



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.



September 2011

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Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
Proud to be a Part of the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Run in NYC on September 25, 2011



National Blue Star Mothers President, Robin Barnes McCarthy, at finish line of Stephen Siller Run in NYC on September 25, 2011.



FINISH LINE!!!



National President with husband, Mike, and National Treasurer, Julie Roberts

SHADOW RUNS



COLORADO – TUNNEL TO TOWERS – CO4

Grand Valley Blue Star Mothers were honored to host a shadow run/walk on 9/11 in conjunction with the Siller Foundation and USA Cares. Panic was starting to set in a week before the race when we still only had 3 registered runners. It was decided to postpone ordering t-shirts and ordered only the bibs. We had a firefighter/veteran registered for New York and geared up to do the best we could. The media was very supportive and ran several last minute stories and Pepsi came through with sports drinks and water. A few small sponsors and about 20 late registrations gave us a little more hope and we were out before dawn on 9/11 setting up our registration table and coffee.

The mood was good and once the fire trucks and firefighters started showing up to join the gathering runners we felt a little better. Our run was held on Riverfront trail, under construction at the time, and our runners finally set off from the start line, under the flag from the ladder truck, at 9 am. Our first runner across the finish line was only 12 years old and came in at just over 18 minutes. Firefighters and veterans vied for the next few spots and most runners crossed the finish line in under 30 minutes. After the trophies were handed out we enjoyed the spirit and excitement before heading to Stocker Stadium and a 9/11 ceremony and tribute to our Military and First Responders.

It was small and probably a little less than break even but all comments were very favorable that we need to do this again. Most importantly it raised a lot more awareness for Blue Star Mothers in the area.

A Message From The Siller Family

Dear Friends,

September 12, 2011

The Stephen Siller, FDNY Tunnel To Towers Foundation and the Siller family want to personally let you know just what an inspiration you are! Today the Foundation is getting pictures and notes from across the nation telling us about the beautiful experiences participants had in your Tunnel To Tower Runs. We are humbled and in awe. Our brother would be so proud of each and every one of you. Thanks to your efforts we will be able to build smart homes (like the one for the first quadruple amputee survivor Brendan Moracco that we just completed) for Todd Nicley and John Peck, who also lost all four limbs defending our freedom.

One of the remarkable things about Stephen and his fellow firefighters on 9/11 is that they went into a burning inferno in the Twin Towers to save lives...and 25,000 lives were saved that day...the largest rescue in American history. Stephen and 342 of his firefighter brothers ultimately laid down their lives for others on that fateful day. Today, our men and women in the Armed Services continue to risk life and limb...for us.

It is fitting that we work together to give our severely wounded warriors a life of dignity and independence for all they have sacrificed for us. Speaking with Brendan Moracco, Todd Nicely and John Peck the unbelievable reality is that despite their pain, their loss, the ongoing surgeries and the rehabilitation that they must endure... they say they would do it again. They say: this is what they were trained to do...and that is what Stephen was trained to do on 9/11...to protect us.

The National Tunnel To Towers Runs help to support the worthwhile missions of our Foundation, USA Cares and Blue Star Moms. It is through the tremendous work of USA Cares and Blue Star Moms and other local community groups who help to organize these inaugural runs, that our first year has been a huge and heartwarming success.

We cannot express enough just how incredible it has been to know that your Tunnel To Tower's Run will help us build the next home for those great men. Unfortunately...our work has just begun! There are 38 more homes needed for triple amputees that the Foundation has committed to building...in honor their outstanding service and sacrifice. Our humble and heartfelt thanks goes to each and every one of you. We ask for your prayers and appreciate any help you can give as we continue to build homes for our severely wounded service men and women.

On Stephen's headstone, his wife Sally had engraved the quote ...”Be the change you wish to see”...YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE...YOU ARE THE CHANGE...AND THROUGH YOUR GREAT EFFORTS THE WORLD WILL SEE HOW EVIL CAN BE TRANSCENDED...HOW SORROW CAN BE TRANSFORMED...HOW HATE WILL ALWAYS BE TRIUMPHED BY LOVE.

God bless you!

The Siller Family

We Look Forward to Participating in the NYC and Shadow Runs Next Year!

Look for upcoming information so your Chapter can join in!!

Days of Remembrance

The Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana ~ Chapter 5

The Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana Chapter 5 participated in a community wide pep rally in (Ruston, Louisiana) Railroad Park sponsored by Louisiana Tech to give honor to our military/firefighters/& policemen due to 9-11. "We all gave thanks and honor to these everyday heroes." Blue Star Mothers in attendance were Angie Sanders, Carolyn Russell, JoAnn Barr, Mae Elliott, Coulette Minnifield and Linda Richardson.



The Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana Chapter 5



Angie Sanders, Carolyn Russell, JoAnn Barr, Mae Elliott, Coulette Minnifield, Linda Richardson

Blue Star Mothers ~ New Jersey Chapters 3 and 4



The Blue Star Mothers of Chapters 3 & 4 of New Jersey spend the weekend of September 23th Honoring and Remembering all NJ Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen & Marines killed in Iraq & Afghanistan. NJ "Run for the Fallen" started on Friday the 23rd in Cape May, NJ and ended on Sunday 25th at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel. Each mile of the run was dedicated to a NJ Hero. A Run Team which consisted of Active Duty Military stopped at each Hero Marker and presented an American Flag and a personal biographical card in honor of every fallen Hero. The Blue Star Mothers of Chapters 3 & 4 were in the lead procession and greeted each family and presented them with a rose. We had time to talk, hug, cry and support these families that had given so much. After the 153 mile trek through New Jersey the weekend ended with a Remembrance Ceremony and Dedication at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel.

Blue Star Mothers of San Antonio ~ TX Chapter 4



The Blue Star Mothers of San Antonio give honor to Gold Star Mothers on Sunday, September 25, 2011, as they gather together at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. Above left, Gold Star Mothers place a memorial wreath. Above right is Kim Rairdan, leader of the newly formed American Gold Star Mother's San Antonio Chapter. Below left, our Blue and Gold Mothers gather after the ceremony. To the right, are TX4 Blue Star Mothers Chris, Julie, and Roxi.



Blue Star Moms thank all for success of George Geer Memorial Car Show

Southwest Colorado (SWCO2) has held their 1st Annual George Geer Memorial Car Show, which happened to fall on our National BSMoA Convention weekend. **It was a tremendous success with George's own car that he had in high school headlining the event!** The show took place at Centennial Park in Cortez, CO. An award was given that day by George's father, Harold, which was called the 'Lois Geer Award'. Lois, Gold Star Mother of George who was killed in Iraq in 2005, passed away last September.

NEW ARTICLES AND PICTURES

Please remember to submit all newsletter articles and pictures to the Second Vice President at secondvp@bluestarmothers.org by the 15th of the month to be included in the following month's Newsletter. Along with our monthly newsletter, many of our activities and events can be found on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Photos of many chapter events and most national events are linked or posted on these sites. Chapters with links to online news stories can post these on the National Facebook or Twitter page.

Remember.....



For all your patriotic purchases.

When ordering, use your discount code: BSM

OCTOBER DATES OF REMEMBRANCE, CELEBRATION, OR OBSERVANCE

- October 01, 1880 John Philip Sousa becomes leader of the United States Marine Corps Band
- October 01, 1990 President Bush at the UN, condemns Iraq's takeover of Kuwait
- October 02 1789 George Washington transmits proposed Constitutional amendments (US Bill of Rights) to States for ratification
- October 03, 1789 Washington proclaims the First national Thanksgiving Day on Nov 26
- October 03, 1863 Lincoln designates last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day
- October 04, 1636 The first code of law for Plymouth Colony
- October 06, 1884 Naval War College of the United States Navy founded in Newport, Rhode Island
- October 07, 1950 US forces invade Korea by crossing the 38th parallel
- October 07, 1975 Gerald Ford signs legislation allowing women to apply for admission to the U.S. military academies - effective 1976.
- October 07, 2001 US invasion of Afghanistan starts with air assault and covert ground operations
- October 09, 1888 Public admitted to the Washington Monument
- **October 10, 2011 Columbus Day**
- October 10, 1845 Naval School opens at Annapolis, MD (later named United States Naval Academy)
- **October 10, 2011 Naval Academy Day**
- October 12, 1892 Pledge of Allegiance is first recited in unison by students in US public schools
- October 12, 2000 USS Cole badly bombed in Aden, Yemen, killing 17 and wounding at least 39
- **October 13, 2011 Birthday of the United States Navy**
- October 13, 1792 Washington lays cornerstone of the Executive Mansion (White House)
- October 15, 1948 First women officers on active duty sworn in as commissioned officers in regular Navy under Women's Service Integration Act of June 1948 by Secretary of the Navy John L. Sullivan
- October 16, 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 signed into law by President George W. Bush.
- October 20, 1964 Former US President, Herbert Hoover, dies
- October 24, 1977 Veterans Day observed for the 7th and last time on the 4th Monday of October
- October 27, 1922 First commemoration of Navy Day
- **October 27, 2011 Navy Day**



A Gold Star Mothers Poem To Her Son

Written by Hazel Gay Lee

FOR KEVIN GALEN LEE

“GIFT”

From your grave you reach, my son,
 Wrapping me in your arms of love.
 To embrace my pain and comfort me,
 I feel you son. I feel your love.
 Your grave has no victory despite death's sting,
 For even death can't keep you from me.
 For within life's turmoil when I need you most,
 Here you are. Comforting me.
 I cannot feel your actual arms,
 See your face or touch your hand.
 Hear your voice or rub your back,
 But here you are. Holding my hand.
 For in your absence and beyond your grave,
 You send a priceless gift to me.
 Someone who cares. Someone who loves.
 An honorable heart. To comfort me.
 They don't know. How can they know?
 It's you, not them, that is guiding their way.
 My precious son, who sees me weep,
 Is kissing my tears as you send them my way.
 I know you're gone. But you've never left.
 Your presence and spirit encompasses me.
 Our footsteps are ordered by God, my son.
 Through his love you send your gift to me.
 Someone who cares. Someone who loves.
 An honorable heart. To comfort me.



