



What's in The New Year?

by ED Tammany McDaniel

Increasingly, nonprofit and charitable organizations must answer the question of what value they are providing to their donors, members, or sponsors. When you join our organization, we hope you find support, community, and creative options.



Tammany McDaniel
Executive Director

We believe that as you meet and award QOVs to service members and veterans, you will see a tapestry of human

experience and hear of individual sacrifice for a greater goal. It is our hope this is a satisfying experience which fills you with gratitude and joy.

We are awed by your passion to push forward throughout 2020; we cannot wait to see what happens in 2021. We will continue to adjust to a changing environment, remaining flexible to new situations that arise. Our first big event of 2021 is National Sew Day on February 6. Some of you may need to postpone local plans for public health or weather reasons. We want to hear about your alternate plans and dates so we can share them in local areas.

We will spend time together on February 6 via online meetings and

Facebook posts. We are calling it NSD-V.1. Our day starts at 0900 EST with the Pledge of Allegiance. Our grand prize giveaway is a Janome 3160-QOV; the drawing is open to all registered members in good standing.

We are pleased to welcome [Kimberly Einmo](#) to our Board of Directors (BOD). We are also thankful for the service of Tony Jacobson on the BOD for the past three years. As he steps away from BOD leadership, we are keeping his email open so that he can continue to support the local group in Winterset and support us with his branding insight and graphic support.

Thank you for your service to our mission!

UP AND COMING

by QOVF Marketing

Wow, can you believe we made it to 2021? We may have made it kicking and screaming, or perhaps slow and steady with a slight limp, but we made it! Here's to a better new year and wrapping our military in comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

★ Thank you to everyone that participated in #QOVFGivingTuesday. We saw many fundraisers created on Facebook and a big uptick of donations through the website, and we know that is because of your hard work to fundraise! We are still totaling the numbers and will report



the final results on the Member Dashboard this month.

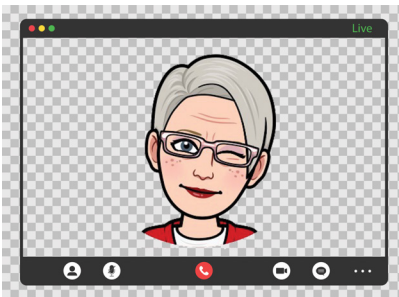
★ Have you figured out how you will do National Sew Day? NSD-V.1 is February 6, which is right around the corner. Be sure to [REGISTER!](#) There will be raffles throughout the day for those who register, and registered QOVF Members are eligible to win a Janome 3160QOV sewing machine! Check with your local Group Leader, District



Coordinator, State Coordinator or State/Local Facebook pages to see what is happening in your area. No matter where you sew, join Tammany, Ginger and Allison for the Foundation's #NSD2021 Virtual Sew Day.

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- ★ If you ordered shirts for #NSD2021, we should be receiving them very soon to ship out to you.



- ★ 2020 threw a curveball into some of our monthly meetings, but they are back on track starting the end of January. Invitations have been sent to the SC/DC with different dates and times to accommodate as many schedules and time zones as possible. If you are a SC/DC and did not receive the invitation, please email marketing@qovf.org.
- ★ Attention all groups! Janice Lynn is hard at work writing her latest Christmas romance novel

sparked by a Quilt of Valor. We are on the hunt for the next pattern and decided it should be a group-designed quilt pattern! Not to worry individual group members, we have another challenge during Military Appreciation month open to all members. You can work with a group for this challenge or save that creativity for your submission in May. Find all the details and submission form in the [Challenge Packet](#).



Starting 2021 with Hope

GRATITUDE

By Sue Reich, QOVF Board Member

Most of us are relieved to finally view 2020 in our rearview mirrors. Thanks to the continued hard work of our Executive Staff, State Coordinators and Group leaders, to the creativity of our QOVF members, and to a dedicated Board of Directors, the Quilts of Valor Foundation remains healthy and strong. From Memorial Day through Veterans Day, it was heartwarming to see veteran award ceremonies resuming, adhering to social distancing and necessary state mandates. Lockdown and quarantine did not diminish the generous spirit of our QOVF members or their sewing skills.

