



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

July 2023



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Dear Sisters,

It is hard to believe this will be my last newsletter article.

Thank you to our National 2VP, Karen Stillwell, for always keeping me on track. I wish I had time and space to thank everyone that has had a hand in helping me the past two years. Being your National President has been an honor and I have been so proud to represent Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

I have made so many new friends and sisters that I will have for my lifetime. I have cherished all of our time together.

I know we all love this organization and we have the love and passion to keep it going.

I look forward to the future and all that it will offer.

I am excited to see you in Nashville!

With All My Love and Respect,

Your Sister In Service,

Stacy Anders, National President 2021-2023

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2023 National Convention Nashville



July 31 - August 4, 2023
Bringing Sisters Together
From Miles Apart



Connected by Heart



Emergency Information

Name _____
Address _____
Date of Birth _____
Primary Care Physician _____
Primary Care Physician Phone Number _____

Emergency Contacts

Primary Contact _____
Phone Number _____
Secondary Contact _____
Phone Number _____

Medications / Dosage

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Medicine Allergies

Food Allergies

Additional Information



**Blue Star Mothers
of America, Inc.
80th Convention
July 31 - Aug 4, 2023**



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.



**Side by side or miles apart
we are sisters connected by heart**

Photo: 2022 BSMA National Convention Long Beach, CA by Kathleen Staats

Order *treering* A Piece of BSM History



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PURCHASE THE

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA YEARBOOK!

Customize Your 2 Free Pages

Add photos from your computer, Facebook, Instagram, Google Drive & more.

Answer fun Memory Questions to help remember the year.

The 2 Custom Pages are FREE and are printed ONLY in your book. Want more pages? Each additional 2 pages is just \$0.99.

To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook

Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

- 1 Go to: www.treering.com/validate
- 2 Enter your school's passcode:
101416260317183

Regular price: **\$23.46**



VAVS Message

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another wonderful year of supporting our veterans. The VAVS team, led by Anne Parker, would like to say a huge Thank You to all the chapters across this great nation.

It has been a true joy to see the photos of the activities, read the reports of the hours and donations and know our veterans are supported.

But we have one bigger project to finish. The Nashville VA Chief will be visiting us at convention to speak for a few minutes and pick up the 200+ bags of donated sweatpants. If you are sending them to the hotel check the last convention chatter for the information. If you are bringing them to the hotel we will collect them.

Looking forward to meeting all the VAVS Representatives and Deputies at convention.

Anne Parker

National VAVS Representative

Blue to Gold Update



Samples



The Flag Lady

This store located in Columbus, Ohio will provide beautiful silk Gold Star banners to our members.. See actual banner pictured above. The blue star outline with a gold star overlay, also has a gorgeous gold fringe on the bottom of the banner. They will emboss the name for FREE. Each banner is priced at \$15.00 plus standard shipping fee. Please see the *Blue to Gold Banner guidelines* on the website and contact 3vp@bluestarmothers.us with any questions. All banners can be ordered by emailing mjames@flagladyusa.com with how many banners needed, how many stars on banner, name and branch to be embossed and the details of where to ship after notifying the 3VP.

Please use the above email to order the Gold Star Banner(s).

<https://flagladyusa.com/>

Online Store

<http;wwhttps://www.Bluestarmothers.org/>

ONLINE STORE DATES

July 14th - Online Store will close for regular orders on Friday, July 14th.

July 17-July 28th – Online Store will be open for orders that HAVE to be picked up at NATIONAL CONVENTION in NASHVILLE.

There will be no shipping charge on these orders.

THEY MUST BE PICKED UP AT CONVENTION – Please note on the form the name of the individual picking up the order.

Aug 1st-Aug 3rd – Convention Store will be open at National Convention



Patches - \$5.00 Each

In Memory Blue Daisy



Tonya Moore

National Anthem



DEDICATED
TO ALL
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA



**To Each Mother Who Is Giving Of Her Time, Talents
and Love, When and Where Those Services
Are Needed.**



Blue Daisy

Debbie McCusker



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

Family Picnic

July 18th at 6pm

Kenosha Brat Wagon & Car Wash Fundraiser

July 29th & Aug 19th

10am-3:30pm

Elkhorn Brat Fry

September 4th

Cooking Class

November 13th

At our June 2023 gathering we made it a “fun night” with sisterhood, food, beverages and several guest speakers. Dan Buttery, President and CEO of the War Memorial Center located in Milwaukee, WI and Sister Sarge both gave engaging and informative presentations. We ended the night with a raffle. To encourage members to renew early in our renewal campaign, all who renewed by (or at) our June meeting were entered into a raffle for the patriotic themed wreath pictured below!



