

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.



February 2022

Happy Valentine's Day to you all!!

I hope this finds you well.

I would like to welcome all our new moms and our returning moms.

One of the things I love most about this organization is what we stand for and the sisterhood.

We have a lot of our service members heading to unknown places. Keep our troops and our sisters in our thoughts and prayers. Please remember to always use OPSEC. Make your FB page so that only friends can see your post. Never post where and when your service member is leaving. Remember they are watching us to get to them.



Contact Information for National Executive Board

President: Stacy Anders ~ CA
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Rules for Deployments

DO NOT Discuss or Post
 Deployment dates or redeployment dates.
 Reveal camp locations, including nearby cities.
 Convoy routes or missions your love one is going on or been on.
 Information on missions, capabilities or morale of your Soldier's unit.
 Details concerning security procedures, response times, tactics.
 Equipment or lack thereof, to include training equipment.
 Speculation about future operations.
 Count-up or count-down tickers.
 Do not pass on RUMORS!
 NEVER, EVER, post casualties information

SILENCE MEANS SECURITY
 HELP BRING YOUR LOVE ONE HOME SAFE

PHOTOS

Don't post anything that could be misconstrued or used for propaganda purposes. A good rule of thumb is to look at your picture without your caption or explanation and consider it could be re-captioned to reflect poorly on coalition forces. For example, your image might show your Soldier rescuing a child from a blast site, but could be re-captioned to insinuate that the child is being captured or harmed (It's happened).

Avoid posting pictures of your loved one. Avoid images that show significant landmarks near base of operations, and black out last names and unit affiliations.

Turn off camera GPS capabilities before taking pictures.

OPSEC OPERATIONS SECURITY

DON'T SAY:

WHERE: TROOP MOVEMENT & LOCATION
WHO: NO NAMES, RANKS, UNITS, ETC.
WHEN: NO DATES/TIMES OF FLIGHTS, LANDINGS, TAKE-OFFS
WHY: TO KEEP THEM SAFE!

THROUGH PHONE, EMAIL, FACEBOOK, IM, TWITTER, ETC.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR SOLDIER!

If you talk about Where they are going

They may never make it there

I again ask that we all do our part to keep our troops safe, so they all come home!!!

Most of us know what they are going through, so please reach out by calling or texting our sisters who have kids deploying.

Your NEB will be meeting next week for mid-year. Our agenda is long, very long.

Keep an eye out for Convention 2022 updates and our first Convention Chatter.



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Department
Of
Michigan
President



Hello from Michigan!

I didn't know I was a Blue Star Mom until 3 years before my son, Christopher retired from the Marine Corps. Wow, I am so happy now to have so many beautiful sisters! My mom also was a Blue Star Mother and never knew it, my brother served in the Coast Guard for 12 years. He was killed in an accident shortly after serving. I am so sad she didn't have sisters to love her through that difficult time.

My husband Rick and I have been married for 48 years and have 5 children; 4 girls and 1 boy (no wonder he joined the Marines!) and 7 grandchildren. We and 3 of our daughters live below the pinkie finger of the mitten. Christopher and our other daughter live closer to the thumb. So, we are blessed to be able to visit all of them quite often.

I served on the Department Michigan board as Financial Secretary and Treasurer and as Financial Secretary for my chapter, MI 194. I also was the Department Mentor Chair, a job I loved and miss doing a lot, I learned so much about our organization and enjoyed talking with my Michigan sisters. I am also the VAVS representative for the Ann Arbor Veterans Hospital.

I volunteer at a local clothes closet, Library, church and a few other organizations and events, but Blue Star Mothers has the largest part of my heart. I love to garden, read, quilt, work on restoring our 150-year-old home, and spend time with my awesome grandchildren!

I feel so very blessed to be a part of this wonderful sisterhood and love learning more about our organization and having the platform to make a difference!

Hugs! Jacqueline Ransom,

Department Michigan President

The Department of Ohio

Flag Raffle Winner, Karen Dudley,

1stVP, NY 13. Congratulations to Karen!

The Department raised over \$1,158.00. The flags are handmade by Andy Thompson. He decided with his wife, Denise (Gold Star Mother) to make these flags to honor the memory of their son, CW2 Ryan Sweesey, whom they lost on October 26, 2019. Order your flag from Andy by calling him at 440-344-6839.



