



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

March 2023

Hello Members and Associates,

I have had a busy March and spent time thinking about what I can say, or what wisdom I can give this month.

I must tell you, tonight was a great reminder of what we do and why.

As most of you know last year at Convention, Operation Surf was my president's project and they were our guest speakers.

We had the pleasure of having them for dinner and spending time engaging in great conversation. I would like to tell you about the view of a 15-year-old young lady. She is very shy and has had some issues that have made her extremely shy while suffering with anxiety. We were doing a round table. The recipients were sharing what meant the most about being here.

They called on the 15-year-old and I thought, oh no, will she leave because she is way too shy.

To our surprise she jumped at the chance to thank her grandmother for all she has done for her.

Then she told everyone in the room, that it was so good to meet others that felt the way she did and know, she was not alone!

Van, the organizer jumped in and said **THAT** is exactly why I do this. Giving back to veterans and military members that have fought for our county.

God bless our troops and God bless the United States of America.

Here is a great video from the first 2 days of Operation Surf. Please get a cup of coffee or tea, it's always a great way to remind ourselves why we do what we do.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C16Qg8i5q9M>



Contact Information for National Executive Board

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1st VP: Rebecca Stafford ~ MO
1vp@bluestarmothers.us

2nd VP: Karen Stillwell ~ OH
2vp@bluestarmothers.us

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3vp@bluestarmothers.us

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Recording Secretary:

Marisol Gonzalez ~ CA
recsec@bluestarmothers.us

Financial Secretary:
Sonya Kay~IL
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Treasurer: Alethea Tennill ~ MO
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***BSMA “Convention Chatter” January 2023
Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc
National Convention
July 31 – August 4, 2023
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE***

Reservations are being made!! Thank you to everyone who has already made their reservations. This will help in determining how many rooms we will need for convention. The earlier the reservations are made, the more information we can send out to all of you.

The Millennium Maxwell House Hotel is ready for us to start making our reservations for Convention! The rates will be \$140.00 + tax per night. The link is below.



Millennium Maxwell House Hotel
2025 Rosa L. Parks Blvd
Nashville, TN 37228

****Reservations will be through a dedicated link, do not call the hotel.**

<https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/bNdHCVj5SQ5716fQI6Sr?domain=res.windsurfercrs.com>

Remember, if you have any questions please email: convention@bluestarmothers.us

Parking: Hotel parking is free for all guests.

There is no hotel shuttle service to or from the airport, but the shuttle will take us downtown if needed.

SHUTTLE SERVICE:

We are working with Supershuttle to transport us from the airport to the hotel and back to the airport.

Reservations will be required. The cost will be \$20.00 per person one way. Please contact Supershuttle at 615-625-5275 and ask for Mary. Please remember that this is their busy season and others may also be requesting the shuttle, so it will be first come, first served. If you do not make your reservations in a timely manner, you may have to take a later shuttle.



****We are working on registration for members, vendors and sponsors. When we have it set we will let you know! ****

Links will soon be available for:

CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

CONVENTION SPONSORS:

Individuals and chapters will be able to sign up to be a convention sponsor.

VENDOR REGISTRATION:

We love to see what you have to share with all of us! More information to come.

BIG DIPPER: Boots, Stars and Guitars will be the theme for Big Dipper Fun Night. There will be a photo area, line dancing and lots of good old fun to be had by all.

CONVENTION FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

Do you want to win either a \$100 or a \$50 Visa gift card? Who doesn't??

You can help us raise funds for the 2023 convention by purchasing a ticket for this fundraising raffle. Raffle tickets are \$10 each. 1st prize is a \$100 VISA gift card (One Hundred Dollars). 2nd prize is a \$50 VISA gift card (Fifty dollars).

You can either mail a check to: BSMA, Inc., c/o Sonya Kay, NFS, PO Box 9724, Naperville, IL 60567 ATTN: 2023 Convention Raffle or you simply go the Blue Star Mothers web site (www.bluestarmothers.org) and click on the Convention 2023 Link. **(Link coming soon)**. You can pay with either PayPal or use your debit or credit card. Remember to click on "Fundraiser Raffle" and tell us that this is for the Convention Fundraiser Raffle.

ANY MEMBER OR ASSOCIATE CAN PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS TO HELP US RAISE FUNDS TO OFFSET CONVENTION COSTS.

Ticket sales will end on June 30 and the raffle drawing will be held on July 4 on Facebook with Stacy Live at 5 PST. Winners will be contacted via email. Good Luck and thank you for your support.



IMPORTANT CONVENTION INFORMATION



When planning for this year's BSM national convention, there are some definite **YES** and **NO** items to take into careful consideration. Let's start from the TOP!

