

AMERICANA STAR BLOCK

inspired by *Quilts of Valor* at the National Quilt Museum

*Quilt: Interlocking Rings of Freedom
Piecing: Cathy Busch
Quilting: Julie Messerly*



Guest Designer: Morgan Anderson



Find Morgan Online:

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Quilting was something I never thought I would be interested in...I remember my mother sewing while growing up and it just wasn't for me. Fast forward to when I was 25 years old and pregnant with my first daughter; I couldn't find any nursery bedding that I liked. My solution to that problem was to make my own! I taught myself to sew with the help of many late night calls to my mom (she was thrilled that I finally wanted to quilt!) and lots of tutorials on YouTube. I found it to be an instant love and a new way to express my creativity.

As time has gone by, I've realized that my love for quilting is centered around traditional blocks with slight modifications to give them a modern twist. This past year I ventured into designing quilt patterns and have really enjoyed the new creative outlet! My husband is in the U.S. Air Force and along with our two daughters, we move quite frequently and currently live in the U.K. Quilting has been a wonderful hobby, skill, and now a career that I'll be forever thankful for since it can go with me wherever the Air Force sends us.



Inspiration

Stars and Stripes

Piecing: Prairie Points Quilt Club
Quilting: Kelley Harvey



Stars and Checks

Piecing: Ann Holte & Jessica Parsons
Quilting: Nancy King



[The Quilts of Valor Foundation](#) was founded in 2003 by Catherine Roberts with a mission to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. To do this, volunteers across the country donate their time and materials to make a quilt collaboratively. This exhibit features quilts made in patriotic designs from the simple to the complex. Members of the QOVF range from young beginning quilters in the "Under Our Wings" program to experienced members who have been making Quilts of Valor for many years.

A Quilt of Valor says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor" in serving our nation. As of today 231,700+ Quilts of Valor have been presented. At the end of this exhibit, a ceremony will be held at the National Quilt Museum on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 2 pm and these Quilts of Valor will be awarded to veterans and military who have been touched by war.

[Request a Quilt of Valor](#)



Sample Block: Americana Star



sample by Morgan Anderson

- Size 10.5" x 10.5" (finishes 10" x 10")
- Supplies: fabric marking tool

Required fabric:

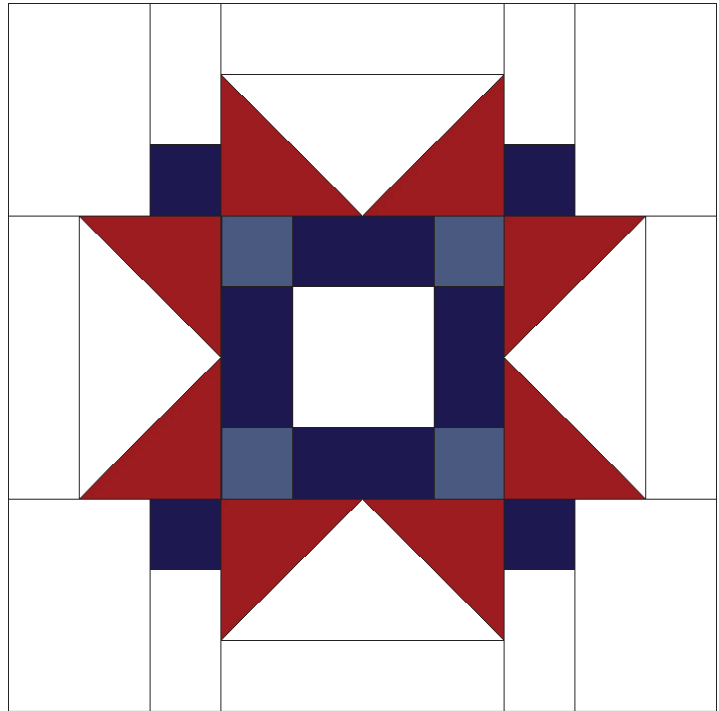
- Background color
- Three colors for star



Preparation

Fabrics

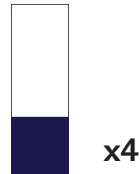
- Background
 - Cut - (4) $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$
 - (4) $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$
 - (4) $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4\frac{1}{2}''$
 - (4) $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$
 - (1) $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$
- Red
 - Cut - (8) $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$
- Light Blue
 - Cut - (4) $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$
- Dark Blue
 - Cut - (4) $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$
 - (4) $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$



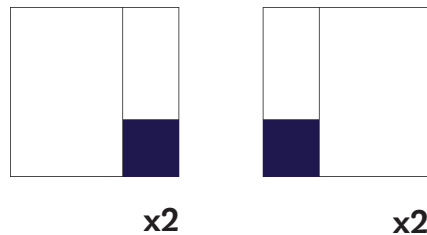


Assembly: Outside Corners

1. Sew (1) dark blue $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ square to (1) background $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ rectangle. Press seams towards square. Repeat steps 3 more times to create a total of four rectangle units.



2. Sew (1) $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$ background rectangle to (1) rectangle unit. Press seams open. Repeat until you have two of each finished Outside Corner units as shown.