In 2021, the QOVF Board would like to present an official QOVF operative word: **Gratitude**. **Gratitude** is a hallmark quality of the QOVF. The Oxford Dictionary definition of **Gratitude** means “being thankful; the readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.” QOVF members are no strangers in showing and expressing **Gratitude**. Since 2003, over 264,000 veterans and military have been thanked for their service with a Quilt of Valor made by you. Each of

you have a deep and personal reason for your involvement in QOVF. Your testimonials often include love, respect, and **Gratitude** for relatives who served in War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, the first Gulf War or after 9-11 in the War on Terror.

Gratitude is a word we do not express enough within the ranks of our QOVF membership. We hope to remedy that in 2021! Stay tuned for little acts of kindness and outreach directed specifically to you, our members, as this year progresses and as we strive to cover the 300,000 veteran or military “touched by war” with a Quilt of Valor. You are the core of the QOVF. Your BOD appreciates your service all the time. We just need to get better at saying thank you and expressing our **Gratitude**.

The wide world of the quilt industry also needs to be shown **Gratitude**. Since our beginning, QOVF members Marianne Fons, Tony Jacobson, and Mary Kerr have been interacting with the quilt industry to address the needs and to meet requests specific to Quilts of Valor. New BOD member Kimberly Einmo will be assuming that quilt industry liaison role. Sometimes this means asking fabric companies

like Northcott to reprint panels popular with veterans and military or for Connecting Threads to make a substantial donation of patriotic fabric suitable for Quilts of Valor. How about those popular Janome 3160 sewing machines with our QOV logo, sold to benefit The Foundation! Or JoAnn Fabrics carrying the book, *Quilts of Valor: A 50 State Salute*. Showing **Gratitude** to another QOVF team member, the quilt industry, is also vital to our success.

Lastly, and equally important, are the many personal benefits of expressions of **Gratitude**. Showing **Gratitude** is associated with greater happiness. When you make and award a QOV, your expression of **Gratitude** evokes positive emotions, good experiences, the improvement of health, and it helps to build strong relationships and an outward vision. In comforting a veteran or military “touched by war,” you use your talents to create a patriotic QOV. The QOVF BOD would like to express its **Gratitude** for the dedicated, generous, wonderful people you are and hope that QOVF brings you as much joy and comfort as you give to our veterans and military.

A BIG THANK YOU

submitted by John Martin

Glen Warmuskerken, a Korean War veteran, was awarded his Quilt of Valor in December by Judy McCauley. Those present were required to wear face masks due to the COVID pandemic. Judy delivered the speech, showing the pillowcase that Glen would be able to store his quilt in when not in use. Glen's daughter, Betty, wrapped the QOV around him. Mr. Warmuskerken was extremely touched and teary-eyed and asked how to thank the Foundation. So, Quilts of Valor Foundation, "a Big Thank You" is being sent to you from Glen Warmuskerken, in appreciation for your love and recognition of his service.



A LITTLE ABOUT KIMBERLY EINMO

by Kimberly Einmo

To serve on the Board of Directors as Industry Liaison for QOVF is a supreme honor and I am thrilled to have been asked to join the other BOD members! My background in the quilting industry is long: I have been quilting for 30 years, working for 25 years as an author, international instructor, quilt judge, fabric designer and am now representing Janome-America, Inc. as their National Spokesperson.