Delegate selection should be done by the chapter. Some examples are pulling names out of a hat, voting for members, or any idea that you chapter can think of that will be fair to all members wishing to be a delegate.

YES: Your chapter can vote to cover convention expenses for the chapter president and/or chapter delegates to the convention.

YES: Your chapter can (and is encouraged to) fundraise to get the necessary funds to send delegates to convention. Be sure to let your contributors know that their donations will be used to send delegates to convention for educational purposes or will be used for general chapter expenses – which includes sending delegates to convention. Donations specifically made for troop and veteran support **CAN NOT** be used to send members to the convention.

YES: You can cover registration fees, travel fees – gas, parking, tolls – and hotel fees.

NO: Your chapter can not pay for travel meals or a rental car. Travel is reimbursed at 14 cents per mile on your personal car from your start to convention and your return home.

YES: Your chapter can vote to pay for an airline ticket.

YES: Your chapter can cover convention hotel costs that cannot exceed 6 nights. Regardless of when you arrive or leave, our financial rules state 6 covered nights.

YES: All members in good standing are eligible to attend convention, but not all will be delegates.

YES: There will be down time (so to speak) during the convention when you will not be required to wear your BSM uniform. What is the Dress Uniform? For all but national officers it is a.) White Blouse, navy blue skirt, or dress pants; b.) Shoes, navy, or black, c.) The Corporation Pin (placed over your heart), American Flag (placed over your heart), Child's Service Pin, VAVS, Volunteer hours pin; d.) Minimal jewelry; and e.) White gloves (formal ceremonies only). The convention agenda will let us all know when Patriotic Casual time is. What is Patriotic Casual? Red, White or Blue blouses, or shirts. Convention / BSM shirts. Military branch specific shirts and hats. Casual slacks or skirts. Foot wear can be casual shoes or sandals. No flip-flops please.

NO: You cannot wear jeans, cut-offs, short-shorts, leggings, or muscle shirts on Patriotic Casual Days of the convention. These are not permitted convention attire for any scheduled convention event: President's reception, off site services, daily sessions. Comfy, casual attire is permitted at the "Open Door" evening impromptu social gatherings.



IMPORTANT CONVENTION INFORMATION

1. **CONVENTION AMBASSADORS:** This year we have Convention Ambassadors to assist you during the entire convention. They will be there from your registration on August 1, to your Fond Farewell after the banquet on August 4. Our ambassadors will be your Go To people to get answers to your questions. If they don't know the answers, they will know just who to get your questions to, in order to resolve your problems.
2. **CONVENTION SEATING,** In the past, it was "Festival Seating" grab your spot as soon as you get to the hotel for seating of our convention attendees. This year, convention seating will **NOT** be available until the **FIRST** day of the convention. Members will not be able to stake our seats prior to the convention room opening on August 1. We ask you to take into consideration those who are new, those who only have 1 or possibly 2 chapter members in attendance, when it comes to choosing your seats. If at all possible, move your seats together so that there are not 1 or 2 seats open all around the convention hall.
3. **CONVENTION SEAT DECORATIONS.** This may be a sore subject, but we are asking you to take into consideration the space on the convention tables, the space between rows of seats etc. when bringing decorations. We are asking you to please consider the old adage: "**LESS IS MORE**" when decorating your spaces. Certainly, pictures of your children are encouraged. But LED lights, garlands, tall decorations etc. are just a little too much. These types of decorations make it difficult at best to walk down the rows of tables. Thank you for your understanding of our request concerning this.

WHAT DO I PACK? WHAT WILL THE WEATHER BE? We can't guarantee what the weather will be. We have been given suggestions from those who live there to prepare for a variety of weather. The days will most likely be a bit hot. BUT... bring a sweater or sweat shirt because the nights may get a bit cool. **AND.....** please bring an extra white blouse (or 2) so that you will have a "fresh" uniform available after participating in the Memorial Ceremony/Photo. Remember our Dress Code when packing. Don't forget that there is a pool and exercise room available for our use. So, don't forget to pack your swim suits and workout clothes.



