From the Executive Director

“If you can’t feed a hundred people, then just feed one.” This advice from Mother Theresa could also be, “If you can’t make a hundred blocks, then just make one.” Every contribution, whether it be one block, one quilt, or a hundred quilts, contributes to the success of QOVF. Thank you for your contributions—one block, $1, or 100 quilts, $10,000—each is greatly appreciated.

Ann Rehbein, Executive Director

Spring quilts shows have begun, and QOVF will be represented at many of them. Check out the QOVF calendar to find an event near you. In many instances, these exhibit booths are offered to QOVF free of charge, and we are grateful to those companies that graciously give space for an exhibit. We will also be exhibiting at the Army Aviation Association of America (QuadA) Conference in Nashville and The American Legion National Convention in Minneapolis.

Are you interested in volunteering a few hours extra? QOVF is currently seeking one or two volunteers to help with membership mailings. The heavy workload period is October through March. If you are interested, contact me at ann.rehbein@qovf.org or Jackie Dudek, Membership Coordinator, at jackie.dudek@qovf.org.

Have you been doing some spring planting? Another verse comes to mind, a variation on, “Whatever you sow, so shall you reap.” I am always touched by the thank-you letters sent to QOVF from recipients who have reaped the benefits of what you do. Those thank-yous belong to you, also reaping what you have sown (or sewn!).

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

HENRY BLOCK, QOV RECIPIENT AT AGE 95
By Cynthia Parry

Not long ago, my husband Mark and I attended a cocktail party honoring the 95th birthday of Henry Bloch and celebrating the publication of a new biography about him (Henry is the “H” in H&R Block). We were included because Mark is a professor at the Bloch School of Business at the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

At the event, during a presentation about Navigating a Life; Henry Bloch in World War II, by John Herron (a professor at UMKC’s Department of History) and Mary Ann Wynkoop, I learned that Mr. Bloch (among his accomplishments) served as navigator on more than 30 WWII B-17 missions. Though I provide six QOVs every year Henry Bloch, the “H” in H&R Block, and a WWII veteran, received his QOV from Cynthia Parry in his office in Kansas City.

Continued on page 2
THE LAST MAN STANDING AWARDED QOV

By Jeff Thorne

Rare it is that one has the occasion to meet the first or last of anything. Collectively, we allow life to pass too quickly to fully experience what is present and then we bemoan a loss.

One cool autumn night, our mission was to honor and comfort Retired Sergeant Major Albert Slugocki, U. S. Army—the last known surviving member of the honor guard President Kennedy created.

His story is one of passion to serve, to protect, defend, and defeat the invaders of his homeland—Poland. Albert came to America to escape the takeover of his native country. His calling was to join the U.S. military to fight for freedom of his people and those yearning for freedom around the globe.
GETTING TO KNOW:
Suzanne Di Carlo

What’s happening with my request?
Where do I find . . . ? How do I . . . ?
Answering these questions is all in a
day’s work for the Information and
Help Desk at QOVF. Last year there
were more than 5,800 requests for
information through the QOVF website.
Volunteer Suzanne DiCarlo enjoys
helping and informing people about
QOVF, which is why she volunteers for
the position.

“I connect individuals with the right
person, if I cannot answer their inquiry
myself. The largest numbers of requests
center around the following: where is my
request, what’s going on with it, did you
get it, I haven’t heard from anyone. As
groups it is vital that we communicate
when a request is assigned to us. It gives
the requestor key information about
who we are, and lets them know that we
are the local contact for their request. It
allows us to gather information to make
the award personal and allows others to
know we are working on their request.

“Information is important. The
QOVF website and this newsletter
are our vehicles to communicate. All
members have their own sign in and
can access the Members Only page to
find out what’s new and where our most
often used forms are located. It’s the way
we communicate and let members know
how to order items, and what’s newly
available.

“My favorite part of this role is when
I receive a thank you from a recipient.
Sometimes recipients don’t know who
to thank or how to get in touch with
them. It keeps me centered on why we
do QOVs. I do my best to pass them on,
researching where and who awarded the
QOV. Our volunteers are great people
doing acts of kindness. Please consider
writing and sharing stories so we all
know about your group’s efforts.

“Special thanks to all the staff and
State Coordinators who help answer
questions and disseminate information
to individuals and groups. It is
important that we communicate who
QOVF is, what we do, and keep our
image a positive one.”

Thanks for sharing your role in QOVF
Suzanne. Need more information? This is the
Help Desk link.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR
2018 QOVF ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
By Ann Rehbein

Registration for the QOV National
Conference, May 19-20, 2018, is now
open. For details and to sign up please
complete the registration form available
on our website (www.QOVF.org). The
registration fee is $100.00 for members
and $125.00 for non-members. This is
going to be a fun-filled conference full
of ideas, discussions, and surprises! We
look forward to seeing you at the QOV
National Conference in beautiful North
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina!

To reserve your room for conference
please call the Baywatch Resort at 877-
779-7379 and ask for the Quilts of Valor
room block. The rooms are discounted
for our group. A deposit is required
to reserve a room, and the balance is
due at check-in. Gather your friends,
come to the beach, and join us for a fun
conference!

HELP WANTED: ARE WE
LOOKING FOR YOU?

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few hours extra? QOVF is currently
seeking one or two volunteers to help
with membership mailings. The heavy
workload is from October–March. If you
are interested, contact Ann Rehbein at
ann.rehbein@qovf.org or Jackie Dudek,
Membership Coordinator at jackie.
dudek@qovf.org

Do you enjoy writing? A wealth of
stories come to QOVF through emails
about local events. A writer is needed
to organize the narrative, put it into
the newsletter’s format and voice, fact
check it with the originator, and obtain
photo images. Sound like you? For more
information about writing for QOVF
Threads, contact ann.rehbein@qovf.org.

2018 STAR SPANGLED
EVENING BENEFIT

All proceeds go to the Quilts of Valor®
Foundation to support, honor, and
comfort U.S. veterans and active duty
service members.

Thursday evening, May 17, 2018

6 PM Cocktails and “Silent” Auction
Preview

7 PM Dinner and Short Presentation
followed by the fun, Not-So-
Silent Auction

Bay Watch Resort & Conference Center
2701 S. Ocean Blvd., North Myrtle
Beach, SC

Register at
https://www.qovf.org/events/

Enjoy an evening of getting to know us at Quilts of Valor Foundation
with cocktails, dinner, music and a short informational presentation
while meeting local veterans and service members.

Evening or Business Attire: Look & Feel YOUR Best!
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.

Quilts Reported
2012: 6,169
2013: 12,314
2014: 17,373
2015: 18,772
2016: 19,051
2017: 24,009
2018: 5,564
Total: 183,929
(from date of first award through 31 March 2018)

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:

Lucky Quilt Company  Pecatonica, IL
Quilter’s Square  Lexington, KY
MidSouth Sewing Center  Murfreesboro, TN

Our program now has 100 shops in 38 states.
(Myra Coddens is the QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program Coordinator. Contact Myra at myra.coddens@qovf.org.)

QOVF Core Values
Treating people with respect • Promoting excellence • Valuing service over self • Being accountable

Mailing Address:
Quilts of Valor Foundation
PO Box 191
Winterset, IA 50273

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

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Jennifer Keltner, Managing Editor
Tony Jacobson, Graphic Designer

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