

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®.



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Alaska Valor News

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THIRD QUARTER 2021

Or So It Seems

Yes, it seems like one event will lead your mind back to a previous one. At least it does that for me.

As you will see as you read through this newsletter, there was an event held on July 24th in Sterling, Alaska, called Salute to Vets Rally, organized by the South Peninsula A.B.A.T.E. and American Legion. The Kenai River QOV group was invited to award Quilts of Valor® to several of the attendees. After the awards, nineteen veterans and their friends and families stopped by to thank the quilters and ask how to nominate others. "You'll never know how much this means to the veterans," one woman told me.

Now, this is what led my mind back to a previous ceremony - one for other veterans who love to feel the wind on their face and freedom of the road.

In 2018 the Forget Me Not Quilters of Alaska had worked together to make motorcycle panel quilts for the Combat Veteran Motorcycle Association (CVMA) members, chapter 43-3 in Wasilla. When we finally had enough quilts made, I called the CVMA Commander and said, "Let's do it!"

At that point, the commander called on his crew to join him at the VFW Post 9365 in Wasilla. He didn't say why, just "be there." The sound of 25 motorcycles pulling into the parking lot still rings in my ears. These men and women had thought they were being called upon to work for someone at the VFW, but instead, we were there to thank them for their service. They excitedly accepted their quilts, each one hugging the quilter who had made their quilt as it was wrapped around their shoulders. As the last quilt was awarded, one man called out, "Can we hug 'em now?" It was like a receiving line as the quilters lined the side of the room and each veteran hugged each quilter!

So often a veteran will express their thanks for their Quilts of Valor® saying, "You'll never know how much this means." My answer to each veteran is that we receive much more than we give. You have offered your life for us. We offer these QOVs as a tangible thank you wrapped around your shoulders as our way of showing our appreciation. May your QOV bring you comfort and healing, just as it did for us, as we sewed each stitch.



P.S. My thanks goes out to the Kenai River QOV for inviting me to join them at the Rally again this year, and to the Forget Me Not Quilters and Turnagain QOV for sending quilts down with me to help with these awards.

Submitted by Linda Kau
Alaska State Coordinator

Kenai River QOV Group

A Busy Summer on the Kenai

Our Kenai River QOV Group has been busy this summer making numerous awards. Our largest event was the A.B.A.T.E. Salute to Veterans Rally on July 24th. Nineteen veterans, local and from outside the area, were awarded their Quilts of Valor® that day. Alaska State Coordinator, Linda Kau joined our mission, bringing quilts down from Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley. She also helped with the awards. Thank you, Linda, for your help.

We enjoyed a gorgeous day with as many as 500 people attending the event. The anticipated rain held off and everyone enjoyed celebrating with our veterans. There were games held throughout the event, a flyover by a C-47 WWII aircraft, retirement of the flag along with fine food.

Near the end of our stay, two WWII veterans joined the crowd. One of those veterans celebrated his 103rd birthday on August 8th. He had already been awarded his QOV,

but the other veteran (only 93 years young) had not. So, we pulled out an extra quilt we carry “just in case” and awarded this WWII gentlemen his QOV. It’s always a heartwarming day when we can honor our World War II veterans!

We have many “snowbirds” in Alaska, and with the shutdown last year due to COVID, we missed visiting with many of them. Fortunately, we caught up with many this year since restrictions are lifted. It is so good to see these people again and to gain some interest from new quilters, too.

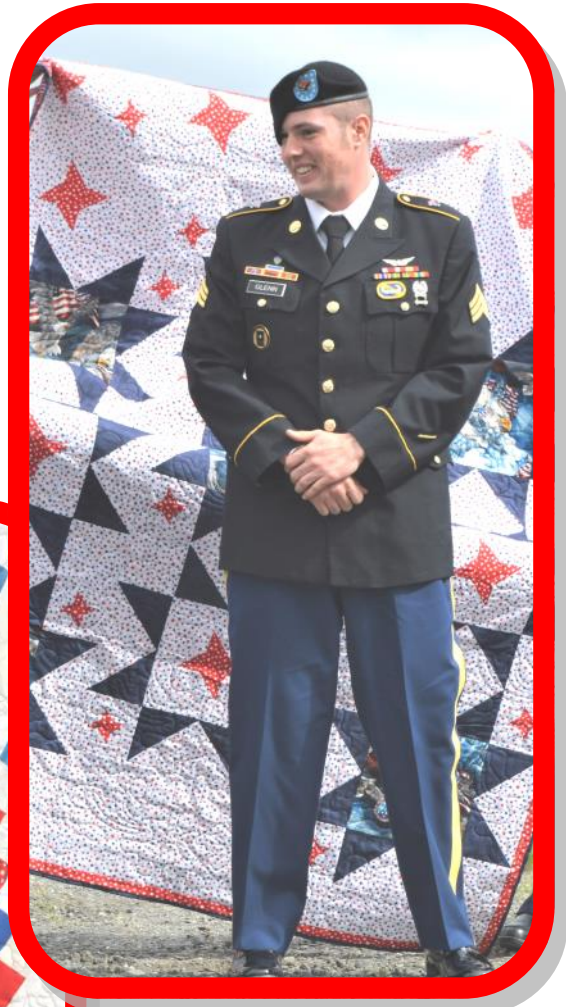
I hope all our members, family and friends stay well and we look forward to a fall and winter of sewing and gathering together.

