



### From the Executive Director

Happy New Year! That's a statement that often brings to mind pointed party hats, colorful streamers, and sparkling glasses of champagne—a time to look forward to new beginnings and anticipation of what may come. New Year's Day was established by Julius Caesar to recognize Janus, the Roman god of doors and gates. Janus had two faces, one looking forward and one looking back.



*Ann Rehbein,  
Executive Director*

Looking back over the past year, much has been accomplished. Membership has grown, more than

24,000 Quilts of Valor have been awarded, a valuable and much needed tracking system was introduced, and steps were taken to ensure the future of QOVF.

As we look ahead, we anticipate new members for the Board of Directors as Michelle Leonard, Marianne Fons, and Walt Davis have fulfilled their terms. We also look forward to National Sew Day on February 3, and the Annual Conference in May.

A New Year is also a time of reflection and resolutions and a perfect time for us to reflect on and renew our commitment to the Quilt of Valor Core Values, which are a permanent section of the QOVF Policies Manual. Our core values identify standards of conduct for all associated with the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

Our core values are:

#### **Treating people with respect**

We honor all faiths and beliefs, striving for inclusivity.

#### **Promoting excellence**

We put the best possible workmanship and materials into every quilt we make so it will be a lasting award for the person it is meant to comfort.

#### **Valuing service over self**

Quilts of Valor recipients come first.

#### **Being Accountable**

We are accountable for our actions to our recipients, our supporters, our donors, and our fellow volunteers.

Please join with me in renewing your pledge of commitment to the core values of QOVF, and until next time, quilt in peace and happiness, knowing you are making a difference.

### Welcome Michelle Nelson

The QOVF Board of Directors is pleased to introduce the foundation's new treasurer, Michelle Nelson of Converse, TX. Michelle has been a volunteer with Quilts of Valor since 2013 and is an avid quilter. As a veteran of the US Air Force, Michelle served as a Russian linguist and earned an Associate's Degree in Public Service with a major in paralegal. She has more than 15 years of paralegal and bookkeeping experience and has held various board positions for a variety of entities. Michelle is also a military spouse and mother of two. Please join me in welcoming Michelle to the QOVF Board. She can be contacted at [Michelle.nelson@QOVF.org](mailto:Michelle.nelson@QOVF.org).

A graphic for National Sew Day. It features a black silhouette of a sewing machine with a colorful quilt block in front of it. The text 'National Sew Day' is in red and blue, with five stars below it. 'February 3, 2018' is written vertically on the right. The entire graphic is enclosed in a dashed blue border.

Plan ahead and mark your calendars! Find the latest information on the QOVF [blog](#) page.

## BOARD MEMBERS RETIRE

By Sue Reich, President, QOVF  
Board of Directors

Outstanding dedication to Quilts of Valor Foundation at the board level over the past eight years can be best summed up with the contribution of three members: Marianne Fons, Major General (Retired) Walt Davis, and Michelle Leonard.

Marianne came to QOVF from a stellar career in quilting industry and publishing world. Walt's path to QOVF included his long, distinguished service to our country in the US Army. Michelle balanced her work with the board alongside her full-time position as a Certified Public Accountant with a Winterset, IA, firm. The accelerated growth and success of QOVF can be partially attributed to the guidance and support of these three valuable individuals, and their continual focus on the mission of QOVF "covering service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor."



*The board of directors met in Winterset, Iowa for their face-to-face board meeting in December. Pictured are: (back row: Walt Davis, June Moore, Ann Rehbein, Renelda Peldunas-Harter, Marianne Fons; front row: Michelle Leonard, Mary Persyn, Elizabeth Nolan, and Sue Reich.)*

Michelle welcomed a beautiful daughter, Audrey Violet, in early November 2017. Marianne and Walt finished their terms on the QOVF Board of Directors at the end of 2017. Though

all will be missed as board members, each will undoubtedly continue to be loyal advocates as we move QOVF forward.

