



SEPTEMBER 2018



## From the Executive Director

This time of year, for many, thoughts turn to indoor activities and to making your latest, greatest QOV. I was researching past issues of THREADS recently and found this article by Catherine Roberts, our founder. Her words are just as meaningful today as they were in 2014. She wrote:

Recently, our foundation's "core values" were established via a formal vote of our Board of Directors. As QOVF founder, I am proud of our stated values because they speak simply and eloquently about who we



Ann Rehbein,  
Executive Director

are. Below are some of my thoughts regarding each of the four.

**Treating people with respect.** Our community (quilters, longarmers, points of contact, recipients, and donors) includes people from many walks of life. Each of us must promote inclusiveness, respecting the opinion of every other fellow volunteer. Let us always look for the common threads that unite us rather than the differences that could divide.

**Promoting excellence.** Quilts of Valor are civilian awards to those who have been willing to stand in harm's way for our nation and been touched by war, not "charity quilts." Of utmost importance is sewing with quality fabrics, working with skilled machine quilters, making quilts big enough for an adult to rest under, and labeling each quilt clearly to identify it as a Quilt of Valor.

**Valuing service over self.** Knowing I am as capable as anyone of self-focus, a goal from "day one" has been to keep the focus for our quilts on the recipient, not on us.

**Being accountable.** As our foundation grows, it's a big challenge to transmit every communication with wisdom and compassion, but we must be accountable for our words and actions on every level. Being accountable to me means being truthful to all.

To some, these values may seem lofty. To me, they speak of belonging to a community where I will be accepted and where I will do my best to give to those touched by war.

Meaningful thoughts indeed. Wishing you a great autumn season, quilt in peace and happiness, knowing you are making a difference.

## SC KERRY BARNES HONORED AS A "MAKER" By Kathleen P. Decker and Marianne Fons

WCNY, Central New York State's member-supported public broadcasting station, has for several years recognized area women for their unique achievements, honoring them with an annual award titled "Makers: Women Who Make America." These awards were inspired by the 2013 PBS documentary of the same name and are sponsored by the Lockheed Martin Employees' Federated Fund with support from the National Park Service. You can view the original PBS documentary [here](#).



NY State Coordinator Kerry Barnes, at right, received PBS affiliate WCNY's MAKERS award on March 8, International Women's Day. The ceremony took place in Seneca Falls, NY, where the first women's rights convention in America was held in 1848.

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On March 8th, 2018, International Woman's Day, Kerry Barnes, QOVF's State Coordinator for NY, was one of the ten recipients of the 6th annual award. She was secretly nominated by fellow quilt guild members Eleanor Green and Barb Snell. In her acceptance speech, Kerry said, "I can't thank the QOVF and WCNY enough for making this happen. QOVF has made my dreams come true! My fellow quilters all deserve this honor; we do this to thank our veterans for their sacrifice for our country."

Kerry says of her involvement with QOVF, "I saw an article in the *Post Standard* and said now that I'm retired, what a wonderful thing to do, to make quilts to honor veterans in my father's name! From the minute I get the request to the last stitch, my thoughts are with that person and what they've been through. I'll keep sewing until every veteran is covered! My dad, Christy Malone, fought in WWII. He would be pleased."

One of her quilts was awarded to a Vietnam veteran, Mr. Ken Bundy, who was Kerry's former supervisor at a nuclear power plant. In addition to being a veteran, Mr. Bundy serves other veterans. He takes veterans on fishing trips, he honors Gold Star Mothers in NY, and his VFW branch inaugurated a Vietnam Wall Memorial in Boonville, NY. Kerry represented QOVF at the dedication of the Vietnam Wall. Mr. Bundy received his quilt at a surprise family reunion. When he was awarded his quilt, Mr. Bundy exclaimed, "a quilt brings comfort to you, to surround you with the love they feel for you. Every design, every stitch, was put by human hands and it's a cherished gift. What it means mostly is that we're remembered, and that's what most veterans want, to be remembered; somebody cares that much to make it."

You can view WCNY's documentation of the award ceremony [here](#). Kerry is the first recipient honored, and her segment, which was taped at Quilt with Passion, a certified QOVF quilt shop in Oswego, NY, includes very moving coverage of Kerry's work with QOVF.

Information provided by Kerry Barnes and WCNY TV.

## QOVF AND EYES OF FREEDOM: A PARTNERSHIP EVOLVES

By Sharon Ledbetter

QOVF, Eyes of Freedom, and "Silent Battle" are partnering to bring awareness to their interwoven missions of honoring, remembering, and comforting those touched by war and struggling with the invisible wounds of post-traumatic stress and survivor grief.

The seeds of the partnership were sown during National Veterans' Week 2016, when the Lewis Clark QOV Group (LCQOV) of Lewiston, ID, joined with the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) to host the *Eyes of Freedom* (EOF) memorial, which consists of eight life-size paintings of 22 Marines and one Navy Corpsman killed in action in Iraq.

In March 2018, LCQOV was honored to present the national debut of "Silent Battle," a much awaited life-sized bronze statue centerpiece added to the memorial, which travels throughout the U.S. bringing veteran PTS and suicide awareness to the general public. LCQOV partnered with Suicide Prevention Action Network of

Idaho; both groups provided displays and information. As artist and sculptor Anita Miller and Mike Strahle unveiled "Silent Battle," also in attendance was Brian Zimmermann, the combat veteran who is the inspiration behind the bronze. He was awarded his QOV in Lewiston in 2016, one of Al Lind's final QOVs.