2023 Yearbook

All Yearbook photos must be sent to the email:

Yearbook@bluestarmothers.us by June 4th

Include the following:

Recent Chapter group photos related to the mission; no more than four or five photos per Chapter

Send just one photo of your child, Active Duty

Or Veteran

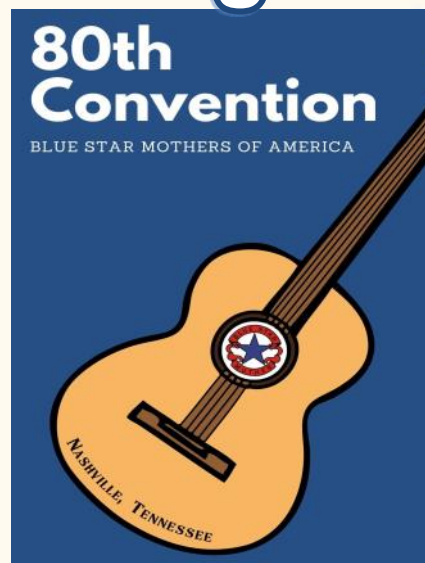
Send Blue Daisies not already sent to the 2ndVP

Gold Star Mothers, please send a photo of your Hero

If you are a Veteran, send us your

Military photo then and now

More Details Coming Soon



See You In Nashville

Limited Availability



Beautiful Red Ruby
Only \$16.00
Click Now To Online Store

<http://www.https://www.bluestarmothers.org/>

VAVS Message

The coming months will be an exciting time of new information, opportunities, and growth for the VA Voluntary Services. Through the months of COVID and the shutdown of our facilities we have found new ways to give service and spend time with our cherished veterans. One such way is the Compassionate Care Program where our volunteers have training to stay connected with veterans on the phone and at times video. The connection becomes important not only to the veteran but the Blue Star Mom volunteer. For more information, please contact vavs.bluestarmothers.us.

In a few short weeks, April 26th – April 28th, our National Blue Star Mother VAVS Representative Anne Parker and myself, Doreen Berggren, VAVS Deputy will be headed to Denver. There we will be attending the National Advisory Council Annual Meeting. During these days there will be a Health & Wellness Fair, Networking and many Workshops to learn.

We will be able to bring information back home to share and help the program grow.

To learn more about the VAVS program visit the BSMA website and under VAVS there is a training guide and a short PowerPoint to watch. We are looking for moms and associates to be part of this program that is a great service to our veterans.



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Logo Rules

Hello Ladies,

It has been brought to my attention many times recently our National logo and our branch patch are being used without permission and are being altered.



Both patches are National logos and if used or changed you are in violation the of infringement use of our logo. **These 2 logos belong to Blue Star Mothers of America Inc.**

If you are doing a convention fundraiser and want to use the logo, please email the National President and only she can wave 25% usage fee.

If you would like to use the logos for letterhead, aprons, stationary, or Chapter t -shirts, you must ask permission from the National President. **At no time can anyone change or alter the logo.**

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC
CODE OF CONDUCT
BSMoA, Inc. Code of Conduct
Effective August 2021

ARTICLE XIV. CORPORATE LOGO

Section 1. It is the responsibility of the NEB to assure that the logo is being used in a manner that safeguards the integrity of the Corporation.

Section 2. The following is the procedure to request use of the Corporation's logo:

- a) The Chapter or Department President should submit, in writing, a request to the NP specifying in detail how the logo will be used, what it will be used for and if this is an on-going Chapter/Department project (example: Fundraising items, banner, sign, rally, etc.);
- b) Permission must be received from the NP before the logo is placed on any Article;
- c) In fundraising, if any item is sold that has the logo on it, a financial report with twenty-five percent (25%) of the total profit must be forwarded to the NFS to be placed in the General Fund;
- d) Use of the logo on the following items do not need the NEB's approval:
 - i) Chapter/Department forms
 - ii) Letterhead, notices, brochures, note cards, donation receipts;
 - iii) Certificates of Appreciation;
 - iv) Business cards; and
 - v) Memorial Books.
- e) Convention Logo – If the NP designates a convention logo, that logo can be used by the Chapters and Departments for fundraising purposes of attending that Convention without paying the 25% surcharge for logo use. Chapters and Departments shall be encouraged to use the logo on merchandise that can be sold to raise funds for their respective delegates to attend the Convention.

Section 3. If items with the logo are sold directly through the National Office of the Corporation to Chapters, Departments, and/or Members, these items may not be altered. However, items that do not contain the logo that are sold to Chapters and Departments to be used for fundraising projects may be altered and any profit kept by the Chapter or Department.

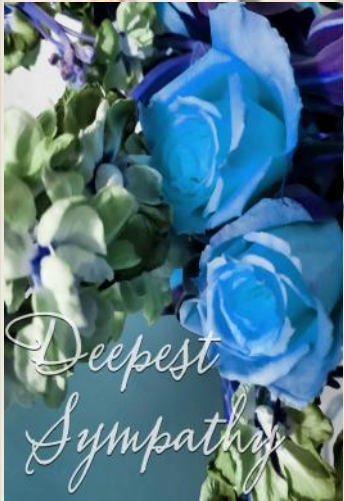
Chris Arana



NM 2 Blue Daisy



Rio Grande Valley, NM



Sadly, we must share the news that we have lost another one of our beloved sisters – Barbara Lamonde passed away on Friday February 17, 2023 after a courageous battle with cancer at the age of 66.

