



# BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

## October 2022



### Contact Information for National Executive Board

**President: Stacy Anders ~ CA**

[president@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president@bluestarmothers.us)

**1st VP: Rebecca Stafford ~ MO**

[1vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:1vp@bluestarmothers.us)

**2nd VP: Karen Stillwell ~ OH**

[2vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:2vp@bluestarmothers.us)

**3rd VP: Cheree' Barrett ~ TX**

[3vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:3vp@bluestarmothers.us)

**4th VP: Brenda Ternullo ~ CA**

[4vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:4vp@bluestarmothers.us)

### Recording Secretary:

**Marisol Gonzalez ~ CA**

[recsec@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:recsec@bluestarmothers.us)

### Financial Secretary:

**Sonya Kay~IL**

[Finsec@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:Finsec@bluestarmothers.us)

**Treasurer: Alethea Tennill ~ MO**

[treas@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:treas@bluestarmothers.us)



Happy October,

I have had the pleasure of traveling to Michigan and Ohio for their Department Conventions. Next stop is the Dept of MN!

What I have totally enjoyed seeing is how wonderful our members are across the country. Seeing the respect and honor you have shown and given me and the other officers that came to your conventions has been amazing. We are honored to support all members and all of our Departments.

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I also had the pleasure of going with our DC rep TJ to Arlington and the surrounding areas for Gold Star Mothers weekend. We enjoyed spending time with our GSM Sisters at their Manor.

Meeting many new sisters and learning about their heroes is always the highlife of the weekend. We also did a 2.2 walk for awareness for 22 a day .



What I am loving and learning the most is that no matter what, we are all sisters and nothing can tear us apart. We need to fix each others crown and have each others 6!!  
Love you sweet sisters,  
S

**Stacy Anders, National President 2021-2023**



# The Gavel Club

The Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., Past National Presidents' Gavel Club is dedicated to continue the devoted work of the Past National Presidents who went before us by supporting projects and organizations that benefit our Troops, Veterans, Gold Star Mothers and those in need.

The Gavel Club was active at the BSMA National Convention in Long Beach, California this past July. We would like to take this time to thank everyone who supported our "Parcel Post" and our Silent Auction. We took in \$457.00 in the parcel post, \$285.00 in the silent auction and \$550.00 in donations. We sent a total of \$1,292.00 to *The Gary Sinise Foundation* which we chose for 2022.

Thank you again and we look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Yours in Service,

Past National Presidents: Margaret Bedard, Joyce Sanford, Jean Burlingame, Karen Stevens, Robin McCarthy, Pat Soler, Judy Dorsey, Cyndi Ventura, Anne Parker and Carla Brodacki



# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE!!

Membership has not slowed down, which is a great thing! Thanks for your continued patience as I work my way through these.

As a reminder:

- For new members ~ encourage them to join online. This is a much quicker process for them and us as well.
- Renewals ~
  - Through the Chapter works great; or,
  - Online is fine as well

Please remember, if you have moved and want to transfer to another Chapter, you need to complete the transfer section of the application, scan and send it to the National 1VP for processing. Once completed, the application will be sent to the new Chapter so they have a record of your transfer and can reach out to you.

Again, if you are having issues renewing, please don't join as a new member, simply reach out via email at [1VP@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:1VP@bluestarmothers.us) ~ I am happy to help!

Just another reminder - you have the authority to update your profile at any time. If you change phone numbers, email address, or perhaps you had added a Star because you have another kiddo who just enlisted; **YOU** can make those changes.

And again, if you need assistance or have any membership questions, please feel free to contact me at [1VP@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:1VP@bluestarmothers.us)

Yours In Service,  
Rebecca Stafford  
National 1VP



# IMPORTANT

This is really time sensitive information.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR! NO, NOT CHRISTMAS...COMPLIANCE

Compliance Forms

Compliance Guide



As the 4VP, it is my job to make sure that every chapter files the required forms for compliance. When your chapter is ready to file forms for compliance, logging into the website using the CHAPTER PROFILE is a must! The Chapter President and the Chapter Membership Chair should be the only ones to have the Chapter Log in credentials. Please review the Compliance Guide (available on the website under the Compliance Guide Tab) and follow instructions for each form. Unless specifically instructed to do so, do not email any forms to [4vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:4vp@bluestarmothers.us). The only forms I will accept through email are the 990 filing and the State filing returns.

