



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

January 2022

Welcome 2022!!

As we move forward into the new year,

I am excited for what is to come.



Convention plans are coming along great. Looking into ways of making our 80th year AMAZING.

A reminder that compliance should have been completed. If you are still needing assistance please reach out to our 4vp Paula at 4vp@bluestarmothers.us

Our Bling shirts and some sizes on our Bonfire shirts are on back order. Like the rest of the country some things are hard to get. I should be getting an update from Teri on our Bling shirts next week. I will keep you posted.

Bonfire said once the color or sizes are back, they will automatically add them to our campaign. We will not run a new campaign until they come back in stock. We are checking every day to see when they may become available. We will let you know.

I wanted to keep you updated on my family.

My husband Todd is on a second round of chemo that is more aggressive. We are taking one day at a time. Our first grandchild is growing, and we are finally in our second trimester. Looking forward to a late June birth.

My body is still recovering from the stroke I had in October. Some days are better than others but feeling blessed.

Our last soldier has traded in his boots for the veteran life. We are so happy to have him home.

I love watching on Facebook, all our chapters working our mission even with the challenges - Adjust, Adapt and Overcome.

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

Stacy Anders—National President 2021—2022

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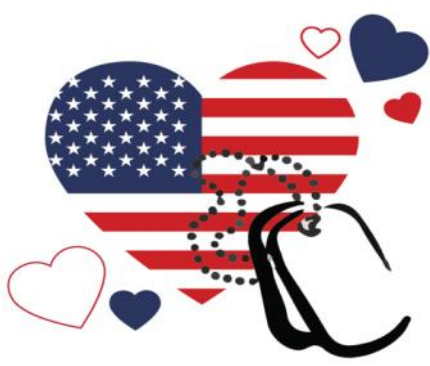
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Valentines for Veterans



VAVS needs YOU and your chapters to send some love to our veterans.

A great idea is to bring valentine cards to your chapter and have the moms send messages of understanding, feel better, encouragement and support to our veterans healing in our VA hospitals. Your chapter VAVS gal will bring them to their facility and have them delivered.

Note to VAVS Rep.'s - call the chief and be sure this can be done and that someone will deliver to the veterans. Cards need to be in an envelope but NOT sealed.





COMMUNITY SERVICE

Juli, Debbie & Marcela (Jennifer not pictured) assisted Move America Forward, a local non-profit pack 2,000 CARE Packages

CA-07



FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Old and new members gathered on November's 5th Tuesday and our holiday luncheon



GOTTA LOVE THOSE THANK YOU PHOTOS



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

SBSM Boardmember, Kimberly Steinman-Elmquist, who's father is still MIA from the Vietnam War, placed the MIA wreath at the Roseville Cemetery. Other SBSM members attended services at Mt. Vernon Memorial Park & Mortuary and Sacramento Valley National Cemetery.



L-R: Dana, Debbie, Kimberly & Juli at the Roseville Cemetery



Karla at Sacramento Valley Nat'l Cemetery



Sacramento Valley National Cemetery



Robin at Mt. Vernon Memorial Park

Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6



Chicagoland IL6 partnered with our local Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory to host a Sweets for Service campaign for Veterans Day. For several weeks leading up to Veterans Day, any time someone purchased a candy bar one was donated to us for the troops. We received a fantastic donation of 300 candy bars! We then partnered with the USO at Midway Airport so that service members traveling through the USO over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays could enjoy a candy bar during their time there. Pictured are some of our members receiving the donation and the awesome owner/staff of the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in Naperville, IL. Thank you for supporting us and our troops!

We held a Christmas gathering to enjoy some time together before things get busy with family – great friends, great food, great fun!



Greenville Upstate SC 4

Our chapter kept busy these last few months. In November we took part in the Quilts of Valor. Some of our moms were able to take part in this. Our chapter was invited to be present for the Korean Solstice, where quilts were presented to our Korean veterans. We took part in the annual Upstate Salute for our veterans, decorated our annual Christmas tree at the Hyatt and had several speaking engagements. We were blessed with donations, both monetary and with donated items for our Christmas pack-out. We were able to put together and ship 115 care packages, each weighing between 25-30 lbs. We took part in one of the many veterans day parades, and some of our moms were able to take part in Wreaths Across America.