Barbara was a member of our Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers – Chapter 2 in the 2007-2011 era. Her son Cory served in the United States Army. She served on the Executive Board as Financial Secretary and was our Chapter President in 2009.

Blue Daisy NM 2
Barbara Lamonde

BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

UG Fairchild Hall Dinner

March 19th at 5pm

Veterans Treatment Court

April 3rd at 3pm

Honor Flights

April 22nd & May 20th

Cooking Class Fundraiser

May 1st

Blue & Gold Star Byway Marker Dedication

May 13th at 10am



D2DT creates an opportunity to save at risk, rescued, or donated dogs, train them, and place them with deserving service members who have been diagnosed with post combat stress and anxiety.

At our February 2023 meeting we welcomed 2 new members to our group as well as special guest speakers from the volunteer organization Dogs 2 Dogtags (D2DT). In addition to our monthly meet and greet, our chapter was able to continue with our mission throughout the month of supporting our active duty military members and our Veterans.

In early March we prepared & served Sunday dinner for Veterans at Fairchild Hall. The next date for this event will be on March 19th. Another event that one of our members attended was the War Memorial Veteran Stand Down; we hosted a Blue Star Mother information table and donated a "gift card basket" to be raffled off to attendees.



In addition to pinning one of our own members in January, we attended several more Vietnam service era pinning ceremonies. For those that may not know, this year is the 6th Anniversary of the National Vietnam War Veterans Day, which is on March 29, 2023.

One event was during the annual Happy Birthday American Legion and VFW meeting at the American Legion Family Harvey Funk Post 494 in Caledonia, and the other was during a Raymond VFW meeting. At both events we pinned, thanked and honored members who served during the Vietnam era.



One of our February fundraising events was a glass fusion workshop. This event was so popular that workshops were held on two dates to accommodate all interested artists!





FEBRUARY WAS A BLAST

February was a great month for Spring Creek Area Blue Star Mothers, TX18. We were busy out and about in the community.



We were honored to be presented with the Star Field during the Montgomery County Veterans Memorial Park, "Retire and Respect Flag Retire Ceremony" on February 20th.



On February 18th the 58th Annual Go Texan Parade, hosted by Conroe/ Lake Conroe Chamber of Commerce in downtown Conroe was a great showing of patriotism and support by the community.



Blue Star Mom, Misty Thomson presented Retired Navy Seal, Morgan Luttrell with a star from our "Star for Heroes" Program during the VFW 4709 Post Gala.



We wound down the month by attending the VFW Post 4709 Fundraising Gala on February 23rd. Post 4709, thank you for a great event and a wonderful time.



Blue Star Mothers



CHAPTER MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

At our February chapter meeting, we were honored to have Keith Johanson, Chairman of Rolling Thunder's South Carolina Chapter 1. Keith spoke about Rolling Thunder's mission in helping return home POW/MIA. Keith told a fascinating story of Michael Joseph Blassie, designated as the Vietnam War Unknown Soldier, and how he was identified and later buried in his hometown. Keith also spoke to our chapter about how Rolling Thunder assists veterans and families in our community.



SERVING OUR VETERANS

On March 10th, our chapter attended the SFC Charles A. Judge, Jr. Memorial Stand Down Event. This event provides a day of FREE services to homeless veterans, veterans at risk of homelessness, and any veteran in need.

Our chapter provided the veterans with new socks, underwear, feminine hygiene products, toiletries, and snacks. It is an honor to serve the veterans in our community at this event.



Find us on  Blue Star Mothers SC#4

Blue Star Mothers Chapter NY6



Blue Star Mothers Day
February 1, 2023

Providing ongoing support for
area Veterans and Active-Duty Military



LONG ISLAND CHAPTER
AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



PRESENTS
Pearl Harbor
81st Anniversary
Memorial Ceremony
"DROPPING OF THE ROSES"
DECEMBER 7TH, 2022

Remembering the 81st Anniversary of Pearl Harbor with the Dropping of the Roses ceremony, speaking to deployed National Guard, Donations received, Storage Inventory, Our Appreciation to American Legion Post 651



NC 16



Blue Star Bowl Raffle

Cape Fear Blue Star Mothers Blue Star Bowl Raffle

One of a kind bowl handcrafted by John Boughton. The center part of the base is Oak with a Navy Blue resin surrounded by pieces of Sapele. The first ring of segments are Oak & Mahogany in a checker pattern. Then a thin ring of Sapele, third ring of Sapele & Pine in a checker pattern, topped off with a ring of segmented Cherry! It spins on the base. The bowl is 11 in. in diameter, about 3 in. tall & 2 in. deep and weighs just under 2 pounds!