Department
Of
Minnesota
President



Hi, I am Karla Keller,

Department of Minnesota President since October 2021. I live in MN in the beautiful St Croix Valley on the border of MN and WI. I have three wonderful kids. Brett is my oldest and is an Army Combat Veteran. He served for 7 years and had two tours in Iraq totaling 27 months. My youngest and his girlfriend of 11 years, (high school sweethearts) are planning a wedding this fall. My daughter, Megan, sandwiched between the boys, and her boyfriend blessed me with the happiest little grandson last August. The photo is of us on Christmas Day. I am so lucky to have all my kids live within 15 miles from me. Family means everything to me. I joined Blue Star Mothers of America in 2009. I have held almost every position in my chapter, MN11, including 6 years as President. On the Department level I have served as financial secretary, 2VP, 1VP and now president. I have been national convention co-chair twice, a mentor and a member of the mentor committee. I look forward to the year ahead and what we can do together!

Department
Of
Ohio
President



I am Cheri Spurlock, President of the Department of Ohio. I work full time for Cedar Fair Entertainment Company in the Planning & Design Division. My husband Don is the Pastor of First Christian Church in Sandusky Ohio. We have 3 sons, 1 daughter and 8 grandchildren. Our grandchildren range in age from 5 years to 22 years old.

It is our daughter who gave me the honor of being a Blue Star Mother when she joined the Army. She met her husband, Brad, while they were both serving in Afghanistan. Brad is still active duty as a Military Police Sargent First Class, my daughter is a veteran.

I have served on the department board for over 7 years, 2 years as Financial Secretary, 2 years as 2nd VP and 3 years as 1st VP. I look forward to serving the Blue Star Mothers of Ohio as Department President. My goal is to increase membership in our wonderful organization. I look forward to working with the talented National Board.



An idea from the desk of VAVS

Sometimes coming up with ways to support the local VA through activities and donations can be mind boggling. What to donate – what do they need and how do we do it all. The same goes for activities.

We all know there are activities at the VA. Some indoors and other outdoors but how does a chapter organize it all.

An idea to arrange it all is in SEASONS. Think about your calendar and how we plan our own lives. Jan. – Feb. – March. Depending on your location, our veteran's may need gloves, warm socks or sweatshirts.

Talk with your VAVS chief and ask. They will be happy to share the needs of the department. No matter where you live Spring means one things! Allergies!! Stock them up with packs of tissues, lip balms and hand sanitizers. Always touch base with the chief. Blue Star Moms are not the only organization donating items and we want to fill their needs.

Our VA Representatives need to speak with their chapters on how they want to support the local VA. Smaller chapters may need to pick ONE Season while larger chapters may have the resources to do more.

Another idea is to join forces with other chapters who may not have a VAVS Rep. or Deputy in your area.

Bring the sisterhood together to Do More - Serve More – Honor More.





Holiday Inn

THE BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF
FREDERICKSBURG CHAPTER VA 4

PRESENT

THE 2022 ANNUAL FORMAL GALA

"AN EVENING WITH THE STARS"

FUNDRAISER & SILENT AUCTION
DINNER, DANCING, DOOR PRIZES, CASH BAR

SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH | 6PM

TICKETS: \$65

PURCHASE TICKETS BY MARCH 2ND

~ALL GALA PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR CHAPTER'S MISSIONS~

PLEASE VISIT EVENTBRITE FOR TICKETS AND DETAILS:

www.eventbrite.com/e/blue-star-mothers-of-fredericksburg-2022-gala-tickets-193516110897

HOLIDAY INN & CONFERENCE CENTER
20 SANFORD DRIVE
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22406

*EVENING ATTIRE REQUIRED

The VA4 Chapter invites you to "An Evening With The Stars" Gala on March 12 at the Holiday Inn & Conference Center, 20 Sanford Dr, Fredericksburg, VA. It will be Dinner, Dancing, Door Prizes, Silent Auction and Cash Bar, and all the fun with your sisters. We have a block of hotel rooms set aside for the night. Eventbrite Tickets: www.eventbrite.com/e/blue-star-mothers-of-fredericksburg-2022-gala-tickets-193516110897.