**Please reach out to me if you need assistance with filing any compliance form. The deadline for Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. is December 1, but please do not wait until the last week of November to file.**

[4vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:4vp@bluestarmothers.us)

Brenda Ternullo, 4VP



## Info from your Finance Committee

October 2022

### Checks “Due to” Chapters and Departments

June, July and August membership renewals and convention registrations and activities provided for an overwhelming volume of individual transactions to be verified and recorded. Consequently, our accounting procedures are running a little bit behind and the “due to” chapter and department checks are delayed. We hope to have this situation remedied in the next thirty days so we implore you to be patient with your national financial officers as they bring everything up to date and ensure its accuracy.

### Hurricane Ian Relief

Several chapters have reached out to inquire as to how they can participate in Hurricane Ian relief efforts and still stay true to our mission of assisting military and veterans. After extensive research, we have found that the American Red Cross will allow donors to restrict their donations for the assistance of military and veterans and their families. The specific website link to facilitate this necessary restriction on your donations can be found at: <https://www.redcross.org/donate/help-military-families.html/>

Please bookmark this link to be used in times of need for any of our national disasters.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns of a financial nature that you would like addressed in future newsletter articles.

Julie Straw,  
National Finance Chairwoman  
[FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us](mailto:FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us)

# ATTENTION





from your Finance Committee

September 2022

## Chapter Grant Program

During our recent 2022 Convention business sessions, the BSMA Convention body approved a budget line item in the amount of \$7,000 for the Chapter Grant Program FYE 08/31/2023.

The purpose of the Chapter Grant Program is to allow new and existing chapters an opportunity to apply for a \$250 grant. New chapters may use these funds to help offset their start up expenses (licensing, registrations, P. O. Box, etc.). Existing chapters may apply to assist with a particular program or event expense that they are planning. There is a limit of one grant per chapter per fiscal year and a chapter may only receive a grant once every two years.

A copy of the application is provided in this newsletter and is also available on the national website. Applications must be submitted to the Finance Committee for approval. The grants are on a first come, first serve basis and will be available until all of the budgeted grant funds are exhausted for any given year.

So . . . put on your thinking caps as to how your chapter could use the funds and start filling out your application!!

**If you were a recipient of an existing chapter grant in fiscal year 2021-2022, please be sure that I have received your report and photo as documentation of your use of grant funds.**

You are welcome to contact me with your comments or questions at any time. If there are matters that you would like addressed in future "Support" memos, please send those to me as well.

Julie Straw,  
National Finance Chairwoman  
[FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us](mailto:FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us)





APPLICATION FOR BSMA CHAPTER GRANT PROGRAM

Chapter Name, State and Number \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter President \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter President Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter President Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:  New Chapter  Existing Chapter

REASON FOR GRANT – Please be specific – i.e. chapter start-up, coats for veterans.

This application is to be submitted to the Chairman of the Finance Committee for approval.

*FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us*

**EMAIL**

Upon approval, a check will be forwarded to the address listed above. Other than chapter start-up grant, please furnish a picture to the Finance Chairman at [FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us](mailto:FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us) upon completion of your grant project.

*For Finance Committee Use Only:*

*Approval Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date Check Sent:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date Pictures Received:* \_\_\_\_\_

**SAVE AS**

**PRINT**



# Additional Info from your Finance Committee

September 2022

## Convention Body Approved Changes to Financial Policies

It was great to see so many of you at our Convention in July. For those of you that were unable to attend, and by way of reminder to those that were in attendance, I have summarized the recent changes to our BSMA Financial Policies as approved by the Convention body.

**Purpose:** *(Next to the last sentence regarding Standing rules of Chapters or Departments.)* If a Standing Rule/Financial Policy is found to be in conflict with National BSMA Financial Policy, it will need to be approved by the NEB.

*The prior policy needed approval by the NFC and NEB - the approval by the NFC was removed.*

**Section 1.1:** *(Fourth line from the bottom of the section regarding email voting.)* Email voting can be held when a financial emergency arises requiring an expenditure not to exceed \$500.

*The prior policy had a not to exceed limit of only \$250.*

**Section 1.7:** *(Final sentence regarding fund-raising startup funds.)* A proper accounting of the startup funds is necessary by matching the disbursement to the subsequent repayment.

*The final sentence was replaced completely to clarify and accurately describe the procedure.*

**Section 1.9:** *(First sentence regarding Reconciliation.)* All statements for banking, merchant card and other accounts (such as PayPal) will be obtained by the Financial who will review and reconcile each statement on a timely basis.

