

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.



April 2022



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Hello Members and Associates,

Happy Easter to you and your families!

I hope this finds you all well.

I was reminded today why I love being a Blue Star Mother.

I love to serve and to help others.

Remember if you don't ask, we can't help!!

I am so proud of our board for stepping up and putting in the extra time to assist the body of our organization. Please see a great letter from one of our chapters:

Thank you so much for phoning me and for your guidance & assistance...so very much appreciated...as well as the reassurance that I can ask for National's help 😊

We/I feel so connected now to the BSMOAI organization since we started our Texas Chapter 1 in 2003. 😊

My profound apologies too for taking so long to complete all the compliance requirements. I will do my very best to be on time with the reports, which is fast approaching! 😊

You gave great instructions below to view our chapter roster! Wow! And thank you for the attachment listing them! 😊

Your promptness puts me to shame.

Praying our chapter can get back to where we left off.

I am going to email our Pres, and VP to bring them up to speed.

I'm hoping to gather past members, current & new to set a date to meet. 😊

Again, thank you so much! ❤️

Keep picking up the Phone and make that connection! You never know who could use assistance. We are all in this together and it takes us all to keep our organization growing.



R.E.D. FLAG PATCH

(Remember Everyone Deployed Flag Patch)

Show your support for the Deployed!

Add this 2" x 3" patch to your favorite jacket, vest, ball cap or shirt.

\$5

NEW ITEMS ... ONLINE STORE ... NEW ITEMS



INCREDIBLE BLUE STAR MOTHER JACKET!

This is a beauty and totally comfy! 100% Nylon Shell, 100% Polyester Lining. True to size. Machine washable on cold in gentle cycle. Do not bleach. Tumble dry on low. Cool iron if necessary Heavy front zipper with pull tab. Right Inside breast pocket. Left and Right slit pockets on outside of jacket. Jacket can be cinched up tight around the bottom hem and around the face.

We only ordered 50, so get yours now!

\$60 – WORTH EVERY PENNY!

Welcome

Congratulations and a warm welcome to our newest BSM Sisters and Chapters!

Blue Star Mothers of North Warren, NJ 7

Pictured left to right: Colleen Holland Ruddy, Laura Hill, Melanie Curreri, Shannon Drylie, Christine Palmer



Upper Cumberland

Blue Star Mothers, TN 7

Pictured left to right back row:
Melinda Potet, Pam Mayhorn, Helen Sayes,
Janet Faccinto, Cathy Bess

Left to right front row: Bobbi Chieffe
Stephanie Young, Jennifer Van Horn

Florida Chapter 15


CONGRATULATIONS




On March 31, First Coast Blue Star Mothers Florida Chapter 15 had their march meeting at St. Mary's Seafood.

At the meeting five new members were initiated into our chapter by Christina Reyes. We would like to welcome and introduce our newest members to Blue Star Mothers: Julie Hampton, Lillie Nay, Nikki Clark, Angela Wood and Michelle Pyktel. We also welcomed a transfer from SC 8 to our chapter, Sue Reynolds.

We had another lady, Anne Ryan who is joining and will be initiated at our April meeting.

After our meeting we enjoyed a meal and wrote Easter cards for the Veterans in Gainesville and Lake City hospitals. We also filled out and signed thank you cards to those who donated the items for our April projects.



**NC 15 President, Fostoria Pierson,
awarded Medal of Honor from the DAR
(Daughters of the American Revolution)**

I was awarded the Medal of Honor from (DAR) Daughters of The American Revolution on April 14, 2022. Attached is a photo left to right -sister Letitia Marine/Airforce Vet, son Major Myreon Booker, USA, his wife Allison, me Fostoria Pierson President NC15 Charlotte Chapter my twin daughters Andria, Adria, and granddaughter Sarah.

