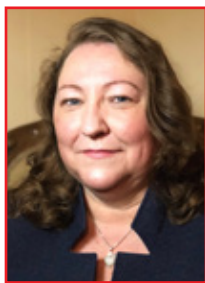


From the Executive Director

By Tammany McDaniel



Tammany McDaniel
Executive Director

November brought a wonderful surprise to QOVF. Missouri Star Quilt Co. (MSQC) launched a giving campaign to support two worthy charitable organizations and QOVF was one of the organizations! MSQC's giving campaign was extremely successful and as a result, QOVF will receive more than 1,000 yards of donated fabric. An announcement will be made later this month sharing details of how the fabric will be distributed. Thank you Missouri Star Quilt Company—MSQC Cares!

Giving Tuesday has also been recently completed. Watch the January 2020 newsletter for a recap of those efforts. QOVF is focusing on year-end giving this month and planning ahead for National Sew Day on Feb. 1, 2020. Year-end giving will target support for local groups and at the national level by asking companies and individuals consider a December 2019 donation to defray upcoming tax burdens. QOVF also encourages groups to request individual member donations in support of our software/platform campaign. With QOVF's growth, there's been an increase in monthly update costs for our membership program. We expect to replace our website very soon, which will in turn positively impact how incoming nominations are tracked.

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**WRAPPED UP IN CHRISTMAS:
A QUILTS OF VALOR TALE**

By Janice Bass

Quilting is in my blood. My mother quilted. My grandmothers quilted. My great-grandmothers quilted. But it wasn't until earlier this year while researching patterns online that I discovered QOVF. My youngest son enlisted in the Army National Guard in November 2018, and I wanted to make a quilt for him. I kept seeing Quilts of Valor, QOV, etc. and researched the organization. I was so impressed at what I discovered, but also a bit blown away. You see, I'm also a multi-published romance author and had sold a sweet romance, *Wrapped Up in Christmas*, to Hallmark Publishing in September 2018, where the heroine donates a quilt to a wounded warrior. I was stunned at how QOVF so perfectly fit my book's vision. I contacted QOVF, shared about my book, and a beautiful relationship began between QOVF, Hallmark, and myself.

At this point, I'd already submitted the completed story, but fortunately I was able to make a few editing tweaks to make my character Sarah's quilt donation fit QOVF guidelines. Hallmark included a quilt pattern and information about Quilts of Valor in the book. The book released October 1, 2019, and has been on the bestseller list at Amazon, Wal-Mart, and Barnes & Noble. This thrills my heart for so many reasons, not the least of which is that *Wrapped Up in Christmas's* success has garnered national attention for a cause that I whole-heartedly believe in.

From the beginning, *Wrapped Up in Christmas* has been a wonderful



Readers will be charmed by the QOV story woven into Janice Lynn's holiday romance book, "Wrapped up in Christmas."

experience, a bit of a dream, really. Besides how well the book has sold and the obvious awesomeness of being involved with Hallmark, I was recently invited to Universal Studios in Hollywood. On November 7, a Hallmark Publishing Facebook Live broadcast aired, during which I had the opportunity to talk about the book and QOVF. The next day, I had the honor of being a guest on Hallmark Channel's Home & Family talk show and was able to discuss QOVF with host Cameron Mathison. Hallmark has advertised *Wrapped Up in Christmas* at several quilt/sewing expos and the book was reviewed in *Woman's World* magazine in the December 5th issue. It's been an exciting few months and I feel as if I'm living in a Hallmark movie where the writer gets to live her dream of making a difference in the world and

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National Sew Day on February 1, 2020, will be an exciting event featuring local door prizes and giveaways. There will be one nationwide grand prize of a Janome 3160QQV. Each group and state has been planning local door prizes as well. National Sew Day registration opens December 16, 2019. Last year, 4,023 participants registered, and we're anticipating more this year. We also are pleased to note the growth of businesses hosting events for their employees.

The votes are in and the winner of the Alternate Color Block Challenge is the Prairie Points group in Illinois. Kelly Harvey and her group designed the "Shooting Stars of Freedom" block. Instructions and templates are coming soon. Congratulations, what a great block!