Contact Normine Allen-Brown, Gala Chair for more information at NormineAllenbrown@msn.com

Greater Birmingham Area, Alabama AL4



BSM Chapter AL4 was chartered on October 28, 2021. We are steadily growing and participating in local events. A few of our members attended Wreaths Across America in December. This was a beautiful and honorable event that we were proud to assist. We met a local news anchor who has since aired a story about our chapter.

We have our monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month at Kelly Ingram VFW. While having in-person meetings is sometimes difficult, we do make sure to have a meeting every month. We are looking forward to growing and finding more opportunities to serve our local military and veteran needs.



SACRAMENTO BLUE STAR MOMS - CA07

JANUARY 2022



A good-bye send off was held for Dana as she and her husband retire to Tennessee.

The 1st Annual SBSM Bazaar was a success and a lot of fun. Over \$2000 was raised renting vendor tables, selling garage finds and raffle tickets, and baked goods.



CENTRAL VALLEY BLUE STAR MOMS

CALIFORNIA CA10



Central Valley Blue Star Moms have been very busy! We've been out in our community celebrating our military heroes & Veterans wherever we could. We are always ready for a parade, baseball tournament, Veteran's motorcycle ride, Veterans memorial dedications, family day at our local base, Military night in our community, helping Habitat for Humanity build a house for a veteran family, golf tournament, rummage sale, Veteran's dinner and of course providing amazing speakers at our monthly meetings for our membership to get the most up to date information and support we can give them.





Western Slope Blue Star Mothers – CO8



Enstrom Candies, a local manufacturer, made a generous donation of toffee and truffles for our Spring Care Packages!



Chapter Moms donated handmade gifts and collected donations for a baby shower for Veteran Moms at our local VA



OUR NEW RECRUITS!



Being present when new recruits ship off for basic training has become a very special event for our Chapter!



Geneva, Ohio Chapter 57

Wreaths Across America 2021. Angela Gruber, Secretary, shared in the planning program held in honor of Wreaths Across America in Ashtabula County. Pictured to the left are Angela and Amy Hutchison, Chapter President. Above on the top left is Theo (age 3) grandson of BSM Mother Deedee Gibson. The group in the middle is ladies and volunteers of OH 57.

Pictured below: VAV Representative, Jennifer Reshetar from OH 57 teaming up with Sister Chapters, OH 26 and OH 59 to bring sweat pants and personal hygiene products to the end of life/comfort care ward at the Louis Stokes VA hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Below on the right, Jennifer together with Perry County Amvets delivering lunch to the VA patients in long term care.



Stars and Stripes Ohio Chapter 2

Chapter 2 had the honor to attend a KIA Honor Flag presentation for a Korean War POW, Sergeant, Vernon Judd. Sergeant Judd died as a POW in February 1951. His remains were identified in 2018 and returned to his family on November 2019 for full military honors at Western Reserve Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio. On Saturday, January 22, 2022, his family was honored for his sacrifice to our country.



MA 2—EMAC-BSMA Eastern MA Chapter

SOS - Save Our Sisterhood Mission Accomplished!

MA2 is determined to persevere...we owe it to those who helped us get where we are now and to those in the future who don't yet know they need this sisterhood!

The Pandemic challenges during these past 2 years have been felt from coast to coast. MA2 knows that we are not alone with the difficulties and challenges we have faced trying to keep our chapter active and connected during this “virtual” reality. We thought sharing our chapter revival story may be helpful to others.

With fewer MA2 Moms with active duty children currently deployed, and more members who have children who are now Veterans and no longer in service to our country, our chapter faced declining membership numbers and trouble finding meeting times that allowed a number of current member Moms to attend chapter meetings. It came as a complete surprise when, the founder of the MA2, a current member at that time, received a call from another veteran Mom who heard that a poorly attended Zoom meeting in August 2021 resulted in the decision to disband our chapter. A number of large donations were made to some of the local military non-profits we have supported over the years, leaving our bank account with less than \$200 and some member reimbursement checks still to be paid. We needed to quickly right this ship!

The years of sisterhood and all of the “good” that has come from the existence of MA2 was something that could not be surrendered without a fight. There is still too much to be done and many Military Moms who need the opportunity to be part of something so wonderful. The support system we created for MA Military Moms needed a second chance!

