

# WVI September 2022 Newsletter



## Quilts of Valor:

The [Quilts of Valor Foundation](#) is a national organization founded in 2003 by "Blue Star" mom Catherine Roberts. Since then, more than 140,000 quilts have been awarded here in the United States, and in Germany, Iraq and Afghanistan. With each quilt, the mission to honor Service members and Veterans is fulfilled.

A Quilt of Valor is made of three layers and each layer has own special meaning:

- The top with its many colors, shapes and fabrics represents the communities and the many individuals we are.
- 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.
- 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.
- Each stitch that holds the layers together represents love, gratitude, and sometimes the tears of the maker.

Each quilt also represents a three-part message from the givers to those receiving:

- First, we HONOR you for your service.
- Next, we know that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE. The quilt is meant to say thank you for your sacrifice.
- And finally, this quilt is meant to offer COMFORT to you, and to remind you that although your family and friends cannot be with you at all times, you are forever in our thoughts and our hearts. (Excerpt: Vantage Point July 19, 2016)

Ohio Quilts of Valor Maumee Chapter has contributed 600 quilts since 2008 years. The twelve members meet monthly and work together and individually on making quilts. On August 21, 2022 twenty three quilts were presented to members of United States Vets, Inc and Women Veterans Initiative. Each quilt was individually designed using red, white and blue as the color scheme. Along with the quilt, the veteran received a pillow case for storage and cleaning directions. Members of Ohio Quilts of Valor were present to present each veteran with their quilt that is labeled with their name and branch of service.



Members Quilts of Valor (Photo by: C. Cremean)



D. French receiving quilt (Photo by: C. Nagy)

## **Veteran Family Picnic:**

The annual free veteran family picnic sponsored by United States Vets, Inc. was held August 21, 2022 at Swan Creek Park. Mother nature was kind enough to stop the rain and provide sun shine so that the 21 veterans and 13 guests in attendance could enjoy good food, conversation and a few surprises.

United States Vets, Inc. provided the shelter and food. David Neal (Navy) did a fantastic job of grilling the hamburgers and hot dogs for the hungry folks. David has been the chef for a number of years. (Photo by: C. Cremean)



Beth Vollmar (Senior Benefits Adviser for BOST Benefits) and daughter brought all the ingredients for delicious root beer floats. After all the food, Beth led the group in PT for the mature adult. She demonstrated various stretching exercises using rubber bands.

Contact Beth if you are interested in health insurance for veterans. Contact info: 419-787-7177. [bvollmar@BOSTbenefirs.com](mailto:bvollmar@BOSTbenefirs.com). [www.BOSTbenefits.com](http://www.BOSTbenefits.com)

(Photo by: C. Nagy)

“Obsessed With Ribbons” contributed a hand made wreath for each branch of service. The recipients of the wreaths were: B. Newman (USAF), L. league (Army) and S. Pappas (Navy). “Obsessed With Ribbons” frequently participates in local arts and crafts events. Custom orders are welcome states designer, Patti Smith. Contact info: 567-429-9866. Email: [obsessedwithribbon@aol.com](mailto:obsessedwithribbon@aol.com). Facebook: Obsessed With Ribbon (Photo by: C. Nagy)



A special Thank You to the following for contributing raffle baskets: Traditions at West Park Place, Rehabilitation Hospital NWO, B. Vollmar, R. Rambo, C. Stiles and G. Harris. United States Vets, Inc. donated surplus food to attendees. A big Thank You to United States Vets, Inc. for sponsoring the picnic and to those that assisted with set up and clean up.

## **The 2022 Ohio Women Veterans Conference:**

The Ohio Women Veterans Conference was held August 6, 2022 at The Ohio Union at The Ohio State University with over 300 women veterans in attendance. The veterans attended various women focused break out sessions and visited the many exhibitor booths. Diana French (Army and WWI member) participated in a panel discussion titled “Advocating for your Health & Navigating the Healthcare System” along with Dana Robinson-Street and Kristine Stanley.

The luncheon Keynote Speakers were MAJ Kimberly Snow and MSG Desiree Layne. Both shared their experiences in Iraq and some of the situations they encountered at home and aboard as soldiers, wives and mothers. Maj. Snow and MSG Layne were the forces behind developing and managing the Female Engagement Team.

**Meet and Greet:**

A Meet & Greet was held at the SpringHill Suites by Marriott on Friday, August 5, 2022 from 5:00pm-7:00pm. The function was hosted by Carolyn Nagy (Coordinator WVI). There was no lull in the lively conversation and all joined in singing a rousing Happy Birthday to Diana French. At one point, each veteran shared their individual stories. What a diverse group of women veterans.



Picture: Meet and Greet Attendees  
Photo by: A. Beltz

**Reminder: Clothing and Household item Give Away:**

- September 3 (Saturday) Rain or shine.
- Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm
- Location: 1206 Elco Avenue Maumee
- Women's clothing (only). All sizes. Excellent condition)
- Shoes (various sizes)
- Purses
- Dishes, picture, rugs, lamps and much more

**You are welcome to bring any women in need of this items.**

**WVI is the initiative of the non profit United States Vets, Inc.**