In early July several members from our Blue Star Mothers of SE WI2 chapter volunteered for the 2nd year in a row at Camp Hometown Heroes. We were so moved by this organizations mission of serving those who ultimately bear the weight of the reality that “freedom is not free”; children of fallen U.S. service members. To welcome campers in the coming weeks, we tied yellow ribbons on all of the “family trees” that have been planted since the camp opened, organized craft and activity baskets among other tasks to help camp counselors and directors. Pictured below are a few moments captured during our visit.



Pictured below are members who volunteered with the War Memorial Center during Military and First Responder Appreciation Day at Summerfest in Milwaukee, WI.



We attended another Farmers Market at a local home & garden store and had a table where we shared information about our Blue Star Mothers of America organization and our chapter!





The July Fourth Children's Roll N' Stroll in Fredericksburg was hosted by VA4. Prizes are given out for the best adult and child costumes as well as the most decorated bike, wagon, or stroller. Ms. Reba James, 90 years old, got an Honorable Mention for her adult costume, along with her daughter. The judges, winners, Gus Fredericksburg Nationals Mascot, and Zach Fox from 104.5 who served as the event MC are all captured on camera. A big thanks to Team RWB Fredericksburg for voluntarily serving as our road guardians. Thank you to Weichert Realtors Associate Broker Mary Kulesa for supporting the Roll N' Stroll. We had Faye Mohler representing us in the Lake of the Woods 4th of July parade.





Blue Star Mothers-Lone Star Chapter, TX6-DFW

Please follow us...

Facebook: *Blue Star Mothers-Lone Star Chapter 6- DFW,Tx*

Instagram: *bluestarmothers@tx6*

City of Richardson 150th Anniversary Celebration



Honoring our Stars: Richardson's Veterans in need service project



Richardson Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Fair

Recent Chapter Events:

- 06/09 – 06/25 – Honoring our Stars: Richardson's Veterans in need service project
- 06/22 – Monthly Chapter Meeting
- 06/24 – City of Richardson Anniversary Celebration
- 07/01 – Flag distribution for Independence Day
- 07/04 – Happy Independence Day
- 07/08 – Flag pick up from Independence Day
- 07/13 – Richardson Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Fair

Upcoming Chapter Events:

- 07/27 – Monthly Chapter Meeting
- 09/16 – Gold Star Brunch

2023 Chapter Photo





Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter PA16

- Attended dedication of memorial for local soldiers killed in action
- Hosted information table at Washington Wild Things baseball game at Salute to Troops Night
- Volunteered with location American Legion Auxiliary
- Attended Support Our Troops Rally
- Assisted with placing flags at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies in advance of 4th of July
- Volunteered at Gold Star Family Picnic with 300 Gold Star families in attendance
- Participated in Fourth of July parade
- Dedicated June 22 meeting to soldier suicide with three guest speakers at regular meeting
- Hosted information table and promoted patriotism with free red, white & blue handouts at local Jamboree



OH 32 Honoring 8 Star Mom and Family



132 family members plus OH32



Kathy Tracy, OH 32 president making a Blue Star presentation to the family.

Left middle photo shows two remaining siblings, one brother Lewis, and one sister Rita Mae.

The poem was written by the grandson hosting the reunion, Neil Kelbley.



Buckeye Military Moms OH9

Our summer months are flying by, as we are sure they are for you! We started off summertime with several members participating in Washington D.C.'s *Rolling to Remember*. Although summer seems to be the time to relax, our members keep busy with fundraisers, serving our veterans at the local VA as well as continuing the mission of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.



In June, we greeted the Columbus Honor Flight, always humbling as well as a privilege.



The 'guest bartenders'

Fundraiser at a local grocery store!

LOUISIANA GEAUX SEVEN CHAPTER

MAY 2023



May 27, 2023, Our President Trudy Dupuy and a couple of our other members attended the Annual Flag Planting Day hosted by Blue Star Mothers Chapter 1.



May 29, 2023, Wendy Major, Sandy Stockwell, Trudy Dupuy, Debbie Johnson, Becky Colello and Kathy Baker attended the Memorial Day Ceremony hosted by The City of Central's Mayor and City Council Office.