Submitted by
Jeanette Pietro, Group Leader



Kenai River QOV Group (continued)

Nineteen veterans were awarded Quilts of Valor® during the 2021 Southern Peninsula A.B.A.T.E. Salute to Veterans Rally on July 24th



FORGET-ME-NOT QUILTERS OF ALASKA

The FMNQ Group has been actively making awards in Alaska this summer:

MAY



We awarded a Quilt of Valor to Bob (pictured left), a Vietnam veteran in Mendeltna (on the Glenn Highway).

VALDEZ MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

Group Leader, Patty Livingston, was in Valdez during Memorial Day weekend. Patty was asked if Quilts of Valor® could have a booth at the festivities, which were moved inside to the Conference Center when the weather turned and the rains came. Patty was able to display a quilt and talk to veterans about the mission of Quilts of Valor®.

JUNE



In June, 4 veterans, including a husband/wife, received Quilts of Valor® at the Palmer American Legion Post 15.

SEPTEMBER

FMNQ FALL RETREAT will be held September 15-18, at the VFW in Wasilla. Fee will be \$30.00 for the 4 days. There will be quilt presentations in the evenings. More information will follow via email as the time approaches.

Submitted by
Patricia Livingston, Group Leader

JULY



Robert (pictured above) received his Quilt of Valor in Wasilla during July.

Eagle River / Chugiak Quilts of Valor Sew Mates

The Sew Mates have had fun this summer awarding Quilts of Valor® at a number of community gatherings. Our group enjoys honoring our veterans and will continue quilting for future awards.

In July, five veterans were honored with presentations of Quilts of Valor® at this year's Bear Paw Festival in Eagle River. Anchorage's new mayor, David Bronson, helped present the quilts. Then we presented him with a Quilt of Valor and thanked him for his 20+ years service in the Air Force.



Two Iraq veterans, brothers Matt and Clint, were presented their Quilts of Valor® at a family reunion.



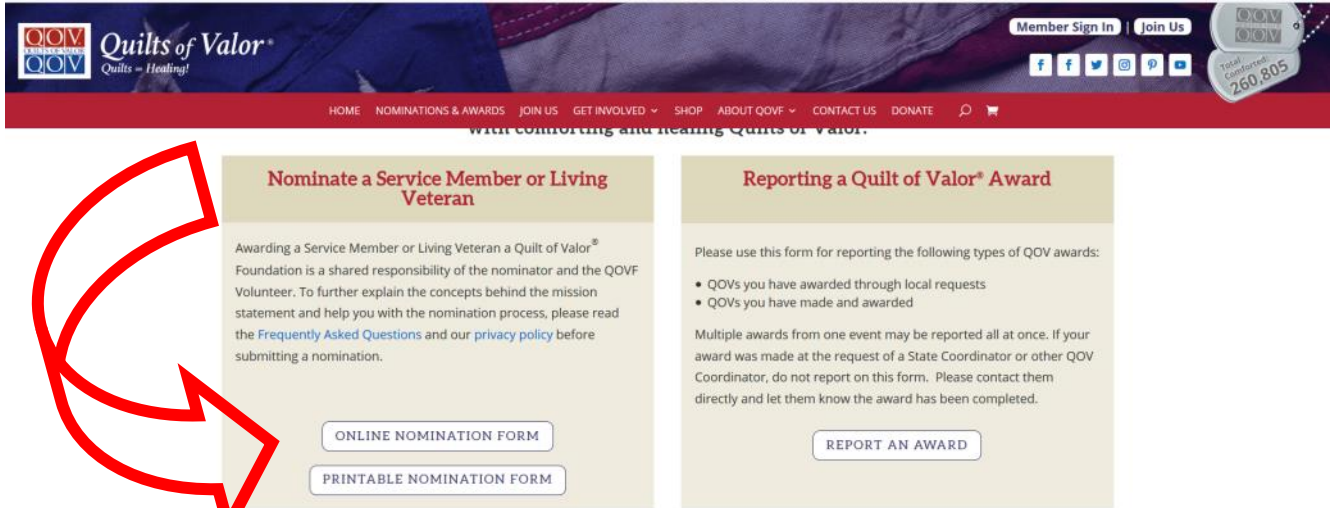
Members also had lots of fun at our annual quilt retreat in Seward. Prizes, goodies and fun allowed members time to get to know each other better.