MENTORING



You have all recently received an email through memberclicks from me, Denise Guerra, BSMA Mentor Chair, reaching out to members that may be interested in joining the mentor team. As we charter new chapters we are in need of more mentors. We want mentors that have been members in good standing for 5 years, have good communication skills (both written and oral), have interpersonal skills, good knowledge of the governing documents and have minimal technical skills. If you are interested in helping the organization to grow and be strong, mentoring might be for you!

Attached to the email you received were two items. The Mentor Requirements and a Mentor Interest Survey. Please contact me for these attachments, if needed, and submit your Interest Survey as soon as possible!



All chapters, no matter how old or new they are, have a mentor. The mentor is a great resource for any questions that the members and officers may have. We are available to mentor your chapter, not monitor your chapter!

For more information, contact me, Denise Guerra at mentor.chair@bluestarmothers.us



VETSERVE – National Week of Service

April 17 – 22, 2022

#VETSERVE 2022

JOIN your sisters in action during the **Week of Service, 2022!**

Think about and share what different service projects for veterans you and your chapter can do during this week! Post them here on our Blue Star Mothers facebook page so others can have new ideas.

Once your project is done please send photos and also post on our National BSMA Facebook page. Have you heard about Rally Point? This is a website for our military, veterans and family members.

Rallypoint.com

When you have completed your projects and would like to post them you can do so. Some of our chapters already are a part of Rally Point.

We are all excited for what projects you will share with us and how it will all come together!



Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaigns. Blue Star Mothers of America (BSMA) has successfully facilitated fundraising campaigns through the CFC and we are currently active in the 2021-2022 campaign to raise funds for our organization.

The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors via our CFC/OPM #34583 identification will help BSMA raise funds for our missions.

We respectfully request Chapters and Departments to post the CFC donation information on their websites and members to include in your correspondences. Also, please share this important information with your friends and family members who are employed by the federal government.

Blue Star Mothers now part of the CFC!



If you are a federal employee, postal worker or member of the U.S. military, please consider donating to us through your Combined Federal Campaign.



2nd Annual Miles for Our Veterans – If These Boots Could Talk Virtual 5K! July 22-24, 2022

Last year, a small group of BSMA Chapters came together with an idea to support our National President's Project by hosting a virtual 5K: [Miles for our Veterans – If These Boots Could Talk](#). We raised \$2,200, which was donated to the New Orleans VA for their Homeless Veterans projects!

This year's 2nd Annual Virtual 5K is being planned right now – Monies raised will be presented to this year's [President's Project - Operation Surf](#) - during Convention!

There are three ways to participate - you can choose to help in any or all of the ways!

Chapter Sponsorship \$50 – April 15 – May 8

-Sponsorships are limited – the first 14 Chapters to submit their \$50 payment and email their Chapter details to Sonya at president.il6@bluestarmothers.us will have their Chapter State/Number listed on the back of the shirts! Follow this link for your Chapter to sponsor this event!

<https://mandysteesandmore.com/collections/blue-star-mom-campaign/products/chapter-sponsorship-lbca-2022-miles-for-our-veterans-virtual-5k>

General Donations \$10 increments – April 15 – June 14

-Donations can be made at this link, to increase your donation simply increase the quantity after you add it to your cart (1 = \$10, 2 = \$20, 3 = \$30, etc....)

<https://mandysteesandmore.com/collections/blue-star-mom-campaign/products/lbca-2022-miles-for-our-veterans-virtual-5k>

Register for the Virtual 5K! Registration will open Memorial Day Weekend on Friday, May 27 and run through Flag Day, Tuesday, June 14th

-Simply purchase a t-shirt from the link coming soon - \$27 sizes S-XL, \$30 sizes 2XL or 3XL – a portion of each shirt purchased will be donated to Operation Surf! Then sometime from Friday, July 22 through Sunday, July 24 put on that shirt and get together with your Chapter, your friends, your family, some veterans, whoever you want and move in any way you want for a distance of 5K! That's right, you can walk, run, bike, hike, surf, kayak, rollerblade, hop, crawl, swim, it really doesn't matter – just move for 5K wearing your shirt! Take photos of you and your group doing your 5K then post them on the Facebook event page to share with everyone!