Tickets:
\$5 each or
3/\$10

Drawing
5/5/23

We will
ship it to
you for
FREE!

Estimated
value- \$300

To purchase tickets:
Contact any Cape Fear Blue Star Mom
Email: cfbsmoa@gmail.com
Text: 973-886-1277 (Kim)
Venmo: Kim-Dionisio
PayPal: @CapeFearBSM
Check or Cash



Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter PA16



Monthly Meeting and Care Packages



Welcomed three new members



Hosted information table at Yellow Ribbon Girls retirement party




Participated in National Salute to Veteran Patients Week VA Medical Center - Butler, PA

OH 57



Our chapter joined several local organizations to raise food and money for our local Feed Our Vets food pantry of Ashtabula County. In memory of Clifford Harpst, cherished Veteran and father of Bill Harpst (aka Dj Hunter). This is the 3rd year he has raised money and food in memory of his fa-

OH 57 is joining with the Ashtabula Veteran Service Commission to recognize our young adults who have committed to join the service upon graduation.



**3RD ANNUAL
FEED OUR VETS FUNDRAISER
IN HONOR & MEMORY OF
CLIFF & ROZELLA HARPST**


**March 4th 2023
12pm to 4pm**

FREE ADMISSION


**NORMAN D BANQUET CENTER
2720 CARPENTER RD. ASHTABULA**

RITE OF PASSAGE CEREMONY


*Honoring the
commitment to service the
youth in our community
has chosen to make.*



Ashtabula County's 2nd Annual
Rite of Passage Ceremony
May 11, 2023 • 7-8 p.m.
Pymatuning Valley Veterans Memorial
Performing Arts Center
5571 US-6 • Andover, OH 44003



*"Veterans
helping veterans"* Presented by the Ashtabula County
Veterans Service Commission in
Collaboration with the Blue Star Mothers of Ashtabula





MN 13



Hello from frigid Wright County, MN! We've had a lot of snow coming down these past couple of weeks but it hasn't stopped us from working the BSM mission! Our chapter, Wright County Area MN 13, has been busy making crafts for our upcoming craft fairs which we either have a table at or are hosting or both! On Saturday, March 11 we had a table at the Maple Lake St Patrick's Day craft sale. We made lots of spring/Easter/St Patrick's Day items. Jen and her husband went out to the parade, Brrr!



Our chapter is hosting the Department of MN Spring Meeting in April, so we are busy making plans for that, including some fun centerpieces. Stay tuned and Happy Spring!

St. Paul Blue Star Mothers, MN 11

The St Paul Blue Star Mothers (MN11) have been busy the last 2 months. Some of us walked in the St Paul Carnival Parade in January. It was a typical January sunny, brisk day in Minnesota. We bundle up, put hand warmers in our mittens and proudly walk behind the American Legion friends. The Arcade/Phalen American Legion invite us to join them and treat us like queens! Photos show Debbie Zenner, Karla Keller, Denise Guerra and Jeanne Ullmer (MN7).

Our Chapter works at the meat raffles at Sal's in Bayport MN two Saturdays a month from October to April. It's fun and is our major fundraiser each year.

We were able to send 17 boxes of socks and snacks to deployed service members this month! After meeting for dinner and socializing, Kathy, Marilyn, Benita, Lynn and Carolyn headed to Costco to fill the carts. The packing crew was Kathy, Benita, a, Laura Marilyn and Lynn.



MN 11

Department of Michigan-Blue Star Mothers Day



25 Sisters dressed in their Blue Star Mothers best visited our Michigan Capitol on February 1st, our 81st Birthday. We were even complimented on our hats! The day started with Senator Rick Outman reading a resolution in the Senate proclaiming February 1, 2023 as Blue Star Mothers Day in Michigan. The resolution passed unanimously. We then attended a Meet and Greet with our Congress members in the newly built Visitors Center. Then off to the Cafeteria inside the Capitol building and lunch catered by Panera Bread. Representative Dave Martin read a resolution in the House proclaiming February 1, 2023 as Blue Star Mothers Day in Michigan. This resolution also passed unanimously. Lastly, we were given a tour of the Beautiful Capitol Building with a few very interesting lessons about the building and Michigan history.

