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## Quilts of Valor Ceremony

### *Introduction:*

Welcome to this ceremony. We are here to honor three veterans for their service to our country.

### *Pledge of Allegiance and one verse of "America".*

Larry Hasler, Air Force, 1968-1971, Vietnam Conflict Era

Gary Wyatt, Air Force, 1968-1971, Vietnam Conflict Era

Alan Zellmer, Army, 1966-1969, Vietnam Conflict Era

They served with honor, performed their duty, and helped to ensure the freedom we have today. We are especially happy to have family present to help with the ceremony.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a grassroots group of quilters from all across the US. In 2003, a quilter named Catherine Roberts had the idea of comforting veterans with quilts during the time her own son was deployed in Iraq. She described her situation then as being '10 seconds away from a panic attack 24 hours a day.' When she pictured a soldier on the edge of a bunk wrapped in a quilt, her mission was clear. Since then, well over 250,000 Quilts of Valor have been awarded here in the United States, and in Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The Olney Valor Quilters have awarded over 400 quilts since 2015 and over 100 in 2020 alone. Our mission is to honor our service members and veterans who have been touched by war.

### *What a Quilt of Valor means:*

This quilt brings you a three-part message from our hearts: honor, freedom, and comfort.

First, we HONOR you for your service to our country in the Army and Air Force. We honor you for leaving all you hold dear to stand in harm's way in a time of crisis, protecting us from the effects of war.

Next we know that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE. The cost of our freedom is the dedication of lives of men and women like you, and this 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 all our thoughts and our hearts.

*About A QUILT OF Valor:*

The founder of Quilts of Valor describes these as the civilian equivalent of a Purple Heart. The quilts are awarded, not just handed out. The Quilt of Valor says ‘thank you’ for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving our nation.

This is also NOT a charity quilt. It is NOT a blanket.

A quilt has three layers held together by the stitches. Think of the layers in this way.

\*The top of the quilt with its many colors, shapes, and fabrics represents the many individuals and communities we are.

\*The batting, the filler, is the center of the quilt, its warmth. It represents the hope that this quilt will bring warmth, comfort, and peace to the individual who receives it.

\*The backing is the strength that supports the other layers. It represents the strength of the recipients, the support of their families, our communities, and our nation.

\*Each stitch that holds the layers together represents love, gratitude, and sometimes the tears of the maker.

*Present the quilts, wrapping the awardees, offering a hug. (Explain that a family member is invited to help wrap the quilt).*

*Read the Certificates:*

*Invite the awardees to offer comments about their service.*

*Closing:* As of today, the story of these quilts is YOUR story. We hope you will keep them as tangible reminders that there are many millions of women and men across this land who are forever in your debt, and that it was our pleasure to honor you with these Quilts of Valor.

Thank you, again, for your service to our country, and thank you for participating in our ceremony.