

Quilted Hugs

QUILTS OF HONOR NEWSLETTER October, November, December 2015

January 2016

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Happy New Year to our Quilts of Honor family.

I am sure all of you are familiar with the very old Scottish poem written by Robert Burns, "Auld Lang Syne" and begins, "Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind." Most of us think of this song as a song of parting or the ending of an occasion or a relationship; such as a funeral, graduation or the passing of one year to another. Did you know, not only is this a song that reminisces of days and friendships past, but it calls us to a fellowship of the future and the hope that we will all see each other again?

2015 has been a tremendous year for Quilts of Honor. We have gathered often with our old and current friends and we have made many new friends. Who are our new friends? Each of our National Chapters have created friendships by welcoming new volunteers into our groups, participating in community events, and working at many opportunities to serve our veterans. Our new friends also include, as of this writing, over 600 veterans nationwide who have received a "Quilted Hug of Gratitude" during 2015.

For just a moment, let's think about why it is important to keep recognizing our veterans and making new friends. There was a standing room only group of loving volunteers that gathered at our Valley Springs Headquarters workday and Christmas luncheon in mid-December. As we went around the room and asked everyone to introduce themselves to the new volunteers and visitors, there were many tears, much laughter and applause as everyone, everyone in the room, talked about how they became involved with the Quilts of Honor organization. Each person's story told of the importance they felt for the mission of Quilts of Honor, and how they needed to do this work to thank our military veterans for their unselfish service to our country. At that luncheon, as is often our tradition at our workdays, we presented a quilt to a U.S. Navy Veteran of the Vietnam era. There were tears as we hugged him, welcomed him home, and thanked him for his service to our country, Service during a time when it was not popular to be in the US military. This is only one of the many reminisces of the past year. It also shows a desire that we will all be together in 2016 continuing the work of Quilts of Honor and make more new friends.



Carl Courtney, Chair
Board of Directors



(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Each of our Chapters are already planning events for 2016. Opportunities for us to meet and make new friends, continuing the work of thanking and welcoming our veterans home. The following is only a partial list that I know of at this time:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSORING CHAPTER</u>	<u>LOCATION/EVENT/ACTIVITY</u>
Jan 11	QOH East, Northern VA	Haymarket, VA Masonic Lodge Informational Talk About QOH
Feb 5, 6, & 7	HQ, Valley Springs, CA	Turlock, CA; Quilt Show Booth and Presentations
Mar 3, 4, 5, & 6	HQ, Valley Springs, CA	San Diego, CA Presentations
Apr 2 & 3	Contra Costa Chapter, Concord, CA	Contra Costa Quilt Guild Show Information Booth
May 29	HQ, Valley Springs, CA	Manteca, CA - Not Forgotten Weekend Booth and Presentations
June 19	QOH East, Northern VA	Warrenton, VA - Father's Day Car Show Fundraising Booth and Presentations
Jul 16 & 17	Niles Chapter, Fremont, CA	Fremont, CA - Piecemakers Quilt Show Information Booth and Presentations
Oct 3 thru 8	HQ, Valley Springs, CA	Washington, DC WAC Band Reunion and Presentations

As the year progresses, the list will grow larger as more of our Chapters report in and give us calendar information. As the Chair of your Board of Directors, my commitment for this year is to work hard during the next few months to update our website and make it more informative and user friendly. The website will include pages that contain photos and news articles from each of our National Chapters. We will be sharing the notes, cards and stories that we receive from our new friends that tell us how they have been touched by meeting and working with us, or receiving one of our quilts. Our mission is only accomplished and made possible by the hard work of all of our family of friends and volunteers, past, present and future. We want to share every aspect of our work with as many old and new friends as we can.

I would like to share with you another verse of Auld Lang Syne. The original poem has many verses and this is one that you probably have never heard. In closing I find it very fitting and perfectly describes our mission:

*Should old acquaintance be forgot
Tho' they return with scars
These are the noble heroes lot
Obtained in glorious wars.*

So, until we meet again "and drink a cup of kindness in days of Auld Lang Syne", let us commit to a 2016 of continuing to work to help heal the scars of war.

Happy New Year,
Carl E. Courtney
MSG, US Army Retired
Chair of the Board

End of a Great Year and Into the New Year

As I sit here thinking of all that happened in 2015, I am truly amazed at what we have accomplished. Do you realize we have mailed out over 190 quilts to locations all across the United States. We awarded over 140 quilts at military reunions. We have touched so many lives, as well as our own, when we award these quilts.