*This revision just changed the wording to be more grammatically correct.*

**Section 1.12:** *(First sentence regarding Uncashed Checks.)* Outstanding checks should not remain on the books for more than 200 days without reason.

*This revision changed Section 1.12 from 180 to 200 days and into agreement with Section 1.12.3.*

**Section 1.13:** *(New section.)* Non-sufficient Funds (NSF) - Any time a payment is present to National by a member, Chapter, or Department and is returned by the bank for any reason (e.g., Non-Sufficient Funds), all associated banking fees charged are to be reimbursed to National within 15 days of being notified. Any respective membership status will be placed on hold until all NSF fees and the original payment amount have been received, via certified funds.

**Section 1.14:** *(New section.)* Accounting and financial records:

**Section 1.14.1:** *(New section.)* There needs to be provision for a backup of all financial records OR a method of secondary online access made available to the Chapter Executive Board quarterly.

**Section 1.14.2:** (New section.) All financial records must be stored with the recording secretary at the end of the fiscal year.

**Section 1.14.3:** (New section.) All financial records must be surrendered by outgoing officers to the incoming officers.

**Section 3.1.9:** (New section.) Departments/Chapters must be in good standing in order to receive any funds from National, such as “due to Department/Chapter” for membership reimbursement.

**Section 4.3:** (Combination of Sec 4.3 & 4.4.) Mid-Year NEB Meeting and other events

**Section 4.3.1:** (Second line.) If deemed necessary, the NEB members shall receive travel and lodging (two per room) for not more than four nights, for a mid-year Executive Board Meeting.

*Increase from three to four nights.*

**Section 4.4:** (Omitted.)

**Section 4.3.2:** (Renumbered from 4.4.1.)

**Section 4.3.3:** (Renumbered from 4.4.2.) When Departments/Chapters are conducting “games of chance” they must follow the respective State Regulations. (Examples are raffles, bingo, lottery type activities.) Departments/Chapters must maintain all records associated with games of chance.

*This clarified the wording and purpose of the policy.*

**Section 6.1:** (First line concerning Convention body approved donation.) Convention delegates may approve a donation up to 45% of the annual net income to a 501(c)3 Organization supporting our Mission, as the recipient, (YTD 6/30 used for estimating purposes only) if the National BSMA organization is financially stable.

*This increased the upper level of a potential donation from 30% to 45% of annual net income.*

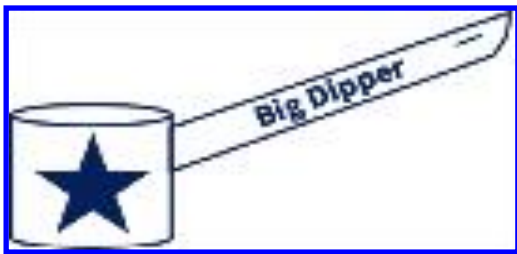
I would encourage all members to set aside time to download our governing documents and financial policies from the national BSMA website and review them, at least annually. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Julie Straw,

National Finance Chairwoman

[FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us](mailto:FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us)





## National Big Dipper

The Big Dipper is an Auxiliary of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. which came into being in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on November 7th at the 1951 National Convention.

In 1989, Big Dipper's educational assistance fund was dedicated to the memory of Josephine Calenda (PA22) at the National BSMA Convention held in Lansing, Michigan. After many years of active service in BSMA, Josephine passed away that year while holding the office of National Big Dipper President. The fund has carried her name ever since.

The goal of the Big Dipper Auxiliary is to raise money throughout the year, so we can offer Educational Assistance to qualified applicants and to provide fun and sisterhood for our members while raising said funds. Applications for membership are available on the website; for states with departments, please register through that state's Big Dipper Auxiliary.

Your membership dues are the first step in Big Dipper's fundraising efforts. For \$10 a year, BSMA members can become an auxiliary member.

Funds are also raised through other means. For example, Big Dipper has a store from which you can order the traditional Big Dipper guard & chain to go with your BSM pin as well as other fun items.

Plus, each year we plan a Fun Night at convention which not only raises funds, but also provides a social event. Big Dipper Fun Night is held to bring everyone together for a themed event where we have a silent auction, games, food, music, and just plain old FUN.

Finally, donations are also an important fundraising component. Besides receiving donations from the public, chapters play a significant role. YOUR chapter can receive an award and recognition for the largest donation through the year.

# BD Fundraiser Pastabilities

<https://www.funpastafundraising.com/shop/>

# NOW OPEN



## ONLINE STORE



# Retail Therapy



Locate these items and the store at [www.bluestarmothers.org](http://www.bluestarmothers.org) then click on the Quick links bar. You will need to login to shop.