Maura McGowan Yanosick is the founder of the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of Blue Star Mothers. The granddaughter of a 5-star Blue Star Mother in WWII, was looking for support from other Military Moms as her son was preparing to deploy for a second time in 2005. Knowing that the Blue Star Mothers of America offered such support she began looking for a local chapter. She quickly learned that there were no chapters in Massachusetts at that time. After more than a year of research and collaboration with the National Blue Star Mothers to ensure that MA2 would be recognized and chartered, MA2 was born in September 2006, when 7 Moms who had never met before gathered in a local church hall after seeing the “Military Moms Wanted” post in church bulletins and local newspapers; ironically, MA2 became a reality just a few short weeks after MA1 was founded. There are now three chapters in Massachusetts!

After reaching out to our 2006 Charter Moms, Moms from our early years, and our current Chapter members, it was decided that there was enough interest...and a definite need to save the sisterhood we worked so hard to build over the years to support our children, our veterans, and each other. We were not going to let the Pandemic slam the book shut while we are still writing it!

Emails, calls, and Zooms with our members, National BSMA Officers, and our wonderful Chapter Mentor, Gloria Chavez-Sampson from NM2 helped us realize that we were not alone...other chapters across the country were struggling with similar circumstances and we needed to set an example and offer some hope by sharing the news that we have saved MA2! Our membership is increasing; we have a new recruitment plan that includes offering resources and support to future and current Military Moms at Service Academy events, via recruiting centers, and other opportunities in our area. We are so pleased to have many of our 2006-2010 Veteran Moms taking strong leads in our chapter's revival; a few in CEB positions again, and we are enjoying seeing our sisters excited about the service projects and volunteer opportunities we have already completed since our comeback! To date, with the help of some local schoolchildren we have sent more than 300 Veterans Day cards to veterans in hospitals and veteran homes, and we mailed nearly 500 Valentines cards to active duty service members stateside abroad in both Korea and Norway; we are knitting comfort shawls for veterans in hospice; and we are looking forward to some exciting spring and summer service opportunities.

We want our chapter's revival story to inspire you and give you hope with the challenges you may be facing in your own chapter. As National 4VP Paula Lombardo shared in an email when it was clear we would be able to officially remain MA2 after we fulfilled all of our chapter's compliance requirements, “After reading through these emails and minutes, I can't begin to tell you how full my heart is for you ladies! If I could have a "Poster-Child" of a chapter that depicted perseverance and care for what they do...it would be MA2.”

Please reach out if you have any questions regarding saving your chapter. We are happy to share our experience and offer any guidance that may help with your own chapter challenges.

And shameless plug here...please remember to order your official Blue Star Mothers of America name badges from MA2 via the National website. We are pleased to offer these top quality, magnetic name badges as our ongoing MA2 Chapter fundraiser over the past 12 years. We love seeing our Blue Star Sisters across the country proudly displaying their name and chapter affiliation at all of their events! Thank you for your support!



Blue Star Mothers of Southwest Michigan #179

Operation Holiday Cheer November 13, 2021

340 care packages were shipped which included adopting an entire Company in Romania.



Donation of handmade pillow cases to be included in the care packages.

Thank You For The Care Packages!

A BIG THANK YOU!!!

The Attack Company Family is exceptionally thankful for the support and care packages! The Soldiers were not expecting it, I left it as a surprise, until we returned. Everyone was so thankful to have gotten a package over the holiday season.

We all had great fun opening them and looking through the vast variety of products and goodies that you all have given us.

Please don't mind some of the photos and the dirty state of the Soldier rooms. we literally just got back from Germany.

Respectfully,

2LT Andrew Ladi



Chapter 179 received a \$5,000 grant from Meijer on January 14, 2022



Michigan Thumb Chapter 178



BSM Thumb Chapter MI 178 with Santa at the VFW Christmas party. Get together was at Rachel's of Bad Axe. Pictured are Linda Elandt, Sherry Kramer, Santa, Grace Rosenthal, Marcia Janik.



