a letter.” She also sells cookies and nuts to benefit veterans and active-duty service members.

Priyasha balances studies and her volunteer efforts by blocking out time for sewing and constantly resetting her priorities. “I am a busy bee with sports, choir, musicals, sewing, Girl Scouts, and other community service projects,” she says. Her biggest project is to improve

pedestrian safety for students across the state.

Her motto is “Do it with love!” Priyasha emphasizes, “It is the most important lesson I have learned from sewing. The smile and joy it brings seems to last a lifetime for veterans. If I can make them happy, it is completely worth my time and effort. Nothing can make up for their sacrifices for the freedom I have, which came at a price and it is not free!”

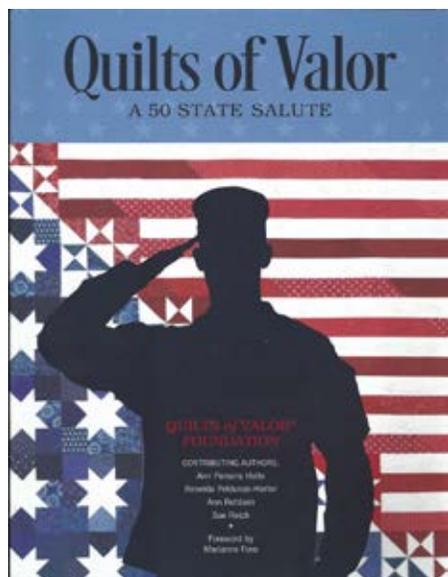
The wisdom and achievements of this 12-year-old volunteer are truly amazing for a QOVF member of any age.



Priyasha stitching QOVF presentation cases with her fabric stash behind her.

A PICTURE (AND PATTERN) PERFECT GIFT

Are you looking for that perfect quilting gift? The [Quilts of Valor—A 50 State Salute](#) book would be a great addition to any quilter’s library. Content includes a history of military quilts since our nation’s beginning and features QOVs representing each of our 50 states. Also included are 16 quilt patterns to inspire making future QOVs. Order your copies by December 10, 2018 to ensure delivery before the holidays.



THE QUILTING BUDDIES MAKE 1,000th QOV

Information provided by Marilyn Finnegan

Great accomplishments begin with small steps, or in the case of quilters, with many small pieces.

In January 2005, after a group of CT and RI friends and family expressed interest in making QOVs, their first “sewing day” gathering commenced. Many participants hadn’t sewn in years, and a few had never made a quilt. With a container of squares, they began honing their quarter-inch seam skills, pressing towards the dark side, and constructing quilt tops row by row. They sewed, talked, laughed, and ate. And by the end of the day, they had completed a couple of quilt tops.

As the group began to disband for the day, everyone asked the same question. *When can we do this again?* This was the beginning of The Quilting Buddies group.

As the years passed, their quilts became more intricate. Large donations of fabric were received to aid in their cause.

The group used longarmers through QOV, appreciating the beautiful work of myriad volunteers. (Special appreciation is extended to Kristin of Omaha, NE, Jill of NJ, and Karen of Mentor, OH, all of whom quilted large numbers of the group’s quilts.) Two members of The Quilting Buddies have since acquired longarm machines, so they now do all the quilting for tops completed by their group.

Over the years, quilters have come and gone from the group, but a core of original members remains. And this autumn, a milestone achievement for the group was reached. They completed their 1,000th QOV. Kudos to The Quilting Buddies and cheers to another 1,000 QOVs ahead!



The Quilting Buddies of Connecticut and Rhode Island have completed the group’s 1,000th QOV this fall.

MY TWIN BROTHER DAVE, QOVF MEMBER & QUILTER

By Marianne Fons

Never in a million years could I have predicted my Navy-veteran brother David Graham (younger than I by just six minutes!) would become, along with his wife Barbara, an active, sewing member of QOVF—even more, that David would make and award our Army-veteran older brother Jim Graham his QOV.

My twin has long followed my quilting career, joyfully dropping my name any time he or Barb happened to run into a quilter. As a veteran, he naturally applauded my involvement in QOVF.