Donation Pick Up



Packing in November



Tree Decorating

MA 3

BSM Chapter 3, MA was fortunate enough to participate in the National Wreaths Across America. Our families attended the local event, and were proud to place wreaths on those who have served our Country. Tina Sunden and her daughter Giuliana are seen here in one of the pictures our local newspaper took of them. With Covid restrictions we are staying socially distant, and are limited with in-person visits to our Veteran homes and organizations. This was our way of letting everyone know we will never forget and keep the families in our thoughts.

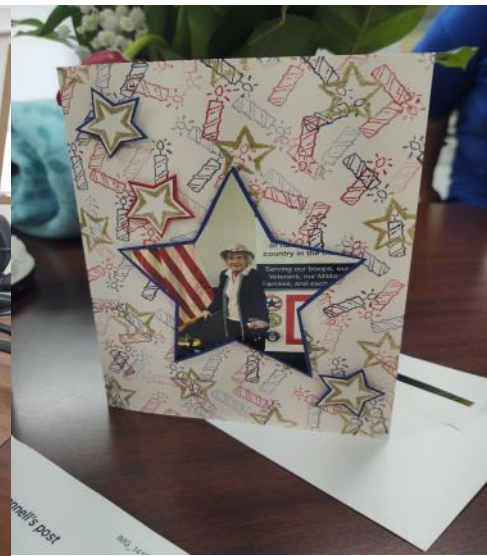


Blue Star Mothers of America member Tina Sunden of Auburn and her daughter Giuliana, 19, lay a wreath at the grave of a veteran. Allan Jung/Telegram & Gazette

We continue to keep spirits high during these tough times by delivering monthly birthday cakes to our local Veterans at Veteran's Inc., which is the largest provider of services to veterans and their families in New England. The Veterans ALWAYS appreciate us thinking of them.

WRIGHT COUNTY AREA MINNESOTA CHAPTER 13

On Saturday, January 8 we celebrated our Gold Star Mom Stella Huso as she turned 103 years old! She is such a gem! She shared many memories with us and we chatted about how cold it was that day! We are so blessed that she found us. Pictured below in group photo are left to right: Jen Pecarina, Dannel Hartsung and Lori Saunders with Stella sitting in the front. Beautiful handmade card made by Dannel.



Houston Chapter TX 2

The holidays never seemed to stop here with Blue Star Mothers Houston Chapter TX2. We pray that all our military families had a safe and peaceful holiday season and that everyone was able to communicate in some way with their heroes. We began the month of December with our annual Christmas Party. A great time was had by all who were able to attend. We were able to sit back, have some dinner and honor those who have so graciously helped our organization this year in so many ways. There were stockings filled with necessities and a little holiday cheer collected at this event. They were delivered to the Houston Area VA Hospital in the middle of the month. We are still unable to go in and visit with these veterans due to Covid, but we are sure they were loved by all who received.



This was followed by the annual Wreaths Across America. We created a team online and were able to get many wreaths donated for this event. **Remember – Honor – Teach** That is why we participate in this event yearly. The day was shortened by some anticipated weather. It was a good thing our participants were prepared for it! Thunder, lightening, high winds and even some possible tornadoes cut the day just a bit shorter than normal, but the wreaths were still placed. **SAY THEIR NAME!**

Can't wait to see what 2022 is going to bring for our chapter!!