BSM Thumb Chapter MI 178 sent Christmas packages to our Troops. They met at the Franklin Inn in Bad Axe. Front row Pictured Veteran Lloyd Kramer, Julie Hund, Sherry Kramer, Linda Elandt, Grace Rosenthal. Back row Lynne Tschirhart, Veteran Paul Elandt, Sherrie LaLonde, Deb House, Debbie Decker, June Young, Kim Rosenthal, Tammy Tough.



A day at the Capitol is a great way to celebrate 80 years of Blue Star Mothers. Thank you Representative Luke Merman and Senator Rick Outman for presenting Blue Star Mother's Day resolutions. Thank you to the Senators for taking time to meet with us and to the Veterans for sharing stories of what Blue Star Mothers mean to you. Thank you to Luke and your assistant Matt for coordinating this meaningful event. And thank you to the wonderful Blue Star Mothers who shared this event on February 1st.

Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI 178 hosted our first dinner of 2022, chicken and biscuits, at the Port Austin American Legion Post #499. There was a wonderful turnout. We appreciate everyone who came out for dinner to support us. Our neighbors are always very supportive. This allows us to help our veterans, as well as our sons and daughters who are currently serving our country.

OH21 Lake Erie Shores

NINTH ANNIVERSARY MEET & GREET

Eighty years ago, on January 22, 1942, the Flint (Michigan) News Advertiser printed a coupon asking mothers of servicemen to return the coupon after filling it out. (Read our whole history on the national website.) Our chapter hosted a Meet & Greet exactly 80 years after the first call for mothers to gather. It was held at the Bellevue VFW and was attended by 22 people celebrating our chapter's ninth anniversary. Each person shared their story, and for many, it was accompanied by tears. As a result of this gathering, OH21 gained four new members and two new associate members, along with one associate membership renewal!



We offered coffee, water, cupcakes, and Chex Mix for guests. The American flag and Blue Star Mother flag was stationed. Officers welcomed members and guests at a sign-in table, where prospective members were given a handbook with information about Blue Star Mothers, along with a membership form. Everyone sat in a circle which enabled us to see and hear each other without obstructions. Numerous mothers shared how important it is to know that you're never alone, so we have starting using this phrase: "Blue Star Mothers: We're just a phone call or text away."

GOLD STAR SERVICE BANNER PRESENTED

Chapter Member and Gold Star Mother, Renee Schneider, received her Gold Star service banner and American flag on January 25 after our monthly meeting at the Bellevue VFW. Renee's son is Jacob Kenneth Hazel, U.S. Navy, who was killed in an accident in December 2019 while home on a one-week leave before deployment.

The honor of being a Blue Star or Gold Star Mother is one that only your child can give to you. In addition to being a Gold Star Mother, Renee is also a Blue Star Mother; her daughter is currently serving our country in the U.S. Air Force.

Surrounded by a circle of caring Blue Star Mothers and Associate Members, the presentation was solemn, respectful, quiet, and honorable. President Barb Cook, assisted by Recording Secretary Maria McWilliams and 1st Vice President Kimberly Danes, presented the Gold Star banner on bended knee as the history of the banner was read. The American flag was then presented. Our deepest condolences to Renee and her family.





Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6

Celebrating 6 years of service to our area, IL6 commemorates our 6th anniversary of the chartering of our chapter in January. In February, to recognize all our local VFW Post 8081 does for us, we offer free desserts at their monthly fish fry for our veterans, their families, and friends. Everyone is always excited to see us there with our treats! Coming soon – a Girl Scout Cookie drive for our USOs, Military Appreciation Night at Chicago Steel Hockey, a collaboration with American Gold Star Mothers Dept. of Illinois, and more!

Chicagoland , IL 6





Buckeye Military Moms

Ohio, Chapter 9



OH9 Working the Mission the first 45 days of 2022!

- * 480 goodie bags packed and delivered to Ohio National Guard members that are deployed to eight Central OH hospitals
- * 274 boxes packed and sent to the Deployed
- * 2,325 handmade valentines gathered or made and 330 candy bags packed and delivered as part of our Valentines for Vets initiative
- * Held an Italian Dinner fundraiser to benefit a local American Legion post.



Nassau County New York 14

Military Blue Star Mothers together with the Amvets Post 88 and the Town of Oyster Bay held a sign unveiling for the **22 a Day mission**. We presented a bible to a mother who lost her son to suicide and displayed a new flag for Suicide Awareness.





