



From the Executive Director

April showers bring May flowers! I'm wondering what April snowstorms bring? For many of you, the spring weather has been unpredictable and cold. One great advantage that I've seen in your comments on social media is that you can spend more time quilting! Volunteering to make QOVs is a passion expressed through your photos, comments, and emails. Share your accomplishments by visiting QOVF's Facebook page [here](#) and thank YOU so much for being a part of the QOVF family.



*Ann Rehbein,
Executive Director*

In just a few short days, the QOVF Annual Conference will be history. If

you were unable to attend in person, all information shared will be available on the web site for members to view at their leisure. Sign on to the "Members Only" section to access this information.

Armed Forces Day is May 19, 2018. President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. Many QOVF award ceremonies are being planned for that day. It's a great day to honor those men and women who have sacrificed so much for the freedoms we enjoy today. We also owe a great deal to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Memorial Day will be commemorated on May 28, 2018, and there are ceremonies across the nation. I encourage you to take time to pause and reflect on those sacrifices as you enjoy the official kick-off to summer.

The long awaited Quilts of Valor book entitled, *Quilts of Valor—a 50 State Salute*, is now available for preorder [here](#). This book explains the history of military quilts since our nation's beginning and features a QOV to represent each of our 50 states. Also included are 16 quilt patterns to choose from. The 16 quilts will be displayed at the 2018 Annual Conference. At the conclusion of the conference, the quilts will tour with AQS shows until 2019 when they end their journey on display at the National Quilt Museum. From there, the QOVs will be awarded. Many QOVF groups and State Coordinators will also have the book available. Contact them for ordering information.

Until next time, quilt in peace and happiness, knowing you are making a difference.

TWO EAGLE SCOUTS CHOOSE QOV PROJECTS

Information provided by Nancy Cann and Lauren Polenske-Murphy.

In the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) program, the Eagle Scout Project is the culmination of a scout's leadership training. The object is to plan a community service project and see it through to completion. Such projects require significant organizational and follow-through effort on the part of the participant. Over the past two years, two young men chose Quilts of Valor as the focus of their Eagle Projects.

Jack Cann of Kentucky (whose mom Nancy is our Kentucky State Coordinator) organized a QOV block drive. He

provided participants with pattern instructions for Friendship Star blocks, with a goal of three QOVs. Participants could mail blocks directly to Jack or drop them off at two Lexington-area quilt shops that supported his project. He fundraised over \$400 and sought nonmonetary donations (backs and bindings) to complete the quilts.

Jack closed his project at twelve quilts, though eventually a total of fifteen were made—with sew-day help from Quilts of Valor—Central Kentucky and the Quilters Guild of the Bluegrass. Three award ceremonies took place—one at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Frankfort, KY, one in Scott County as part of a larger QOV celebration, and the third at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Jack's project



Kentuckian Jack Cann awards one of fifteen QOVs completed as part of his Eagle Scout project.

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has been submitted for national level competition.

Illinois Scout Sean Murphy's project involved overseeing the design, assembly, and completion of seven QOVs for a group of Vietnam War veterans. Using a GoFundMe campaign and numerous coupons and discounts, Sean raised the \$800 needed for materials. He enlisted the help of approximately 20 people to assist in the creation of the quilts, including an area Girl Scout troop, teaching members the basics so they could create one of the quilts.

The veteran recipients were members of a PTSD group at Edwards Hines, Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, IL. At the Chicago-area award ceremony, recipients shared



Chicago Area Scout Sean Murphy's Eagle Scout Project involved the creation and award of seven QOVs.

memories with Sean and his family about their service and the military branch in which they served.



Sean Murphy, second from left, not only coordinated his Eagle Scout Project but was a hands-on participant—cutting fabric, pinning, and piecing the quilts by machine. Above, recipients display their quilts.

SPECIAL THANKS TO DEBRA COPPA

By Ann Rehbein

Debra Coppa, QOVF Individual Request Coordinator, has retired from that position to spend more time traveling with her family. As an organization, we want to thank Debra for more than three years of service volunteering for QOVF. She was

instrumental in keeping track of the thousands of requests received each year.

We wish you the best in your future, Debra, and thank you for everything you have done to help our volunteers work the mission of Quilts of Valor!

Please note that Janice Lewis has assumed responsibility for this position going forward and may be reached at janice.lewis@qovf.org.

HOLLADAY QUILTERS QOV CHALLENGE

Information Provided by Karen Post.

Alice Sundquist was the spunkiest 99-year-old in the Holladay Quilters Guild in Holladay, UT. Actually, she was the only 99-year-old in our quilt guild. Alice lived alone, took care of herself, and at age 95 bought herself a top-of-the-line Bernina so she could become a better quilter! She drove until she was 97, and every year she made eight or more hand-quilted QOVs and sent them off. It was with great excitement that she looked forward to celebrating her 100th birthday on December 13, 2017.

Her fellow guild members were also excited. The Holladay Quilters Guild was planning a big celebration for Alice's birthday. Members made a red, white, and blue friendship quilt for her in honor of her 100th birthday and to recognize all the QOVs she had made for so many years. Then the unthinkable happened. Four days before her birthday, Alice fell, broke her femur and spent her 100th birthday in the hospital. And 15 days later, she passed away.

