

# BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.



## August 2022



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### Recording Secretary:

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**Treasurer: Alethea Tennill ~ MO**

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First off, I would like to thank everyone that had a part in making the 2022 National Convention a huge success!!!

Our Convention Committee consisted of Amy O'Campo, Sylvia Gaxiola and Penny Estrada. Ladies, you Rocked it!!!

Thank you all so very much!

Thank you to all our California Chapters that stepped up to help, to donate and to be part of the whole picture of making the Convention in California AMAZING!!! We could not have done it without all of you. Love to you all.

I am so honored to have been re-elected as you National President. Congratulations to our new National Executive Board. I look forward to working with each of you. I am looking forward to a really great year! Remember we have been elected by you, the body, and we are here for you and your Chapters. We are here to represent the organization we all love—Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. We have an open door policy. Please feel free to reach out to any of us.

Our emails are on the website under the officers tab and listed here in the Newsletter.

Thank you all and God Bless each of you!

Stacy Anders, National President 2021-2023



## National Executive Board 2022-2023

L to R: Cheree' Barrett-3rdVP, Brenda Ternullo-4thVP, Karen Stillwell-2ndVP, Rebecca Stafford-1stVP  
Stacy Anders-National President, Marisol Gonzalez-RecSec, Sonya Kay-FinSec and Alethea Tennill-Treas





# Convention 2022





# President's Project



# National Big Dipper Board

2022-2023

L to R: Chaplain, Judy Dorsey; Sgt. Of Arms, Trudy Dupuy; Treasurer, Diana Evans Vance; President, Doreen Bergreen; 1st VP, Amy O'Campo; Patriotic Instructor, Marisol Gonzalez; Recording Secretary, Shannon Kennedy; Financial Secretary, Genevieve Schindler (not pictured); Historian, Barb Cook (not pictured); Parliamentarian, Brenda Ternullo (not pictured)



# Fun Night





# CA Chapter 30 Ohio Delegates



# President's Ruby Gifts

# PNP's



# Pre Convention

# Pres Reception

# IT'S MEMBERSHIP TIME!!

First, and foremost, THANK YOU for re-electing me as your National 1VP. I am honored to serve you and this wonderful organization. I have thoroughly enjoyed answering membership questions and working with each of you, so I am looking forward to another year and getting to know more of you. Now.....on to membership!

Yes, we are in renewal period and by the flood of renewals coming in, I know you have received a reminder.

THANK YOU to those who renewed directly online, your membership has been automatically updated and your new expiration date is now 08/31/2023.

For those who have submitted Chapter Dues Renewals.....I see you, and I am working these as quickly as I can since returning from Convention.


Speaking of Convention, I am updating my PowerPoint presented and we will be getting that uploaded to the Website for everyone to see very soon.

If you are having issues renewing, please don't hesitate to reach out, I am happy to help. We are finding one of the glitches is with email addresses. Some members have changed their email address but forgot to log into their profile and change it there as well.

Which reminds me - you have the authority to update your profile at any time. If you move, 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. This is great because you don't have to wait for me to make these minor changes for you, especially in the midst of a busy time.

Chapter Presidents & Membership Officers - please check with your members and make sure they are receiving monthly newsletters. If not, have them check their email address within their profile. 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

A large red oval with a dark blue outline, containing the text "Message from the National 1st VP".

Message from the  
National 1st VP

## **Mentor Program is Making a Difference!**

The Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc Mentor Program is making a difference! The program was expanded from originally new chapters having mentors to all chapters, new and old, having mentors 3 ½ years ago! Mentors are assigned to all chapters and are available to all members of the chapter. There are many questions about governing documents, fundraising, serving our veterans and many more that are asked of the mentors. The mentors are members that have served in leadership roles and have been a member for over 5 years. They are knowledgeable about the organization. If mentors don't know the answers, they know who in the organization can give them the answers to the members questions.

The chapters can learn about other chapters successes from the mentors. The mentors meet via zoom periodically to discuss issues, make suggestions and share successes and concerns the chapters may have.

