From the Executive Director

The 2017 Annual QOVF Conference is now in the history book, and what a memorable event it was. Among the 101 registrants were our special guests from Quilts of Valour Canada, President Mary Ewing, and Joanne Arthurs.

Each day started with an award ceremony organized by Jeff Thorne with quilts provided by the MSP Quilting Angels of Germantown, MD. Both ceremonies were amazing and I cannot thank Jeff enough for taking that task on and for his amazing photography throughout the conference.

I will let the photos tell the story, but one of the highlights was the attendees telling their personal stories of their involvement with QOV and what our mission personally means to them. Our guest speaker, Aliza Sherman, spoke of the essential need for self-care among those who are driven by a passion for an important mission. She later spoke on social media basics for success. She is the author of eleven books—check her out.

Sue Reich, QOVF board president, updated the group on the book featuring QOV quilts which will be published this year. She also presented a delightful history of patriotic quilts and what the valuation of a QOV might be.

Program updates and enhancements were provided in breakout sessions by the program directors and coordinators. All did a fabulous job and my thanks to them for their hard work.

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their participation. Attendees were given all program handouts on a flash drive, and members can find the information on the Members Only page at QOVF.org. Beth and Gene Sizemore of Tennessee did a phenomenal job describing the steps a QOV group should take to prepare for a grant request. The Sizemores’ successful grant campaigns have profited their group by more than $5000!

You may have already noticed the changes to the QOV web site www.QOVF.org. Dawn Gifford, our IT Director, deserves full credit for the enhancements and productivity additions. She has invested hundreds of hours in the process, and thanks are simply not enough for the job she has done. Look elsewhere in the newsletter for details.

A fun addition to the conference was pizza with Tony Jacobson, our own graphic designer, but more importantly a quilt designer in his own right and manager Piece Works quilt shop in Winterset, IA. He has designed three super new patterns for QOV and is donating 20% of the sales back to QOV. Tony also demonstrated some fun techniques to make piecing easier.

Set in the beautiful foothills of the Rockies, at the base of Pikes Peak, the 2017 Annual Conference was successful not only because of the wonderful, dedicated staff members, but because of the attendees. It was a pleasure to meet each of you, hear your stories, answer your questions. Working together we can achieve much. Thanks for the memories.

Board Members were in session most of Sunday, the day before Conference began.

Myra Coddens and Mr. Jesse Tabron, USA/ Vietnam Veteran.

John “Sonny” Sonnichsen, USAF, Gulf War Veteran.

Displayed in the Conference meeting room were the quilts that make up the “Old Glory” exhibit curated by collector and historian Mary Kerr. All ten are vintage tops machine quilted by longarmers with military connections. Read more about this exhibit benefitting QOVF here.

Col. Russ Long, USA (ret.) and Mrs. Long. Charles “Pat” Smith, USA/Vietnam. Myra Coddens. Myra Coddens, Ms. Millicent “Millie” Young WASP, WWII.

Suzanne DiCarlo, Vicky Pettis, USA, 1st Panama & Gulf War, Myra Coddens. Ms. Helen Rydell, WAC, WWII, Suzanne DiCarlo

Col. Russ Long, USA (ret.) and Mrs. Long. Charles “Pat” Smith, USA/Vietnam.

Myra Coddens, Chris Hamley, Guest Services (Hotel Eleganté) Suzanne DiCarlo.
(Photos above and left) A highlight of Conference was when the microphone was passed from hand to hand down every row of participants. Each told his or her own QOVF story. All were enjoyable. Many were amazing. Our guests from Quilts of Valour Canada spoke to an attentive audience. ary Ewing and Joanne Arthurs are shown in the far upper left photo.

To see even more photos from the 2017 Quilts of Valor Conference click here.
(Above) Presenters both days informed and inspired all who traveled to Colorado to participate. (Left) Author Aliza Sherman clued us on the importance of self-care to keep our hearts, minds, and bodies in balance in service to our mission.

Board member Walt Davis presented board member Marianne Fons with framed Challenge and Service Coins for “extraordinary and enduring contributions to the Quilts of Valor Foundation and to the veterans and service members it serves.”
(Above) Day One awardees are pictured with friends and family who came to be a part of their special day. (Left) Day Two awardees wrapped in their Quilts of Valor.

Between “Pizza with Tony” and Tony Jacobson’s terrific presentation, photographer Jeff Thorne gathered participants for a group photo.
A New Look for
www.QOVF.org
By Dawn Gifford, QOVF IT Director

QOVF is pleased to announce the launch of our brand new website! After months of hard work and dedication, we are delighted to officially announce the June 2017 launch. The site is available at www.QOVF.org.

QOVF’s goal with this improved and updated website is to provide visitors an easier way to learn about Quilts of Valor, how to get involved with our mission, and to encourage their support of QOVF. This site is interactive and provides improved ways to learn about the mission as well as a simplified way to request a QOV.

