



**From the Executive Director**

By Tammany McDaniel

There is a distinct chill in the air, but things are warming up for QOVF partnerships.

You may have heard, *Wrapped Up In Christmas*, an adult fiction story featuring a Quilt of Valor® has hit Hallmark stores. The book is also being sold by Amazon and Target, and will soon be available in Wal-Mart. Author Janice Lynn is going to provide QOVF autographed copies that can be used in fundraisers, and Hallmark Publishing/Crown Media has also agreed to donate books to QOVF. In keeping with our creative spirit, several group leaders have already been approaching their local Wal-Mart personnel to determine whether there are employees that could be awarded QOVs in stores near the books' display.



Tammany McDaniel  
Executive Director

QOVF members can support the book by leaving a positive review on Amazon and by purchasing the book wherever it's sold. In addition to the donation of books previously described for use as fundraisers, the book has been short-listed to be made into a 2020 Hallmark Christmas Special. Readership, sales, and favorable book reviews are critical to turning that dream into a reality. Together, I'm confident we can make a difference!

I've been out doing some shopping myself and decided to initiate a small contest for QOV Groups: Where In

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**THE QUILTS OF VALOR GRAND MARCH**

By Karl F. Bach

The first QOVs presented in Port Townsend, Washington, were awarded on Memorial Day, May 30, 2016, at the Marvin G. Shields Memorial American Legion Post 26. Kathey Bates, leader of the local Jefferson County QOV group, led the presentations. The Port Townsend Summer Band, under my direction, played a half-hour concert before the ceremonies began. Following the completion of the event, JoEllen Thompson, a personal friend and local QOV quilter, made a request. "Karl, you need to write a march for QOV," she said. She knew that I had composed several marches for the summer band. I am a retired Senior Chief Musician and served with the US Navy Band in Washington, DC, during my naval career (1955-1974). I knew I should comply with her request.

I began to compose and on November 11, 2016, the march was premiered at our American Legion

Post's Veterans Day ceremonies. During QOV presentations, I was awarded my own QOV. Following the presentation of more than two dozen QOVs, the Port Townsend Summer Band played the "Quilts of Valor Grand March." This was indeed a very special time for me.

On the label of my QOV, Kathey Bates (a retired Senior Chief Yeoman, US Navy) embroidered the emblem of a Senior Chief Petty Officer. Having this emblem on my QOV means a great deal to me.

Since November 2016, the Port Townsend Summer Band at American Legion ceremonies has performed "The Quilts of Valor Grand March" for both Memorial Day and Veterans Day. As I was composing it, I envisioned this march to be used for a procession of quilters and recipients. It is dedicated to QOV quilters and also to veterans. The music is meant to show honor to our veterans, to reflect hard times they have experienced, and then in the last strains to express to our veterans a heart-felt "welcome home!"



Karl Bach received his QOV the day "Quilts of Valor Grand March," which he composed, debuted. Click [here](#) to hear a clip of the march.

The World Is Tammany McDaniel? The first group to e-mail me the correct location of the picture, at right, will earn \$150 deposited into their QOV Group account. Hint number one: I was traveling mid-October and this was taken while I was on the road.

Another way members can support QOVF with our purchases is to buy Nu-Blu's [album](#) or see them on tour. A portion of Nu-Blu proceeds is donated to QOVF. Nu-Blu understands and has agreed that the bulk of funds they raise will help reduce or defray shipping and handling costs for fabric, batting, as well as group-to-group support for mailing tops and completed quilts to and from longarmers.

Leading quilt industry companies continue to show their support for QOVF. Maywood Studio is issuing a quilt kit with a patriotic theme, and they have printed QOVF Award Guidelines on the kit label. MODA Fabrics is launching a new fabric collection from Minick & Simpson, Mackinac Island, and they have designed a patriotic theme pattern, *Honor*, using



this collection. A QOVF brochure will be included in every *Honor* quilt kit. Midwest Textiles/River's Bend is providing fabric for the [2020 Cruise and Quilt](#) events in the Bahamas and Mexico. Connecting Threads QOV Thread Set is garnering great reactions, and Northcott Fabrics continues in their support of our mission.

The National Grange has increased their support of QOVF. During their national convention, they will host a QOVF block drive. In keeping with their spirit of community support, they will take members Under Our Wings to

teach basic skills. Fabrics for the event are donated by Northcott Fabrics.