Organizing Chapters: IL6, IL1, MO5, MO4, LA7, and LA1. [Shout out to Gold Star Mother owned Mandy's Tees and More](#) for their help and support making this happen!

For additional information, please contact Sonya at president.il6@bluestarmothers.us



CA 30 working the Mission with donations made by the DAR, picked up and delivered by our National President

Attached are the pictures of our care package event. The boxes were sent to Poland by the Ukraine border. One of our mothers has a son stationed there and another mom's cousin also has a son in Poland. We partner with NCL- National Charity League is a mother-daughter organization on care packages. Between their donations and the generous donations of the DAR we were able to send 80 packages. Please thank them for us!



Sacramento Blue Star Moms

March

CA-7



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.

Kimberly, Tonya, and the families of these missing HEROES are no closer to the answers they seek as to what happened to this plane carrying their loved ones 60 years ago. The quest by the families is continuing to have the names of the 93 service members included on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. We vow to NEVER FORGET these brave, fallen HEROES



Maltz Challenge Honoring Lcp Travis J. Layfield



400 CARE Packages shipped with help from our volunteers and supporters





Children & Grandchildren of Active Duty, First Responders, National Guard, Reservists, DAV, Veterans, Purple Hearts, Retirees are welcomed

THE BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF CHARLOTTE CHAPTER NC- 15

Blue Star Mothers are Mothers whose children are currently serving in the Military or are Veterans

Non-Military Kids Are Welcome to Attend to Honor These Gold Star Kids

Presents Its 3rd Annual

THIS IS A FORMAL EVENT for Kids & Parents



BOWS & BOW TIES MILITARY KIDS BALL

Saturday, April 23, 2022



Hilton University Area 8629 J.M. Keynes Charlotte NC 28262 Free Parking

1800-2300-6:00-11:00 P.M. -Kids Ages 1-15

Contact information:

Color Guard- Piedmont High School AFJROTC-Under the Direction of Major Chadrick Richardson, USAF (Retired)

Fostoria Pierson president.nc15@bluestarmothers.us 704-352-0313

Guest Speakers, Vocalist-Ray & Fran Sullivan, Professional Photographer (additional cost), DJ and other Entertainment.

Gerrie Fox-Financial Secretary 704-488-0378 gfox0378@gmail.com

Meet & Greet 6:00-7:00 P.M. Open Cash Bar

Dinner Cost Per Child Ages: Under 3 complimentary, 4 -11

\$20, 12 and over \$45 per person. Three or more in the family please contact Fostoria or Gerrie for family discount. We want our Military Families to come have fun and not worry about the above cost. Parking is ample and Free!

USE CODE: BSMNC15

A SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO OUR GOLD STAR MOTHERS KIDS, AND FAMILIES

MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED FOR THIS EVENT-FOR OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

Pay options: NLT April 01, 2022, Cash App- \$bsmcharlottenc15, or mail & make check or money order to: Blue Star Mothers NC 15 PO Box 560264, Charlotte NC 28256. Register now at: president.nc15@bluestarmothers.us Registration information: names of adults & kids, ages of kids.



OH9



Welcome
Tables at
Chalmers
Wylie
VAMC



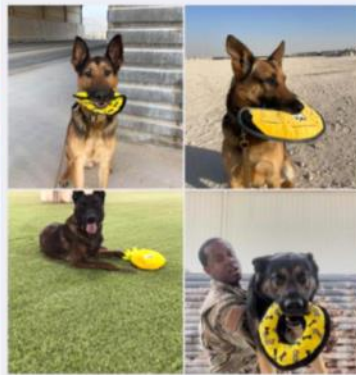
Representing Ohio Blue Star
Moms at the announcement
about Ohio's new Collegiate
Purple Star Schools Program



4-H Walk & Serve Event – gift
bags for our "We Care" boxes
for the Deployed



OH9 member Cristina
Villarreal received a
2022 Ohio Veterans
Champion award from
Live2Lead/Vanguard
Veterans.



