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Happy 70th Birthday Blue Star Mothers



No One Prouder

★ There is no one prouder than a fine military mother
★ Her support is of the strongest caliber to be found
★ She knows what she has to do and lovingly does it
★ Great faith is something she so abundantly shows

★ The motivation of these sincere women is heartwarming
★ The way they give to their own and others is an inspiration
★ Their sincere effort to be helpful is foremost in their thought
★ And how wonderful they perform when united in purpose

★ They are such tremendous supporters of all our military troops
★ Ask one hundred members of our Armed Forces about this
★ You'll see how many place a loving mother right up at the top
★ Don't bother asking this veteran, my words spell it out for me

★ May God bestow many blessings on these very special women
★ I'm in awe of their strength, determination, and courage
★ Behold the powerful fortitude they so steadfastly show
★ Do strive to keep them in your daily prayers and thoughts

★ Roger J. Robicheau - US Military Veteran
★

HISTORY **BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF** **AMERICA, INC**

www.BlueStarMothers.org

US Army Captain, George H. Maines, understanding what his mother had faced while he was serving his country, had the Flint News Advertiser place a coupon in their paper to see if there would be an interest in forming a military mothers support group.

On January 22, 1942 the coupon was printed and on the following February 1st, 300 mothers gathered at the Durant Hotel in Flint Michigan with Captain Maines chairing the meeting. With 1000 responses having come from the 'coupon ad', it was decided to form a permanent organization.

On February 6th the organization was reported on Congressional record and Chapters began to form in Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, California, Iowa and Washington.

On July 14, 1960 the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. was chartered by the US Congress as a Veterans Service Organization.

Mothers had volunteered throughout the tough times of World War II, serving in hospitals and train stations, packing care packages for soldiers, and working as part of homeland security. The organization has waned now and then in size over the years, but has always been held together by mothers who had great pride in both their children and their country.

Most recently the organization has had tremendous growth. With our country being attacked on our own soil, mothers have once again started hanging flags in their windows, proclaiming the pride they have in their children who are protecting our freedom during a time of war.

The Blue Star Mothers of America provides support for active duty service personnel, our military, our veterans, their families, and the families of the fallen; promotes patriotism and Americanism; assists the VA and Veterans organizations; and are available to assist in homeland volunteer efforts to help our country remain strong

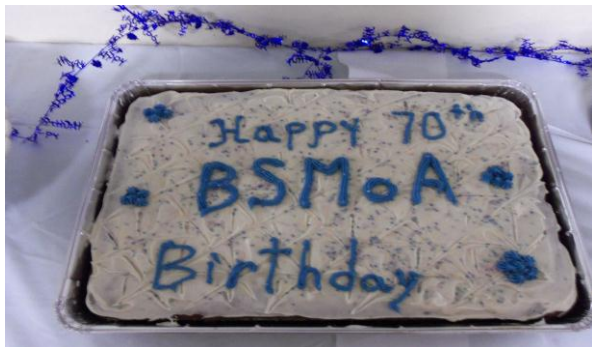
Blue Star Mothers of America

PREAMBLE

"We, the mothers of members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, do unite to establish a permanent organization. Desiring to continue to be of service to our nation, we dedicate our time, and lives if necessary, to the perpetuation of democratic government, and are proud and honored that our sons and daughters have been chosen to serve their country."

The Mission of the Corporation **shall be:**

- a) to support the Armed Forces of the United States of America and its Veterans;
- b) to advocate for America's Armed Forces and those men and women who have served their country with honor;
- c) to maintain allegiance to the United States;
- d) to educate our members and others not to divulge military or other government information;
- e) to assist and participate in ceremonies which honor, remember and support our military men and women, and Veterans;
- f) to honor those families whose children have died in service to our country;
- g) to assist in the care of unsupported mothers who gave their children to the service of the Nation;
- h) to foster true democracy;
- i) to assist in Homeland Security;
- j) to uphold the American principles of freedom, justice and equal rights, and to defend the United States from all enemies, foreign and domestic.