With loving thoughts and heartfelt prayers for our Gold Star Mothers, our country stops to remember sacrifices made, hearts broken, lives given. The last Sunday in the month of September is set aside in our nation to pay tribute to the brave and loving mothers of our country's fallen military heroes. May we pray together for hope to fill each Gold Star Mother's heart, comfort to fill her days, and peace to fill her soul. May she know that the pride she has for her hero shines out to others through her life.

THE GOLD STAR MOTHER

I'll never forget that painful day
 When a piece of my heart was torn away
 My world was changed
 By a knock at the door
 A Gold Star Mother forevermore

If my child could say just one more thing
 I'm sure it would be,
 "Mom let your heart sing.
 I served my country,
 And I served with pride
 I'm now here with God,
 And we're by your side."





Remembering Our Nations Fallen Heroes September 2011

Pfc. Alberto L. Obod Jr., 26, of Orlando, FL
Sgt. Devin J. Daniels, 22, of Kuna, ID
Sgt. Colby L. Richmond, 28, of Providence, NC
Spc. Dennis James Jr., 21 of Deltona, FL
Spc. Christopher J. Scott, 21, of Tyrone, NY
Pfc. Christophe J. Marquis, 40, of Tampa, FL
ACofE James W. Coker, 59, of Mount Pleasant, SC
Spc. Kevin R. Shumaker, 24, of Livermore, CA
Cmdr. James K. Crawford, 50, of East Concord, NY
Spc. Koran P. Contreras, 21, of Lawndale, CA
Pfc. Douglas J. Jeffries Jr., 20, of Springville, CA
Sgt. Bret D. Isenhower, 26, of Lamar, OK
Spc. Christopher D. Horton, 26, of Collinsville, OK
Pfc. Tony J. Potter Jr., 20, of Okmulgee, OK
PO Brian K. Lundy, 25, of Austin, TX
Pfc. Brett E. Wood, 19, of Spencer, IN
Staff Sgt. Daniel A. Quintana, 30, of Huntington Park, CA
Staff Sgt. Keith F. Rudd, 36, of Winder, GA
Sgt. 1st Class Danial R. Adams, 35, of Portland, OR
Sgt. Rodolfo Rodriguez Jr., 26, of Pharr, TX
Sgt. Chester G. Stoda, 32, of Black River Falls, WI
Sgt. Mycal L. Prince, 28, of Minco, OK
Cpl. Michael J. Dutcher, 22, of Asheville, NC
Staff Sgt. Michael W. Hosey, 27, of Birmingham, AL

Sgt. Garrick L. Eppinger Jr., 25, of Appleton, WI
Spc. Chazray C. Clark, 24, of Ecorse, MI
Staff Sgt. Estevan Altamirano, 30, of Edcouch, TX
Spc. Ryan J. Cook, 29, of Fort Walton Beach, FL
Sgt. Timothy D. Sayne, 31, of Reno, NV
Spc. Jakob J. Roelli, 24, of Darlington, WI
Spc. Robert E. Dyas, 21, of Nampa, ID
Lance Cpl. Terry C. Wright, 21, of Scio, OH
Sgt. Andy C. Morales, 32, of Longwood, FL
Sgt. Rafael E. Bigai Baez, 28, of San Juan, PR
Pfc. Carlos A. Aparicio, 19, of San Bernadino, CA
Sgt. Tyler N. Holtz, 22, of Dana Point, CA
Spc. Francisco J. Briseno-Alvarez Jr., 27, of Oklahoma City, OK
Lance Cpl. Franklin N. Watson, 21, of Vonore, TN
Spc. Garrett A. Fant, 21, of American Canyon, CA
1st Lt. Ryan K. Iannelli, 27, of Clarksville, NJ
Lance Cpl. John R. Wimpey Cagle, 19, of Tucker, GA
1st Lt. Andres Zermeno, 26, of San Antonio, TX
1st Lt. Ivan D. Lechowich, 27, of Valrico, FL
Spc. Steven E. Gutowski, 24, of Plymouth, MA
Pfc. David A. Drake, 21, of Lumberton, TX
Staff Sgt. Nicholas A. Sprovtsoff, 28, of Davison, MI
Sgt. Christopher Diaz, 27, of Albuquerque, NM
Spc. Adrian G. Mills, 23, of Newnan, GA