The mentors are available as “long distant cheerleaders” to the chapters. If the mentors see a chapter is struggling, the mentors can get them help. This is keeping the chapters going and growing! We are making a difference!

If you do not know who your chapter mentor is or are interested in the mentoring program, please email Denise Guerra at [mentor.chair@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:mentor.chair@bluestarmothers.us)

# Support Our Veterans

Never underestimate what a Blue Star Mom can do!!! Our moms were called into action for a VAVS project to be held at our 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. convention held in Long Beach, CA.

During a conversation with Chief Andrea Lennon, from the Long Beach VA, it was discussed how our veterans needed clean sweatpants to leave the facility when discharged.

Chief Lennon was pleasantly surprised when told that our convention would be in town and we would like to have the Long Beach VAVS benefit from our collection of sweatpants!

Our moms went into action and purchased hundreds of sweatpants to fill hundreds of beautiful bags during our team building during convention. The moms had time to laugh, chat, catch up with sisters and fill the bags not only with pants but water bottles, cards of thanks and a few extra things to make the bags a great gift for our veterans.

The VAVS team would like to thank everyone who helped make this project a grand success.



# Order Yours Today

2021—2022

Yearbook

**DEDICATED**  
TO ALL  
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA



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



The online store sold out at Convention but you can still order one online at [www.TreeRing.com/validate](http://www.TreeRing.com/validate), code101416260317183

It is full of History, Respect and a Ruby (80 Year) Celebration of the Mission! We know you will love it!

# Blue Star Mothers Rochester NY8



Rochester, NY chapter officially chartered in 2011

Website: [www.bluestarmomsroc.com](http://www.bluestarmomsroc.com)



Towpath Volunteers Fife & Drum Corps and Sons of the American Revolution

## Revolutionary War Patriots Ceremony, Webster Union Cemetery

On Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup> the Webster Community was invited to a solemn ceremony hosted by Webster Union Cemetery to honor its heroes. Cemetery President George Baker and Cherie Wood historian for the cemetery planned the ceremony. Cherie is with the Canandaigua Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, DAR. Special honor was given to Revolutionary War Patriots, military, veterans, first responders including Blue Star and Gold Star Mothers. Cherie is a genealogist with DAR and traced the first Revolutionary War Patriots who are interred at the cemetery. Special honor was given to two Revolutionary War Patriots: Private Ebenezer Curtice. The American flag was presented to the Curtice descendants. Revolutionary War Quarter Master Sergeant Jonas Whiting, flag presented to Museum President Thomas Pellett where it will hang in the museum. Founding Fathers Wreath Laying was presented by Town Supervisor Tom Flaherty.



Top photo: Tom Flaherty and Cherie Wood, bottom photo: George Baker

 Please help our Blue Star Mothers Rochester, NY8 Chapter honor veteran's graves at the Webster Union Cemetery on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Wreaths Across America



Dorothy Reid, President of Gold Star Mothers told the story of her son, Army SSG Nicholas Reid and his bravery. Amy VanDerwerken, President of Blue Star Mothers talked about our service projects to active duty, reserves and veterans.



Sergeant Robert Reynolds, Air Force, WWII received a framed certificate from Webster Town Council and BSM, Ginny Nguyen. Active duty Servicemen helped



Left photo: Revolutionary War Private Ebenezer Curtice, flag presented by Lt. Richard H. Nguyen, Navy to Curtice Descendants

Right photo: Korean Veteran Roger Hill presented Revolutionary War Patriot Jonas Whiting's flag to Tom Pellett

**For every \$15 sponsored wreath for the Webster Union Cemetery, \$5 will be given to our chapter to build Care Packages for deployed soldiers. To Sponsor a wreath please go to the following Link**

 BSM link to sponsor wreaths: [Click to sponsor wreaths](#)



# SPRING CREEK AREA

## TX18

# 4TH OF JULY PARADE



# Pine City Blue Star Moms, MN 16

Our “small but mighty” group of ladies have been very busy. Here are some highlights from the past few months....