Southwestern Pennsylvania PA16

Chartered October 19, 2017

- Monthly meetings: Mission BBQ Restaurant
Robinson Township, PA
- 36 Members
- 2 Associate Members
- 4 New members in 4th Quarter of 2021



Chapter Officers:
 Row 1 - Sue Selga, Beverly Majocka, Leslie Stewart
 Row 2 - Cindy Lauderbaugh, Leslie Majocka, Debra Ridgway



Donation made: Veterans Leadership Program - Nov. 2021



Sewickley Cemetery and National Cemetery of the Alleghenies



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

Questions: president.pa16@bluestarmothers.us



Chesapeake Blue Star Mother's (MD3) once again had a event on 12/19/21 Service Members/Veterans Meet & Greet at the Ellicott City VFW post. Mission BBQ in Ellicott City catered food. There were raffle prizes provided by them. Our chapter provided all in attendance with a goodie bag and a homemade Christmas ornament attached. The VFW covered all the drinks too! This is always a fun event for all involved. They are a great support for our service members actively serving.



Buckeye Military Moms Columbus, Ohio—Chapter 9

December saw OH9 enjoy a "Paint for a Cause" party fundraiser, receive and sort a couple large collection donations for our boxes, donated to and participated in Wreaths Across America (one of our favorite activities). January kicked off with packing "We Care" bags for National Guard troops assigned to three Central Ohio hospitals.





January Happenings - CO8 Western Slope Blue Star Mothers



The holiday season was filled with "Welcome Home!" greetings! The number of local groups helping us make homecoming special for our active-duty service men and women is growing! Patriot Guard Riders, Daughters of the American Revolution and Warriors of Faith showed up at all hours (literally) and Moms across the Western Slope stepped up to cover both of our regional airports!



WE LOVE

OUR NEW RECRUITS!



CO8 ensures that veterans laid to rest is our area's less publicized cemetery are not forgotten.



Greater Kalamazoo, Michigan 186

Chapter #186 recently sent 144 care packages to our deployed service members around the world. The involvement & generosity from the local community was so wonderful. The positive responses from our service members makes it so worth while. It's an honor for our chapter to continue providing a little joy to our deployed troops.



BSM Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter 186 recently attended the Fort Custer Wreaths Across America. It was a great turnout.



Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter #186 attended a memorial at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo on 11/1



Middlesex County Blue Star Mothers Chapter CT3



Our moms have been very busy this year, supporting our local heroes by bringing cases of Girl Scout cookies to veterans & First Responders for the holidays, holding our Annual November Packing for Troops, sending holiday greetings to CT Gold Star Mothers and their families, and giving donations to the CT Operation Elf Program & APK Charities Veteran Assistance Program.



*2021 November Packing for Troops!
Supporting our Children in the Military
and each other.*



*Cards & Artwork for our deployment care packages
made by students at Saint Johns and
Eastshore Catholic Academy*



*We Love our
Troops!*



In December our moms made crafts and sold items for a Farmhouse Barn fundraiser in Glastonbury, CT and some moms also attended a Tree Lighting Ceremony for Gold Star, Silver Star & Blue Star Mothers in Old Saybrook.

LET'S DRINK TOGETHER



Quench your thirst in style with a cooler, mug or tumbler, just in time for convention!

- Coffee Mugs
- Wine Tumblers
- 30 oz Tumblers



shipping not included

Blue Star Mother on one side and your choice below on the other. Shipping not included in price.

Check out our square store for other designs!

<https://blue-star-mothers-of-santa-clarita.square.site>



NOUN - A PERSON FACING EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND ACTING WITH COURAGE, HONOR AND SELF-SACRIFICE FOR THE GREATER GOOD.



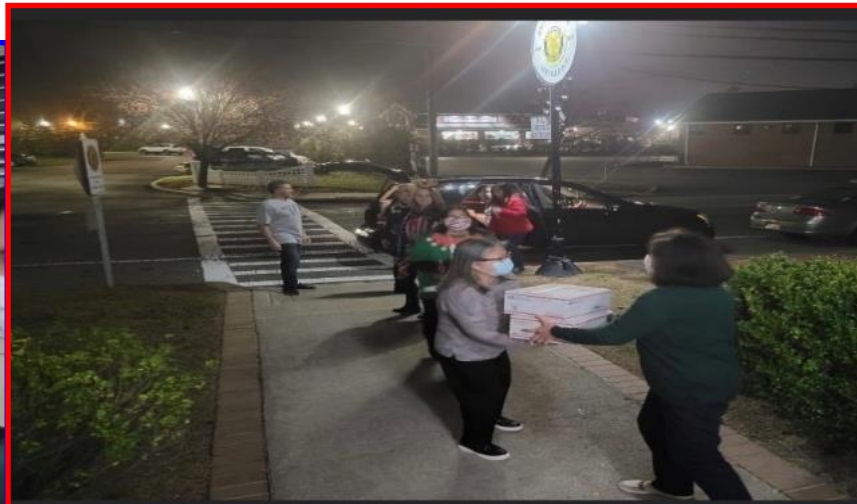
Zelle - contact@bluestarmothersofsantaclarita.org