Gail Belmont
Executive Director

In December we attended the Veterans Brotherhood Christmas event. They always select many of their combat veterans to be awarded quilts. We have done



this for three years now and I am always amazed at how surprised and honored the guys are. I am always thinking that since they know us, they are going to figure out that every time we come we award quilts. But, it doesn't matter. The veterans who have received quilts talk to us and tell us how glad they are to see us. Then, when quilts are awarded there are tears and laughing. One that comes to my mind was this tall Marine who said to me, "Gail, this is my ticker tape parade, my welcome home." "Yes it is," I replied.

Also in December I surprised Tom, a Navy Medic. After serving in combat, he later became a Physical Therapist and has been for over 50 years.



We attended a Model A car club Christmas brunch. Boy was it some brunch. I had prime rib for breakfast. I awarded a quilt to a Navy Medic who had served in Vietnam and when I said his name, he immediately started to cry. A USMC Officer who received a quilt was so overwhelmed. He came to the Shop the very next week to get a quilt for one of his men he hadn't seen since Vietnam and was going to drive over 700 miles to deliver it in person.

For many of us, Quilts of Honor has taken over our lives. I know we had no idea it would grow so much or that we would be so busy but I wouldn't trade a moment - the memories are those of a lifetime.

To all those who have shared in helping us continue our Mission, God Bless You.

To all of you in other states, I hope to one day meet you all and thank you for being part of Quilts of Honor. We are small in numbers but are mighty in heart and strength.

God Bless you all,

Gail

SSG USARMY 69-77

December Workshop and Holiday Luncheon



Queen B's Photo Gallery

Antioch, CA

Below is a link to a collection of some of the quilts that the Queen B's Quilts of Honor Chapter have created this year for deserving members of our armed forces. Take time to enjoy looking at these beautiful inspiring works of art and remember that behind each quilt is a volunteer or group of volunteers who took the time and effort to give back to those who have given so much.



The Queen B's Quilts of Honor Chapter meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10 am to 2 pm at Queen B's Quilt Shop, 720 West 2nd St., Antioch, CA 94509. If you are in the area, Join them!

Nancy Ritter and Susan Denton, Queen B's QOH

http://queenbsquiltshop.com/Quilts_of_Honor_2015.php

Table Rock Quilts of Honor

Branson, MO

On Dec. 7th QOH from Kimberling City, Mo. honored a wounded Soldier on the NBC news out of Kansas City. The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 913 of Branson, MO and College of the Ozarks also of Branson, bought a \$10,000 track chair for a veteran who had served. After he came home, he was in an accident that left him in a wheel chair. He did not qualify for help from the VA because it was not service related. The group bought him a track chair and took it to him in Adrian, MO - he lives 4 1/2 hours from Branson. Janie Mahon went along and awarded him a Quilt of Honor.



We awarded QOH to other Vietnam Veterans on November 23rd, but with Thanksgiving, there were several who were unable to be there. We will present their quilts in January.

Janie Mahon and Margaret Pitt
Table Rock QOH

Berean Christian High School with Queen B's QOH

Concord, CA

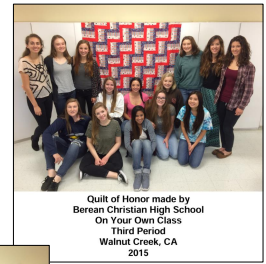
I just want to share pictures of the 3 quilts the Berean Christian High School "On Your Own" classes made for their Veterans Day ceremony on November 11. They did a fantastic job with the guidance of their teacher, Lynn Arnett! The quilts were quilted by Gail at headquarters in Valley Springs.

The Antioch Quilts of Honor group set aside 15 additional quilts that were made and presented to veterans at this ceremony.

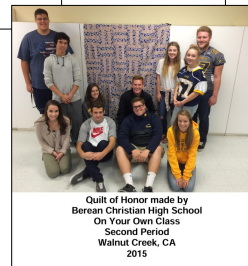
Nancy Ritter, Queen B's QOH



Quilt of Honor made by
Berean Christian High School
On Your Own Class
First Period
Walnut Creek, CA
2015



Quilt of Honor made by
Berean Christian High School
On Your Own Class
Third Period
Walnut Creek, CA
2015



Quilt of Honor made by
Berean Christian High School
On Your Own Class
Second Period
Walnut Creek, CA
2015