Our group participated in the Memorial Day Ceremonies in both Pine City and Braham, MN. On June 4th we participated in the Braham Parade. On July 9th we participated in the Hinckley Parade and we were joined by Gold Star Family members of MSgt Daniel L. Fedder, USMC EOD. We joined together with Beyond The Yellow Ribbon on July 30th and served lunch for the Ryders Bike Ride, raising funds for Veterans. We joined in the Pine City Parade on August 6th.





# Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter PA16



Attended "Support Our Troops Rally" Beaver, PA - June 26



Interacted with our friends from VLP



A motorcyclist from the American Legion Freedom Riders Gold Star Division



Volunteered with PA VetPets: Fundraiser to assist Veterans receive service dogs - July 16



Received photos from deployed troops opening packages we recently mailed

**BLUE STAR MOTHERS**  
**FREDERICKSBURG CHAPTER VA4**

The VA4 Chapter was the July charity at the Sedona Taphouse Dine Out For Charity. Our chapter members gathered to support the event and socialize. It has been our honor to have Sedona as our partner. They generously donate \$1 from a selection of specified meals. This year they will be donating \$747 to our Care Package Program.



We were excited to have Lisa Gregory, DAV Past Department Commander as our guest speaker at our July meeting. The DAV's mission is to empower veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. A new Navy Mom was sworn in.



Lupi Orthodontics Military Appreciation Day collecting care package donations and offering Wreaths Across America sponsorships.





## Fallen **Soldiers** Memorial **Torch** Run

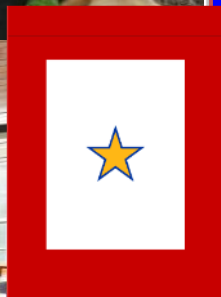
**2022 Memorial Torch Run  
July 9 - Aug. 7**

As a participating rider, there's no fee to ride. All individual riders, ride chapters and groups are encouraged to participate and ride. Whether you decide to ride one leg, one day, several days, or the entire cross country journey, the amount of time you decide to ride is completely up to you.

One thing is for certain, this is a life changing ride for anyone who chooses to participate. If you're a first year rider, it's our promise you'll want to do it again and again each and every year.

We attended the Fallen Soldiers Memorial Torch Run as it made its way tp Leroy, Ohio to honor SSG Kyle R. McKee.

Left is a bit of infor regarding this multi state event that ended in Arlington



**We participated in a Gold Star memorial dedication, presented by Feed Our Vets food pantry of Ashtabula, Ohio**

# JULY 2022 CA 7 SACRAMENTO BLUE STAR MOMS

## JULY COMMUNITY PACKING EVENT



HEIDI AND HER GRANDDAUGHTER  
PACK A SPECIAL BOX



REBECCA, CYNTHIA,  
ROBIN, CHERI & CYDNEY  
AT THE LABEL TABLE



KRISTAN GUSMAN - SERVICE RUNS IN THE FAMILY



NEIL AND CAROL SILK



CAR SHOW DONATION DRIVE  
MANDY, KARLA & JULI WITH DONOR



4TH OF JULY PARADE



DIANA AND HEIDI AND THEIR FAMILIES  
WELCOME HOME SGT. TYLER VARGAS-ANDREWS



KIMBERLY AND HER GRANDSON



LAST DOWNTOWN TUESDAY NIGHT BOOTH



SBSM RECEIVES PATRIOT'S HEART AWARD

Thumb Chapter MI 178 had its annual chapter picnic honoring the Coast Guard in July. The picnic was in Harbor Beach.