We've recently updated our marketing brochures and postcards. QOVF volunteer graphic designers are ensuring we have both group-oriented materials and national QOVF information as well.

Giving Tuesday is upon us. Our concept this year is to focus on QOVF's daily demonstration of quiet gratitude for service over self. Our "ask" this year is that QOV Groups, members, and supporters donate to support QOVF's IT infrastructure. Our systems require upgrades or replacement in order to improve our ability for automated memberships and to significantly bolster the award-management system. Your help is greatly appreciated.

We will soon be promoting National Sew Day. Save the date—Saturday, February 1, 2020. And look for more information regarding our regional trainings: Saturday, March 14, 2020, in Duluth, Georgia; and a late March date in St. Louis, Missouri. Other locations will be announced as spaces are secured.

## ON THE RUN WITH QOV

Information provided by Michelle Nelson

Some people like to relax by making quilts in their free time, while others enjoy spending their time on the open road running for fitness. One member has found a way to mix the two. Michelle Nelson's passion for running and her desire to provide quilts to those touched by war have done just that.

Michelle, who is an Air Force veteran, wife of an Air Force Captain, and former QOVF Treasurer, recently ran a half-marathon while proudly supporting Quilts of Valor by wearing the QOV logo on her race shirt. Every year, on the third Saturday of September, Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton, OH, holds the Air Force Marathon. This marathon began in 1997 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Air

Force on September 18, 1947. This year there were over 16,000 runners and 2,600 volunteers in attendance. The youngest runner was only thirteen years old, while Air Force supporters up to age 99 were also participating in the race. As a qualifying race for the Boston Marathon, there were world-class athletes as well as novice runners. Michelle's passion and desire to compete in this race was realized when she crossed the finish line, completing her eighth half-marathon.

"This has been a dream of mine to run in this race. Having been in the Air Force, I really wanted to represent my service doing something I love," Michelle said. "The fact that I could run wearing a Quilts of Valor shirt was an additional honor. I hope I did the foundation proud and brought more awareness to our purpose."



Michelle Nelson, former QOVF treasurer, showcased QOVF on her running gear as she ran in the Air Force Marathon in Dayton, OH.

## A LEGACY LEADS TO LOVING SERVICE

By Colette Boring

A deep sense of gratitude fills me when thinking of our military members and the sacrifice, danger, hardship, and separation they've experienced. My awareness that neither freedom nor safety are free began through learning my parents' experiences during World War II. My mother was born in Dieppe, France. My parents met in Paris and fell in love during the liberation of France while my father was stationed there. Stories my mother shared helped me understand how horrible the situation was for the Allied Forces and the people of France. Her memories led me to the realization that such ugly fates could quickly happen anywhere.

My father was a medic in the Army. He never spoke about what he experienced. I can only imagine

the horrors. But it is my parents' experiences that led me to an interest in QOV, a way to give back to veterans touched by war.

Thinking of the brave and selfless men and women who served and continue serving for our safety and freedom, I want to thank each and every one personally. I am fortunate to meet many at my quilt shop, Quilter's Nook in Boydton, VA. It's an honor to meet each one, hear their stories if they want to share, and hopefully nominate them for their QOV. I'm always on the lookout for service members who have not yet been awarded.

As a quilt designer, I've discovered another way to give back. I developed and patented Press & Peel Appliqué (an easier method for completing fusible appliqué). Most recently, I designed American eagle blocks and want to share them with other QOV quilters. These large blocks will be quick to complete,

but as in all QOVs, very meaningful to recipients. The two designs, *Majesty* (10½" × 13") and *Majestic Glider* (16½" × 8") should be set in backgrounds at least 20" to 22" or larger. Either design can be paired with traditionally pieced blocks, such as stars or large-print blocks. Or, for modern QOVs repeated and staggered across the quilt top with large open spaces for showcasing beautiful quilting designs.

Additionally, Donna McLamb and I have designed a simple quilt with spectacular results that we hope will become a favorite! *American Majesty* measures 62" × 74" and is a perfect beginners quilt.

The free downloadable pattern is available at [www.quiltapplique.com](http://www.quiltapplique.com) and can be made using traditional needle turn or fusible appliqué. Supplies for Press & Peel Appliqué *Majesty* or *Majestic Glider* are available for purchase.