# Wisconsin Blue Star Mom's Chapter 1

Gold Star Luminary Events 09/25/2022

Town of Freedom WI



Village of Little Chute WI



By Presidential Proclamation, the last Sunday of September is Gold Star Family Day. We have partnered with local VFW's and American Legion's to co-host Gold Star Luminary Events. Your Chapter can find more on-line at: <https://li.marineparents.com/>. These beautiful ceremonies are highly suggested. Reach out to our Chapter to learn more!

Happy Halloween Veterans!

Wisconsin Blue Star Mother's Chapter 1 packed individual Halloween Treat Bags to share with Veterans at an October Luncheon for Veterans. A little something sweet to remind them we care!





# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2022



### GOLD STAR MOTHER'S AND FAMILY SUNRISE SERVICE - SEPTEMBER 25, 2022



Spring Creek Area Blue Star Mothers TX18 and The Montgomery County Veterans Memorial Park held the first Gold Star Mothers and Family Sunrise Service on September 25, 2022. The service was held at the Montgomery County Veterans Memorial Park where a Gold Star Service Flag was raised in honor of Montgomery County's fallen service members.

Heather Herlong, President of Spring Creek Area Blue Star Mothers TX18, explained the significance of the colors in the Blue and Gold Star Flags. Then in admiration the Gold Star families, Blue Star families, Veterans and military supporters alike watched as the Gold Star Service flag was raised for the first time by the Magnolia NJROTC over Montgomery County. Judge Jimmie C. Edwards read the names of the fallen followed by a pinning ceremony performed by the Blue Star Mothers in which the Gold Star Mothers and Family Members were pinned with a Gold Star pin.

During a touching moment, Gold Star Mother, Margie Taylor, told her story and about the loss of her son. Another tragic loss in the military community. Following the service, refreshments were served for fellowship and reflection.



[BSM.TX18@BLUESTARMOTHERS.US](mailto:BSM.TX18@BLUESTARMOTHERS.US)

The Blue Star Mom's Houston TX2 have been in celebration mode since the beginning of September! We have celebrated homecomings, our chapters birthday, BS Mom of The Year, past presidents, and the passing of the torch to new board members. We were invited guests to the VFW Auxiliary 4816 Luncheon and closed out the year with a total of 1487 care packages that our chapter was able to send to those who are currently deployed including a beach themed box that brought some fun as well as goodies.



# Houston, TX 2

# Upper Cumberland

We were sponsored for military night at our local football game and collected donations to send care packages, we took care of our National Guard unit 400 people with deserts for them and their families, and we had a donation event at Kroger and collected supplies for the care packages. Here are some pics of our events.

## TN 7





# Greenville Upstate SC4



Linda Azurunwa and Wendy Smith

On 11 Sept., our chapter was invited by the Westcliffe Garden Club, to participate in their Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker Dedication. Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers can be found along our nations highway to pay tribute to the Armed Forces who are and have defended the United States. The highway marker is located at the Berea Fire Department in Greenville, SC.



## SC4 2022-2023 Officers

- Wendy Smith, President
- Michelle Free, 1VP
- Chris Nottingham, 2VP
- Berit DiVito, Financial Secretary
- Lucero "Lucy" Sewell, Treasure
- Patti Coleman, Recording Secretary
- Kay Fitzsimmons, Blue to Gold Liaison





**Southwestern  
Pennsylvania**  
Chapter PA16



**September meeting: Packed 195 boxes for deployed troops**



**3 Generations of family members  
packing care packages**



**2022-2023 Officers and  
Appointed Positions**

- President**  
Leslie Majocka
- 1st Vice President**  
Cindy Lauderbaugh
- 2nd Vice President**  
Pam MacMurdo
- Treasurer**  
Michelle Cribben
- Financial Secretary**  
Debra Ridgway
- Recording Secretary**  
Beverly Majocka
- Corresponding Secretary**  
Leslie Stewart
- Sergeant at Arms**  
Mary Ellen Stanko
- Chaplain**  
Jackie Huston
- Care Package Coordinator**  
Gina Batvinskas
- Parliamentarian**  
Kim Walsh
- Historian**  
Beth Blackhall



Blue Star Mothers of Fredericksburg Chapter VA4 Convention Fundraiser is the 2022 Official White House Ornament. The ornament represents the cherished White House tradition of displaying a gingerbread house each holiday in the State Dining Room. Included with the beautifully gift-boxed keepsake are the gingerbread-scented booklet and the recipe card

