

# CABIN CLIPS

*November, 2023*

## 2023 Board Members:

Pat Baird, President  
Mary Burns, Vice President  
Jeff Baird, Treasurer  
Ione Fejfar, Secretary  
Marty Mahrt, Member  
Dale Christensen, Member  
Deb Hanagan, Member  
Chris Mueller, Member

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## Surprises from 2023

Our 2023 season is in the bag. Not the bag of Halloween candy or Santa's bag of gifts, but our season is over and the OBHC cabin is put to bed and closed for the winter. We had a very good season and have now hosted 152 families from 37 different states. After 13 seasons I would not have dreamed we would still be surprised with new happenings but we sure were this season!

1. We expanded our scope to include combat wounded veterans from any post 9/11/01 military operations.
2. We gained 4 new supporters this year including Mangiamo Pizzeria in Hill City, Pounding Fathers and A Dude's Place in Custer and Sprocketts Fun Foundry in Keystone. All of these new sponsors were extremely popular with our families. I can understand the popularity with food and games, but haircuts??? Gary Carr, the owner of A Dude's Place and former veteran, was the epitome of a welcome, compassionate, caring and understanding individual with empathy and knowledge of the many trials and hardships our families endure on a daily basis. Thank you to all of our many business sponsors! You really do treat our families like royalty and they are very appreciative and cannot say enough good things about Custer and surrounding areas and the friendly people they encounter.
3. The Wilkins family from Cresson, Texas, was sponsored by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class in Custer! They raised and donated \$747 from their Living History

- Fair. The Wilkins family represented OBHC in our July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.
4. OBHC was featured in the August issue of the VFW national magazine as well as the summer issue of the 2023 Hoover Digest, courtesy of our own author, Deb Hanagan! That's NATIONAL NEWS!
  5. Joe Reinke, Lisbon, ND, who was hosted by OBHC this summer along with his wife and family, was so impressed with our non-profit that he presented our idea to the North Dakota Department of Veteran Affairs at their fall conference. He stated: "I believe you all are setting the standard of what honoring our veterans looks like. I can see now that North Dakota has a lot of work to do to meet the standards you all are setting."
  6. We were fortunate to be chosen for a segment on NBC/KNBN's "Connect With Us" series. Check it out on You Tube!
  7. Yes, it really has been a great season and we have expanded our Board of Directors with 3 dedicated and very knowledgeable Board members, Dale Christensen, (Air Force veteran), Deb Hanagan and Chris Mueller, (both Army veterans). Welcome Aboard! We are so happy to have you, your fresh ideas and wealth of information.



Back Row: Dale Christensen, Jeff Baird, Pat Baird, Chris Mueller, Mary Burns.  
Seated: Ione Fejfar, Marty Mahrt, Deb Hanagan.

## Quilt of Valor Presentations

For those of you who do not know about this wonderful program, here are a few facts:

- ✚ **The Quilt of Valor Foundation began with a dream in 2003. Founder, Catherine Roberts, literally had a dream visualizing a soldier hunched over the side of his bed in utter despair. Then she saw him wrapped in a quilt. It had transformed him from despair to a feeling of hope and well-being. The message of her dream was: Quilts = Healing.**
- ✚ **The Quilts must meet a high standard. They must reflect the best possible workmanship, quality materials, must be a specific size with a specific label and must be registered with the QoVF.**
- ✚ **The Quilt of Valor, a once-in-a-lifetime award, is presented to service members and veterans who have been touched by war. It says, “thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation.”**
- ✚ **Quilts of Valor are made by volunteers who freely spend their own time, talent and treasure. There is never any personal financial benefit to someone for making a Quilt of Valor.**
- ✚ **In May of 2023, the Quilt of Valor Foundation awarded its 350,000<sup>th</sup> Quilt of Valor.**
- ✚ **OBHC is very fortunate to have the Quilt Guilds from Custer and Hill City provide our hosted veterans with a Quilt of Valor.**





With all the trouble, turmoil and unrest in Israel at this time and in recognition of Veterans Day, we are so fortunate to live in the USA and see our flag waving. Although this interpretation is not official, these sentiments have been adopted as a tradition by many veterans and family members of veterans of our great nation as they reflect what we recognize about our flag and our country. They give meaning and hope to those family members who have lost a loved one fighting for our freedoms.

The **1<sup>st</sup> fold** of our flag is a symbol of life.

The **2<sup>nd</sup> fold** is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The **3<sup>rd</sup> fold** is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The **4<sup>th</sup> fold** represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The **5<sup>th</sup> fold** is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country", in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.

The **6<sup>th</sup> fold** is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The **7<sup>th</sup> fold** is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The **8<sup>th</sup> fold** is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The **9<sup>th</sup> fold** is a tribute to womanhood, and mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The **10<sup>th</sup> fold** is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for defense of our country since they were first born.

The **11<sup>th</sup> fold** represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The **12<sup>th</sup> fold** represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

The **13<sup>th</sup> fold**, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

**Thank You to all Veterans**