Front row: Missi Burl MI197, Karen Amormino MI180, Paulette Gloden MI180, Pat Lomonaco MI194, Laureen Deater MI199, Colleen Ryman MI199, Marci Carney MI197, Monica Wall MI197, and Stacy Breithaupt MI197

2nd row: Karen Socia MI198, Theresa Monarch MI198, Bridgette Lombardi MI198, Lisa Haik MI191, Jennifer Hayward MI191, Jen Brouwer MI191, Mary Hitzler MI191, and Mary Sherwood MI195

3rd row: Ginger Novak MI195, Beth Bohannon MI186, Shellie Wilson MI186, Bekah Bailey MI186, Jackie Ransom MI194, Trudy Wysocki MI194, Kathy Gross-Jacek MI184, and Vickie Boutwell-Blankenship MI199

Signed Resolution #27

February 2, 2023

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

S237

SENATE RESOLUTION 26—HONORING THE 106TH ANNIVERSARY OF SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE TO THE MILITARY AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. Res. 26

Whereas Selfridge Air National Guard Base is named after Army 1st Lieutenant Thomas E. Selfridge, the first aerial military casualty during a demonstration flight with Orville Wright in 1908;

Whereas the Army commissioned Selfridge Field in Harrison Township, Michigan, on July 1, 1917, and it is one of the first military airfields in the United States under continuous service;

Whereas the 332d Fighter Group of the famed Tuskegee Army, an all-African-American unit, moved to Selfridge Field on March 29, 1943, and Colonel Benjamin O. Davis became the first African-American commander on October 8, 1943;

Whereas, on July 1, 1971, Selfridge Field was transferred to the Michigan Air National Guard, becoming the first major Air Force base under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Air National Guard;

Whereas, on April 1, 1996, the 127th Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard was established at Selfridge Air National Guard Base;

Whereas, after the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, Selfridge Air National Guard Base became a key center for security operations to protect and secure the northern border of the United States;

Whereas the 127th Wing of the Michigan Air National Guard was the 2016 recipient of the Carl A. Spaatz Award, a prestigious award given to the best flying organization in the Air National Guard, and was awarded the Meritorious Unit Award in the same year for "outstanding devotion and exceptional performance";

Whereas opportunities for investment in aerospace, as well as more fighter missions, will keep Selfridge Air National Guard Base successful and will contribute to a dominant Air Force and to a strong national defense;

Whereas annual joint service and defense national Northern Strike exercises, combined with the critical manufacturing base of the "Arsenal of Democracy", position the State of Michigan as an invaluable cornerstone of national defense and aerospace;

Whereas the State of Michigan is home to the "Arsenal of Democracy" along with the United States Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, the United States Army DEVCOM Ground Vehicle Systems Center, and Selfridge Air National Guard Base;

Whereas Selfridge Air National Guard Base finds itself surrounded by premier institutions of higher education and with ample space and resources to become a hub of defense and aerospace research and innovation;

Whereas the resolute support of residents of Macomb County, Michigan, and elected officials of the State of Michigan has resulted in continued investment and resources from the Federal Government for Selfridge Air National Guard Base and the defense industry in the State of Michigan;

Whereas Selfridge Air National Guard Base is a source of community pride and enjoys unparalleled community support;

Whereas Selfridge Air National Guard Base generates hundreds of millions of dollars to States—

the surrounding cities and townships of the State of Michigan and supports over 4,500 jobs; and

Whereas Selfridge Air National Guard Base is a joint military base and home to many national security assets of the United States, including assets of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Department of Homeland Security; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township, Michigan, on its 106th anniversary;

(2) commends the thousands of men and women who have worked and trained at Selfridge Air National Guard Base;

(3) reinforces the commitment of the military to Selfridge Air National Guard Base as a facility that is key to the national security of the United States;

(4) encourages continued cooperation and dialogue with the Department of Defense in support of Selfridge Air National Guard Base; and

(5) acknowledges the ongoing investments of the State of Michigan in its defense assets and workforce and continued contributions to the defense of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 27—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 1, 2023, AS "BLUE STAR MOTHER'S DAY"

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 27

Whereas, on January 22, 1942, in the midst of the Second World War, Army Captain George Malnes ran an advertisement in the Flint News-Advertiser calling for mothers of members of the Armed Forces to meet;

Whereas, on February 1, 1942, 300 mothers first meeting at the Durant Hotel in Flint, Michigan, and February 1, 2023, is the 81st anniversary of that meeting;

Whereas, on July 14, 1960, the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., received its charter from Congress;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers make enormous sacrifices while their sons and daughters are providing for the defense of the United States;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers pack and ship thousands of care packages every year to members of the Armed Forces deployed overseas, volunteer to help homeless veterans, provide support for wounded warriors, visit with hospitalized veterans, honor fallen heroes during funeral services, and offer a compassionate community for the mothers of men and women of the Armed Forces serving in harm's way;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers promote the values of the United States, demonstrate patriotic spirit, and advance a national sense of pride and appreciation for the men and women of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas there are more than 200 chapters of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., throughout the United States representing thousands of military families; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 1, 2023, as "Blue Star Mother's Day";