Join Us For Our 70th CONVENTION

August 1st - 4th 2012

2 Garfield Place Cincinnati, Ohio

CONTACT: Anita Wagner, Convention Chair
afcookiemom@yahoo.com



Submit Your Yearbook Ads

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| \$ 300. Full Page | \$ 50. Business Size |
| \$ 180. Half Page | \$ 15. Booster (one line) |
| \$ 100. Quarter Page | \$ 5. (Your Name / Chapter #) |

SEND TO: Carol Farmer Attention: BSM Yearbook
PO BOX 844 Choctaw, OK 73020

Questions: BSMyearbookads2012@hotmail.com
Submission Deadline: April 30, 2012

Submit Your Yearbook Photos

Please submit high quality photos to one of the following email addresses:

BSMyearbook2012@hotmail.com (or) BSMyearbook2012@gmail.com (or) BSMyearbook2012@yahoo.com

Photo Submission Categories: Troops, Fallen Heroes, Chapters, Candid Shots
Submission Deadline: April 30, 2012

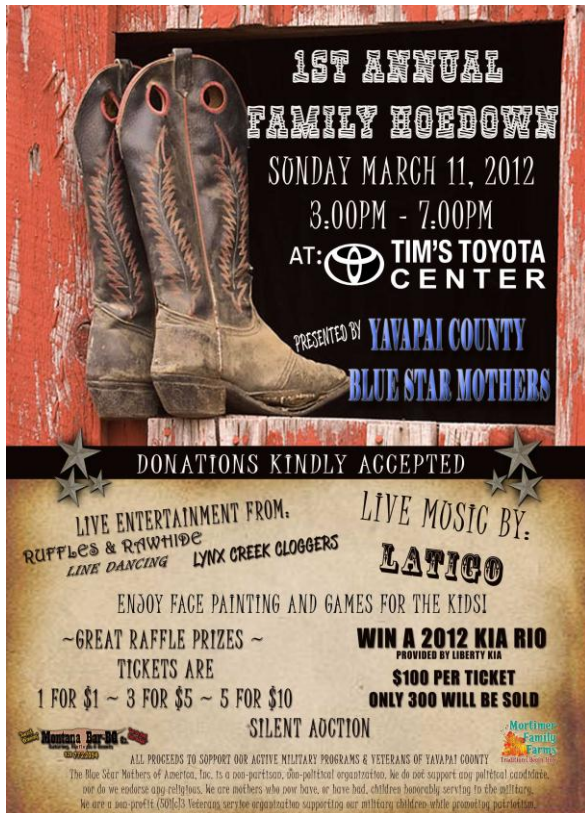
CONTACT: Rev. Lin McGee Rev.Lin.McGee@gmail.com



News From Our Chapters



Yavapai County Blue Star Mothers -- AZ 6



AZ 6 is hosting a hoedown! It is being held on March 11, 2012 All the ladies interested in beginning a Department are planning to be there, so they have also scheduled a meeting. Rebecca has sent invitations to ALL members of ALL Arizona Chapters for 4 pm that day on the Mezzanine Level at Tims Toyota Center in Prescott Valley, AZ. Take a moment to look at the flier above, they are raffling a new car!!!

For The Troops – OH 10

Ohio 10 marches together in the parade -- troops and moms alike!!



Heart of Texas -- TX 12



Mary Duty, chairwoman of the humanities department at Tennyson Middle School, is 1st Vice-President of the Blue Star Mothers of America's Heart of Texas Chapter. Her son, Caleb, served two tours of duty in Iraq with the Marines in 2006 and 2008.

Article by, Mary Duty

Turn back the clock to Nov. 29: The Blue Star Mothers' local chapter and VFW Post 6008 needed about \$4,000 to mail off care packages, cards and notes that we had collected for our troops abroad. Neither group had the funds.

Something had to be done and done quickly.

That's when countless Central Texans stepped up. Magical things happened.

The next day, a news crew from KWTX-TV visited my classroom at Tennyson Middle School to talk with students. As it is written, sometimes it is that little children lead the way. The kids on the evening news that night talked of the importance to our troops of gifts and messages from home. The Tribune Herald ran an editorial the next day summoning help. And KXXV-TV kept the story going. The message was clear: Troops would not get Christmas packages without the community's help.