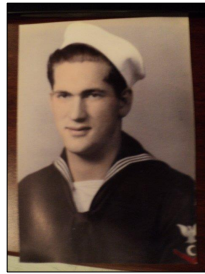
Queen B's QOH



Choir

Sac Osage Quilts of Honor First Quilt Presentation Lowry City, MO

Sac Osage Quilts of Honor presented Maxwell Loyd of Adrian, Mo. with a quilt by request of his cousin Bessie Thomas of Clinton, Mo. Max enlisted: 3-19-1943 and was discharged 4/18/1946. Max was



Ship's Cook
3rd Class USNR. Vessels and stations he served on: NTS Farragut, Idaho, Lion 4, Naval Base Navy 3205, USN Base Hospital #15, TADGEN Shoemaker, CA. Remarks:

Asiatic-Pacific, American Area Victory Good Conduct Medal. Information provided by step-daughter Roberta Barnes via Notice of Separation.

To honor a veteran you know and love, contact Mary Cook at sacosageqoh@mail.com

Mary R. Cook, Director
Donna Harris, Assistant Director
Sac Osage Quilts of Honor



Veteran Radiothon WISE QOH (Wisconsin Southeast)

On December 14th, WISE was invited to participate in the Veteran Radiothon 2015 at the Orphium Theater in Madison, WI. Hosted by Solid Rock 94.1 JJO. Karen and Roxane were able to share the QOH mission.



We were also able to present a signature quilt to Dan Swigum live on the air. Dan is the gentleman who got QOH into the Radiothon. Dan also works with our veterans and WISE will be working

with him in the future to present quilts.

I have already heard from one quilter from the Madison area who is interested in QOH and will begin quilting for our purpose.

Roxane Ashcroft, WISE QOH

Sacramento Quilts of Honor Fabric Garden Quilt Shop

Fabric Garden Gals have been busy this year!! We have 31 contributors . but a big workshop is 12 which is pushing our classroom capacity!! But then we're cozy...now if we all did appliqué, we could have more!!

We finally beat our 2012 total of 60 tops and completed quilts. These are our records:

2010 - 31	2011 - 45	2012 - 60
2013 - 44	2014 - 57	2015 - 62

We meet the first Friday of each month at the Fabric Garden Quilt Shop in Sacramento, corner of Marconi and Fulton. Come see us at work, visit and have a little sweet and coffee! We are there from 10:30 am to 3:30ish - except for January when it will be on the second Friday - New Years Day, you know.

Gretchen Jennings, Sacramento QOH

A few of our quilts:



VFW Christmas Party 2015 and QOH Presentation *Gustine, CA*

Below are photos from the VFW Christmas Party and QOH presentation in Gustine, CA.

Bill did a wonderful job and said something about each veteran who received his quilt. It was a very special night and all were surprised. Several were unable to attend due to age or illness. Bill said he would deliver them in person.

Bill did a wonderful job and said something about each one who received his quilt. Later on that night, one recipient received a CD as an extra gift and Bill presented some veterans with WWII commemorative coins.

People commented that I took the time to hug each recipient and I told them that Gail and other presenters always do that as well as thanking them for their service.

Jerry and I are thankful to Gail for letting us be her hands extended. It is truly an honor to be able to present on behalf of all of those who make and quilt these beautiful quilted tributes. Jerry said it was really a moving event for him - I agreed.

Marsha Borrelli-Silva, Gustine, CA



Quilts of Honor Texas *San Antonio, TX*

With a lot of hustling and bustling, we finally did it. Did what? We caught up with all the referral slips we had accumulated throughout the year! And what a year it has been! Debbie moved into a remodeled two car garage and now has a quilting studio for her longarm sewing machine. Fred has finally caught up. Her family living and dining rooms are now cutting and sewing rooms, and Fred also purchased a longarm quilt machine. We now have the facilities and machines, all we need is more time!

Presenting the quilts is the grand finale for each quilt. Our presentations take place at many varied locations. We have always attended the LBJ 100, a bicycle event that takes place at the Johnson Ranch. This year we added a quiltfest in Boerne, and have met two returning Honor Flights at the San Antonio Airport. Add to that, several patriotic holiday events, lots of home deliveries, and that's what kept us busy. We are now active in five counties and have about 100 women who help out with some of the many steps to making a quilt. This year we have presented over 160 quilts!

For 2016, we are adding another person in a leadership position, will attend the festivals we did last year, want to add another county to our group, and will enjoy whatever comes our way. Sometimes we are invited for tea and cookies, out for lunch, attending dinners, or given trinkets. As Fred often says, "Every time we go out, it's always an adventure!" We look forward to many surprises and adventures in 2016.