The Sew Mates said goodbye to their outgoing leader, Kathy Vik, and welcomed Pheng Scott as their new group leader. Kathy has moved to Tennessee. A new QOV group has formed, but will stay connected to the Sew Mates.

Submitted by Kathy Vik, Group Leader

How to Request a Quilt of Valor®


Our mission is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor®. Are you one of our military who has valiantly served our country? Do you know of someone whose service should be recognized? Please go to the QOVF website, [NOMINATIONS & AWARDS](#) page. Then, Scroll Down, to find the Online or the Printable form, as shown below.



The focus of the Mission is to cover all Nominees as quickly as possible in the order received. However, factors such as the era of service, life circumstances and Nominee's health are taken into consideration during the prioritization process.

JOIN US!

- ◆ [Individual Membership - Learn More](#)
Choose an individual membership: Individual, Block Builder or Lifetime Member.
- ◆ [Group Membership - Learn More](#)
It takes teamwork to fulfill the Mission, but it only takes two (2) to create a group! Sew, engage and award Quilts of Valor together.
- ◆ [Quilt Business - Learn More](#)
A Quilt Business Membership offers businesses within the quilting industry an opportunity to support the Foundation's Mission.
- ◆ [Volunteer LongArmy™ - Learn More](#)
The Volunteer LongArmy™ are volunteer members supporting members or groups without access to longarmers. This is another great way to support the Foundation's Mission!



Those comforted as of July 31, 2021:

Last Month —	2,861
Year to Date —	13,587
Lifetime Total —	278,847

Quilts of Valor® Foundation Core Values

- ◆ Treating people with respect
- ◆ Promoting excellence
- ◆ Valuing service over self
- ◆ Being accountable

Alaska QOVF Groups Contact & Meeting Info

Alaska State Coordinator, Linda Kau

Linda.Kau@QOVF.org or call 907-864-0770
www.QOVF.org
<https://www.facebook.com/QuiltsOfValorAlaska/>

Anchorage - Turnigan QOV

Contact Rosemary at slisz@gci.net
 or call 907-248-5027
Monthly Anchorage Sew Days
 2nd Monday of each month, 10 am -4 pm
 Meet at Seams Like Home
 2153 E. 88th Ave.
 Anchorage, AK, 99507

Delta Junction, Alaska - Windy Junction QOV

Joyce Bendell, Group Leader
quiltbasket@wildak.net or call 907-803-3994

Eagle River - Sew Mates

Pheng Scott, Group Leader
smileyface22k@aol.com or call 907-440-9003
2nd Saturday QOV Sew Days, 10 am – 3 pm
 Eagle River Boys & Girls Club
 11700 Old Glenn Hwy
 Eagle River, AK 99577

Fairbanks - Quilting Lions and Friends

Sally Benevento, Group Leader
sallyb@gci.net or call 907-479-5203
 Thursday, 11 - 3 pm
 Davis Hall, Tanana Valley Fair
 Fairbanks, AK 99701

Mat-Su Valley - Forget Me Not Quilters of Alaska

Patty Livingston , Group Leader
patty@mtaonline.net

Semi-annual Retreats

March and September
 Wasilla VFW Post 9365

Monthly Wasilla Sew Day:

4th Thursday of month, 10 am to 3 pm
 Meet at Wasilla Senior Center,
 1301 S. Century Circle Wasilla, AK
 Call for info: 907-354-0919

Soldotna Area - Kenai River Quilts of Valor

Jeanette Pietro, Group Leader
kenairiverQOV@gmail.com
 or call 907-252-4173

Statewide

49th State QOV - Quilters needed to help cover veterans in all areas of Alaska

Linda Kau, Group Leader, 907-864-0770
Linda.Kau@QOVF.org

Certified Quilt Businesses

The Certified Quilt Business Program offers businesses within the quilting industry an opportunity to support the Quilts of Valor® Foundation mission.

Email: CertifiedBusiness@QOVF.org

Alaska's Certified Businesses include:

Sylvia's Quilt Depot
 1261 S Seward Meridian Pkwy #E
 Wasilla, AK 99654
www.sylviasquiltdepot.com

Twisted Sisters' Quilty Pleasures
 11401 Old Glenn Hwy #101-A
 Eagle River, AK 99577
www.twistedquilting.com

Raintree Quilting, LLC
 2213 Dunn Street
 Juneau, AK 99801
www.raintreequilting.com