But my roots for supporting our military and their families runs even deeper. My husband retired from the USAF after serving for more than 23 years. During that time, we were fortunate to live both in the US and abroad and have experienced firsthand the service and sacrifices our military members make every day. I have a heart and passion for our veterans and their families as they volunteer to defend our country and our freedom. Working with the QOVF BOD will allow me to continue to serve and honor these brave men and women in an even greater, tangible way.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST PARTNER— UBORA® COFFEE

by QOVF Marketing

We are very excited to announce our newest partner, [UBORA® Coffee](#), and our own [SEW DAZE Blend](#). We know many of you use that first cup of coffee to get you going or that last cup to wind down at the end of the day. And when it comes to Sew Days, we want to help you stay fueled and energized so we asked UBORA Coffee if they would be our QOVF coffee.

UBORA® Coffee is a military-owned and operated small business. That's right everyone, the owners are active duty—Go Navy!—and most of the staff are veterans. Our new partners are the reason we get together for Sew Days and, like many of us, they know a good cup of coffee when they taste one. Since they could not find that perfect blend, they made their own.

Located in Augusta, GA, UBORA roasts the coffee right there using the best-sourced beans to provide an excellent cup of coffee with every pour. To ensure you receive that perfection, each bag comes with the roast date written on it—usually the same day as your order.

UBORA Coffee loves the mission of the QOVF almost as much as they love coffee! They are so committed to our mission that a portion of all sales goes to the QOVF from the SEW DAZE



Blend or other items from their shop if you use the QOVF link. We made it easy. When you click on their logo on the partner page, you go directly to SEW DAZE.

If you are in or around Augusta, stop in to say hello and taste some of the best coffee you have ever tasted. Even the decaf blend will satisfy the most selective of coffee connoisseurs.

While you're planning how to conduct #NSD2021, making floating and WoNkY stars for our block drive, or working on your latest QOV, make sure you pick up a bag of [SEW DAZE](#) to enjoy. You will share the passion of our mission while supporting those who have served. It is an all-around win! Welcome aboard, [UBORA® Coffee!](#) #uboracoffee #QOVF #SEWDAZE #NSD #NSD2021



Kimberly Einmo

WYOMING SCHOOL OFFERS QOV CONSTRUCTION IN ENRICHMENT CLASS

By Christine Wolf

Cody Middle School in WY started an Enrichment Class series for the 2018-2019 school year, offering students a variety of options from hunter safety to t-shirt making. The classes were offered every Friday for an 18-week semester, with teachers and paraeducators teaching various topics. This program was continued during the 2020 school year with one of the new options being a "Quilt of Valor®" class.

Why a Quilt of Valor? This program is offered because it is a full-circle program. It starts by applying math skills through measuring, cutting, and using angles; using artistic skills through choices of colors (shades vs. blends and the importance of the color wheel); sewing, a skill for life; and applying communication and public speaking skills when preparing for the

presentation of the quilt. The research of the veteran's service to our country also provides a lesson in history. Finally, one of the greatest contributions of this project is community service!

Our maiden voyage QOV class had two students who chose an intermediate quilt titled "Unfurled Glory" designed by Tony Jacobson from *The Love of Quilting* magazine. The young ladies had minimal sewing experience prior to enrolling, but they truly embraced the experience. Their dedication shows in the final quilt top which is now at the longarm quilter.

A possible addition to this Enrichment Class will be to connect it to the annual Veteran's Day program at the high school. Quilts of Valor could be awarded during this event, which involves the school, district, and community.

Note: Since this article was originally written, two more young ladies finished QOV tops over the summer as part of this class.

STARS AND STRIPES GROUP ANSWERS THE CALL!

by Robin Harris,
Stars and Stripes QOV group

Call to Action 2018 motivated our Stars and Stripes QOV group, who refer to ourselves as the Sassy Sewers. We talked about the hourglass block and the different patterns to decide what we might accomplish. When speaking with a QOVF staff member, we were told there were about 1,200 unfilled nominations! We set a goal to make 10 tops, but ended up making 12 tops, putting us in the 1/100 group to provide tops for veterans. We also have one of the kits that we are working on completing.

How did we accomplish this in the current distancing climate? We set up one home as a central location to gather, work, hand out and drop off materials and finished blocks, and to pick up and drop off tops. We had several cutting and sewing sessions. Then we put kits together, some with the given patterns and some with modified kits where we incorporated panels into the tops.