Southwestern Pennsylvania PA16

Chartered October 19, 2017

Monthly meetings: Mission BBQ Restaurant
Robinson Township, PA



Some of our care packages were received in Kuwait



Snapshots from our January meeting



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
Southwestern Pennsylvania
Chapter - PA16



A Support and Service Group

Our new tri-fold
handout



A few of our members having lunch at the Hard Rock Cafe

Leslie Majocka, President ; Cindy Lauderbaugh, 1st Vice President ; Debra Ridgway, Financial Secretary ;
Sue Selga, Treasurer ; Beverly Majocka, Recording Secretary ; Leslie Stewart, Corresponding Secretary

Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers

NM2 COLLECTED 350 POUNDS OF SNACK ITEMS FOR THEIR CARE PACKAGES ON 2/5/22, VIA A SUCCESSFUL DRIVE THRU! MANY BSM'S AND ASSOCIATES FROM THE CHAPTER SHOWED UP TO HELP IN 30-40 DEGREE WEATHER. IF OUR TROOPS CAN BE IN INCLEMENT WEATHER, WE CAN TOO! SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ASSOCIATE DOT BOSSARD!



Four Corners Blue Star Mothers

February, 2022 Update



Care Packaging:

Five care packages were prepared and mailed out this month. One local deployed warrior received one food, two hygiene care packages, and a unit box. One special need care package was sent for a soldier. All care packages included Valentine items!

Member of the Month:

Jeanette Yazzie, one of our Gold Star Mothers, was recognized as our member of the month. January 20th marked the 16th anniversary of losing her son, Sgt. Clifton Yazzie, who was killed in action in Iraq. Her Blue Star turned Gold.



Follow us on Facebook!

[Four Corners Blue Star Mothers](#)

Contact Email: president.nm1@bluestarmothers.us



Four Corners Blue Star Mothers' board members Karin Hayden and Judy Sinclair-Leczal represented our group at San Juan College's Engagement Event.



SPRING CREEK AREA

TX18

A Year to Remember



2021, the year of our beginning. We are so very blessed by our community and The Blue Star Mothers for the experiences and support we have received. This has been a year dreams are made of. We are certainly ready to do it again.

2022 Here We Come

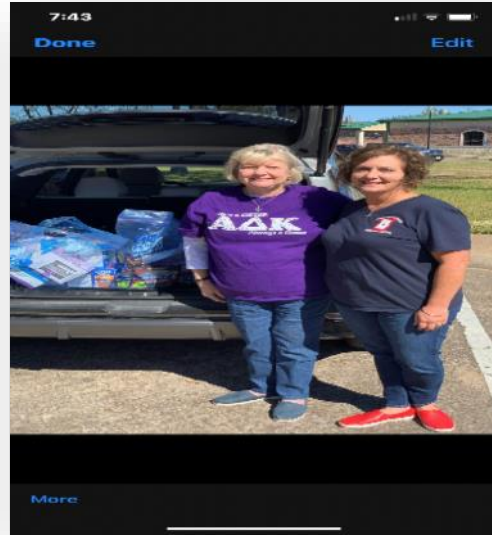


- 1 Parade
- 6 Military Events
- 199 Letters/ Cards Sent
- 3 Big Dipper Members
- 5 Community Events
- 1 Speaking Engagement
- 35 Care Packages Sent
- 197 Care Packages donated to the chapter for distribution
- 235 Veterans Assisted
- 42 Flags collected for retirement to Stars for Heroes (plus 500 Stars prepared/ 10 Flags retired)
- 219 Stars for Heroes handed out to Veterans, Gold Star Families and First Responders
- 510 Home cooked meals, beverages and snacks served over 2 days (255 meals/ soldiers each day) to Local Deploying Army Unit
- 300 Candy bags to military families
- 5 Executive Board Members attended Convention

HOUSTON, TEXAS

CHAPTER 2

As the year begins here for the Blue Star Moms Houston Area TX2 chapter we have kicked it off with a bang! We had our first meeting of the year and spent the evening creating Valentines for Vets to be delivered to the VA Hospital long term care unit here in Houston. Who knew how creative some of these women could be? Unfortunately, we are still unable to go in to the hospital but our contact there met with us for a drop off. We pray that for veterans in this unit it puts a little bit of a smile on their face and they know how much we appreciate and love them and their sacrifice.



