

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 4
CHAPTER REPORT
August 13, 2011

Teresa Sumners, 1st Vice President – Fredericksburg, Virginia 4

We are a three year young chapter with 46 members. Our chapter has mailed 165 care packages. We supported the United States VS England Wounded Warrior Polo Match as cheering spectators and replacing divots.

In December we marched in the Christmas Sugar & Spice themed parade carrying giant lollypops decorated with our service member's picture on them. Our second event of the month was laying wreaths for Wreaths Across America at Arlington National and Quantico cemeteries'. We delivered a platter of home baked Christmas cookies to the recruiter's offices in Fredericksburg, Stafford, Woodbridge and also the USO at Regan and Dulles Airports.

We volunteered the 100th Homes For Our Troops build for Marine Sgt Kenny Lyon and the 101st for Army SGT Jude Recendez and his wife Kris. We provided breakfast for four days of the 1st build and a breakfast for the second and assisted at the Registration and Swag tables and other areas as needed. We participated in the Opening and Key Closings. We had a surprise guest for Sgt Lyon's Key Ceremony, when he was presented the keys to his home. We located Lieutenant Cornel Paulette Schank, the Air Force Nurse that saved Kenny's life by giving her blood to him when there wasn't any available. While giving blood Paulette said repeatedly, let this give him life, let him live. LT COL Schank was in the house out sight until John Gonsalves, CEO and Founder of Homs For Our Troops introduced her as a special person saving Kenny's life. She then walked out to surprise Kenny and Gigi his Mom. Paulette and Kenny shared a special embrace. There was not a dry eye in the crowd. At the second Key Ceremony we planned a renewal of wedding vows for Jude and Kris Recendez. We learned from Kris, that while Jude was at Walter Reed recovering from his injuries she was there to help him and it became costly for Kris who was living in a hotel. She was his fiancée at the time and wasn't allowed any spousal benefits. So they got married by the justice of the Peace. We planned a wedding with a Wedding Planner and her vendors donated their services and food. Our chapter volunteer's hours for these builds was 3,098 and our In Kind donations for Homes For Our Troops is \$39,685.64.

We did the meet and greet for the Honor Flight WWII Veterans that visited the National Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, Virginia. We also participated as Honor flight Guardians for WWII Veterans that are flown from the United States to DC to see their memorial.

We tied yellow ribbons for Memorial Day on Caroline Street and Carl D Silver Parkway in Fredericksburg and took them down several days after the holiday. The Big Red Sign an electronic marquee flashed our chapters name as the recognized organization who tied the yellow ribbons in honor of Memorial Day.

Our chapter supported the National Guard Fredericksburg, Virginia Armory Deployment Ceremony. We spoke on "What Is A Blue Star Mother" because this was a first time deployment for many of the families and wanted them to know we were here to support them. We had an information table and signed up new members. We were one of three organizations asked to provide 92 Bag Lunches for deploying soldiers. We fare welled the soldiers as the buses departed. I am happy to report it was a productive and a good year!