Grief and admiration are expressed in many ways and, in their grief, the quilt guild wanted to honor Alice in the best way possible. So a challenge was given—that as many members as possible make a QOV by the end of 2017, and the quilts would be awarded in Alice's name.

The challenge quilts from the Holladay Quilters Guild were presented at their 2017 Christmas party. Nineteen members stepped up to the challenge—all because of a spirited little white-haired lady who believed in one enormous cause—and led the way. Her interminable spirit lives on!



To honor the memory of Alice Sundquist of Holladay, UT, her fellow quilt guild members created 19 QOVs to be awarded in her name.

**GETTING TO KNOW:
Janice Lewis**

My name is Janice Lewis, and I am the QOVF Individual Request and Destination Coordinator. I've held the position for just more than a year and finally feel comfortable in my role. I appreciate the opportunity to share what I do and what I need from you.

As Destination Coordinator, I find homes for your finished quilts with recipients in our Continuing Destinations facilities. These facilities range from overseas hospitals, to stateside veteran's hospitals, to hospice facilities, where many WWII veterans are. There is a great need at these facilities, and the quilts we provide help in the healing process of our veterans. Our facilities do beautiful award ceremonies and usually add their own gifts along with the quilt awards provided by you. In order for this service to continue, more quilts are needed through the Destination process.

At right is a chart showing 2017 QOV requests and fulfillment numbers. Because I took over the position officially in late March 2017, please note that the first three months are estimates*.

As the chart reveals, we were unable to fulfill all requests completely during any month in 2017—though we got close a couple of times. I know many QOV groups work specifically for their local facilities or veterans groups, and that is great. However, with so many groups working on quilts, I am hopeful we can get more QOVs to the worthy veterans

Month	# Requested	# Assigned	Shortage/Surplus
JAN17*	102	31	-71
FEB17*	102	42	-60
MAR17*	116	24	-92
APR17	116	49	-67
MAY17	99	45	-54
JUN17	98	95	- 3
JUL17	102	74	-28
AUG17	87	53	-34
SEP17	92	89	- 3
OCT17	82	42	-40
NOV17	77	58	-19
DEC17	77	17	-60

in the Destinations' facilities.

If I had one wish, it would be that each of the 400 QOV groups provide Destinations with at least one quilt per quarter. With that number of QOVs, we could fulfill monthly requests, and perhaps add more facilities to our list.

Please understand how important it is to make sure your group is using the tracking system we have in place. There is no stockpile of quilts and there is a constant backlog of requests. Getting all quilts into the system is critical to making sure QOVs are being awarded promptly.

If you have not used the system, here are the steps for requesting a destination:

- On the home page under the tab "Take Action," select "Request a Destination."

- A page will come up describing what needs to be done before a destination can be requested. If all the criteria have been met, click on "Request a Destination." A form to fill out will open.
- I will receive the form and will send you the information on where to send your quilt.

I would love to hear your feedback. Perhaps with some brainstorming we can come up with a solution to the shortages we currently face. Contact me at Janice.Lewis@QOVF.org. If you prefer to speak by phone, please email me and we can set up a time for me to call you.

I am proud to work with such a wonderful group of volunteers and look forward to meeting many of you in the future. Keep up the good work, and quilt on my friends!

**NATIONAL GRANGE
PARTNERS WITH
UNDER OUR WINGS**
By Sandra Chambers

Under Our Wings® (UOW) is growing across our country! National Grange, a community organization with its roots in agriculture, unveiled their partnership with UOW at their National Conference in March 2018. This exciting partnership is nationwide and will involve the Junior Grange program for youth in their organization. This national organization is family

based and can be found in rural, suburban, and urban communities.

The UOW program allows Grange members to create quilts and present them to veterans in their communities, or in the organization, and teach the art of quilting to novices and young people while completing this meaningful community service.

Chris Hamp, National Grange Director/Lecturer stated, "The conference was a success! Our state presidents and national officers were very enthusiastic about the collaboration with QOVF and UOW!"

Learn more about National Grange,



WWW.QOVF.ORG/WINGS

their mission, and locations by visiting their website, www.nationalgrange.org. Look for a National Grange organization in your community!

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:

Happy Apple Quilts	Tampa, FL
Sewing & Embroidery Works	Park City, KS
Country Quilting by Design	Plains, KS
Among Friends Quilt & Sewing Center	Louisville, KY
Bits & Pieces	Hannibal, MO
Fabric Plus	Marshall, MN
Patty's Heart	Lubbock, TX
Stitchin' Heaven	Mineola, TX

Our program now has 109 shops in 37 states. We continue to refine and improve our process for registering and renewing Certified Quilt Shops. To reduce confusion, throughout the next year the QOVF Group and QOVF Certified Quilt Shop renewal dates will be aligned to the same date, regardless of when a shop originally registered. Have questions? Please ask.

(Myra Coddens is the QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program Coordinator. Contact Myra at 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: 7,509

Total: 185,874

(from date of first award through 30 April 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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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 (SCs) go to www.qovf.org/meet-us/

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Newsletter

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