We have received many donations from different organizations with our ladies running around to pick them up. Insperity Employment Agency put together 1,000 prepacked bags to put in our next batch of care packages going out in February. We continue getting new names of military to send those packages to and we are glad we are ready. As we all know this is a blessing and a curse at the same time.

Many families attended an evening to honor Gold and Blue Star families, hosted by one of the local VFW halls in our great city. Food, games and entertainment!! A good time was had by all and of course we all love to brag about our great heroes.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS

FREDERICKSBURG CHAPTER VA4

On December 18, 2021, our Chapter volunteered in placing over 100 wreaths for Wreaths Across America at Quantico National Cemetery. Pictured L – R Wendy Lyman, Teresa Sumners, and Martha Poillon.



Secret Sisters was started in February with members filling out a form with their unique likes of colors, foods, music, special days, and more. The purpose of the Secret Sister is to get to know about one of our VA4 sisters and make her day by sending some love and support via a cards, poems or small gifts. Members will find out who their Secret Sister is at the August meeting.

February 14, 2022! This day is extremely significant to VA4 as it is the day our Chapter was Chartered in 2009. We are proud of our “13” years of service. Members will continue to celebrate at our February meeting. In recognition of our Birthday, we chose to provide a service for our veterans. Members donated Valentine’s Cards for our service project. The Valentine’s Day Cards were delivered to local veterans in assisted living facilities. Cupid’s helpers were Mary Kulesa, Kate Patterson, Normine Allen-Brown, Sue Gass-Burson, Debby Krieter, Martha Poillon, Linda Struebing and Teresa Sumners.



Happy Valentine's Day!

Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County

NM 6

In addition to stocking up and preparing for our first packing/shipping of 2022, our chapter had the most wonderful opportunity when members were invited to be witnesses at the naturalization ceremony for 20 new US citizens (representing 10 different countries). Each one had a different story and a different path to citizenship, but it was inspiring to see the pride each of them, as well as their families, had when they received their certificates. It was an honor to be there. The Immigration Service Officer II who administered the oath of allegiance, Peter Rechkemmer, was quite a character, and he chose to *photobomb* the picture of our chapter's representatives with the VFW Post 2387 color guard! The occasion was held in the historic Belen (NM) Harvey House Museum.



Our chapter has been blessed to have many long-time supporters, and when our friend, Mike Mikita (Air Force and National Guard veteran) passed away on January 20, 2022, many of our members attended the memorial service. It was also an honor to be there with his widow, Beverly, and to share communion with her. May she live on in peace knowing that he rests on in peace.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2

FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Events

Board & Brush Fundraiser
February 28th

Ceremony for PVT Robert
M Rakow on the 51st
Anniversary of his death
April 5th

Spring Cooking Class
April 13th

Franks Brat House
Fundraiser
June 25th

Ongoing Events

Veteran's Outreach &
Tiny Homes

Honor Missions with
Patriot Guard



The Blue Star Mothers of Southeastern WI Chapter 2 has continued to meet in person. During our January 2022 meeting we welcomed 2 new members Cheri and Sue! As our group continues to grow we have members representing the Air Force, Army, Army National Guard, Coast Guard, Marines and the Navy.

Although January in Southeastern Wisconsin typically means cold and snowy weather, we continue to focus on our sisterhood and how we can support each other, our military as well as our Veteran's. We continue to look forward to the planning of upcoming events and our monthly meetings.

Blue Daisy



We are deeply saddened to announce a Blue Daisy. Our beloved member Jan Crum passed away on January 31, 2022 after a valiant fight against cancer. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family.





~The Beauty Of Friendship~

Friendship is a Priceless Gift,
 It cannot be bought or sold;
 But its value is far greater,
 Than a mountain made of Gold.
 For gold is cold and lifeless,
 It can neither see nor hear;
 And in the time of trouble,
 It is powerless to cheer.
 It has no ears to listen,
 Nor heart to understand.
 It cannot bring you comfort,
 Or reach out a helping hand.
 So when you ask God for a gift,
 Be thankful if He sends ...
 Not diamonds, pearls or riches,
 But the Love of Real True Friends.

~Helen Steiner Rice~