# FUNDRAISE WITH THE OFFICIAL 2022 WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT



**\$25.00**

**Shipping:**  
1@\$6  
2@\$8  
3@\$10.50  
4@\$13.50  
5@\$16.75

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO  
**Blue Star Mothers  
of Fredericksburg Chapter VA4**

FOR  
**VA4 Delegates to attend  
Blue Star Mothers of America Convention**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ORNAMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

FUNDRAISER CONTACT  
**Teresa Sumners,  
pcpteresasumners.va4@bluestarmothers.us**

**Make checks payable to Blue Star Mothers of  
Fredericksburg, PO Box 91, Fredericksburg, VA 22404**

All ornament sales support the educational mission of the non-profit, non-partisan White House Historical Association to protect, preserve, and provide public access to the history of America's Executive Mansion. Learn more at [www.whitehousehistory.org](http://www.whitehousehistory.org)

# LA 7 Chapter Central, LA

## SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES



Trudy Dupuy (President) and Sandy Stockwell (Corresponding Secretary) hosting our table at the "5<sup>th</sup> Annual Suicide Prevention Summit" held at the American Legion in Baton Rouge, LA on September 9<sup>th</sup>.



Several of our Chapter members along with members from Chapter I attended the "Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs Gold Star Family Ceremony" at the Gold Star Family Monument on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Our Gold Star Tea was held on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. We were honored to have several Gold Star Mothers and their daughters attend. The Mayor from Central, LA (David Barrows) and Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (Brandee Patrick) were our special guests.



# MD 3 Fundraiser



Custom engraved bracelets. All proceeds go to Chesapeake Blue Star Mothers(MD3). Cost is \$20- includes shipping. Makes a great gift for any Military Mom. Pay on paypal \$20 per bracelet. Be sure to add address contact information, branch(s), and number of stars.

[https://paypal.me/BSMMD3?country.x=US&locale.x=en\\_US](https://paypal.me/BSMMD3?country.x=US&locale.x=en_US)

Email: [president.md3@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president.md3@bluestarmothers.us) with any questions for ordering.



# NC 16

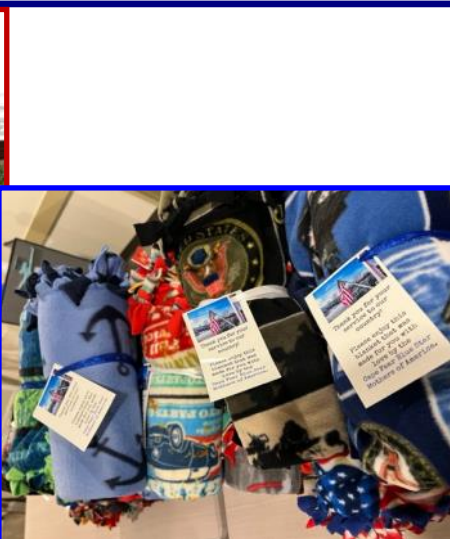
The Cape Fear Blue Star Mothers of America hosted Banding Together for Cape Fear Blue Star Mothers on Sept. 17, 2022. This benefit was used to raise funds for the organization Stop Soldier Suicide. The 6 hour long event included 3 bands, raffles and food trucks. A beautiful quilt handsewn for this even was also raffled off. \$30,000 was raised for the cause!

Our Blue Star Moms created beautiful lap blankets that will be given to veterans at our local VA Hospital in time for Veterans Day.

We are again holding a Wreaths Across America fundraiser and hope to exceed last year's total of 264 sponsored wreaths. We are looking forward to helping to lay the wreaths at Wilmington National Cemetery on Dec. 17.

We are also participating in the Red, White & Baby shower program that is promoted by Susan Tillis. This organization gathers baby supplies and donates them to military families.

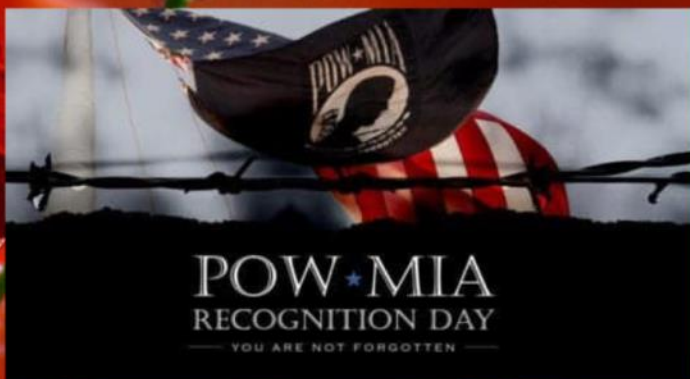
We have kicked off our Holiday Care Packages for the Troops drive. We will be sending out care packages on December 2 and are excited to spread some holiday cheer to our service members!