The 2020 Projected Budget has been submitted to the QOVF Board of Directors for review. The budget includes an increase in membership and related expenses, the necessary expense of upgrading/replacing software and related platforms, and the recent changes in postal rates. The QOVF Store, which has been offline since a malware attack, will be impacted greatly by the new USPS 2020 rates. A recommendation of how best to handle the store will be submitted in December. Watch for announcements on the new opportunity to come in January. We regret that the store was unable to come back online in 2019.

With regards to QOVF merchandise, we've sought and received feedback on the types of products you'd like to have available. New merchandise is starting to arrive which includes new interior support magnets, logo tote bags, a newly designed "Thank You" card, a new challenge coin, and a logo pendant (nickel-free). As was discussed

during site visits and through emails, we envision a wholesale purchase area in the Members Only section where standard logo supplies will be available for drawdown from your group funds. The public, retail section will feature brand products such as coffee mugs, mist bottles, templates, and other goods.

As we close this year, it is important to say "THANK YOU" to each and every one of you. This first year flew by and so much growth occurred—it has been a whirlwind. We also faced challenges and setbacks; some systems didn't perform well and some new efforts were not successful. But we also succeeded in many areas, too. QOVF brought in new commercial ventures to build financial capacity. We found FREE fabric. And on that note, I'll close for the year again thanking a great donor, Missouri Star Quilt Co. Because of their generosity and outreach, more FREE fabric is coming soon.



Author Janice Lynn got to share the QOVF story with host Cameron Mathison on Hallmark Channel's "Home & Family" talk show.

having success—all while married to her personal hero, working as a nurse, and quilting every chance she gets.

My goal is to continue to raise awareness of QOVF through this book, future books, through personal QOV donations, and, hopefully, if the stars align properly, a Hallmark Channel movie of *Wrapped Up in Christmas*. If you haven't had a chance to read *Wrapped*

Up in Christmas, the book is available at Wal-Mart, Barnes & Noble, Target, Amazon, Hallmark stores, and most places books are sold. I hope as you read Sarah and Bodie's story that begins around a QOV that the story makes your heart happy and that you are uplifted in the wonderful work each of you do through your involvement with QOVF.

GUESS TO WIN: WHERE'S TAMMANY?



We don't yet have a winner. Thank you to everyone who took a guess at my location in the November issue. Here is another hint. Keep those guesses coming. In mid-October, I stopped several times on my drive from Albuquerque, NM, to Birmingham, AL. I did not stray from the most direct route. The first group to e-mail me with the correct location of this picture will earn \$150 (deposited into their group account).

MULTINATIONAL QOV AWARDING

Information provided by Susan Skuda, Carefree QOV Group Leader

On QOVF National Sew Day in February 2019, fourteen people representing three nations came together for a fun day of sewing and socializing. In a little more than three hours, blocks to make eight QOV tops had been sewn. The day was such a success, the group asked to continue working together to make QOVs. The seeds of Carefree QOV Group in Winter Haven, FL, were planted.

Most of the group's members returned back to their northern homes for the summer months. Two participants joined their local Quilts of Valour Canada chapters. Many continued to make blocks and tops across the US and Canada. Fabric was gathered, paperwork was filed, quilts were quilted, and tops were made. QOV Canada and QOV United Kingdom agreed to allow us to award quilts on their behalf to veterans of their militaries who winter with us in Carefree, FL. These groups provided fabric, labels, and in some cases long-arm services, and registered the quilts with their respective organizations.

Our happy sewing group came back together for our first workshop as an official QOV group the week before Veterans Day to inspect, sew labels, and register fifteen completed quilts.

On November 11, 2019, Carefree celebrated its annual Veterans Remembrance Day Celebration. For the first time, a QOV awarding became an important part of this beloved and well-attended event. On that memorable day,



The first-ever QOV award ceremonies hosted by the new Carefree QOV Group were both memorable and multinational.

veterans of three countries were awarded Quilts of Valor in gratitude for their service and sacrifice to their respective nations. We were honored to award a QOV to a WWII veteran who made a rare visit from his home to join us that day. A homebound twenty-year USAF veteran was able to join us as well. Honorees served in the British Navy, Canadian Armed Forces, and in four

branches of the US Military. Among them were individuals who were combat wounded, some who suffer PTSD, and one who currently works with Veteran Suicide Prevention. These fifteen veterans had served in conflicts and peacekeeping missions all over the world to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.

Thank you for your service and your sacrifice...and welcome home!