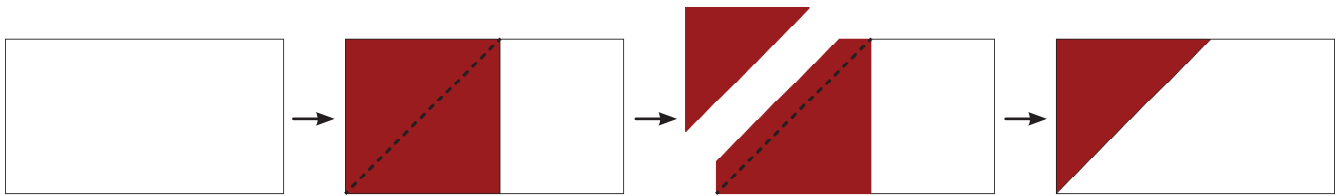


Assembly: Flying Geese

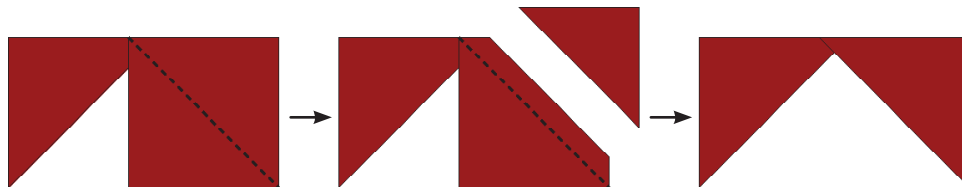
1. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of the eight red $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$ squares.



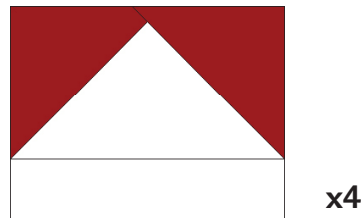
2. Take (1) red square and lay it on a background $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4\frac{1}{2}''$ rectangle, corners and sides aligned. Sew directly on top of the line. Trim $\frac{1}{4}''$ away from sewn line and then press seam open. See illustration below.



3. Take (1) red square and lay it on the opposite side of the flying geese unit and sew on top of the line. Trim $\frac{1}{4}''$ away from the sewn line and press open.



4. Sew (1) background $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ rectangle to the bottom of the flying geese as shown below. Press seam open.



5. Repeat Steps 2-4 to make a total of four Flying Geese units.

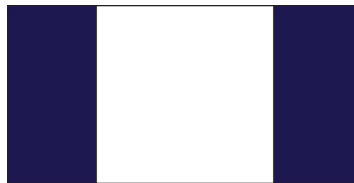


Assembly: Middle

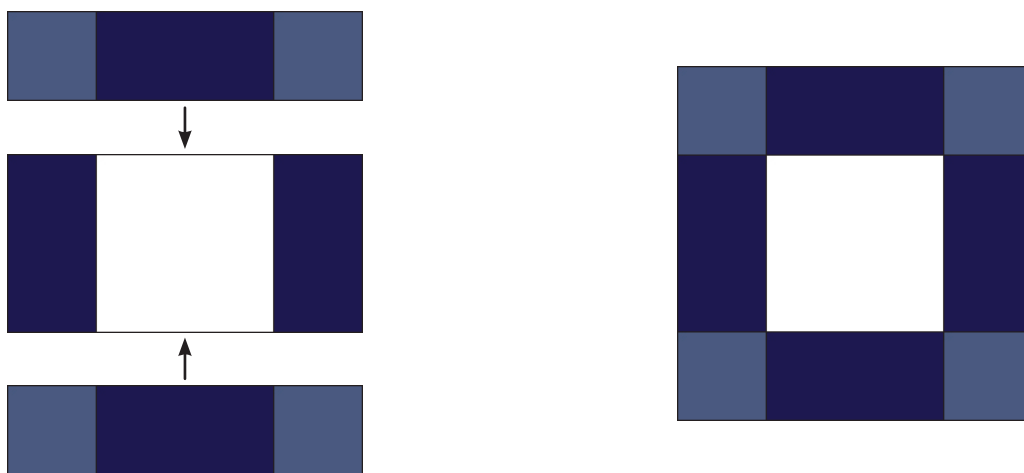
1. Take (1) dark blue $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ rectangle and sew a light blue $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ square to each end. Press seams towards dark blue rectangle. Repeat once more.



2. Sew a dark blue $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ rectangle to opposite sides of the background $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$ square. Press seams towards dark blue rectangles.