# Sacramento Blue Star Moms CA7

## GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022



#NEVERFORGET

USAF SGT. JOHN A. CARIBO

HONORING AND REMEMBERING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF U.S.A.F. SGT JOHN A. KARIBO, FROM BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO, THE FATHER OF OUR VERY OWN SACRAMENTO BLUE STAR MOM, KIMBERLY ELMQUIST-STEINMAN AND HUSBAND OF GOLD STAR WIFE, TONYA WAGNER. JOHN, ALONG WITH 106 OTHER SERVICE AND CREW MEMBERS, WENT MISSING OVER THE PACIFIC OCEAN 60 YEARS AGO ON THIS DAY, MARCH 16, 1962, WHILE ONBOARD THE FLYING TIGER LINE FLIGHT 739 AND ON THEIR WAY TO SAIGON, VIETNAM.

# PA



# 203

**Rally in the Valley:** This organization extended an invitation to us. Thank a Vet Dam Run. 100% of this event benefits Veterans. Our tables were setup and coffee available. Tickets were sold for this quilt made by our own female Veteran, Lynette Ristau.



**Corry Homecoming Parade:** We were invited and had such fun! An honor as we proudly carried out the duties of color guard.



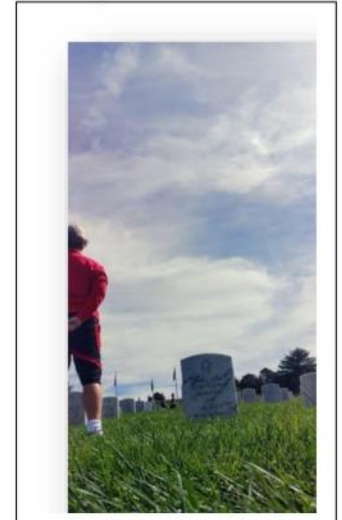
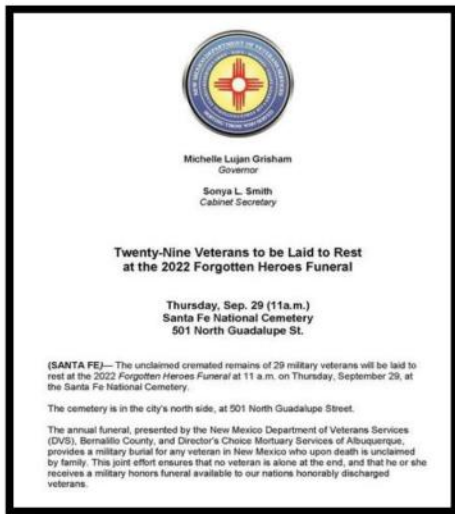
**Johnny Appleseed:** Once again, we setup our tables at this event. Land of the Free... Home of the Brave was the title of this quilt that was donated to our group. All proceeds benefited Active Military and Veterans. Community support is extremely appreciated in our area.



# Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County NM6

October 2022

In September, NM 6 joined NM 2 at the beautiful service honoring 29 of our state's *Forgotten Heroes*. It was a beautiful service. We were honored to be able to attend. May those men and women rest in peace.



At NM 6's October meeting, President Debra shared this certificate of appreciation our chapter received from VFW Post 9676. We are humbled not only by this thoughtfulness but also, and especially, for the continued service to county as well as to our country by the VFW.



# BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



## OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

### Upcoming Events

Honor Flights- October 8<sup>th</sup> & November 5<sup>th</sup>

DAV of the Year Event- October 15<sup>th</sup>

Grand Slam Charity Event (Camp Hometown Heroes) - October 15<sup>th</sup>

Veterans Court Graduation- October 24<sup>th</sup>

Cooking Class Fundraiser- October 31<sup>st</sup>

Veterans Parade- November 5<sup>th</sup>

Concert Band & Soldier Chorus US Army- November 14<sup>th</sup>

Veterans Cemetery Wreath placement- December 17<sup>th</sup>

Board & Brush Fall Fundraiser!