Dorothy Brett, San Antonio, TX

Quilts of Honor East Warrenton, Virginia

Quilts of Honor East had some wonderful quilt presentations this quarter. Melissa had met a young man at the Prince William County Fair earlier in the summer and he requested a quilt for his father. His father lives near Melissa's father in Pennsylvania and she said she'd present it personally when she went up to see her dad.

That presentation happened just before Thanksgiving. Mr. Dennis Fromknecht was the recipient. It's always wonderful to take the time to hear their stories as many times they have been reluctant to tell them.



Angie and Kelly Ann have been busy at Kelly Ann's Quilting looking out for those who visit the shop with their wives (or quilters themselves!) or simply park out front of the shop!



They presented Mr. George Simacourbe, a quilter and Vietnam Veteran, with a quilt at Kelly Ann's.

Angie also spied a gentleman who parked outside the shop with decals on his car, a cap and service dog and went

outside to speak to him. She went back into the shop, grabbed a quilt and presented it to Mr. Pewtress while thanking him for his service to our country.



Way to go Angie!

And in the personal news department, Angie (and husband Dave) welcomed their first grandchild, a boy, from daughter Ashley and husband Will. Congratulations to them!

*Melissa Guzman
Quilts of Honor East*

QOH On a Mission to San Diego Valley Springs QOH

After a couple of days of playing tourist, it was time to honor 75 Marines. We recruited Barb's sister to help and were also meeting Becky and Rosemary to help with the ceremony.

We arrived at the Embassy Suites at 5:30 pm so we could prep the quilts. Becky, Louie and Auntie Rosemary met us to help.

It was their first big time to see us in action. They all jumped in and Louie was taking photos. Barb's sister, Sharon, also helped and got to see what we really do. I often think no one realizes all the work it takes but when you see it firsthand, it often changes your respect for all the time spent. Thank you to the Bartole family of San Diego for arranging the room for the event and to Suzanne for the pictures and press connections ó you would fit right in with our gang.



We started our ceremony at 7:00 pm. The Marines all thought it was a meeting they needed to attend not knowing they were to receive quilts. It began like a regular business meeting then they said we have special guests ó Quilts of Honor ó and showed our Video from our website and Face-



book. I watched the room as they watched the video. There were tears flowing as I walked to the front of the room. When the video finished, the whole room stood up and started clapping. I was so embarrassed as it takes all of us to



do this and my crew always has my back and works hard. I told them I was honored to meet them again. We had met in Mt. Vernon but we didn't have enough quilts. I didn't forget so

(Continued on Page 8)

(continued from Page 7)

tonight they would each receive a quilt.



The quilts had been hidden in the back of the room and covered with sheets so they didn't have any idea what was about to happen. Quite a few Marines had their wives with them so there

were about 150 people in the room. Right before we started, Fox News came in for an interview so it got pretty nervous in that room.

We called 5 veterans up at a time, shaking each one's hand, and then had them unfold their quilts. I got enough kisses to last for a lifetime. When we finished, all the crew came up front and they



presented us with a check for \$1,000. Then some of the guys kissed the crew so they weren't left out of that was pretty cute. When we walked back through the room, they were shaking our



hands and hugging us. Many still had tears. This group all saw combat in Vietnam so they understood what we were doing.

One said, "I accept this quilt for the one corpsman and 5 Marines who didn't make it home." You could have heard a pin drop after he spoke.



I know we all worked hard to finish these 75 quilts, but you honored these Vietnam veterans who had never been thanked. Many in this unit had Purple Hearts and many had gotten cancer from Agent Orange.

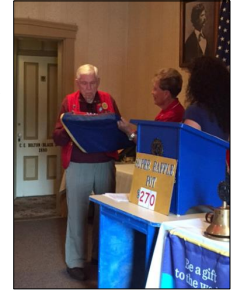


They were from all over the United States so I would say we completed our mission in a style that won't be forgotten by these quilt recipients or us of each one tears at your heart.

*Gail Belmont, Executive Director
Quilts of Honor*

Murphys Rotary Club and the Navy Ball in Stockton Valley Springs QOH

I had the honor of speaking with the Rotary Club in Murphys, CA where we awarded 6 quilts. Each veteran was totally surprised of you could see the emotion in their faces. Our first quilt went to a 98 year old and he could run circles around us of that was amazing.



One veteran came up to me afterwards with tears in his eyes and said, "I don't deserve this." I told him that he did and do not ever think that. We hear that so often but the way we surprise them and honor them makes it so special.