(2) honors and recognizes—

(A) the contributions of the members of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.; and

(B) the important role Blue Star Mothers play in supporting each other and members and veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(C) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) United States Air Force Colonel Rick D. Husband;

(B) United States Navy Commander William "Wille" C. McCool;

(A) to observe Blue Star Mother's Day; and

(B) to support the work of local chapters of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

SENATE RESOLUTION 28—COMMEMORATING THE 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOSS OF SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KELLY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KATZ, Mr. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 28

Whereas space remains at the frontier of science, as expressed in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy at Rice University in Houston, Texas;

Whereas space exploration has been integral to the global technological leadership of the United States and to inspiring a STEM workforce for more than 60 years;

Whereas astronauts of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration have bravely given their lives in pursuit of exploration;

Whereas, on February 1, 2023, the United States and the global space community joined together in mourning the loss of the STS-107 mission and the 7 astronauts of their return home;

Whereas United States Air Force Colonel Rick D. Husband, Mission Commander, of Amarillo, Texas, died in service to his nation;

Whereas United States Navy Commander William "Wille" C. McCool, Pilot, of San Diego, California, died in service to his nation;

Whereas United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Anderson, Payload Commander and Mission Specialist, of Spokane, Washington, died in service to his nation;

Whereas United States Navy Captain David M. Brown M.D., Mission Specialist, of Arlington, Virginia, died in service to his nation;

Whereas United States Navy Captain Laurel B. Clark, Mission Specialist, of Racine, Wisconsin, died in service to her nation;

Whereas Kalpana Chawla, Ph.D., Mission Specialist, of Karnal, India, became a United States citizen and the first woman of Indian origin in space and died in service her nation;

Whereas Israeli Air Force Colonel Ilan Ramon, Payload Specialist, of Tel Aviv, Israel, became the first Israeli in space and will not forget the people of Israel in space and STS-107 aboard Space Shuttle Columbia, as well as others who perished in the exploration of space; and

Whereas National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronauts continue to make tremendous personal sacrifices and risk their lives in service to their nation and to all of humanity; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) remembers and honors the 7 astronauts who lost their lives on February 1, 2023, on Space Shuttle Columbia;

(2) expresses deep condolences and gratitude to the families, friends, and colleagues of—

(A) United States Air Force Colonel Rick D. Husband;

(B) United States Navy Commander William "Wille" C. McCool;

Heart of Illinois Blue Star Mothers

We had the privilege of partnering with **Three Rivers Quilts of Valor** to present **11 quilts** to our local veterans and honor them for their sacrifice and service to our country.

IL 1



Western Slope Blue Star Mothers - CO8



March Chapter Happenings



We have had a busy new year sending off new recruits to bootcamp! We have used this opportunity as an outreach to new moms. We let them know they are not alone in this journey and have had new moms join our chapter!



Sacramento Blue Star Moms - CA7

February 2023



Robin, Heidi, Carol, Juli, Cheri, Debbie, Dana, Ardis, Sandi, Margo, and Carol



Record attendance
for Sweetheart Bunco
100 Guests joined the SBSM for
Lunch, Bunco and Raffle Prizes



Vivienne, Shirley and Monique

Sacramento Blue Star Moms
support the
Tuskegee Airmen Crab Feed

BSM Southwest Valley, AZ

The Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley is a growing and busy chapter! We pack up boxes every month and ship them out to our beloved active servicemembers. We served coney dogs for our Veterans at the very successful Valentine Dinner sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary #53 and the Coney Island. In March we attended Buckeye Lift Up For Veterans where we had a booth and handed out toiletry items for our Veterans. And we regularly attend Massing of Colors/Service of Remembrance including in February in the city of Sun City West.



Greatest Generation-Veteran Hero at rest

Our chapter regrets to announce that Pearl Harbor Survivor, Jack Holder, passed away in February this year. Jack lived to be 101-year-old. He was able to travel and represent the WW2 Veterans and the Pearl Harbor and Midway veterans in particular for the last eleven years. Our chapter was able to meet and visit with Survivor Jack Holder over the past several years at different events he has attended. He will be greatly missed; he was one of the Great Generations Veterans.



AZ 4

We were so honored to have Monica Yelin from US Representative Debbie Lesko's Office R-AZ 8th District, join us for our December Christmas Party. She presented us with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for our work here in our communities and throughout Arizona supporting our military and veterans.



Blue Star Mothers, Inc

March 2023



FUNDRAISING & GIVING

Quarterly newsletter to help our chapters with fundraising ideas including ideas on where to give and donate!