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6



Chicagoland IL6 and Wounded Warrior Project Soldier Ride Chicago teamed up again this year to bring 50 wounded warriors to a ~70 mile, 3 day bike ride, ending at a forest

preserve where IL6 provided bananas and protein bars when they arrived after the last day of riding. Then we all had a lunch together and IL6 provided desserts, which were well received and

loved by all! Lots of new riders this year, great to see them out being active! One of our favorite events of the year!



Blue Star Moms of California - East Bay Chapter 101: JULY 2023 EVENTS

July 4 - The annual Fourth of July parade in the Town of Danville, California is a favorite event of the Blue Star Moms. Whether it is the first time for a new member to walk on the parade, or the umpteenth time for the long standing members, we all still feel emotional and proud when people stand up, clap their hands, and wave their flags to cheer the Blue Star Moms with shouts of "Thank you, moms!" as we pass them by on the parade.

The Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley has organized and conducted the annual Fourth of July parade in partnership with the Town of Danville since 1975. The parade attracts about 35,000 spectators each year and lasts for 3 hours with about 120 registered groups participating including the Blue Star Moms.



After the parade at the Coldwell Banker Realty's music and bbq event where we had a table for people to stop by and give donations.

July 9 - Tommy T's Comedy Club in Pleasanton, CA donated to Blue Star Moms East Bay Chapter 101 a portion of the ticket proceeds of the "Free to be funny!" comedy show headlined by Mex-E-King and Doc Farrow, a Marine veteran himself. It was a fun night for the Blue Star Moms to be out together for some great laughs!



Wolf Creek CA 53



Chapter 53 is working on getting our name out there. We walked in our first parade on the 4th of July in Taylorsville, CA and our second parade at the Gold Digger Days annual celebration in Greenville, CA on July 15th. We also set up a booth at Gold Digger Days with pictures of our boys, flyers for our upcoming fundraiser in August, and boots for donations. We signed up one new member and have a couple others who expressed interest. Our community gave us so much support! They cheered us on, thanked us, and even said a prayer for our chapter and our children. We will be participating in the 3rd Miles for Our Veterans – If These Boots Could Talk, Virtual 5K for the President’s Project at the end of the month. All in all, Wolf Creek Blue Star Mothers are off to a great start!



On Memorial Day CA30 placed flags at Riverside National Cemetery and attended ceremonies at 2 locations. On June 30 we provided a summer BBQ and sweatshirts for 70 veterans. We marched in the 4th of July parade with our local Gold Star Families.

CA 30



4th July Parade



Veterans BBQ





LAKE ARROWHEAD,
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER 25

VOLUME 1: SUMMER 2023



In June, we worked on our Hometown Hero Banners. We replaced 2 Gold Star and 2 Blue Star banners that had come down during the blizzard. We hung 2 new banners for new active duty members and we retired 6 banners of those who are no longer active duty military.



At our monthly chapter meeting in June, we assembled Care Packages for our deployed and active duty military members.

California Chapter 25 Rim Blue Star Moms of Lake Arrowhead had a fun and patriotic summer volunteering in their community. On Memorial Day, our chapter members attended an annual event held at the San Moritz Lodge in Crestline to honor Veterans and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Two veterans were awarded a Quilt of Valor sewn by local quilters. Donations totaling \$118 were collected towards future projects.



Our chapter members set up an Information table at the monthly Corks and Hops event in Crestline. We collected donations towards our Hometown Heroes Banner program.





W *Military*

kind enduring wise resilient
resourceful trusting courageous honest sincere
independent honorable committed strong
humble devoted sacrifice dedicated loyalty
crafty understanding compassionate cunning
visionary discrete helpful smart loving flexible
intelligent respectful perceptive sensible careful
confident sentimental practical reliable
sympathetic modest patient
adventurous thoughtful
thoughtful steadfast
forgiving brave

W *Com*

CHERISH

YESTERDAY

DREAM

TOMORROW

LIVE

TODAY

The background of the entire page is a stylized American flag, with the stars and stripes rendered in a slightly wavy, artistic manner. The colors are vibrant, with a deep blue for the stars, bright red for the stripes, and white for the background.

A MILITARY PRAYER

LORD, I ask for-

COURAGE-

to face and conquer my own fears.

STRENGTH-

**strength of body to protect others
and strength of spirit to lead others.**

DEDICATION-

to do my job faithfully.

BELIEF-

**help me to remember, Lord, that all
power rests in you,
and to remember that
you have promised
to be always by my side. Amen**

Be strong and let your heart take courage.

PSALM 27:14