At about 10:30 that first night, I got a Facebook message from a fellow teacher who is part of a VFW motorcycle group from Gatesville. Riders there pledged \$1,000. The next day, a sweet couple from Speegleville drove into town and dropped off a substantial check. A man who donated the first \$20 during our 2006 effort to send care packages came by this time with a big hug and a bigger check.

For the next three days, people of every stripe and color came by VFW Post 6008 and Poppa Rollo's Pizza and gave what they could so our troops would not be left out come Christmas morning.

A friend of mine recently laid off from her job came up to me and handed me money. Through my tears, I looked at her hard. I asked her if she was sure. Her voice broke a little as she told me that she wished she had more. In that moment she redefined generosity and selfless giving. Countless others who left no name gave from that place deep in the heart.

In two days, Tennyson students organized a fundraiser, garnering \$323. Students at China Spring ISD collected money. They brought a huge bag of change and bills totalling over \$200. Woody's Wrecker Service gave a significant donation.

The second day, Claude Ervin of Waco Scottish Rite Bodies called and made a proposal. He said that if we could raise the first half needed, his organization would match it. By Thursday, less than 48 hours after the news got out, we counted what we had. I called Mr. Ervin. Thanks to the Scottish Rite and the kind folks of Central Texas, we knew the troops would have their Christmas after all.

continued.....

We are now busy writing thank-you notes for all those who gave checks or left names. But so many of you left cash; we'll never know who you are. We hope that you read this and know how important your donation was, no matter how large or small. From the little kid with pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters to the grand men of the Scottish Rite, and everyone in between, the thanks of thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines go out to you.

One thing is sure. Something very special happened in Central Texas those three days in early December. In a time of deep economic recession and tremendous anxiety, people who we will never know stepped up to help people they will probably never meet.

Some of you may have been that lonely soldier at Christmas long ago. Some of you may have had an empty place at the table on Christmas morning. Whoever you are, allow me to convey the thanks of many a tired and lonely service person who will spend this holiday ever vigilant, watching and waiting, making sure that the world we wake up in is safe and secure. Take a moment and remember all those serving. Say a prayer for their families and loved ones back home. Join us in a prayer for peace this Christmas Day.



Nashville artist Kinsey Sadler took the stage to show her support for service members during a “Red, White and Blue Stars” concert and dance on Saturday, January 21, at the American Legion, 501 N.E. Washington Blvd., in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Tall Grass Prairie -- OK 19

Kinsey Sadler did a benefit concert and dance for Tall Grass Prairie Blue Star Mothers, OK 19 on January 21, 2012, at no cost to the Chapter. Juke zoo was present to do live videos feeds overseas for troops! Between Sadler’s musical sets, family and friends of our deployed troops were able to send video messages.

The singer held a ‘pre-party’ prior to the event to sign autographs and talk with everyone. Local Tulsa TV stations were present during the ‘pre-party’, the event, and even afterward to tape this highlight which showed great support for our troops.



Freedom Chapter – NC 9

**Submission by:
Sharon Dudley, President**

While our chapter is small in number we have had a very busy busy year. We began with all the ceremonies for remembering September 11. We were present at the Beirut Memorial Service and dedication of the Gold Star Mothers Memorial at the Coastal Carolina Veterans Cemetery.

We have been busy making neck coolers for our many Marines and Sailors leaving Eastern North Carolina from Camp LeJeune, New River Marine Corps Air Station, and Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station. We lost count at 3,500. Quilts for the Wounded Warriors at Portsmouth, Virginia, North Carolina Camp LeJeune, and Bethesda Hospital. It's hard but we also make quilts for the Fallen Heroes families of North Carolina.

Peggy Eckenrode and Sharon Dudley both helped with the 9/11 Run for the Tunnel in Jacksonville this year. We handed water to the runners and helped with set up/break down after the run. This was a first time event for Jacksonville Community. We also attended the Ringing of the Bells and the city celebration of the survival of American on Sept. 11, 2011.

We have attended and assisted with Veterans Day celebrations, USO Cookie Drop, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day dinners for our Active duty and Veterans. Over 2,000 meals are served at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We enlisted the help of one of the middle schools in Jacksonville and gave every bag of cookies handed out a card of thanks from the teens.