# Michigan 178

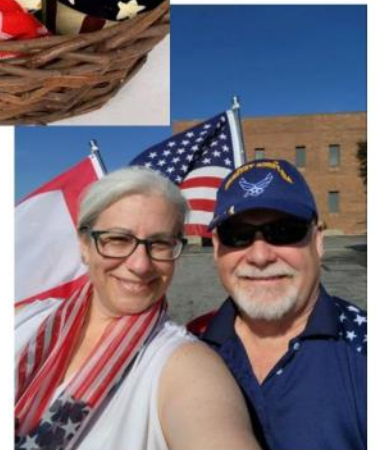


Thumb Cellular Employees in Huron County, MI gifted the BSM Thumb Chapter MI 178 the collection they received from their employees for Casual Friday. Presenting the check are Tanya Rubin and Tammy Taylor from Thumb Cellular. Receiving the check are Lynne Tschirhart, Grace Rosenthal, Pat Rogers and Marcia Janik. The donation will be used for service men and women needs.

# LAKE ERIE SHORES OH21

Poker Run 4 Papa Ray was held July 30 with over 100 riders and passengers. Ray Mossefin, U.S. Air Force (1965-8) passed away in March 2018, and each year, his son, Eric, organizes a Poker Run in his father's memory. He selected our Chapter as the beneficiary of the proceeds of this year's event and will present a check for \$2200 restricted to care packages. Thank you, Eric!!

Thank you to our members who helped in any way, from coordinating food, to helping at the four poker stops, to helping in the kitchen: Kimberly Danes, Mark & Lisa Fischer, Linda Fritz, Freda Soisson, and Amy Walker.



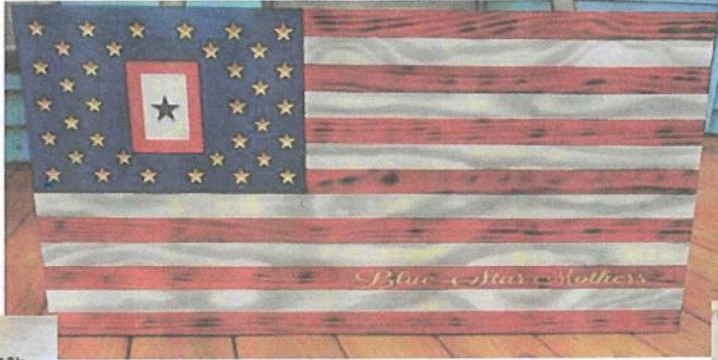
**RAFFLE**

**RAFFLE**



DEPARTMENT OF OHIO  
1801 STATE HIGHWAY 67 AMERICA, INC  
Flag Fundraiser  
In Memory of  
CW2 Ryan Christopher Sweesy  
\$5.00 Per Ticket or 5 for \$20.00  
Minimum 10 tickets for 10% discount  
Expires 12/31/11

  
The American Flag  
Does Not Fly  
Because The Wind  
Moves Past It  
The American Flag  
Flies From The  
Last Breath Of Each  
Military Member  
Who Has  
Died Protecting It



IN MEMORY OF  
CW2 RYAN CHRISTOPHER SWEESY  
U.S. ARMY  
MADE BY ANDY  
7/21

20" X 37"—Wood

# 115

**A note from the artist:** *"My name is Andy and I am a veteran of the U.S. Army. This flag was made in memory of our son Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ryan Christopher Sweesy who tragically passed away while serving our country in the U.S. Army. Ryan started a business producing beautiful works of art which depicted his amazing woodworking skills. I am carrying on his vision and love for his country by making flags, utilizing techniques that Ryan himself used. Thank you for purchasing this flag. I will be donating 15% of the proceeds to various veteran organizations to help the many men and women in need who have sacrificed so much for our country".*  
**GOD BLESS AMERICA**



CW2 Ryan Christopher Sweesy  
U.S Army

Don't miss the opportunity to win this beautiful handmade piece of wooden art, made in honor of our Fallen Hero CW2 Ryan Sweesy. Tickets are available now and throughout the weekend of the Ohio Convention.

Place your ticket request by emailing Amy Hutchinson at [Treasurer.deptohio@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:Treasurer.deptohio@bluestarmothers.us).