CLOSING IN ON 200 QOVs

Information provided by Mark McGartland

On her last day of teaching in June, 1999, Sue McGartland and her husband Mark moved into their RV. Before pulling away from the curb, they kissed and agreed to try the full-time RV lifestyle for 20 years to see if they liked it before making up their minds. Fast forward to 2006, when Sue discovered

QOVF. It was the beginning of a new passion. As space in the RV was limited, she used the quilt-as-you-go technique, mailing each finished quilt in its own quilted bag made from her fabric scraps.

Alas, 20 years of full-time RVing was not to be for the couple. After a brief eighteen-year stint, Sue and Mark bought a place at an Arizona resort. The key benefits—the resort has a quilting room and a long-arm machine. Needless to say, Sue's production has really

picked up and she is on track to make thirty quilts this year, nearing 200 total.

Sue and Mark still travel during the summer, and one of their 2019 summer stops was to see daughter and son-in-law, Dawn and Karl Schwartz, who formed Bravo Zulu Outdoors, a nonprofit 501(c)3 to provide outdoor camping, kayaking, and fishing to Virginia, Maryland, and DC area veterans and active-duty military. A number of these

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AN INVITATION TO A SPECIAL JANUARY AWARDS CEREMONY

Information provided by Sue Reich, Chair, QOVF Board of Directors

Two exhibits, "A 50 State Salute," and "Old Glory," have graced the galleries of The National Quilt Museum since October 11, 2019. "A 50 State Salute" has traveled 6,774 miles with the American Quilter's Society as a patriotic representation of QOVF.

On January 14, 2020, at 2 pm, more than twenty "50 State Salute" quilts will be awarded at The National Quilt Museum. During the presentation ceremony, veterans and service members who have been touched by war will be awarded their QOVs. The exhibit features quilts made in patriotic designs from the simple to complex by young beginning quilters in the "Under Our Wings" program who were paired with experienced members who have been making QOVs for many years. These quilts are meant to inspire all levels of quilters and showcase the many possibilities for expressing gratitude to our military through quilts.

Please join us for this second QOV award ceremony at The National Quilt Museum. The first event occurred in November, 2015. QOVF is most grateful to The National Quilt Museum for their commitment to honoring our nation's veterans and military and our QOVF/NQM partnership as we continue the mission to "provide military and service members touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor."

Please RSVP to sue.reich@qovf.org if you're interested in attending.



PICTURE PERFECT

Information provided by Kay Livermont, South Dakota State Coordinator

The South Dakota State Capitol showcases themed Christmas trees every year and this year QOV Flag Mountain Honor Guard Group of Pierre, SD, had the pleasure of decorating one special tree, featuring QOV award photos. Take a look! The tree will be on display through the 2019 holiday season. All the ornaments were made from the group's QOV fabric scrap bin and they included pictures from the last two years of awards (with recipients' permission, of course). If your holiday travels take you nearby, check out how great the Quilts of Valor tree at the Capitol looks!

200 Quilts continued from page 3

men and women have PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and other physical and mental issues. Much of what service members are dealing with is not visible, but present nonetheless. These low-key outdoor events are offered not only to military members and veterans, but also to their families, including children, as a way to heal and reconnect with each other and nature.

On one July 2019 weekend, Sue's QOVs (numbers 191, 192, and 193 respectively) were awarded to Millie, with more than 23 years of service; Terry, with 33 years of service and 133 jumps; and David with twelve years of military service. The event was one of the few times Sue was present at the awarding of QOVs she made.

"Not only are my mom's quilts works of art, they really do comfort and heal," Dawn said. "Not only the recipients, but also their family members, are touched by the effort and beauty that make up these QOVs. They show that Americans do care about what our service members have been through and that we are grateful for their sacrifices. Thank you, mom, for modeling greatness, gratitude, and giving back."



Dawn Schwartz, left, and Sue McGartland, right, help a recipient show his QOV (#192) that was presented at a Bravo Zulu Outdoors event in July.



The upcoming "50 State Salute" QOV award ceremony culminates a three-month showcase of the exhibit by the same name on display at The National Quilt Museum in Paducah, KY.

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:

Sewing by Sarah/Kelley Holdings	San Anselmo, CA
Bobbins and Boards	Vinton, IA
Wietstock Home Designs	South Bend, IN
Coastal Sew and Vac	Gulfport, MS

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: 31,007

Total: 240,077

(from date of first recorded award through 30 November, 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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