Flo and I attended the Navy Ball in Stockton, CA. Thank you to Maria and Bob for inviting us. I was their program speaker and we also awarded 4 quilts. They were all decked out in their Navy uniforms and fancy dresses and you know I wasn't going there. We had a great meal and then I got up to speak. I never know what I'm going to say but I get through it by the grace of



God. We gave out 4 quilts and everyone was amazed. We had the Navy quilt on display and they took turns standing in front of it and taking pictures of themselves in their best dress. When Flo and I took it down, one guy runs over and says, "Wait, I want my picture," so Flo and I held it up. What we do to make a veteran happy.

*Gail Belmont, Executive Director
Quilts of Honor*



Notes of Gratitude

Dear Gail & all others involved with QOH

I requested four quilts for Veterans of the USS Solace, who were on this hospital ship during the bombing of Pearl Harbor, at a very late date, only one week prior to their yearly reunion. I wasn't too optimistic that I would receive any at such late notice. However, your organization went above & beyond in getting us these 4 quilts. I am beyond grateful! Everyone said these quilts really made the reunion since there are so few of these men left & so very few that can still travel. I've enclosed a monetary donation in honor of & in memory of all of the USS Solace Vets, especially R. Laedtke (still living) & W. Avery (deceased), who started the USS Solace reunions 25 years ago. I hope in the near future, when I get permanently settled in CO, that I can start a chapter of your organization.

Pat M.



Dear Quilts of Honor Volunteers

A picture is worth 1,000 words. The quilts you made for these ship mates of the USS Solace, a hospital ship moored next to Battleship Row on December 7, 1941, in Pearl Harbor, meant so much to them. Thank you for honoring these men with such a thoughtful gift of hand-made quilts. The service you provide cannot be expressed in words as to the gratefulness of your gesture.

Sandra S. (Daughter of W. Avery, USS Solace—AH5)

Abigail & Delphia Sanders

Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt. It is so thoughtful of you to take the time, effort, and cost of such a precious patriotic quilt. There are no words to express how much this is appreciated.

S. & P. Moon

Dear Quilts of Honor quilters,

Thank you so much for my quilt (specifically) and what you do for our Vets, particularly our combat Vets. There is an estrangement to us—a disconnect. Most combat vets don't admit to it, may not even recognize it. Your quilts help heal that gulf, that estrangement. My oldest son's godfather asked me if I had ever been thanked. (J. had lost his arm at the Parrot's Beak serving with the 25th). He was crying. That was five years ago. You sent him a quilt a few months ago. You, all of you, are a wonder, a blessing, a grace. I thank you so much for what you do.

Craig J.

Dear Ms. Belmont,

Just a brief note to say thank you to all the women that quilt the Quilt of Honor. I was genuinely surprised and felt most honored to have received such recognition for something so long ago. Please keep up this work that you all do as it makes us veterans feel very special. Thank You

Frank R.

Dear Ms. Belmont

You and the members of your "Quilts of Honor" organization made quite an impact on us at our USMC Combined Action Program reunion in San Diego in November. I believe I can speak for all of my fellow Marines in revealing our surprise and heart-felt gratitude at your expression of appreciation and recognition for our service in Viet Nam.

As you well know, those acknowledgments have been rare since our return to many years ago. The presentation of the quilts gave us cause to reflect on our history and acknowledge the memory of so many who did not return. Your gesture helped restore both the respect and honor of their sacrifices. Please extend my utmost appreciation to Joyce Moorehouse, Cora Whitson, and Cathy LaManna in helping you create my personal quilt. Thanks to you and your volunteers for the quilts honoring the selfless contributions of those Marines in making the United States of America the greatest country ever,

Gary T.

Abigail & Delphia

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks for the quilt I received during our ship's USS Blue DD744, reunion in September. This is a wonderful and very surprising gift. Everyone, including myself was very appreciative. Since my wife has gotten into quilting this year I know how much time, work and money into each of these quilts. Thank you for your contribution to this effort.

Stanley L.

Gail

I deeply appreciate the presentation of the "Quilt of Honor" on Dec 5th at the Stockton Country Club. I will proudly display it in my home. Please also thank: Jackie McMaster, Katie Sherman, Carl Courtney MSG Ret. U.S.Army and all the others who contributed to the Quilt of Honor.

Conrad E.