To view Brian's story as reported by Lindsey Sievert, KARE 11 reporter, click [here](#).

In August 2018, EOF and "Silent Battle" traveled to Mora, MN, for an event in Brian Zimmermann's hometown. QOVF will again participate in a joint event at the Bob Evans Farm Festival in Rio Grande, OH, October 12–14, 2018. QOVF will have a booth, quilt exhibit, and QOV award ceremonies.

The pairing of QOVF and EOF/Silent Battle is a perfect match, impacting the lives of veterans in positive ways.

If your community is interested in hosting the *Eyes of Freedom* exhibition, visit their website: <http://www.limacompanymemorial.org/>. For information on Silent Battle, visit <http://www.limacompanymemorial.org/thesilent-battle/>. Questions about the new partnership with QOVF may be directed to Sharon Ledbetter, [lcqov.sharon@gmail.com](mailto:lcqov.sharon@gmail.com)



QOVs, the Old Glory Traveling Quilt Exhibit, and award ceremonies will be featured at joint effort of QOVF and Eyes of Freedom during the Bob Evans Farm Festival in Rio Grande, OH, October 12–14, 2018.

## A QUILT FOR BELLA

Information provided by Kathleen Van Orsdel, Group Leader, Jefferson City Quilters #544

US Marine Corps Sgt. (Ret.) Bradley Walker was awarded a QOV during a presentation at the Jefferson County High School in Talbot, TN, at the "Night of the Patriot Celebration" in 2016. Sgt. Walker was wounded in combat during the Iraq war, and Bella, his devoted service dog, attended the event. According to Kathleen Van Orsdel, "It was a wonderful presentation where veterans from four different war eras were awarded quilts from the local QOV Group 544." After the ceremony, one of the members of the Jefferson City Quilt group, Bobby Shore, thought Bella should be honored as well with a quilt. She sewed a dog-sized quilt, which was later awarded to Bella.

Several programs train and/or place service dogs with wounded warriors. One such program is the program in which Bella was trained, Smoky Mountain Service Dogs (SMSD). It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to: "Enhance the Physical and Psychological Quality of Life for Veterans with Disabilities by Providing Custom Trained Mobility Assistance Service Dogs" in a service area within six hours of Knoxville, TN. SMSD has been awarded Gold Star Accreditation by Assistance Dogs International. This



Pictured from left to right are Sgt. Bradley and Bella. Awarding the quilt are Kathleen Van Orsdel and Bobbie Shore, maker of the quilt.

validates that the facilities and operation of the SMSD program meets or exceeds ADI standards.

Once dogs "graduate" the program they are placed with a wounded veteran, and the final phase of training includes training the veteran and dog to work together. More information is available [here](#). Other programs focus on training dogs to assist with mental health issues

in wounded warriors, such as post-traumatic stress disorder. Information on the distinction between emotional support animals, service animals, and how to officially register animals with the U.S. Government, can be found [here](#).

*Note from Executive Director Ann Rehbein: Quilts presented to service dogs are NOT QOVs, but they are frequently awarded and much appreciated by the dog's "person."*

## Longarmers Needed!

Information supplied by Sheryl Bullman, Longarm Coordinator

You may have noticed a longer wait time in getting a longarmer request filled. The reason for that is that you are such great toppers! Quilt tops are being produced at a much greater rate than our longarm community is able to complete them. For example, in July there were 274 tops in queue. Several states have three to four times as many tops in queue as there are registered longarmers in their state.

If you're a longarmer who can help alleviate this backlog, please consider joining the QOVF family as a registered

longarm. Need more information? Contact Sheryl Bullman at [sheryl.bullman@QOVF.org](mailto:sheryl.bullman@QOVF.org). Here are a few details about becoming a registered QOVF longarm:

- Join QOVF, either through a local group or the National Longarmer's group for \$5.00.
- Your contribution to a QOV is time, thread, batting, and return postage if needed.
- Your name will be listed on the label as the quilter.
- Regardless of the number of quilts you're able to complete each month, your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

## Did you know?

Member groups or individual members in good standing may request a Certificate of Insurance (COI) for events where they will represent the QOVF. To obtain a copy of the Foundation's liability insurance, contact [accounting@QOVF.org](mailto:accounting@QOVF.org) and provide the information below.

- Name of QOVF group or individual requesting the COI.
- Name, phone number, and email address of contact person for QOVF group or individual.
- Name and address of business or event requiring proof of insurance.
- Name, address, phone number, and email address of primary contact of the business requiring proof of insurance.

## 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:

Freedom Bound Quilt Company	Wauseon, OH
Julie's Pins and Needles	Alachua, FL
Prairie Points	Peoria, IL
Sew Always	Paris, TX

We welcome Ohio to the list of states with certified shops.

(Myra Coddens is the QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program Coordinator. Contact Myra at [myra.coddens@qovf.org](mailto: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:** 16,689

**Total: 195,054**

(from date of first award through  
31 August 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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Catherine Roberts

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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 (SCs) go to [www.qovf.org/meet-us/](http://www.qovf.org/meet-us/)

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