Our February "We Care"
packages totaled 274 with a
dozen of those boxes going to
a K-9 unit in Qatar – three of
those boxes were for the pups.



**A few highlights from the last
couple months with OH9. Plus,
our chapter celebrated its 15th
anniversary, too!**

**Buckeye Military Moms
Ohio 9 working the mission**

Blue Star Families of Richmond, VA2

Several members got together to make no-sew blankets. We made 21 blankets that we delivered to the infusion (cancer) center at McGuire VA Hospital. Jill's Blankets was named for Jill Ward who, while undergoing chemotherapy, made blankets for cancer patients at local hospitals. Upon her death in 2013, her friends continued making blankets. Jill's Blankets is a 501(c)(3). For more info, please visit www.jillsblankets.org.



Four Corners Blue Star Mothers

April, 2022



New Mexico's Blue Star Mothers State Convention!

The state wide yearly convention was held in Albuquerque at the New Mexico Veteran's Memorial and was hosted by the Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers. This year's theme was "Rosie the Riveter". We enjoyed visiting with others, hearing heartfelt stories, and learning from the honored guest speakers.



Member Recognition!

Diane McClelland and Marjorie Steffen were both recognized for their outstanding service at recent monthly socials.



Local Veterans' Breakfast

Four Corners Blue Star Mothers were part of the local veterans' breakfast held at TJ's Diner. We are honored to be in their service.



News... April 2022

Blue Star Mothers,
Rochester NY8



Rochester, NY chapter officially chartered in 2011
We are mothers of children who are currently
serving in the military or have served

Website: www.bluestarmomsroc.com

Ph: 585-210-9779

BSM NY8 Celebrates the family of Jeanne and Ed Ristau to honor their son MAJ Matthew P. Ristau.



Retirement Ceremony on February 24, 2022 at Ft. Bragg
Photo of MAJ Ristau. He received one of the certificates of his service honors.

BSM Jeanne Ristau recalls highlights of her son's service in the U.S. Army -

When 9/11 happened everything changed; our country had been attacked by foreign terrorists in an incomprehensible manner. For our son, Matt, the impact of this horrific event led him to think about how he could be of service, and at the age of 32 he made the decision to enlist in the United States Army. He went to Boot Camp at Ft. Benning, then to Airborne School and was assigned to the 82nd at Ft. Bragg. Then came his first deployment to Iraq, serving as a SGT in the first mission of the War on Terror. He had already been accepted to Officer Candidate School, and upon his return attended, graduated and was commissioned as a 2nd LT, Artillery.

After two more deployments to Iraq, one to Korea, and one to Syria, plus multiple schools and duty

stations, Matt had achieved the rank of MAJ and had served honorably for 20 years. He made the decision to retire, and a very impressive ceremony was held for him and another at the outdoor pavilion of the 82nd AB. Just as Matt had made the decision to join the Army in 2001, upon learning about Rochester's new chapter of BSM founded by Sue Louis, I decided to join, and I cannot say enough about the support, friendships, and opportunities for service it has given me over these past 20 years.



Proud Mom and Dad: Jeanne and Ed Ristau



Matt, his wife Gloria, and their daughter Glory and her two children

Please congratulate Jeanne and Ed Ristau when you see them. Jeanne is a proud BSM who writes beautiful compassionate care messages in cards to our members. She serves on the annual Lights of Honor Tree Lighting Ceremony and several other projects. BSM NY8 thanks you Jeanne for your service.

Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6 at the Chicago Steel Military Appreciation Night! We watched the Chicago Blackhawk Warriors take on the Central Illinois Warriors - both teams of veterans who were wounded in service. At our table in the lobby, we worked with other VSOs like Road Home and Wounded Warrior Project to help bring awareness to veteran related issues and causes. Then we saw the reigning Clark Cup Champion Chicago Steel bring home another win! Great day for great causes!



CEB Retreat Spring 2022



Chapters from Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, Tennessee, and California held a weekend retreat in central Illinois. We came together to learn from each other, share ideas, ask for advice, get to know each other, build relationships, and more. We were together both in person and over Zoom to have the most opportunities for learning and growth. We worked our way through an agenda of the topics we wanted to cover and we socialized while discussing even more topics and ideas. We would like to thank our National President, Stacy Anders, for Zooming in to our retreat and sharing her wealth of knowledge with us! Good times, great friends, lots of learning – overall an awesome weekend!



In conjunction with VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) post 7472 Fall Freedom Festival was held on 4/2/2022 with Chesapeake Blue Star Mothers (Maryland Chapter MD3). It was a community festival provided free of cost for families. Many non profits and organizations had set ups to show the community what is available for veterans. Picnic food and drinks were also provided. Ellicott City Mission BBQ donated sides. VFW provided hot dogs and our MD3 the drinks. Our chapter had raffles for every branch with a mug home crafted with goodies. We crafted bunny lollipop covers to give to children. Our chapters president's husband was the Easter Bunny. There were Disney characters, balloon twisting, field activities, raffle prizes, and so much more for children. One of our members who runs America's Warrior Care Package project that sends packages for deployed service members, was also present. The local Fire Department also had a set up. In addition we got a visit from Howard County Executive Calvin Ball. Dogs pictured are service dogs being trained for veterans from Warrior Canine Connection.

As a newer chapter this was our first big event. Not long after our chapter installation the pandemic was among us. We have not been able to have large events. The festival was a huge success and brought many organizations together for a fun day.



April 2nd Red White & Blue Star Mothers MI-198 volunteered for an Easter Egg Hunt at Enlisted Heritage House on Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Twp, MI, to bring joy to military children and their families! The Easter Bunny was flown in on a Coast Guard helicopter! The kids enjoyed an Easter egg hunt, games, a petting zoo, pony rides, refreshments and even a surprise visit from T-Rex!



Red White
&
Blue Star
Mothers
MI 198

April 7th Red White & Blue Star Mothers MI-198 participated in the groundbreaking of the Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial in Royal Oak, MI.

We had the honor and pleasure of meeting and escorting (14) WWII Veterans and (4) Original Rosie the Riveters! The project will be installed in phases. You can help with the first phase by purchasing one of 1,200 paver bricks with engraved names and remembrance of those who have served, and those bricks will pave a Walk of Honor. To volunteer, donate or learn more about the memorial, visit michiganww2memorial.org.

Groundbreaking MI WWII Legacy Memorial Pictures:

Pic #1 WWII VETERANS ORIGINAL ROSIES GROUNDBREAKING

Pic #2 WWII BSM VETERANS GROUP: MI-198 members Theresa Monarch, Bridgette Lombardi, and Bridget Drabek with hero WWII Veterans.

Pic #3 WWII THERESA AND BRIDGET ESCORTING: Having the complete honor of escorting WWII Veterans to the groundbreaking area were MI-198 members Theresa Monarch and Bridget Drabek.

Pic #4 WWII BRIDGETTE L ESCORTING: MI-198 member Bridgette Lombardi proudly escorting an Original Rosie the Riveter Sylvia Vizen to the groundbreaking area.





OH21 Lake Erie Shores

Receiving the **Quilt of Valor** at the February 22 Chapter meeting was Associate Member and Army Veteran, Mindy Soisson-Calhoun. Barb Cook, OH21 President, and Freda Soisson(Mindy's mother), OH21

Treasurer, awarded the quilt as Kimberly Danes, 1st VP, read the meaning and history of the quilt and its three layers. Members formed a circle around Mindy during the presentation. Mindy is a tireless advocate for veterans and is the Veterans Service Commissioner for Huron County and President of the Huron County Area Veterans Council. Congratulations, Mindy!