At one point, our trimmer found that several of the blocks were too small to make the 6.5" square so she cut them



Ada Nelson and Kylie Silva from Cody Middle School's Enrichment Class



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to 6" and added an extra border to reach the necessary size requirements. We proudly say that we totally used scraps for the red and blue blocks. We did, however, need to purchase some white and gold fabric.

To celebrate our creativity, the tops were pinned in a circle around the sewing room at our central location. A short video was made of the quilts as a virtual "show" for all our members. The "show" might still be up if the tops had not been mailed to QOVF headquarters to be distributed to deserving veterans.

We heard the Call to Action and we went to work!



QUILTING WITH LOVE, MAKING A STATEMENT!

By Janice DiOrrio, *Classy Quilters,*
Newark, DE

Happy to be part of this group! My hubby and I were at the Vietnam Veterans Traveling Wall on display in Ocean View, DE, over a year ago. While there, I watched 13 quilts be awarded to 13 Veterans....and I was hooked on Quilts of Valor! Enlisting the help of my quilt group, "The Classy Quilters," we began sewing Quilts of Valor!

I want to share my recent unique experience. Carroll Hagerty, a 92-year-old Korean War Navy veteran living in Bowling Green, OH, called our home in Newark, DE, because he knew that my husband is State Commander for the Delaware VFW. Hagerty wanted one of my husband's commander pins, as Mr. Hagerty collects pins. I answered the phone and what a great conversation we had on this call and during a few others! In conversation, he asked me what I did, and I told him I sew and especially sew Quilts of Valor! Mr. Hagerty had no idea what Quilts of Valor was.....he sure does now!

Mr. Hagerty served in the Navy, active duty from June 1946 to June 1948. Then later still with the Reserves, he was called back to duty for the Korean War from May 1951 to May 1955, serving on the USS Yorktown and USS Shangri-La. I suggested to him that I would like to nominate him for a QOV, and he was thrilled!

Using the QOVF website, I located the Grateful Valor Girls in Port Clinton, OH. Jill Bothe was listed, and she responded quickly to my email and was honored to be able to present Mr. Hagerty with a QOV. Her group had a quilt and, as you see in the photo, it is lovely, and the pattern is called 4th of July! Jill is awesome and we worked together to make this happen. Less than a month later, Mr. Hagerty was awarded his QOV.....Nomination from DE, completion from OH! What an opportunity, state to state. We do honor our veterans!

Even with COVID restrictions, our group is looking forward to National



Sew Day and working on the backlog of quilts needed. While many surely deserve quilts, we all do our best! I'm reminded of a story I once read about a starfish washing up on the shore. Two people were walking by and one stopped to pick it up and throw it back into the ocean. The second person said there are hundreds of starfish and you can't make a difference. The first person picked up another and tossed it back into the ocean. Then, smiling, he said, "I made a difference for that one."

Every quilt we are blessed to present, matters! Keep up the awesome work!

