



From the Executive Director

By Tammany McDaniel

Some months are better than others. Unfortunately, in September we did not meet the needs of our long-arm quilters, nor those of you who ordered from the QOVF online store.



Tammany McDaniel
Executive Director

Please accept my apology. I will work to better manage our systems and resources. I want you to know we are aware that customer service is critical. We are working diligently to fix the system and human errors that occurred. We also don't want to repeat mistakes. If we make new mistakes, it will be because we are willing to try new ideas and suggestions. Many thanks to those of you who have been patient and gracious during trying times.

Also, thank you to everyone who answered the call to help out with resolving the request backlog. We no longer have any open requests for QOVs for 2016 or prior. We are well on our way to awarding all 2017 QOVs and have begun to make a dent in 2018 nominations. Your generosity and kindness in helping your fellow volunteer members are amazing. Our goal is not growth for growth's sake. Rather, what we set our sights on is a marathon effort to show gratitude and bring healing. To that end, very soon we will modify our nomination form. It will be redesigned to emphasize the award, reduce instances where QOVs are requested as presents, and encourage stories about our soldiers. We will test the revised form with our

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**QOV GROUP AWARDS
60+ QOVs IN MAY**

By Linda Robinson,
Northern NM QOV Group

While planning the annual USS Ticonderoga Veterans' Association Reunion in Albuquerque, NM,

LCPL Elizardo Sanchez contacted the Northern New Mexico Quilt Guild in Santa Fe, NM, asking about their QOV program. The QOV group determined that they could provide QOVs (within a five month time frame) to award at the reunion. Members were honored to

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USS Ticonderoga veterans received QOVs awarded at their veterans' association reunion.



WWII Veteran and Honor Flight recipient, 99-year-old George Richard Peterson (US Army) receives his QOV award.

State Coordinators and Group Leaders to ensure we capture the essence of why we make and award QOVs. An announcement will be made prior to our transition to the new form and be assured that we'll provide helpful screen shots for review by volunteer members.

Did you complete your Mystery Quilt? Did you participate in the challenge to design a block without using red, white, or blue fabric? I've seen some wonderful pictures. Thank you for sharing.

Good news, bad news: QOVF ran out of 2019 membership pins. In so many ways, this is wonderful. While growth isn't our primary goal, it is exciting to welcome new members and watch them begin their QOVF journeys. We've been in contact with those affected by the pin shortage. So many of you noted that a pin isn't a necessary part of your membership. Many of you opted to receive a free pattern instead. For some, the pin is vital. We've

learned that many of you value the symbol of membership—the pin and your badge are part of your public attire. Our 2020 pin will be different. We have asked for a design option that showcases our updated logo. I can't wait to preview it to you in the December 2019 issue of *Threads*.

As we move forward, it is important to manage QOVF's growth. Much of our growth is due to you. You are out there, telling QOV stories, showing pictures, and making awards. People want to be engaged in what you are doing. We are changing lives! From a national perspective, we're encouraging targeted growth where a backlog of QOV requests is not yet supported by corresponding volunteer membership. As we meet each of you and explore the country, we believe patterns will emerge that show where we need to invest more time in our recruiting efforts.

The final plan for this year's Giving Tuesday event will be announced by October 31, 2019, just in time for everyone to put away the costumes and gear up for

Thanksgiving. We want to change the focus this year. Last year there was a friendly challenge among groups and a prize offered for the group raising the most money. This year, what if Giving Tuesday is a day to award QOVs? Yes, there will be time for social media and face-to-face fundraising the week prior to Giving Tuesday, but what if all of our pictures, posts, and information centered on QOV awards across the nation? Can you imagine? Do you see it? I can!

For our Quilt Business Membership, we hope to bring you exclusive QOV-appropriate patterns to sell in your stores. We also want to build or increase collaborative relationships based upon the fabric lines you like and carry. Watch for an upcoming survey where we hope to learn about your favorite designers, the types of instruction that work best in your facility, and what exclusive items QOVF might design that can only be purchased through Quilt Business Membership shops.

The month ahead is going to be a good one!

QOV Group Awards continued from page 1

attend the event's opening ceremony on May 16, 2019, and make presentations to 38 veterans that served on the USS Ticonderoga. Recipients' periods of service aboard the vessel ranged from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam eras. The USS Ticonderoga was one of 24 Essex-class aircraft carriers built during WWII for the U.S. Navy.

In addition to the USS Ticonderoga Reunion, the group also awarded 26 QOVs in May 2019, to Honor Flight Veterans: thirteen WWII veterans, eight Korean veterans, and five Vietnam veterans.

An ambitious group, the Northern New Mexico QOV group was founded in 2006 by Linda Robinson, Sandy Struve, and Jean Callaghan. It has grown to nearly 30 active members. As well, many Northern NM Quilt Guild members provide quilt tops, quilting, binding, presentation cases, and donations of fabric to the group that provides quilts for NM veterans. The group is also active with the Santa Fe Veterans Organization, TUGAN3, providing nearly 50 QOVs to that organization, honored to award QOVs as they are called upon in their state.