Following the meeting on March 22, members and guests assembled 109 **Easter care packages** for troops. Thank you to Lisa, Maria, Amy, Christine, Barb, Kim, Colleen, Elaine, Renee, Cheri, Marie, Lisa, Karen, Tim, and Vickey for helping with this project. Lots of fun while doing good deeds for those deployed.



The **Spring Craft and Vendor Fair** was held at the Bellevue VFW on March 26 with 38 vendors and 53 tables. Almost 300 guests attended and we made a profit of \$2200. We sold sloppy joes and shredded chicken meals, had a 50/50 raffle, a \$1 entry fee donation, and a Wreaths Across



American donation jar. Thank you to Marie, Colleen, Karen, Renee, Kim, Leslie, Amy, Rose, Freda, Cheri, Christine, Paula, Mark, Lisa, Maria, and Barb for helping make this a success!





NM2

BSM'S from NM2 honored Vietnam Veterans on March 29th at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park, in Albuquerque, NM. BSM's brought flowers and US flags and gave them to the Vietnam Veterans to place at the Vietnam Memorial. With gratitude we told them how thankful we were for their service, and we welcomed them home. We also said prayers in remembrance of the 58,000 plus who have not made it home. God Bless our Vietnam Veterans.



NM STATE CONVENTION APRIL 9, 2022 "ROSIE THE RIVETER"

NM2 hosted the State Convention and the theme was Rosie the Riveter. After two plus years of pandemic, BSM's found out If there is a mission to accomplish, "We can do it."



**Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County
NM6
APRIL 2022**

Although we pack and send boxes *just because* we want to remind troops they are not forgotten when they are deployed, it always warms our hearts when they make time to drop us thank you notes. (They always thank us for the jerky and chili!)

It has been a relatively *quiet* few weeks since we had our March mailing. So several members (past and present) took the opportunity to meet for lunch to share military (and other) stories over chips and salsa, to celebrate a birthday, and to thank the owners of Sopa's restaurant for all they continue to do to support our chapter and our military.



On April 9, members of our chapter were privileged to join the other New Mexico chapters—IN PERSON! —at the state convention (graciously hosted by RGVBSM NM2). First time to get together in 2 years. It was good to renew friendships at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial in Albuquerque. The theme was Rosie the Riveter, and everyone dressed for the occasion! It was informative— and everyone went home filled with facts, food, and fond memories.



Tragically, a young man to whom our chapter had sent many boxes (during his multiple overseas tours) passed away In March. He became one of the 22 veterans *lost* every day. A member of our chapter—a friend he called *mom*-- was able to attend his celebration of life service. May he rest in peace. We are grateful for his service. We will never forget him. We will keep him and his family in our prayers.



Greenville Upstate SC#4

We had weeks picking up 300 cases of Girl Scout cookies for our troops, then packing and shipping 100 16x12x12 boxes to our active duty deployed soldiers. We always have such great support from our local Prisma veterans' group, who step up with the ruck and muscle. It really does take a village, and we are so thankful for all the support we receive so that we can better support our troops.



Wishing all our Sisters a Safe and Blessed Easter!

It was an amazing day at Florissant Valley Memorial Post 444 American Legion. Chapter MO4 joined many others cleaning and took on renovation projects around the post. Community Service Day gave MO4 the opportunity to show our Love and Appreciation for our Veterans and Community. One of our Sister Holly volunteered to give their Retired Flag Box an amazing lift.



MO4 collected socks for WARM FEET FOR WARRIORS, a project organized by Soldiers Angels. Their goal for 2022 was to collect 50,000 pairs of socks for deployed service members. We were happy to do our part.