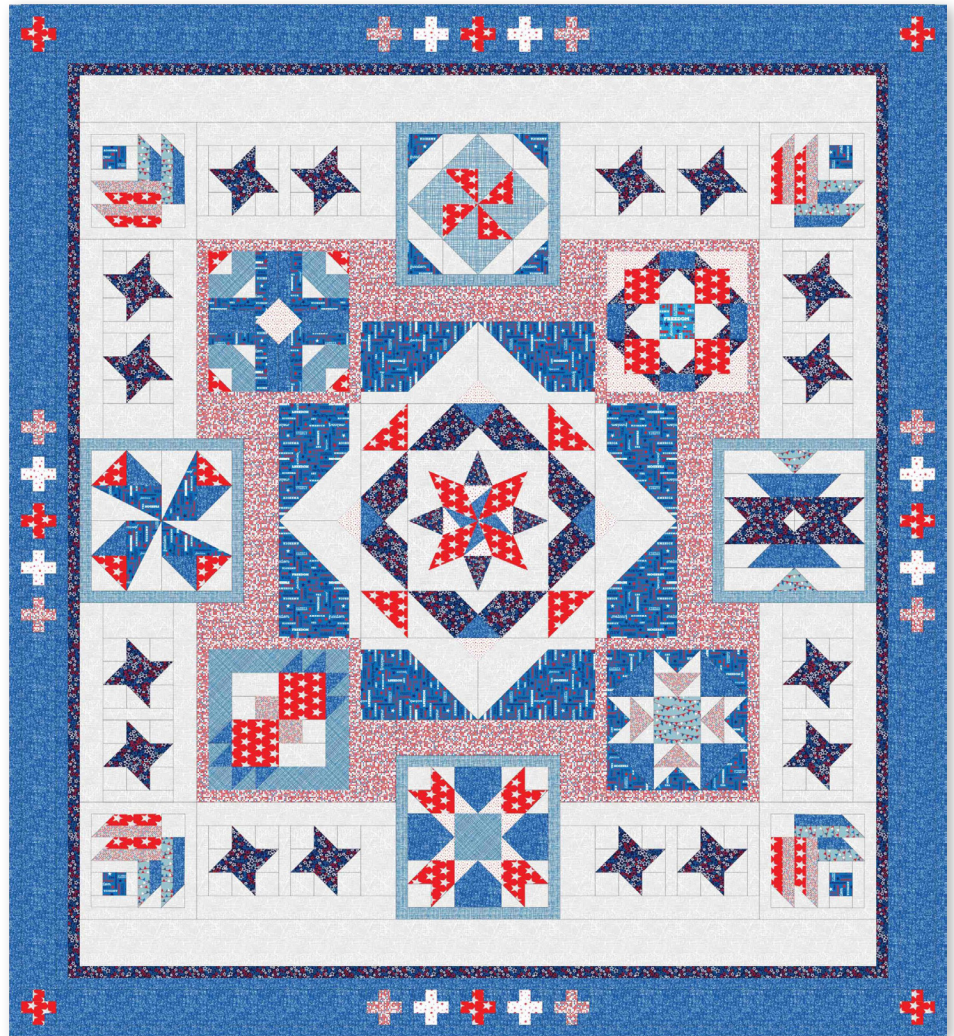
THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

by Queenie Quilter

It's true! Angela Waters and Joni Burgess of Quilting is My Therapy (QIMT) in MO have worked up a [Flag Day Build A Quilt](#) in support of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, and you heard it first here in November. While Tammany McDaniel kept a tight lid on everything, the Quilts out of the bag, so to speak. And the released [Flag Day QOV Build a Quilt](#) is beau-ti-ful, don't you think? I know I do! QIMT is generously donating a portion of all Flag Day fabric sales and Build a Quilt (BAQ) sales to the Foundation! I hope everyone that does Flag Day makes a QOV! Can you imagine how helpful that will be for our mission?

QOVF asked QIMT if they would give our members a preview of a full quilt and the opportunity to buy the whole kit and caboodle at one time. The complete kit includes the ten blocks, the QOV finishing kit, a quilt label and shipping. Everyone who signs up for the BAQ receives a welcome email from QIMT with a link to the private Facebook group, a QIMT members-only-page that gives you access to BAQ videos and other important information.

Now, some of you were very excited and had already signed up for your Flag Day BAQ and are likely wondering if this is different. Don't worry, you were quicker on the draw than QOVF, but you will be paying the same total price! For those of you already signed up and working on your Flag Day BAQ, you will be able to buy the finishing kit later and will pay the same total price as those who purchased the full kit. This may be a little confusing so if you have any questions, send them to



marketing@qovf.org and Allison will be happy to help you out!

