

Friday, February 21, 2025 was a special day for me and for three very special veterans, formerly from the McVile area and their families. I was able to present three Vietnam - era veterans with beautiful Quilts of Valor in the beautiful, still under construction, Dakota Medical Foundation building in south Fargo.

Sometimes I have been able to make these presentations as a surprise, but there were too many things to be arranged to make things come together, and to make this a special event. We all met in a conference room at 1:00 PM and the visiting and stories freely flowed for several hours.

Gail Stahl, wife of Merlin Stahl, one of the Vietnam-era veterans graciously served the group fresh pumpkin cookies and plenty of hot coffee. Others attending were Roy Klinger Jr. and his wife, as well as Louie Ringdahl, his wife, 2 daughters, and a grandson.

After I shared the background story of the Quilts of Valor, I shared the story of the group of creative ladies across our area who create such beautiful works of art. They go by the name Homebound Quilters and create these beautiful quilts using their own funding and many hours of work. They follow strict guidelines of the Quilts of Valor Organization, and each quilt is registered with that group upon veterans receiving one.

The program included special guest, Don Herrly, the American Legion Department Adjutant who presented each veteran and their wives a special 'Welcome Home' coin. Veterans of the Vietnam War were not always given the 'welcome home' they deserved. These coins reflect the true appreciation the veteran's service organization has for these veterans, even though long after the war ended. The beautiful coins were well received and appreciated.

It was a wonderful way to spend a Friday afternoon. The veterans were very appreciative of the Quilts, and their families were happy to have their veteran's recognized for their service. I always feel so blessed when I can serve in some small way at a quilt presentation event. God Bless these special veterans who were finally "Welcomed Home" and thanked for their service.

*Judy Twete.* President Ole Semling Unit 0135 McVile, ND