**Gateway Blue Star
Mothers
MO 4**

MO4 sent out 100 Easter care packages full of delicious treats for our Heroes and a special team that took part in the evacuation operation in Kabul, Afghanistan. Some can't come home for Easter but we can send a little bit of love to them and let our Heroes know we love and support them.

Houston Area, Texas 2

Blue Star Mothers of Houston TX2 Chapter as always has had a very busy last 2 months. As things in the world of military families begins to become just a little uneasy, many organizations are watching the world and want to be a part of supporting our Heroes. Therefore, we have received many donations these months to help support our men and women who are currently serving as well as our veterans who have served our country so freely in the past. We began the month of February with a visit to the American Legion Post # 586 in Houston first to speak to the Ladies Auxiliary who donated \$150.00. Followed by the Men's meeting where we received a donation of \$500.00. What a help that will be for postage on our care packages! This was followed by a donation drive held by "Just Connie's", where Just Connie's, The Rotary Club of Highlands, TX, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 922, and VFW Post 9761 had held a drive for care packages and blessed us with their goods. We held our February packing party on the 11th and 12th of the month. We now have 80 names on our list. A great big thank you to Insperty in Houston, not only for the donations for our packages but for helping with the actual work and packing. Prayers for all.



Another Donation from the Giddings American Legion Auxiliary. More donations from Epsilon Tau Chapter of Apha Delta Kappa. These goodies will certainly help with the next party. Candy boxes from Deerwood Elementary and Dr Casey Frazier, DDS. Stop the kid's teeth from rotting and treat our Hero's!! We delivered Valentines for Vets to the long-term care facility at the Houston VA Medical Center. We are still not allowed in to visit because of Covid, but I am sure they all felt the love that these were made with. We received a donation from the local car club as well. These smiles that we see in pictures like these make all the running around and hard work worth it. God Bless all our Military. We also received random donations from strangers at the store as two of our ladies were shopping to pack bags for our President's Project with the VA to provide necessities for homeless veterans that will be delivered in April. We were able to support with 45 packages! We closed out the month participating in a local car parade to celebrate the 98th birthday of a World War II veteran.





Lone Star Chapter 6 DFW, TX



Recent Chapter Events:

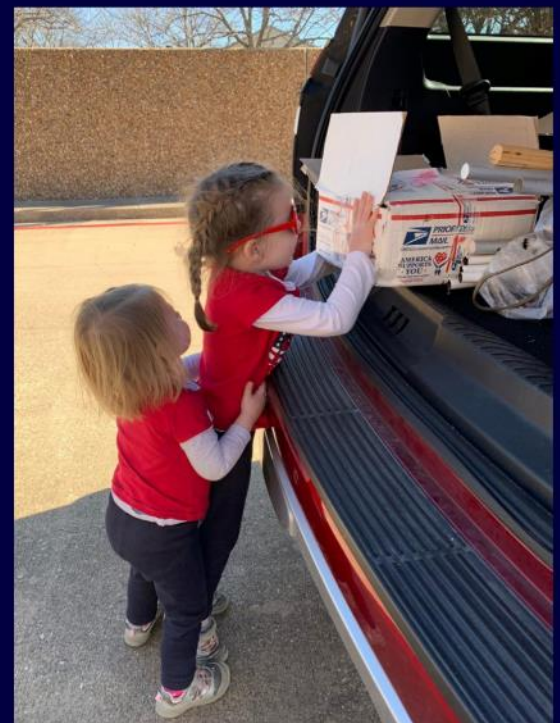
- 2/19 – Flag distribution in recognition of President's Day
- 2/19 – Storage Moving Day
- 3/19 – Invitation to attend Gold Star Brunch in Tyler, Tx
- 3/24 – Monthly Chapter Meeting

Upcoming Chapter Events:

- 4/28 – Monthly Chapter Meeting
- 5/08 – Mother's Day
- 5/26 – Monthly Chapter Meeting
- 5/28 – Flag distribution in recognition of Memorial Day
- 5/30 – Memorial Day Fundraiser @ Poor Richards Café
- 5/30 – Memorial Day Fundraiser @ Red Truck Café
- TBD – Care Box Packing (Date will be posted on Facebook)

Please follow us on Facebook!