QOV BRINGS COMFORT TO HOMELESS VETERAN

By *Kathey Bates*

Marilyn Wells, a Vietnam-era veteran of the US Navy, lost her fiancé during that conflict decades ago. When she received a QOV on Veterans Day 2018, she took the opportunity to thank the community for their support, and said she was accepting the quilt on behalf of her fiancé who had died fighting for his country. She treasured her QOV even though her life circumstances were difficult at best.

Marilyn is homeless. She spends her nights at the Community Shelter in the basement of the American Legion Post 26 in Port Townsend, WA. Her days are spent at the library, the local Maritime Center, and at her church. Her ultimate goal is to return to her home state of Oregon, and reconnect with a brother she has not seen in more than twenty years. Her QOV helped make her shelter bed more comforting to her, and she proudly showed it to anyone visiting the shelter, expressing how much it meant to her.

About six months after receiving her QOV, Marilyn was reported to the local police department as distraught

and crying on the street near the Maritime Center. Officer A. Radford of the Port Townsend Police Department responded to the call. He and his partner, Officer J. Vergin, were familiar with Marilyn's circumstances, and were able to calm her, offer her a cup of coffee, and talk through what was distressing her—her QOV was missing.



Officer Radford, Port Townsend Police Department, veteran and QOV recipient Marilyn Wells, and Sheila Burrell of the Jefferson QOV Group, WA, share a moment after the replacement QOV was awarded.

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THE COLORS OF A QOV

by Kathleen P. Decker, M.D

Most QOVs are comprised of red, white, and blue fabric (RWB). When the first awardees at Walter Reed Hospital were allowed to choose a QOV, they consistently chose RWB. The official requirements state, “while QOVs do not have to be red, white, and blue, most recipients, given a choice, choose quilts that are patriotic in theme.” So why in the world did we just have a non-RWB block design challenge? And who would want a QOV that isn’t RWB? The answer is as individual as the awardees!

Quilters in QOVF are proud to contribute, and feel that RWB is more patriotic than other colors—after all, those are the colors of the U.S. flag. Here are a few thoughts on why some awardees may not want a QOV in RWB.



QOVs don't always incorporate traditional red, white, and blue fabrics, as these QOVs illustrate with the use of alternate colors and themed fabrics.

Some veterans have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (as many as 30% of combat veterans are said to have some degree of this disorder). Veterans with significant PTSD avoid reminders of trauma. So, for these people, RWB may be a constant reminder of combat trauma. These veterans may appreciate being honored and comforted, but avoid reminders of combat.

Another possible cause of avoiding RWB is that one’s actions in combat may result in “moral injury,” a phenomenon that occurs when one saw or did something in combat that conflicted with one’s values (e.g. killing or friendly fire). One may intellectually know the action was done for the right reason (to serve and protect the U.S.), but still feel bad about one’s actions. RWB may be a reminder of this moral injury. Again, such awardees may need and desire comfort, but a RWB QOV may perpetuate mixed feelings. A more neutral QOV may honor and comfort them without reminding them of these emotions.

Still another possible reason to avoid RWB relates to the transition from military to civilian life. Some awardees want to leave their military experience in the past, and struggle to feel at home in the civilian world. A RWB QOV may keep them focused on this past life, not the future.

What’s a QOV quilter to do? Some QOV groups know awardees that love the outdoors, so they design QOVs that emphasize wildlife or nature. Recreational hunting, fishing, or other adventures in nature often assist with transition issues. Other awardees work with dogs that served in combat (Leashes of Valor). A member of my group has made QOVs that include dog themes for them, which both assists with their transition and makes them proud of their canine colleagues. Finally, many veterans now qualify for service dogs to help them cope with combat injuries (mental or physical), including K9s for Vets, VetDogs, and NEADS, and may appreciate a QOV that combines military service with themes which include their new canine companion.

Finally, there are many ways to express patriotic sentiment besides RWB. The quilting stitch may be patriotic, or the blocks may incorporate a patriotic design. For example, the 2019 QOV block is a floating star, and it could be yellow, green, or purple, but it’s still a star. Stars represent our 50 states, as well as excellence. So, designing a patriotic QOV in other colors can still convey the message. The important thing is, whenever possible, to respect the awardee’s desires if and when they are known.

Homeless Veteran continued from page 2

She trusted someone with it and that person had subsequently left the area, taking the quilt along.

Officer Radford was unfamiliar with QOVF until his encounter with Marilyn that day. However, he did some research, found the QOVF website, and sent in a query about replacement of the QOV. His request went to the WA State representative, Carol Olsen, who forwarded it to Jefferson County QOV group.

As Team Leader, I assured Carol that we would replace the QOV as quickly as possible.

Connecting with Officer Radford, we determined that we would award the quilt at the group’s upcoming Summer Sew Day on July 27, 2019. Officer Radford’s role was to get Marilyn there—

not easy as she moves around from place to place during the day.