We helped with Wreaths Across America and even set our own wreath in the ceremony. We were pictured in the newspaper at that event and at the Veterans Day ceremony at the Disabled American Veterans lodge in Jacksonville.

Our Moms and Dads decorated my pickup truck with all the flags, signs of support and featured a real live Desert Storm Veteran (one of our Dad Associate members, David Moore, husband of Denise Moore. Denise is our secretary) in the Jacksonville Veterans Parade. This coming year we hope to have a trailer to be able to feature more of the Veterans in Jacksonville.

Our chapter had a Wounded Warrior ceremony and presented quilts to one of the local Marine Corps Battalions in August. 30 quilts have been handed out to Veterans and we were featured in an article of the National Wounded Warriors Association.

We continue to support our own treasurer's son in his efforts to become an Olympic competitor. Kirsta was able to organize and have 50 quilts presented to the competitors headquartered at the Wounded Warrior Regiment Quantico, Virginia. Kirsta Meadows is our chapter treasurer, membership chair, and owns her own quilting shop which is our local authorized Wounded Warrior Quilt distributor. She is an instructor in quilting at our local community college, as well, and has traveled to Colorado and other locations to see her son compete in the Olympic trials.

We have another mother, Toni Grimsey, that works with the students in one of our local middle schools. Dixon Middle Military Group is open to all students who have any type of affiliation with any branch of the military. We meet at least four times a month. Currently, the group is working on St. Patrick's Day cards for troops deployed. Our Military group has sent since August 5 packages for troops and 3 packages for the MP dogs in Afghanistan. Our group is still working on collecting items for the MP dogs. They also have done Veteran Day Cards for deployed troops and cards and posters for 7 staff members who are Veterans. We have done 100's of cards for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Valentine's Day for the deployed troops. We will continue to do Easter Cards before we are out of school for this year. The meetings are a way for students to talk and form bonds of support for the times when a loved one is away. We have many students who have a parent deployed or going to deploy or have just returned.

Our Chapter continues to reach out through the USO, local bases, Naval Hospital, Wounded Warrior Barracks, and Fisher House. We continue to attend and have become formal member of the local Onslow County Veterans Council Association. We have churches, other Veteran Groups, and citizens that help in all our efforts.

INSTALLATION CHAPTER 21, TAHLEQUAH CHEROKEE CAPITOL



Officers: left to right.

**Debbie Lipscomb,
Recording Secretary**

Sue Opp, Treasurer

Billie Walker, President

**Lynne Arterberry,
Financial Secretary.**

Gina Cole, Vice President

Oklahoma Department President, Cathy O'Shields had the honor of installing the officers of this Chapter Friday evening, February 17, 2012. This had been a lengthy procedure to get to this point. With the election of new officers in August at Nationals, the paperwork was somehow misplaced. After many phone calls and much diligence and grit on the parts of Billie, the Chapter President and Cathy, the State President, lost papers were found and Oklahoma Chapter 21 was chartered.

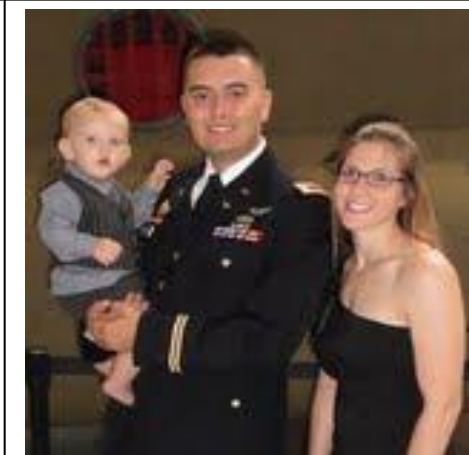
Their officers are: Billie Walker, President; Gina Cole, Vice President; Debbie Lipscomb, Recording Secretary; Sue Opp, Treasurer; and Lynne Arterberry, Financial Secretary.

Department Officers arrived just at the close of their meeting and they were surely prepared for us. They knew we were traveling at least an hour so they had prepared dinner for us. And those ladies can really cook! They had barbeque beef, potato salad, baked beans, homemade rolls, broccoli salad, tossed salad, a veggie plate, cake, peach cobbler, cupcakes, soft drinks and well, you get the picture. Forgive me if I left anything out. These ladies were each and every one so kind and welcoming to us. We will keep them in our hearts and prayers and will wish them every success with their new Chapter. Also, we want them to know if we can be of assistance to them in any way, we are only a phone call or email away.