The month of September leading into October has been non-stop for our chapter. On one of our last beautiful warm fall days a few of us met at a local café, Java Dreams, for dinner. We couldn't have asked for a better night; the food was awesome, the weather beautiful and the company was amazing. A few days later, we held our September 2022 meeting which included the ceremony for the 2022-2023 chapter Officers & appointed Board as well as the installation of 3 new members!



On this Gold Star Family Day our Blue Star Mothers, veterans, a high school ROTC group and several guest speakers, including Sister Sarge honored 2 of our very own families whose star has gone from blue to gold with a beautiful Luminary Ceremony. It was an honor to be present at this tribute to 2 young men who have left us too soon. May their light continue to shine on all of us.



Pictured below are several photos from the Racine County Veterans Stand-Down 2022 event that we volunteered at.



# Western Slope Blue Star Mothers - CO8



## October Chapter Happenings



### Fort Support

In an effort to build connections and strengthen our outreach to current moms and prospective moms, we launched a quarterly event called Fort Support.



This is designed to allow time and space, outside of our official meetings, to connect with other moms, get to know each other, seek support from one another and enjoy time full of fun, food and laughs!



This quarter, we invited our "Blue Star Dads" to join us, in hopes that they, too, can create some connections with each other!



### QUILT RAFFLE

### *On Freedom's Wing*

Just in time for the holidays, this quilt features beautiful piecing with stunning free motion quilting. Purchase your tickets for your chance to win this one-of-a-kind handmade quilt and help support the programs of Western Slope Blue Star Mothers.

This gorgeous quilt was handmade and donated by a Fruita, Colorado Army Mom, Patricia B.



Scan the QR Code or visit [go.rallyup.com/wsbsm2022quilt](http://go.rallyup.com/wsbsm2022quilt) to purchase your tickets!

Drawing will be held December 4, 2022 at 12:00 pm MST



## LAKE ERIE SHORES OH21

President Barb Cook, Chaplain Elaine Brock, and Department of Ohio President Cheri Spurlock attended the Berlin Heights Garden Club Gold Star Memorial Marker Dedication Ceremony on Patriot Day, September 11.

President Barb Cook and Chaplain Elaine Brock volunteered at Perkins Township Community Days at Erie County Fairgrounds to promote membership, sell RED Friday shirts, and spread awareness for Wreaths Across America at Sandusky Ohio Veterans Home on December 17.



Please keep our President, Barb Cook, in your prayers as she recuperates from a car accident on October 7. After a week in the hospital, she is now home.



**OH  
57**



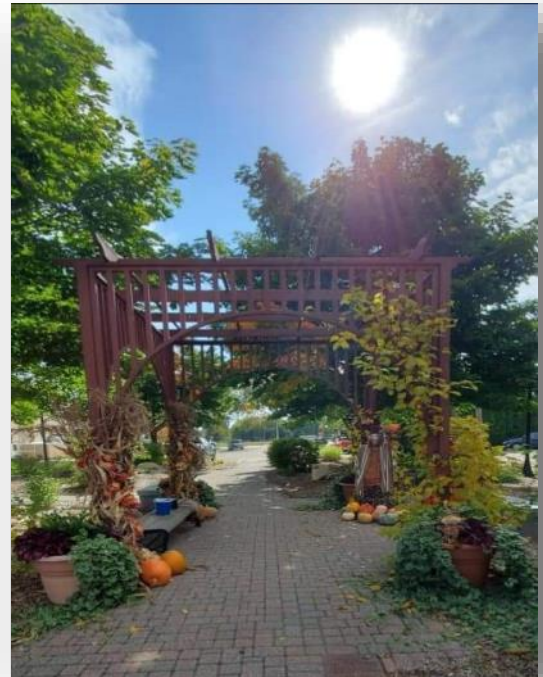
Chapter 57 participated in the Geneva Grape Jamboree and won first place for our float. Deedee Gibson, our Treasurer made the float.



See the picture left, of our recent Troop Box packing at the Geneva VFW and American Legion Post #103.

