



Angel Carpenter/Blue Mountain Eagle
Mt. Vernon quilters Mary Lou Drury, left, and Karen Hinton show a Quilt of Valor, made by Hinton, on display at the 2018 Grant County Quilt Show in John Day.

By Lisa Lester Kelly
Go! Magazine

MT. VERNON — The Grant County Piecemakers Quilt Guild will give quilts along with their gratitude to area veterans at a Quilts of Valor event Saturday,

Aug. 21, at Clyde Holliday State Park, on the John Day River near Mt. Vernon.

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,"

Quilts of Valor event shares gifts of appreciation and healing

according to the organization's website, www.qovf.org.

This is not the first time the Grant County guild has gifted their hand-made quilts to veterans as tokens of their appreciation. While in the past Quilts of Valor dinners have been held, this year the quilt giveaway will be accompanied by a BBQ lunch at the state park. Hamburgers and chips will be served beginning at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is free for all veterans. The cost for non-veterans is \$7. All are welcome to attend the lunch and the following ceremony.

The Quilts of Valor ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. The members of the Grant County Piecemakers Quilt Guild give their quilts as a way to say thank-you to the veterans who live in the county. The proceeds raised by

the lunch will be used to make more Quilts of Valor or quilts to be donated to those who need them. Also during the ceremony, the winner of a quilt raffle will be drawn.

Quilts of Valor are made by volunteers who donate their time and materials. Typically the quilts are patriotic in theme and colors. Individuals as well as groups may contribute their hand-made quilts.

To connect with the organizers of the Grant County giveaway, contact Ersela Dehiya at navajo73dehiya@yahoo.com. For more information on how to donate to the Quilts of Valor Foundation, join or start a chapter, and find veterans to wrap the quilts around, visit www.qovf.org or www.facebook.com/QOVFoundation.

QUILTS = HEALING

Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 with a dream, literally a dream. Founder Catherine Roberts' son Nat was deployed in Iraq. According to Catherine:

"The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change. The message of my dream was: Quilts = Healing."

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