To the Volunteers of Quilts of Honor

My family was touched by your gift. The thought, love, and effort is evident in every stitch. As we come up to the holidays I think of the soldiers who cannot be with their family. Last year I was on a mountain top in Southern Afghanistan. This year I celebrate with my family. Your Quilt is across our bed as a reminder for the support from the Linden community. Thank you

C. family

Dear Gail

Thank you and your organization for honoring me with a quilt at the USS Blue reunion. It was a very happy and touching surprise for me and my shipmates. I love my quilt and all of its symbolism...the colors and the eagles, the stars and the stripes. Every day I find something new and interesting in the quilt. You ladies do beautiful work! In appreciation I am sending along a contribution so that your group will be able to honor more veterans. Please extend my thanks and gratitude to the rest of the group and keep up the good work!

John M.

To all the wonderful and caring quilters and volunteers at Queen B's and Quilts of Honor,

Thank you for the care and love you put into your quilts and the compassion you show to all Veterans.

Joe F.

We Care!

The most important messages our brave men and women can hear from their fellow Americans are, "We care" and "Thank you for your sacrifice and service".

Show you Care:

A Quilt of Honor is a tribute which recognizes our past and present military members' service, dedication, and sacrifices made on behalf of our country.

Who Qualifies for a Quilt of Honor:

- A) Purple Heart Recipients
- B) Those suffering from Post Traumatic Stress
- C) Those dealing with the effects of Agent Orange
- D) Those with Multiple Tours

Sizes

As you are picking out your next pattern for a Quilt of Honor, please keep in mind the QOH Quilt Specifications. Not only does it help with mailing costs, but also with the use of batting and backings.

We have been mailing 7 to 9 quilts every week to all over the United States. These specified sizes fit comfortably into the mailers and are the **most cost effective..**

Quilt Specifications

- 1) **Minimum Size:** 50" x 60";
Maximum Size: 60" x 70"
 (determined to be the most practical sizes)
- 2) 100% cotton fabrics, the best quality you can afford.
- 3) Patriotic Colors: red, white and blue are the favorites because of what they represent. (Please, no juvenile prints!)
- 4) Wash your fabrics to remove any excess dyes or anything that can irritate the wounded.
- 5) Label—include a Quilt of Honor Label.
- 6) Presentation Case.
- 7) You may want to include a personal note and pictures of the quilt being made. Many appreciate their Quilt even more when they read about its history.

FOLDING THE AMERICAN FLAG



Did you know that at military funerals, the 21 gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776.

Have you ever noticed how the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly **folding the American flag 13 times**? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The **1st fold** of our flag is a symbol of life.

The **2nd fold** is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The **3rd fold** is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The **4th fold** represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The **5th fold** is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country", in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.

The **6th fold** is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that We pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The **7th fold** is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The **8th fold** is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The **9th fold** is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The **10th fold** is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for defense of our country since they were first born.

The **11th fold** represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The **12th fold** represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

The **13th fold**, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nations motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, Ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you will see flags folded and now you will know why.

Nobody seems to know when or where the meanings of the folds originated or who wrote it. There is speculation that it may have come from a chaplain who attached the mostly Judeo-Christian religious meanings to the folds, perhaps for a burial ceremony.

Also, according to Arlington National Cemetery, the 21 gun salute evolved from many years of various traditions of honoring dignitaries.



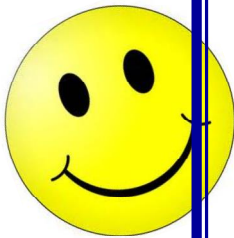
TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

Remember to donate your best work. If it's not good enough to give to a family member, it's not good enough for Quilts of Honor

Size DOES matter! Anything larger than 65" x 75" costs more in batting and backing not to mention the increased postage costs. It also makes it hard to donate with smaller size quilts. If we have a single standalone donation, we can give a larger quilt.

For those of you who collect quilts to be forwarded to QOH and you have new participants in your group, please give the quilt a quick once over. Are the seams securely sewn? Do the borders have big pleats? One quilt where the piecer ran out of border fabric, they just made a 1/4" pleat on the interior border to make it fit. The shortage wasn't even distributed along the border.

REMEMBER—These quilts go to warriors. Just because the flowers in the fabric are red or blue, doesn't make the quilt patriotic.



QUILTER'S CODE

WIP: Work in Progress

UFO: Unfinished Object

PHD: Projects Half Done

PIG: Projects in Grocery Bags

**WOMBAT: Waste of Money, Batting
and Time**

NESTY: Not Even Started Yet

PFC: Professional Fabric Collector

**STABLE: Stash Accumulation Beyond
Life Expectancy**

**WITHWIT: What in the Heck was I
Thinking?**

TIH: There is Hope

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