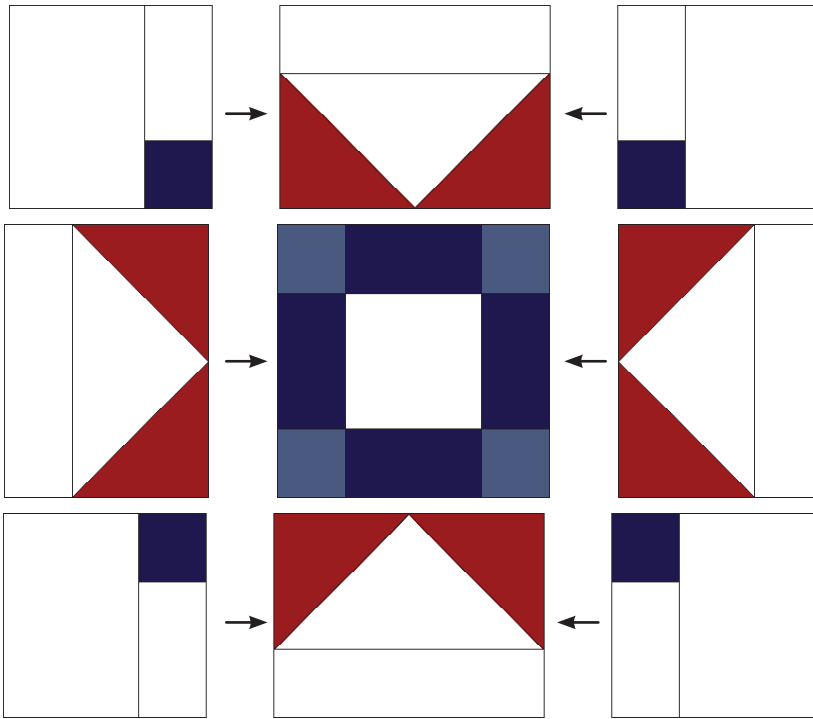
3. Sew rows together to create Middle Unit. Press seams open.



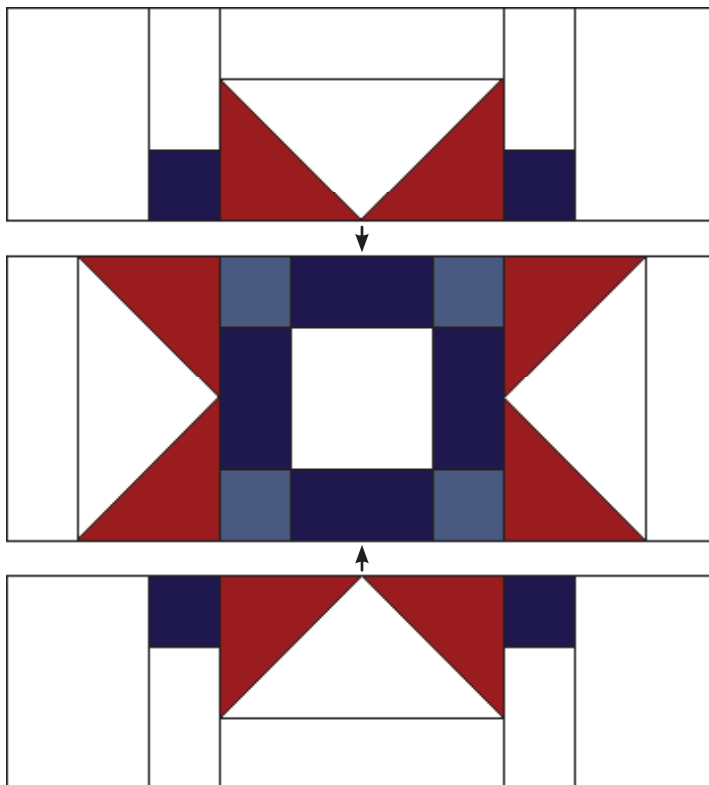


Block Assembly

1. Sew units together as shown below to create rows. Press seams open.



2. Sew rows together as shown below to create finished block. Press seams open.





National Quilt Museum Updates

Exhibit



Open through January 14, 2020, the Quilts of Valor exhibit includes the *50 State Salute* quilts, some of which will be awarded to veterans at the end of the exhibit, and the Old Glory collection which combines vintage quilt tops with modern longarm quilters with a military connection. QOVF works to cover veterans & military service members touched by war with the healing comfort of a Quilt of Valor.

- **Explore further** quiltmuseum.org/visit/current-exhibits/

Quilt TV



Catch the newest Quilt Museum TV on our YouTube channel. This episode includes a look at the Block of the Month Round 1 special exhibit, highlights from the Census Quilt Kickoff, and artist Melinda Bula talks about her quilt "...and Our Flag was Still There."

- **Watch now** youtube.com/watch?v=-1Ys0T9Ywg4

Contest



QOVF's inaugural book: *Quilts of Valor: A Fifty State Salute* is a perfect companion to the exhibit. It includes a history of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, quilts representing all 50 states, and 16 quilt patterns so you can start making your own Quilt of Valor.

WANT TO WIN A COPY? Any club member who finishes their "Americana Star" block during November can enter to win.

- **Enter by Nov. 30** quiltmuseum.org/contest/

Get Involved



Looking to donate a quilt for a good cause? Quilts for Quilting is an ongoing effort to raise funds for the museum, with 100% of the proceeds benefiting our programs and outreach. We appreciate donations of any size quilt or quilt top in excellent condition. All donations are tax-deductible.

- **Donate** quiltmuseum.org/quilts-for-quilting/