Oklahoma Department Members attending were Cathy O'Shields, President and her husband Tony; Mary Herandy, 1st VP and her husband Lewis; Deana Exendine, Treasurer; Kimberly Graham, Financial Secretary Pro-Tem; and Jan Miller, Recording Secretary.



Happy Valentine's Day to Our Heroes!!



The Heroes pictured here represent all of our special loved ones and we hope each of you had a Valentine's Day filled with love, hope, family, and peace!! Happy Valentine's Day from the Blue Star Mothers of America.



SGT. Thomas Shepard

Our son, Sgt. Thomas Shepard, deployed to Afghanistan in March 2011 as a sniper team leader for the 10th Mountain Division. He had just finished qualification for Special Forces and was looking forward to school upon his return. But, on July 16th our lives changed forever. We received the call from our daughter-in-law, Brandy, that Tom had been severely injured while setting up a sniper outpost. An IED had exploded under his feet and he had lost his left leg. He was taken to Kandahar then on to Landstuhl, Germany. He was soon, flown to Walter Reed July 19th and joined the warriors on Ward 57. We drove to D.C. to be with him, his wife, and little girl...remaining there for 3 months taking care of our grand daughter (age 2) and helping Brandy in any way we could. By the end of October and after about 18 surgeries, he was put on outpatient status and rehab began. His right leg was seriously injured as well but doctors were able to salvage it. We were so happy to have them home for Christmas and to be with them in Colorado for a week of skiing. Yes, he's skiing again thanks to the Vail Veterans Program which sponsored 19 wounded warriors in a one-week ski program. We can't thank those who donated funds, time, and resources to make this possible.

We have learned many things through the last 6 months. Our eyes were opened to the horrors of war, and how, it affects our soldiers. I wish everyone could visit Walter Reed and experience the courage and determination of our brave young warriors. We have learned to trust deeper and pray harder. We have learned to thank God in all circumstances and expect great things from Him in the future. We have learned not to dwell on the past, or what could have been, and that our plans aren't always His. Though we can't see the big picture, we know that our God is faithful....no matter what. Thank you for your prayers for us, for our brave warriors, and for their families.

Ron and Mary Ann Shepard





Our Nation's Fallen Heroes

February 2012, DOD



Sgt. William C. Stacey, 23, Redding, CA
Lance Cpl. Edward J. Dycus, 22, Greenville, MS
Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, Fairfax, VA
Sgt. 1st Class Billy A. Sutton, 42, Tupelo, MS
Pfc. Cesar Cortez, 24, Oceanside, CA
Lance Cpl. Osbrany Montes De Oca, 20, N. Arlington, NJ
PO3 Kyler L. Estrada, 21, Queen Creek, AZ
Sgt. Jerry D. Reed II, 30, Russellville, AR
PO1 Paris S. Pough, 40, Columbus, GA
Capt. Ryan P. Hall, 30, Colorado Springs, CO

Capt. Nicholas S. Whitlock, 29, Newnan, GA
1st Lt. Justin J. Wilkens, 26, of Bend, Ore.
SrA Julian S. Scholten, 26, Upper Marlboro, MD
Sgt. Allen R. McKenna Jr., 28, Noble, OK
Sgt. Joshua A. Born, 25, Niceville, FL
Cpl. Timothy J. Conrad Jr., 22, Roanoke, VA
Lt. Col. John D. Loftis, 44, Paducah, KY
Maj. Robert J. Marchanti II, 48, Baltimore, MD
Staff Sgt. Ahmed K. Altaie, 42, Ann Arbor, MI

The Passing Of A Blue Star Mother: Dorothy Chamberlin
February 5, 2012 Member, Connecticut Blue Star Mothers, CT 1

Please visit www.ServiceFlags.com for all of your Blue and Gold needs.
They assist us in giving Gold Star Banners for the families of the fallen.