The money for the tickets should be sent to: Amy Hutchinson, P.O. Box 482, Geneva, Ohio 44041, or pay online with Amy by calling 440-812-1150. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. Hurry and get yours NOW!



# Greater Birmingham, Alabama AL4



BSM AL4 Chapter holds our monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month at Kelly Ingram VFW. While having in-person meetings is essential and invaluable, we do make sure to include a Zoom meeting every month. We are looking forward to growing and finding more opportunities to serve our local military and veteran needs.

We have a Facebook group for our local members ([facebook.com/groups/bsmal4](https://facebook.com/groups/bsmal4)). We're on Instagram ([bsm\\_al4](https://instagram.com/bsm_al4)) and have a website: [bluestarmothersbirmingham.weebly.com](https://bluestarmothersbirmingham.weebly.com)



We had 5 members in attendance of this month's meeting. We discussed the upcoming events that we will be participating in; as well as starting our volunteer strategies with local Veteran organizations like the VA Hospital.



## Talk of Alabama Interview

Our Vice President was invited to a local news station for their spotlight on military. Carolyn Click was interviewed on ABC 33/40's Talk of Alabama on Tuesday, August 9, 2022. She gave information about Blue Star Mothers and how the organizations has helped her cope with her son serving in the Navy. You can watch her segment at

[abc3340.com/station/talk-of-alabama/talk-of-alabama-blue-star-mothers-89](https://abc3340.com/station/talk-of-alabama/talk-of-alabama-blue-star-mothers-89)

# BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



## AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

### Upcoming Events

Veterans Outreach Tiny Home  
Tour – September 10<sup>th</sup>  
(tentative)

Cooking Class Fundraiser-  
October 31, 2022



Based in Racine, WI, Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin (VOW) works to make a difference in the lives of at-risk Veteran households in every community across Wisconsin. We were founded by community members who recognized a need and took action.

What began as a group of volunteers in 2013 has blossomed rapidly into a growing organization. Our program expanded in 2017 to include a village of 15 tiny homes, a food market, and trauma-informed programming. We are looking to expand our services in Racine and serve Veteran households in Milwaukee.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> we attended the Milwaukee Air & Water Show. At this event we were able to share information about our group with a large audience, including several Navy recruiters who invited us to a monthly meeting geared towards new parents. We also talked with and invited several Military Moms to attend one of our upcoming meetings!



In July we celebrated at our annual Family Picnic. The beautiful wooden flag pictured below was made by our talented member Mechelle. To personalize the flag, each member in attendance dipped their thumb in white paint and pressed their thumbprint on the board to represent a star, leaving space for new members to add stars in the years to come.



Pictured below is Diana, our chapter president, representing our group at the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Star Mothers of America 2022 National Convention in Long Beach, CA.



# Houston, TX 2

Here in the Houston, TX area it is certainly hot and dry. No rain and record heats are certainly taking a toll here in our area, but it is certainly not as hot and extreme as some of the areas our Heroes are spending their summer in. As much as we have complained about the heat and lack of rain here, we can never forget the circumstances that they are in to protect our Freedoms. That is why the Blue Star Mothers TX2 chapter sent not only toiletries and snack, but also a "Summer Fun" box. We want these men and women to know we recognize their sacrifice and try to send just a little fun their way.



Before the end of this fiscal year's boards term, we did want to take this time to recognize an organization and a member that are very dear to us.

MaryEllen Foray took over as our Blue to Gold Liaison in January 2017 having already served many prior years as a committee member. Shortly after taking over as our liaison, MaryEllen wrote a Blue To Gold Program handbook for our chapter. National was very impressed and updated the guidelines they had based off what she had done. MaryEllen has served as our B2G Liaison for the past six years and will be stepping down at the end of this fiscal year. During this period, she has arranged and presented 139 Gold Star banners at 63 funerals/repatriations for fallen active-duty heroes. She has also been a support to the families at the local airport for plane side honors when their hero returns to Houston. She has handled the duties with the utmost respect for the families at a most difficult time in their lives. We thank her for her dedication, leadership and caring heart for the military and their families. It has been a blessing to our chapter and to many and we are grateful she will continue to serve on the committee.