Blue Star Mothers-Lone Star Chapter 6- DFW,Tx



WilCo Blue Star Mothers TX15



Our chapter has been very active this first quarter. To start off 2022, we had the opportunity to participate in a non-profit fair and explain what Blue Star Mothers are and how we contribute to the community.

President Susan Lutz, 2VP Bonnie Vona and 1VP Greta Moore participated.



In February, we were honored to participate in the Drive-thru Pancake Breakfast benefitting student enrichment programs at the Texas School for the Deaf and sponsored by Share the Will Foundation.

L to R: Susie Marr, Michelle Stephenson, Teri Reid, Will Williams, Bonnie Vona, and Susan Lutz.



This is a photo of our February meeting with one of our sponsoring VFWs. VFW 10427 in Leander is commanded by Mitch Fuller.

We also made Valentine goody bags for the veterans at the VA Clinic, Cedar Park Regional Medical Center.

February also brought us an opportunity to present the mission of the WilCo Blue Star Mothers to a meeting at the Veterans of Foreign Wars' District 28 meeting. 2VP Bonnie Vona did an outstanding job laying out all the activities we support and how we continue to support the military organizations in our community.



The WilCo Blue Star Mothers also attended two unaccompanied burials at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen. March brought terrific winds to the Central Texas region and several nasty tornadoes hit the area; Susie Marr (left) helped out in her community with some of the cleanup. We helped deliver Barbie dolls that we donated through Share the Will Foundation to the Dell Children's Medical Center in Austin. We have been very busy and look forward to our next quarter and the many activities we have planned for Easter and Memorial Day. Stay tuned.

1VP Greta Moore



SPRING CREEK AREA

TX18

Birthday Celebration

We turned 1 in March and it was packed full of first for our chapter. We had our: 1st publicly held package party that was also covered by the local newspaper; 1st member interviewed by our local newspaper for an article, Heather Herlong, our President; and 1st local radio interview completed by Heather Herlong and Cara Johnson. We were very blessed to by the Montgomery County Community and are excited for our future and 2022!



Geaux Run with Geaux Seven Virtual 5K

Join LA7 for Geaux Seven Blue Star Mothers first annual Virtual 5k! Help us continue to fulfill our mission serving those who serve. Because our race is virtual, you can run/walk/bike whenever, wherever is most convenient as long as it's between April 29- May 1, 2022



How it Works

Click Register to participate by purchasing a T-Shirt.

Consider creating a fundraising page

Add a photo to your page and let everyone know what, when, where and why you're supporting our organization. Set a fundraising goal.

Let everyone know they can donate to your fundraising page.

Use a fitness app to track your 5k and then post a screenshot of your accomplishment!

Use #geauxrunwithgeauxseven when posting about your fundraising challenge on social media.

Register For the Virtual 5K

Register by clicking the link below. Price of registration is the purchase of a T-shirt.

<https://www.geauxsevenbsm.com/geaux-seven-blue-star-mothers-first-annual-virtual-5k.html>

REGISTER TODAY

Western Slope CO8

We had a great packing event. We sent out 104 boxes!!!



We Honored our local Gold Star Families with a dinner. We had 9 show up. This will be an annual event for us



And of course, Our Send Offs!! Not sure who gets the most out of this, Us or the kids



Conway Blue Star Moms

Arkansas, Chapter 3

(correction from March)



President Sue Pena delivering collected household goods to a veterans transition house. We donated 11 boxes of men/women clothing, shoes, hats, belts, purses. 4 clothing racks, 2 bed frames, and kitchen essentials, coffee pot, dishes, cups, rice cooker, tons of plastic forks and spoons, tons of packets of sugar/creamer and paper towels .

Happy Easter