Among many new features, the site contains integrated social media buttons for Facebook, Twitter, and our blog to foster improved communication with members. Content will be constantly updated with helpful information, articles, blogs, newsletters, announcements, and event information. You will find several compelling new video clips from QOVF II; we sincerely thank Iowa Public Television for the use of this content.

Two new programs are rolling out with the new site:
• Under Our Wings will provide more resources to bring young people to the art of quilting and show them the satisfaction of community service.
• Generations of Service offers a creative, beautiful way to honor and salute all veterans, living and deceased, for their service and sacrifices. Generations of Service is an online, virtual photo album featuring individual service members, their branches of service, and their service dates, for all to see. For a contribution of $100, anyone can honor a special service member from among family, friends, or ancestors. Funds raised through Generations of Service will be used mindfully to further the work of QOVF, continuing our mission to offer comforting and healing QOVs to those touched by war.

With the new website, we are also rolling out a new tracking system for all of the QOV requests. Information on the new tracking system “Trello” was introduced at conference. All State Coordinators have been invited to join our Trello board. Introductory training materials accompanied the invitation. There will be additional training sessions and communications on the use of Trello in the near future.

Please delete all previous bookmarks to the old site. Access the new site directly using www.QOVF.org in your browser.

We hope you find the new website easier to access information and friendlier to use. For any questions, suggestions, feedback, or comments, please use the Help Desk button at the bottom of the new www.QOVF.org home page. Thank you!

A Comforting Final Day
Information provided by Barbara Gates, Hunterdon County Quilting Guild

Tuesday, April 4, 2017, was a regularly scheduled meeting day for the Gem Vac Veterans of Glen Gardner, NJ. A group of quilting friends who meet regularly to piece QOVs for local deserving veterans were present at that Tuesday’s meeting to award a QOV.

Sgt. Michael Morretti served in the US Army Air Corps as a staff sergeant in Squadron D, 140th Army Air Force Unit, during World War II, receiving several citations and decorations, including a Purple Heart, Air Medal, American Theater Ribbon, EAME Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal. His fellow veterans and friends felt he was most deserving of a QOV award.

On that Tuesday morning, 95-year-old Mike wasn’t feeling well, but he would never miss a Gem Vac Veterans’ meeting unless he was in the hospital. When the quilters arrived for the presentation of the quilt, they were informed that Mike would not be able to stand for the presentation. So after a short speech, the quilters covered Mike with his QOV as he sat in his chair. It was a proud and happy moment for him.

The next morning, one of the QOV quilters received a phone call informing her that following the ceremony Mike had returned home for lunch, wrapped himself in his QOV for a nap, and peacefully passed away in his sleep. As quilters, we never know what comfort a QOV award will bring. We’re thankful Mike’s QOV award ceremony was held that day.
QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program
By Myra Coddens

Welcome aboard to our newest members of the Certified Quilt Shop Program. As of May, the following shops completed certification:
The Quilt Cache  Eagle River, AK  Village Quilt Shop  Berwick, ME
Colorado Fabrics  Aurora, CO  Aunt Judy's Attic  Silver City, NM
Warm 'n Cozy Quilting  Columbia, IL  Quilting Sew Easy  Gaffney, SC
Dragonfly's Quilt Shop  Bellingham, MA
The Burlington Hotel Quilt Shop  Alma, WI

Our program continues to expand with 61 shops representing 30 states. Please share information with stores in your local areas so we can further grow our list of certified quilt shops.

(Myra Coddens is the QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program Coordinator. Contact Myra at myra.coddens@qovf.org.)

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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Board Member Emeritus
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Renelda Peldunas-Harter, Member
Mary Persyn, Member

Executive Staff
Ann Rehbein, Executive Director
ann.rehbein@QOVF.org
Ginger Fondren, Assistant Executive Director
ginger.fondren@QOVF.org
Jackie Dudek, Director of Membership
jackie.dudek@QOVF.org
elayne.gassett@QOVF.org
Janice Lewis, Destination Coordinator
Janice.lewis@QOVF.org
Debra Coppa, Coordinator of Individual Requests
debra.coppa@QOVF.org
Jeff Thorne, Marketing and Public Relations Director
jeff.thorne@QOVF.org
Suzanne DiCarlo, Information Desk Coordinator
suzanne.dicarlo@QOVF.org
Debra Kaldenberg, Special Events Coordinator
debrakaldenberg@QOVF.org
Jennifer Keltner, Managing Editor
jennifer.keltner@QOVF.org
Myra Coddens, Coordinator of Quilt Shop Relationship Development
myra.coddens@QOVF.org
Dawn Gifford, IT Director
dawn.gifford@QOVF.org
Ginger Fondren, Director of Software Management
ginger.fondren@QOVF.org
Saundra Chambers, Under Our Wings Program Coordinator
saundra.chambers@QOVF.org
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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Newsletter
Ann Rehbein, Editorial Director
Jennifer Keltner, Managing Editor
Tony Jacobson, Graphic Designer

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