Dates to Remember, Celebrate, of Observe in March

- March 1, 1803 ~ Ohio admitted as the 17th US state
- March 3, 1871 ~ Navy Medical Corps established
- March 4, 1789 ~ First Congress declares constitution in effect (9 senators, 13 representatives)
- March 4, 1791 ~ Vermont is admitted as the 14th US state
- March 5, 1942 ~ Name "Seabees" and insignia officially authorized (US Navy)
- **March 11, 2012 ~ Day Light Savings Begins**
- March 16, 1945 ~ US defeats Japan at Iwo Jima
- **March 17, 2012 ~ St. Patrick's Day**
- March 18, 1890 ~ First US state naval militia organized (Massachusetts)
- March 19, 2003 ~ Operation Iraqi Freedom Began
- March 29, 1961 ~ 23rd Amendment ratified; allows Washington DC residents to vote for US President
- March 31, 1954 ~ US Air Force Academy established in Colorado Springs CO,

Reports From Your National Officers

Kathryn Venable National Bylaws Chair

BSMA Governing Documents

Because the Governing Documents for Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. are “living” documents, they have evolved year after year with become the guiding documents for the management of all Blue Star Mother of America Chapters throughout the country. Because these documents are “living” all members of Blue Star Mothers of America have been entrusted with the responsibility and the task to propose changes for our governing documents to be voted on each year at the BSMA National Convention.

We are now at the time of year to ask our membership to submit their proposed changes to our Governing Documents and we will be using the following guidelines for submitting a proposed change:

- Clearly state the Document, Article and Section in Bold print
- Write out the current statement and identify the portions to be changed in **Red**
- Rewrite the statement with proposed changes in **Blue**

If your submission does not following the above formatting, it may not be included as a change to be voted on during the 2012 National Convention Body.

The deadline for submitting changes to the Bylaws Committee is *May 1, 2012*

All submissions must be sent through email bylaws2012@yahoo.com or through USPS to:

Kathryn Venable, Bylaws Committee Chairwoman
c/o Blue Star Mothers of America
724B Franklin Ln
Vista CA 92084

Rose Ann Elliott National Fourth Vice President

CHARTERING

- Actively working with six chapters (IN11, IN12, IL4, OK22, WA5 and OR2)
- Four Chapters (CA43, DC1, LA6 and MO3) have all requested to keep their files open although little or no paperwork has been forthcoming.
- 8 additional people have requested information about chartering.
- I contact through email each of these prospective chapters every week to 10 days.
- Arizona is in the process of chartering a Department.

COMPLIANCE

- Reminder letters were sent in September and two in February.
- 117 chapters have completed their compliance completely.
- 19 chapters have their 501.c.3 status revoked based on information provided on the IRS 990 website.
- Chapters Needing Required Officers (CA21, IL2, IN3, NM6, NM& and NY4)
- Chapters Indicating they are Closing (CT2, IN168, LA4, MS1, NC11, WA1, OH12 and OH36)
- Requested copies of charters from many chapters who did not have one in our books. Numerous ones received. Still outstanding: CA7, MI168, MI174, MI95, NM7, NY5, and SC3

Pat Pell
President, Department of Ohio

Department of Ohio February 2012 Report

Dept. of Ohio Conference call was held 2/15/12 and 8 chapters were represented, which is the most this year!

The CareSource grants were distributed to 8 chapters. A letter and check was sent to the chapter president, which included a contract that must be signed and returned to the Dept of Ohio. The 8 Chapters have until 8/1/12 to use the money as requested. CareSource along with all the Ohio Chapter presidents, were notified as to how this \$10,000 was distributed.

Sally Botson will be the Dept. of Ohio pro-tem recording secretary. Barb Funk resigned due to too many outside and work commitments.

The Dept. of Ohio has changed the date for its convention from September to November 2-4 and will be in Columbus, Ohio. This was necessary due to chapter and elected board conflicts in September and October.

The working balance for the Dept of Ohio as of 2/15/12 is \$8568, which includes \$1,412 from a chapter that recently closed.

We are currently working on the Dept of Ohio North/South education seminar that will be held 4/28/12 (Saturday) in Columbus. The elected board will meet in person on 3/31/12 to go over the presentation.