Now, it would not be *Through the Grapevine* if I didn't have something to confirm. Miss Tammany has admitted that, since joining QOVF, she has never made a quilt—but promised to do so. Well, Queenie is here to tell you that QIMT suggested there was a monthly envelope addressed to Tammany McDaniel! And I hear she is going to document it for everyone and share it on the website and Facebook.

Editor's note: We do our best to confirm all things by Queenie. This time, not only did we reach out to Tammany, but we also tried Ginger and Allison, hoping one of them would spill the bobbins. They all deflected the persistent questioning and suggested we watch the website for news. But the way Ginger and Allison tried not to giggle when questioned makes us think this grape is ripe for the picking!

WASHINGTON STATE AWARDS QOVs TO VETERANS

Submitted by Diane Watters, Eastern Washington District Coordinator with Kathey Bates, Group Leader, North Olympic Peninsula QOV Group

Gerald Luengen joined the Army in 1945 and was subsequently sent to Officer Candidate School. Mr. Luengen served in occupied Germany until his discharge in 1952 as a Captain. He is now in memory care and under hospice at a memory facility in Port Angeles (Highland Court). We met his son and daughter-in-law at the facility and were escorted to a private courtyard where there was a table with a plexiglass screen, and chairs on both sides. A staff member who escorted our veteran assisted with the draping and hugs as Mr. Luengen was awarded his QOV. It was a “good day” for this veteran as you can see from the big smile captured by group member Chris. Love that smile! (He was the warmest of us because he had a nice, warm quilt).



On November 6, 2020, Master Gunnery Sergeant Don Oliveira, USMC (Retired), who now teaches at the Port Townsend middle school, was awarded a QOV. Mr. Oliveira’s dress uniform was hanging on the wall in his classroom next to the US Flag, forming the backdrop for the photos. The presentation was done with only the Dean of Students and a videographer present. He said he would be sharing the video of the ceremony with his students who were unable to attend. The Dean of Students told us we were the first two “civilians” allowed in the school since the lockdown, where there is a rotation with one third of the class attending each day with the remainder engaged in distance learning.



OLD GLORY EXHIBIT AUCTION

by Mary Kerr, QOVF Board Member
Mary.kerr@govf.org

We are excited to announce the upcoming auction of the Old Glory quilts. These twelve patriotic quilts will be auctioned through the Old Glory Facebook page between March 10-15, 2021. Information and details will be shared on this site. The link to join in the fun and see these beautiful pieces is www.facebook.com/OldGlory.mwk.

Old Glory was born when red, white, and blue vintage quilt tops were finished by long arm quilters who shared a military connection. The quilters received the top and backing with the instructions to “quilt as desired.” They donated their time and talents. We chose to work with “forgotten” tops—the ones that were damaged, unfinished, ill-made, or unremarkable. These tops were not destined to be completed, enjoyed, or treasured. What we were able to share was pure magic!

The exhibit traveled around the country to promote the QOVF. We choose to focus on our patriotic heritage and to further serve the military family that we have been fortunate to be a part of. These quilts debuted at the 2017 Quilts of Valor conference and traveled around the US as a collection until this past year. They were on display at multiple QOVF events, quilt shows, and museums.

The collection has completed its travels and the funds raised through the auction will benefit the QOVF. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this project, the quilts, or the auction. Thank you for allowing me to serve!



WHY BOTHER?

by Tammany McDaniel

You may have noticed an increase in scrutiny regarding the use of our phrases, words, and marks. Is it really so important? Why are we bothering?

When we increased membership dues, citing the Foundation's need to start breaking-even, it came as a surprise—possibly a shock to members! As an entire organization, we are financially stable, have reserves, and all groups are credited 100% of their donations.

How is it then that the Foundation loses money? We had not aligned rising organizational costs and were carrying an overall group support cost at a loss on the Foundation account. We had to make modifications.

You might ask—what does this have to do with our logo? At that time, we

did not have the means to support tracking down trademark violators. Potential revenue to the organization was going into someone else's pocket!