Thank you, Marianne, Walt, and Michelle. We extend best wishes in your future endeavors.

## 2018 Block Drive

The 2018 Quilts of Valor Block Drive features a beginner-friendly Friendship Star with a pinwheel center. The purpose of the national block drive is to give individuals or groups who wish to make just a few blocks, but not assemble a quilt, to have their block(s) made into QOVs across the nation. These blocks can be assembled many ways into a QOV. Our hope is to assist State Coordinators with blocks to help fill requests not covered by local groups.

Once completed, please send your finished Friendship Star blocks to the Block Drive Coordinator for distribution nationwide. Blocks received by May 1, 2018, will be distributed at QOVF National Conference to State Coordinators based on the number of blocks received from their states. If you wish to keep the blocks you make in your group, you may do so. Please report the total number of blocks your group makes to [suzanne.dicarlo@QOVF.org](mailto:suzanne.dicarlo@QOVF.org) so a final tally can be shared at the conclusion of the National Conference in May 2018.



Ready to get started? Instructions and mailing information can be found [here](#).

## QOV "FLOAT" IN IDAHO PARADE

Information provided by Lana Trout,  
Palouse Patchers Group Leader

This past summer, members of the Troy (Idaho) Historical Society and Palouse Patchers QOV group combined forces to feature Quilts of Valor during the July 8 Troy Days parade. The "float" was a 1947 Lincoln convertible. Four veterans who had previously received QOVs displayed them from the car. Three more veterans were awarded during the special weekend.

Group Leader Lana Trout and Barb Crossler, a member of the historical society and DAR, coordinated the effort. Six additional QOVs have been awarded to Troy veterans since the summer event.



Awarded during 2017 "Troy Days," were Billy Parkins, who served in the US Army from 1951–1954 as a 155MM Howitzer Cannoneer and as an ambulance driver; James "Dick" Olson, who served in the US Navy from 1955–1958; and Orville Davidson, who served in the US Army from 1943–1945, during WWII. (Photo by Leann Brocke. Used with permission.)



QOV recipients Dwight Zeller, Kim Smith, Bruce Asplund, and Gary Potratz (driving) display their quilts from an elegant ride. (Photo by Barb Crossler. Used with permission.)



### SAVE THE DATE FOR MAY 2018

Plan ahead and mark your calendarsnow! Save the dates—May 19 & 20—for the 2018 Annual QOVF Conference!

This year's conference will be held at the Bay Watch Resort and Conference Center in North Myrtle Beach, SC. Details and reservation information is to come, but for now, keep the dates open.

We'd love to have you join us!



## QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

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

MNM Creations & Quilt Shop	El Dorado, AR
Sewing Machine.com	West Point, GA
Sweet Stitches Quilt Shop	Chesterton, IN
Rossville Quilts & Bernina	Rossville, IN
Prairie Point Quilt & Fabric Shop	Shawnee, KS
The Old Creamery Fabrics & Quilting	Ellisburg, NY
Quilt With Passion	Oswego, NY
The Quilt Company	Allison Park, PA
Poppy Quilt N Sew	Georgetown, TX

These additions represent the first shops in Kansas, New York and Vermont to register! Our Certified Quilt Shop program now has 87 shops in 36 states.

For shops that have been certified for one year now, renewals are coming due. Shop owners should coordinate with QOV Group Leaders to be certain renewal forms are submitted.

(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

**Total: 178,365**

(as of 31 Dec. 2017)

*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

**QOVF Founder and Board Member Emeritus**  
Catherine Roberts

**Board Member Emeritus**  
Eric McCarty  
Marianne Fons  
Walt Davis

**Board of Directors**  
Sue Reich, Chair  
June Moore, Secretary/Historian  
Michelle Nelson, Treasurer  
Elizabeth Nolan, Fundraising  
Renelda Peldunas-Harter, Member  
Mary Persyn, Member

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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 <https://www.qovf.org/meet-us/>

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### Newsletter

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