On July 27th, Officer Radford and Sergeant Greenspane of the Port Townsend Police escorted Marilyn to the QOV group’s Sew Day site at the American Legion, and her QOV award was replaced. To ensure the award’s safekeeping, Marilyn asked Officer Radford to secure the quilt for her. He graciously agreed to do so, saying Marilyn is welcome to visit the quilt at the Port Townsend Police Department any time she wishes. Once Marilyn is able to travel to Oregon, she will retrieve the quilt to take along with her.

Marilyn’s story is a touching reminder of the strength of community, connections, and QOVs.

QOVF AND THE NATIONAL QUILT MUSEUM PARTNER

Information provided
by Tammany McDaniel

QOVF and The National Quilt Museum are two of the most widely recognizable and respected entities in quilting, with each playing a critical role in expanding the reach of quilting. The National Quilt Museum promotes the growth and expansion of quilting by bringing the work of today's quilters to new audiences through exhibits, education programs, preservation, and advocacy efforts. The museum's partnership with QOVF will help both organizations expand programming and better serve the quilting community. Both organizations are 501c3 nonprofits.

The partnership was announced at the annual QOVF Conference in Grand Rapids, MI, in August 2019. The National Quilt Museum CEO Frank Bennett said, "Our two organizations serve the quilting community and are reliant on the quilting community for support. For us both to achieve our global missions, we need everyone

passionate about quilting involved with our respective organizations. Through this partnership, both organizations will be able to bring our message to wider audiences."

Along with other combined communication initiatives, the two organizations will make it possible to become a member of both organizations online from either website. Individuals who sign up to become a member on either the QOV [website](#) or The National Quilt Museum [website](#) will have the option to become a member of both organizations with just one click.

In addition to the combined effort to increase memberships, the two organizations will regularly use each other's communication platforms to share news about projects and events. Both organizations annually reach audiences in the hundreds of thousands with newsletters, email, blogs, social media, and videos.

About The National Quilt Museum

Now in its 27th year, NQM's primary campus in Paducah, KY, has visitors annually from all 50 states

and more than 40 foreign countries. Between in-facility and travelling exhibits, more than 150,000 people per year experience the art form in person through museum efforts.

The museum is committed to teaching the next generation of quilters, and its education programs annually attract more than 4,000 young people and adults. Educational opportunities include the School Block Challenge, Quilt Camp, and the museum's acclaimed hands-on program, The Creative Stitch, in which people of all ages with no previous experience learn to make a quilt block.

The National Quilt Museum has won the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for seven consecutive years, making it one of the top tourist attractions by visitor review in the world. The museum made Southern Living's "Top 15 Museums in the South" list in 2017, and it has been mentioned in *Midwest Living*, CNN Travel, *USA Today*, *National Geographic*, and many more. Paducah, Kentucky is a UNESCO Creative City. For more information go to www.quiltmuseum.org.

IT'S A MYSTERY WITH A MISSION

By Sandy Berg,
Lewis-Clark Quilts of Valor (WA-ID)

Mystery quilt patterns demonstrate that quilters can and do interpret the same pattern differently. A good mystery quilt pattern doesn't reveal too much information at any one time. Weekly or monthly clues keep participants wondering and engaged. Breaking the pattern into numerous blocks or units makes it more difficult for quilters to figure out the final quilt, keeping them guessing!

My fascination with mystery quilt patterns began in 2011. For me, mysteries are fun and challenging. In 2012, I began hosting an online mystery quilt event to create a QOV with a free pattern. The number of quilters participating grew from seventeen the first year to over 325 this year. The QOV mystery quilt generally uses mostly shades of red, white, blue, and maybe a bit of gold. When finished, the QOV



The free QOV pattern from the *Summer Mystery Quilt* can be found [here](#).

is donated to QOVF for awarding to a service member or veteran. Once the mystery is solved, quilters are free to use other color schemes to create additional unique QOVs.

This year in collaboration with the QOVF, I created the Summer QOV Mystery. After five weeks of clues, the

mystery was solved; however, this time there was more. Quilters could enter a picture of their completed quilt top in the first-ever People's Choice contest. With just eight minutes left until the deadline, the 80th quilt top picture was submitted. In the People's Choice there were no quilt judges; everyone who visited the QOVF webpage could vote for their favorite quilt. Three quilts with the highest numbers of votes were designated the People's Choice Awards. The makers not only earned bragging rights, but modest prizes too. The winners were Ingrid Bennett of Spokane, WA, first prize; Terry Burtchell of Port Orange, FL, second prize; and Carolyn Splight, Monte Ruble, and Janice Sheavly of Anderson, SC, third prize.

The mystery and the mission resulted in 80 service members and veterans touched by war that will be covered with a comforting and healing QOV. Thank you to everyone who created a quilt using the mystery pattern.

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:

Stitch Adventure	Newton, NJ
The Quilting Bee	Lakewood, OH
Hog Wild Quilting	Spokane, WA
Angela's Quilting Studio	Dallas, WI
BeeJay's Creations	Nitro, WV

Quilts Reported

2012: 6,169
2013: 12,314
2014: 17,373
2015: 18,772
2016: 19,051
2017: 24,123
2018: 30,745
2019: 20,995

Total: 230,065

(from date of first recorded award through 30 September, 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

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

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amazon smile [here](#)

Newsletter

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