# Thumb Chapter MI 178

Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI #178 enjoy keeping Jim Hicks Veterans Memorial Park in Bad Axe beautiful during all seasons. Grace Rosenthal searches out what flowers will do well in the beds. She loves planning and organizing the planting and decorating of this beautiful park. Thank you Grace and Blue Star Mothers for your diligence in this project



Bountiful Blessings

Hiking *Falling leaves*  
crisp air - chilly nights

PUMPKIN Cinnamon

PATCH **PIE** Apples

Gathering with family & friends

GRATEFUL HEARTS **HARVEST**  
Hot Apple Cider

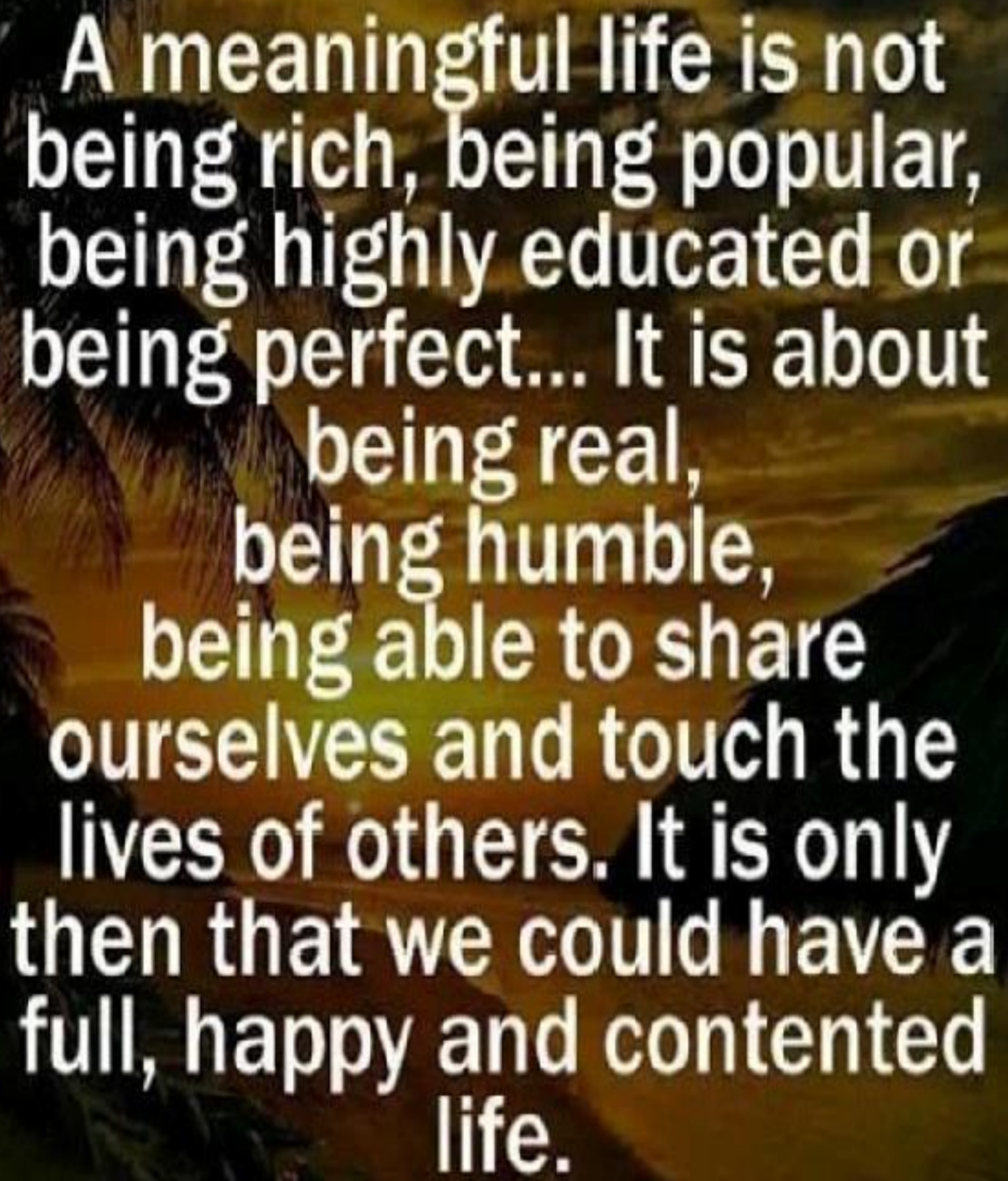
**CANDY** Thanksgiving

**CORN FOOTBALL** acorns

*Autumn* Caramel

In everything give thanks.

1 Thess. 5:18

A tropical sunset scene with palm trees and a beach. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with the sun low on the horizon. The palm trees are silhouetted against the bright sky. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

A meaningful life is not  
being rich, being popular,  
being highly educated or  
being perfect... It is about  
being real,  
being humble,  
being able to share  
ourselves and touch the  
lives of others. It is only  
then that we could have a  
full, happy and contented  
life.