We have braved through first quarter! How did you do?

Hello,

We have made it through the first quarter of the year!

Let's take a moment and reflect on what you have accomplished and celebrate that.

It might not seem like much to you, but to those you helped it is everything! I'm Proud of you.

We are approaching spring and then soon summer.

So this is when fundraising starts to pick up and become exciting.

People start to come out of their winter cocoons and participate in activities.

So, let's give them some great activities and raise some \$\$\$.

Have a great fundraising or giving back idea, email fundraising.chair@bluestarmothers.us

Cool and Fun Ways to Raise Money

- **Spring Plant Sale**

Sale of donated plants, flowers, and seeds for a spring garden. Partner with your local nursery and see if they will give back part of the proceeds for a day or a weekend of sales.

- **Spring Cleaning Yard Sale**

Encourage neighborhoods near you to do spring cleaning and donate items for you to host a yard sale, or see if they will host a yard sale and donate the proceeds to your chapter.

- **Children's Carnival: May 13**

Host a carnival on May 13 for the children of the fallen. Get local companies to donate the bouncy houses, face painting, etc, and sell tickets to raise money. Decide how you want to honor the Children of the Fallen at the carnival and with some of the funds raised.

- **Mental Health Awareness Workshop (PTSD, TBI)**

May is mental health awareness month and June 27, is Nat. PTSD awareness day. Have local mental health professionals help you put on a workshop. You can charge \$25-\$35 for the tickets for this workshop.

- **Memorial Day**

Create a tribute wall and charge a small fee for each name, quote to go on the wall, rock, etc. This can even be a virtual wall on your website. You can create free websites through Wix to host this wall.

Looking for a no fee way to collect donations?

Try: [GiveSendGo.com](https://www.givesendgo.com)

Have a great fundraising or giving back idea, email fundraising.chair@bluestarmothers.us

Ways to support and give!

- **Support Another Chapter**

Team up and support another BSM Chapter that may need funds to do care packages.

- **Special Self-Love Care Packages**

Mother's day, military spouse day, and more are all in the spring/summer. Create and sell self-love care packages that people can buy for their loved ones for these special holidays.

- **Fill and donate diaper bags**

Purchase a new diaper bag and fill it with essentials for expectant active duty and veteran mothers.

You could even create toddler bags with toys and clothes as well to donate.

- **Host a brunch/lunch**

Host a sweet little brunch or lunch for the following recognized holidays:

- Gold Star Spouses Day, 4/5
- Military Spouse Appreciation 5/12
- Check out the military holiday calendar and see what other days you can support.

- **Host an Advocacy Day**

Host a workshop with your members or people in the community that are willing to write to congress and other organizations to help make change for our active military and our veterans. Such as increased funding for VA Hospitals, and better access to mental health care.

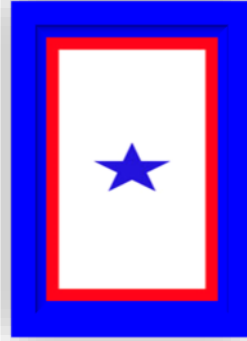
Share successful fundraising ideas with us!


Suzi Freeman
Fundraising Chair

I kept a few in as a reminder, because they are so important

Have a great fundraising or giving back idea, email fundraising.chair@bluestarmothers.us

Blue Star Mother of America, Inc.



Android Mobile App

Below is the link to download the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. app for an Android phone. You are able to find by using your share link here:

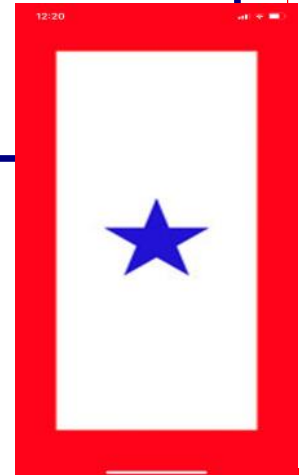
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.gc861c065d3b>

Apple Phone App

Blue Star Mothers of America! en App Store - Apple <https://apps.apple.com/es/app/blue-star-mothers-of-america/id1485901650>

If you search for the app you will need to look up “Blue Star Mothers of America” for it to appear

Any questions, email Anne Parker at pnpayne@bluestarmothers.us





May the road rise
to meet you. ❀

May the wind be
always at your back.

May the sun shine
warm upon your face

The rain fall soft upon
your fields. ❀ And

until we meet again,

May God hold you in
the palm of His hand.



MAY YOUR TROUBLES

 BE LESS 

and your
Blessings
.....be MORE.....

AND NOTHING BUT

HAPPINESS

come through your

 **door**

 IRISH BLESSING