Colette Boring's appliqué designs, *Majestic* and *Majestic Glider* can be the focal point of QOVs, when used in conjunction with her free downloadable QOV pattern.



## FOCUS ON QUALITY FOR ALL QOVs

By Mary E. Hazel, Mountain Home  
QOV Group Leader

As an organization, QOVF depends on its volunteers to follow the foundation's Policies & Procedures, particularly regarding the making of a QOV. Like many, our group, Mountain Home QOV, has members with a wide range of experience in piecing, quilting, and other talents. We follow the guidelines regarding appropriate fabric, sizes, batting, labels, etc. We do our best work to create our QOVs. Our group meets monthly, and when a member brings a completed QOV, our group reviews the QOV to be sure it is the best it can be. All members present participate in this process. It's a gentle process, not intended to berate or belittle a member's work, but an opportunity for extra eyes to make sure the QOV is ready to be awarded.

The review is done with respect and kindness. Working as a team, we learn from one another how to correct any problem areas, as well as seeing how other members use particular techniques. The review process provides all members with positive feedback and ways to improve in their methods. It builds confidence within the group that the work we do is valued and

appreciated. This process is not done by "Quilt Police," but by members who know and understand the impact that a QOV has on its recipient.

The following steps outline our group's QOV 10-Step Quality Checklist. It's not part of the QOVF Policies & Procedures. Rather, it's what we have developed to improve our group members' involvement and quality of the QOVs we award. Feel free to adopt or adjust them for yourself or your group.

### Mountain Home QOV 10-Step Quality Checklist

- 1) With the right side up, lay the QOV flat on a large surface for all members to review.
- 2) Has the QOV been washed with unscented products? Is the presentation pillowcase completed? Is the QOV free of animal hair and/or any odors? If no to any question, return QOV to member to correct.
- 3) Check the binding for secure stitching, front and back. Verify that the miters are sewn closed on the front and back. If not, return to member to correct.
- 4) Check for loose seams on the quilt, loose threads along the edges (especially longarm basting threads); cut threads if necessary. Look for

seams that may have come loose in washing or fabric that has "bled" into other pieces. Mark these areas with blue painters tape for the member to repair and/or correct.

- 5) Gently pass your hand over the QOV to feel for any unusual thread buildup or long portions of thread lying flat on the QOV. Correct as much as possible, without creating the need to requilt the QOV.
- 6) Turn the QOV over and review the backing.
- 7) Is the QOV label attached in the lower right hand corner of the QOV? Is the topper/quilter information completed? If not, return to member to correct.
- 8) Check the backing for loose threads, thread buildup, and if pieced, are the seams solid and secure? Trim loose threads, correct thread buildup. If necessary, return to member for seam repair.
- 9) If all quality checks are satisfactory, photograph the QOV, turning up the label corner to show topper/quilter information. Measure QOV for photograph information.
- 10) Fold the QOV properly for award process (separate process), and place in its presentation pillowcase. (The photograph will be printed and placed in the pillowcase for identification.)



*Mountain Home QOV Group members Joan Woodard, Sharon Crozier, and Mary E. Hazel review a finished quilt to ensure quality standards are met for awarding it as a QOV.*

## QOVF Certified Quilt Business Program

By Myra Coddens

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

Seamstress Holly Ann	Port Orange, FL
Addicted 2 Stitchin'	New Hampton, IA
McDarla's Quilting Studio	Springvale, ME
The Quilting Shack	Broken Bow, NE
Blue Heron Stitchery	Bluffton, SC
Sandy's Sewing Center	Yakima, WA
Quilthyme Machine Quilting	Platteville, WI

As a reminder, Certified Quilt Businesses should complete their annual renewals via the QOVF website. If you don't yet have a login as a business, please set one up online. You will receive a membership renewal email upon submission.

## Quilts Reported

**2012:** 6,169  
**2013:** 12,314  
**2014:** 17,373  
**2015:** 18,772  
**2016:** 19,051  
**2017:** 24,123  
**2018:** 30,745  
**2019:** 24,113

**Total: 233,183**

(from date of first recorded award through 31 October, 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 QOVF, see [www.QOVF.org](http://www.QOVF.org)

For more information about the BOD, the QOVF staff, and how to contact your State Coordinator (SC) go to [www.qovf.org/meet-us/](http://www.qovf.org/meet-us/)

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### Newsletter

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