

## Quilts of Valor February, 2024

Quilts of Valor began in 2003 when a quilter named Catherine Roberts had the idea of comforting Veterans with quilts during the time her son was deployed in Iraq. Since then, 375,337 quilts have been awarded. The mission is to honor our Service Members and Veterans who have been touched by war with Quilts of Valor. The foundation represents one human being reaching out and touching another, without judgment, acceptance and with an acknowledgement of service to our nation. Catherine Roberts had definite ideas about standards of excellence for Quilts of Valor. They are to be quilted not tied. They are to be awarded not passed out. A Quilt of Valor should say “Thank You for your service and sacrifice in service our nation”. Calico Cut-Ups member, Susan Richmond is the Director for Northwest Arkansas.

A Quilt of Valor was awarded on Saturday, February 10 to Don Beagle during our annual Quilts of Valor Sew Day. Don served in the Navy from 1971 to 1977 in both active and reserve duties. He was stationed aboard the USS Lexington CVT-16 doing critical training missions during the Vietnam War.

Myrlene Zimmerman hosted the presentation. Don’s daughter-in-law, Mona Cochran and Mary Kalin wrapped the Quilt of Valor around his shoulders. Mona had reached out to Myrlene in October to coordinate having a Quilt of Valor awarded to her cousin, Kyle Williams in Texas. They were able to connect with the Air Force base in San Antonio and get the job done. What Myrlene didn’t know was that Mona was a part of Don’s family. It was a touching moment for Don and Mona and those who were there to witness the ceremony.

During the Sew Day, 67 Ohio Star blocks were made. It was a well oiled machine with block kits, a squaring up station and ironing provided. Pizza was served to those who attended. Calico Cut-Ups has awarded 222 Quilts of Valor! We are honored to support this worthy organization.

