

Group Honors Veterans' Quilts to Thank Them for Their Service

The Khaki Quilters met at Eisenhower Recreation Complex for a ceremony to honor military veterans.

By **MADDIE CUTLER**
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The Khaki Quilters use their skills to thank veterans the best way they know how: with quilts.

Made specifically for veterans, Quilts of Valor show gratitude for their service and dedication to the country.

The chapter started their efforts with Quilts of Valor in 2015. They gave their first one to David Ore for his service in the United States Army during the Iraq War.

In January 2015, chapter member Sheila Robbins purchased patriotic-themed materials to make a quilt to donate to the American Legion.

The store clerk asked Robbins if she was making a Quilt of Valor but Robbins was unfamiliar with the term.

Being a veteran herself, Robbins quickly became passionate about the program and pitched the idea to the rest of the chapter during a meeting of the Khaki Quilters.

The Florida Quilt of Valor Foundation assigns a long-armed, which is the person who does the decorative quilting on top that binds the three layers together.

Each of those layers represent the veterans. The top of each quilt, with its multitude of colors, shapes and fabrics, represents all of the communities we're a part of and how everyone is individual.

The batting that goes as the middle layer symbolizes the warmth the quilters hope the piece brings, and the comfort, peace and healing it will bring to the recipient.

The backing layer that holds up the quilt represents the strength of the recipient and the support they receive from their community, and each stitch is a symbol of love and gratitude from those who help make the quilt.

On Jan. 26, the chapter honored three veterans with

Quilts of Valor at a ceremony held at Eisenhower Regional Recreation Complex.

David Rambow served as a lieutenant colonel in the Army in Vietnam.

Thomas Watson is a captain in the United States Army Reserves and served in Desert Storm.

Thomas Boland, who was the final recipient of the ceremony, served as a Specialist 2nd Class in the United States Army. Boland is the chapter's 62nd Quilt of Valor recipient.

"It's an honor, I'm grateful for the work they put in to make this," Boland said. "It's not a simple thing to make a quilt, and I'll cherish it."

The chapter has made 62 Quilts of Valor in six years and members are hoping to one day reach 100.

It's a high goal, Robbins said, and it might take a while but the group is dedicated to honoring veterans.

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Submitted photos
Lt. Col. David Rambow, Capt. Thomas Watson and Spc. Thomas Boland stand with their Quilts of Valor they received on Jan. 26 at Eisenhower Recreation Complex.