The necklace fundraiser (enamel service flag) for the Dept. of Ohio will need to be replaced. The jeweler no longer wishes to make these necklaces unless we order at least 20 each time. This is not realistic for us to comply with so we will complete this last order and suspend the fundraiser.

Rev. Lin McGee
National Second Vice President

YEARBOOK

We are presently working on the 70th anniversary edition of the BSMoA Yearbook. Please begin to submit the pictures you would like to have displayed in the book (troop, fallen hero, chapter, candid shots). Also please begin to sell your ads (or place your own information in the Yearbook). See details on how to submit everything on the 3rd page of this newsletter. Or contact me at: Rev.Lin.McGee@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER

Please submit articles for the Newsletter by the 15th of each month. Your information will appear in the Newsletter that comes out within the first week of the next month. Thank you for sending in your pictures and articles for this month's theme which was 'Happy Birthday BSM' and 'Valentine's Day'. The following are the themes for the remaining month of the 2011-2012 BSM year. Additional information you wish to submit is appreciated. Please remember to let me know if a member of your Chapter passes away so that we can honor them in the Newsletter and the Yearbook. Thank you.

MARCH = SUPPORT

- Marching with our heroes (events supporting our troops and veterans)
- Send a picture of yourself with your hero

APRIL = MILITARY CHILDREN

- April is 'Month of the Military Child' (children of those serving in the military)

MAY = MEMORIAL DAY

- Memorial Day events and parades
- Armed Forces Day events and parades
- Send pictures of heroes with their spouse (May 11 is 'Military Spouse Appreciation Day')
- Mothers Day events

JUNE = REMEMBERING

- How your Chapter started (with pictures of then and now)
- Fathers Day events

JULY = CELEBRATION

- Getting ready for Convention
- Independence Day celebrations

Cathy O'Shields
President, Department of Oklahoma

Department of Oklahoma February 2012 Report

At this time the state of Oklahoma is working on getting the last few items on the compliance list completed. The Pre-Tem Financial Secretary Kimberly Graham and I have been working with chapters hand in hand and should have everything completed in a timely manner.

March 13, 2012 on a Tuesday we have the honor of the Washington D.C Field Band and Chorus is putting on a free concert at the Mabee Center in Tulsa for all of the returning heroes and their families. We will have a short meet and greet before the event and then we will have the privilege of listening to this awesome band. This was provided by the efforts of a former member Glen Phibbs.

March 17, 2012 We will be supporting a State wide Parade to take place in Oklahoma City it will be called the St. Pattie's Day Parade but we are working with Americaforvets.org and they are going to set up a Support our Veterans Village at the end of the parade and they are doing this across America to bring information to our troops just returning from deployments. They are participating in the parades but also they are setting up and getting the much needed help for the returning troops.

May 28, 2012 is Memorial Day and we plan on having the Department and as many chapters as possible attend the ceremony in Woodring Oklahoma. They put on a very special event for all of the parents of the fallen heroes for the entire year and they pay honor to our troops. This is an outstanding event one if you have seen it will live forever in your mind.

July 14, 2012 is our Next Department meeting and this will take place in Tahlequah, OK and we will be discussing the changes that will need to be voted on at Nationals for the Governing documents and also getting our delegates ready for the trip to the National meeting in Ohio. We will also be discussing our Department Convention.

July 31, to August 4, 2012 is the National Convention in Ohio and we are getting the information out about this so they can start doing registration of rooms. When will we be able to do the registration for the event?

September 29, 2012 is our Gold Star Family event in Oklahoma City and we had a gathering of 69 family members last year and are hoping to double this number this year.

October 19-21, 2012 will be the Department of Oklahoma Convention. Our Theme is BSMA Oldies to Newbies forever moving forward. We will be staying at the Western Hills Guest Ranch in Hulsey, Oklahoma. We will have a great night of fun on Friday with a Spooky Halloween party and then Saturday Morning will kick off with training and guest speakers We will also be doing a Memorial service for the fallen heroes and also for our fall mothers and fathers and any associates. Saturday night will be a plated banquet dinner and then Sunday will back to business with elections of officers for the next year. We will also have computers, scanners and officers available to help all of the chapters get their reports filed for compliance for the year so we can get a jump on this.