Intellectual Property (IP) theft is very common. Did you know that at any given time there are at least 10 entities/individuals who are profiting from our mark? They use our mark to make money—a profit! They do not contribute to supporting our members, offer no discounts to our members, and their use of our brand is misleading to you, our membership, and the public. An easy assumption to make: Brand use = permission + financial contribution to us. Not always so!

As we inform and enforce, we are asking for the following from every non-member who asks permission to use our phrases, words, and marks:

1. Make a *financial contribution* to the organization from the proceeds

of sales. This could include sales from kits, fabric, patterns, labels, or something else. "Show us the money!"

2. Make an *in-kind contribution* to the organization. This includes kits, fabric, patterns, and labels. Help us help groups complete our mission by providing products. We will use it—your brand will expand!
3. Provide your *products* either free or at discounted rates to our members who are in good standing.

If you have ideas for logo products or vendors interested in using our mark, please contact executive.director@qovf.org.

Coming Soon—The Real Deal!

A list of the products and partners we allow the use of our brand, including an overview of how they support our mission.

NATIONAL BLOCK DRIVE

by Tammany McDaniel

2020 may have been a topsy-turvy year, but the one thing that shined through was our volunteers! When we kicked off the year, we had an ambitious goal of 20,000 blocks for 2020. Not only did we surpass that goal, but we kept increasing the goal and you kept rising to the challenge. The last goal was 35,000 blocks. And we MADE IT! We finished the year with 38,253 blocks for the 2020 drive. That is 1,900+ QOV finished to wrap our military in comfort and healing. Thanks to all who made blocks for the drive. We are grateful for your generosity.

In case you missed the announcement, we are changing things up a little for the 2021 Drive. For years, the National Block Drive has been housed in Texas. Thank you, Suzanne, and the team of volunteers, for handling tens of thousands of blocks! Suzanne is ready to transition the coordination of the block drive to the next team. The collection and distribution of the blocks has now moved to South Carolina where Anne Mixon and the SC team of volunteers will take over.

We will be adjusting the way we distribute blocks to groups and

CORPORAL CLAU TOUCHED BY QOV

By Kathy Millbrand, Sew Happy Scrappers, MI

A Quilt of Valor was awarded during the week of Veteran's Day to a young "Cpl. Claus." When I heard that Cpl. Claus had worked the Toys for Tots Drive for several years, I knew I had to make a special visit and donate some toys. The Toys for Tots program, run by the Marine Corp Reserves, collects new unwrapped toys, and distributes those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas.

Cpl. Claus heard through a mutual friend that I would be stopping by, so he made sure he had his QOV with him so we could get a picture together. Cpl. Claus admitted that, on the day his QOV was awarded, he had a bad start to his day. He said everything in his day turned around and his outlook brightened after receiving his QOV. Since that day I have received a beautiful, hand-written thank you card from him that I will treasure. Who knew that something that I love to do could make such a big impact on someone else!



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will report block counts monthly, communicating with state leadership so they are aware of the support national provides. Block counts will be reported as national and local. Many of you who participate in the drive also like to ensure local efforts are kept in the community that produce the blocks. We want to recognize those blocks as your own.

Our members and the many individuals, guilds, and organizations that make and send blocks each year are invaluable. Without your support of our mission, we would not be as far

as we are in wrapping our military in comforting and healing QOV. For you, we are grateful!

The patterns for the 2021 Block Drive are available on our website. The [Eight Point Floating Star](#) and [The Floating WoNkY Star](#). Thank you!



Quilts Reported

2012: 6,169
2013: 12,314
2014: 17,373
2015: 18,772
2016: 19,051
2017: 24,123
2018: 30,745
2019: 33,375
2020: 23,356

Total: 265,841

(from date of first recorded award through 31 December, 2020)

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 the BOD, the QOVF staff, and how to contact your State Coordinator (SC) go to www.qovf.org/about-qovf/meet-us/

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Newsletter

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Do you have an article, idea or suggestion for Threads? Email it to us at newslettersubmission@qovf.org.