The Rotary Club of Kingwood has been a huge supporter of the military and our chapter for quite a few years. Charlie Buscemi has been instrumental in recruiting their members to volunteer at packing parties and donate supplies for care packages. They have come to many packing parties to help sort and pack. Many times, they saw we were a little short on supplies, so they made a store run, returning with several cart loads. WOW was the first thing we said as they walked through the door. Our chapter has been blessed to have them involved over the years and we look forward to their continued support of the troops. Thank you, Rotary Club of Kingwood, for all of the years of support. We are all truly grateful.

Thank both of you for the years of continued support and dedication to our organization.





# Lone Star Chapter 6 DFW, TX



TX6 Chapter representation driving to California  
Dallas (mascot), Charla (Treasurer) and Ann (President)

## Dallas

Mascot of TX6, made his debut to keep chapter members informed of the adventures and events at the *Blue Star Mothers of America 79<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention*



Can't be named Dallas and from the great state of Texas without stopping by Whataburger!



Friends reconnected & made new ones too!



### Recent Chapter Events:

- 7/02 – Flag distribution in recognition of Independence Day
- 7/09 – Flag pick up from Independence Day recognition
- 7/22 – Monthly Chapter Meeting CANCELED
- 7/25-29 – BSMA 79<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention

### Upcoming Chapter Events:

- 8/26 – Monthly Chapter Meeting
- 9/03 – Flag distribution in recognition of Labor Day
- 9/10 – Flag pick up from Labor Day recognition
- 9/17 – Gold Star Brunch, 10am-12pm, First United Methodist Church, Richardson, TX
- 9/23 – Monthly Chapter Meeting
- TBD – Care Box Packing (Date will be posted on Facebook)

**Please follow us on Facebook!**

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



Finally made it & decorated our door!

## Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County NM6

NM6 is on the road *to recovery*, coming back from all the Covid closures! Former members are returning, and new members are joining! Everyone is filled with optimism as plans are made for the upcoming election of officers.

July was busy. The Veterans Integration Center (VIC) from Albuquerque held its annual outreach program in Los Lunas, one of our local communities. Our chapter was invited to join several other organizations to showcase what each has to offer our veterans. Additionally, there was an outstanding working military K-9 demonstration. It was good to introduce Blue Star Mothers to those who stopped by to visit at the booth.



NM6 members were privileged and humbled to participate in the memorial services for two heroes from our communities. First, our chapter presided over the somber Blue to Gold ceremony for a young Marine who passed away in a service-related incident; later, members provided a flag line for the graveside services of a Vietnam Army Veteran. Although the families expressed their gratitude, it truly was our honor to be there for them.



A representative from the Los Lunas Invested in Veterans Events, Inc (LIVE), Mrs. Linda Montañó, attended the August meeting. She presented the chapter with a check for \$2,000! LIVE and NM6 have supported one another every year for over a decade—the two main events being held on Memorial Day Weekend and on Veterans Day. That will certainly help fill and ship boxes for next mailing. Thank you, LIVE!



Make new friends  
but keep the old.  
One is silver,  
the other is GOLD.

SUCCESS IS NOT FINAL,  
FAILURE IS NOT FATAL:  
IT IS THE  
**COURAGE TO CONTINUE**  
THAT COUNTS.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

INSPIYR.COM

DREAM BIG, WORK HARD  
AND SURROUND YOURSELF  
WITH GOOD PEOPLE

DANCE LIKE

NO ONE'S WATCHING

SING LIKE NO ONE'S LISTENING

LOVE LIKE

YOU'LL NEVER BE HURT

PLAY LIKE THERE'S

NO WINNERS

BEHAVE LIKE MOM'S WATCHING

GIVE LIKE YOU HAVE PLENTY

AND SMILE