



*Quilts of Valor*

A Quilt of Valor® (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, “Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation.” To use the term Quilt of Valor, Quilts of Valor or QOV, the quilt must be a specific size, must have a label with required information, it must be awarded (it is not a gift) and it must be recorded.

### **What Does a Quilt of Valor Mean?**

This quilt brings you a three-part message from our hearts.

1. We thank you for your service
2. Our quilters know that freedom is not free.
3. This quilt is meant to offer comfort to you.

A Quilt of Valor is not a charity quilt. A Quilt of Valor is not a blanket. Our quilts are awarded, not just handed out like a magazine or a video. This Quilt of Valor unequivocally says thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation.

If you are a quilter, you know a quilt consists of three layers held together by its quilting stitches. We like to think of the layers in this way:

1. A top of the quilt with its many colors, shapes, and fabrics, represents the communities and the many individuals we are.
2. The batting, the filler, is the center of the quilt, its warmth. It represents our hope that this quilt will bring warmth, comfort, peace, and healing to the individual who receives it.
3. The backing is the strength that supports the other layers. It represents the strength of the recipient, the support of his or her family, our communities and our nation.
4. Each stitch that holds the layers together represents love, gratitude, and sometimes the tears of the maker.
5. Each Quilt of Valor is formed by loving hands that join bits of fabric together one piece at a time.

## **Quilt Requirements**

- A Quilt of Valor does not have to be red, white and blue, but patriotic colors are very popular with recipients. Panels can provide a great focal point and bring in other colors. Think creatively with the recipient in mind.
- Recommended size: 60" x 80"; minimum: 55" x 65"; maximum: 72" x 90".

- The Quilt consists of a top, batting, and backing. It must be machine or hand quilted. A tied quilt is not acceptable for a Quilt of Valor.
- Use quality, adult-appropriate, 100% cotton, quilt-weight fabrics. Avoid juvenile prints and branch-specific fabric unless the recipient is known.
- Patterns and blocks can be of any design suitable for a patriotic theme.
- Use quality, 100% cotton; backings provided to Longarm Volunteers must be 8" wider in width and 8" longer in length. Wide commercial backings sold at quilt and fabric stores are acceptable. Square up, press and fold backing neatly before providing to quilter.
- Use quality, low loft batting such as cotton, cotton blends, polyester or polyester blends.
- Double fold, also known as French fold, is recommended for durability. Hand stitch or neatly machine stitch binding, mitering all corners.
- The label must state quilt is a Quilt of Valor in order to be awarded as a Quilt of Valor and recorded as such.
- Wash quilt once completed so it is soft and so that any potential fabric dye bleeding issues are resolved. Use cold water, mild detergent and unscented products. A color catcher will capture fabric dyes in washer.
- A thank you note, card or letter to the recipient may be included. A journal with information about how the quilt was made, maker's thoughts, etc. may be included.