Each year, Dave and Barb's community of Melbourne, FL, hosts an All-Veteran Reunion. When they observed no QOVF presence at the event, David invited me to attend the following year to conduct an award ceremony. To help out in advance, I connected them with Florida State Coordinator Pam Leese, and Dave and Barb began hunting down quilt shops and quilting groups in the area to gather support. At one of the sewing groups they visited, the leader, "Linda-B" Woodworth, inquired if Dave and Barb would like to learn to sew. Shortly afterward, Dave called to ask, "Hey Mur, do you happen to have an extra sewing



Marianne Fons and sister-in-law Barbara Graham look on while Marianne's brother Dave demonstrates his quarter-inch seam.

machine lying around?" (I did!)

That April, my husband Mark and I traveled to Melbourne, spent time in the great booth set up by Pam and helpers, conducted the ceremony, (privately) awarded David his QOV, and visited his sewing group (where I had the opportunity to finesse his pressing skills). I began to see that my brother and sister-in-law had discovered the retirement hobby that never stops giving—making quilts, specifically QOVs.

On Memorial Day Weekend 2017, my brothers and their wives traveled to Winterset, IA, to help celebrate the reopening of my town's single-screen movie theater (known affectionately as "The Iowa") after two years of gut-and-rehab renovation undertaken by my youngest daughter Rebecca and myself. Among the weekend's activities was the Memorial Day service at the Winterset Cemetery where our parents' remains are buried.

On foot, my brothers, their wives, my husband, and I, along with many other citizens, followed the parade to the cemetery, David, Barb, and I doing our best to conceal the tote bag that contained Jim's QOV. Neither Jim nor Linda had any idea his name would be called during the QOV award ceremony portion of the event.

David and Barb continue their active involvement in QOVF. At our most recent conference in Myrtle Beach, I happily purchased two of the wonderful Piece Works kits to send down to Florida as a gift for our next shared birthday.



Marianne Fons awarded her twin brother David Graham his QOV a few years ago. David served in the US Navy in the late 1960s. (Quilt made by Valerie Fons.)

THANK A VETERAN... CREATE A QOV

Information provided by 2019 QOVF
Annual Conference Committee

Are you new to Quilts of Valor? Make plans to come to the 2019 Annual Conference to learn more, meet fellow quilters, get inspired, and create a QOV.

Are you already involved in QOVF? Come to the conference to learn more, reconnect with friends, get more inspiring ideas, and create a QOV.

Thanks to your feedback on the conference questionnaire, there will be some exciting new classes and sessions in 2019 tailored for you! Thank you for sharing your ideas. The conference agenda will be available in mid-January when registration begins.

Conference pre-registration and hotel reservation information can be found [here](#).

Have questions not answered here? Please email Conference2019@QOVF.org.



Did you know?

The first QOV was awarded in November 2003, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center to a young soldier from MN who lost his leg in Iraq. Founder Catherine Roberts recalls:

Chaplain John Kallerson opened the door for us at Walter Reed primarily because his wife Connie Kallerson happened to be a quilter. She impressed upon him how comforting quilts can be. John also saw the value of awarding quilts to his wounded because of the message they carried that someone cares.

QOVF has since gone on to award more than 200,000 QOVs. Thank you, Catherine Roberts, for forming QOVF and encouraging quilters across the nation to join you in your efforts.

QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

Welcome aboard to the newest members of the Certified Quilt Shop Program. The following shops completed certification since the last newsletter:

The Quilter's Nook	Versailles, IN
Colby Sew & Vac	Colby, KS
Smoky River Quilt Shoppe	Oakley, KS
Beehive Quilt Shop	Wellington, KS
The Pink Cushion	Mitchell, SD
Scrap Apple Quilts	St. George, UT
Gabby's Sewing & More	Charleston, WV

We're pleased that SD, UT, and WV are now counted among the states with participating shops, bringing our total to 42 states with certified shops. If you need help or have any comments or questions, please contact Myra Coddens at (847)848-5885 or email 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: 21,256

Total: 200,107

(from date of first recorded award through 31 October 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 www.qovf.org/meet-us/

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