Venmo - @BluesStarMothersofSantaClarita

All donations to help send delegates from CA46 to the Blue Star Mothers of America National 2022 Convention

Long Island, New York 6

Long Island Blue Star Moms NY6 have been very busy... but December 16, 2021 was one for the records. We decided to do a 60-box packing prior to our December holiday social meeting. After our packing we enjoyed an assortment of international cuisine and scrumptious desserts. Our chapter decided to forgo the customary grab bag gifts and instead each member was to bring a \$20 gift card. The gift cards were then donated to the local Air National Guard Unit – Family Service Coordinator.



Illinois, Chapter 1

During the month of November, one of our new members invited us to come and customize cards for Veterans. Although we only had a few participants, the cards came out wonderful and we are talking about doing another workshop in January for Valentine's Day cards for veterans.

We also participated in our local Wreaths Across America at Glendale Cemetery in Washington IL. This was our first year doing WAA as a fundraiser and we exceeded our goal!

Instead of having our regular monthly meeting for December, we decided to dine out for dinner to a local restaurant.

Our Chapter also supports the Wayne Downing Veterans Home. We delivered packages to the residents in the early part of December.

Our chapter was ask to help with a Christmas party for our local Air Guard unit. Although it was a small party due to COVID, we were still able to hand out food for the troops.





News... January 2022 🌿

www.bluestarmomsroc.com

Blue Star Mothers Rochester, NY 8.

The chapter was officially chartered in 2011. We are mothers of children who are currently serving in the military or have honorably served.

Wreaths Across America, (WAA) 🌿

A veterans' wreath is a symbol of HONOR, RESPECT and VICTORY. All across America wreaths were placed on the graves during the month of December. The mission of WAA is to remember our Fallen U.S. Veterans, Honor those who serve and Teach our children the value of freedom. Blue Star Mothers had the privilege of participating in two WAA ceremonies. On December 7th the Women's Club of Pittsford asked our BSM President, Amy VanDerwerken and BSM Associate Member Tracy LoTemple, Director of Veteran Services at Compeer Rochester to be among the speakers at the Veterans Memorial Park in the town of Pittsford, NY. The WAA ceremony was sponsored by the Women's Club of Pittsford and hosted by Rayson-Miller American Legion that included an Honor Guard Procession. For further information see the website: www.acrossamerica.org.



L to R Tracy LoTemple, Amy VanDerwerken, Mary Anne Zani, WCOP member, Joanne Cooper, Town Mayor, Alysa Plummer, Town Supervisor, Bill Smith and Pat Block, WCOP Historian

WAA White Haven Memorial, December 18th

Many thanks to the American Red Cross (ARC) for donating two wreaths at the Gold Star Family Memorial. Sue Louis, BSM and Red Cross representative, gave a speech along with Amy VanDerwerken, BSM President. An invocation and benediction was given by our BSM Chaplain. Avamaria Glende, our Gold Star Mother speaker, shared about her son, SPC Theodore Matthew Glende, his military service, and presented his military photo. He was stationed in Vincenza Italy. (Missing in photos: Jeanne Ristau, BSM Care Committee Chair, Dawn Santiago-Marullo on the Board of Directors Greater Rochester Chapter ARC, Mike Tedesco, Regional Communications Director for Western & Central NY Region of ARC, and Pat Block, Women's Club of Pittsford.)



R to L Avamaria Glende, Sue Louis, Randy DeFrank, on the Board of Directors at the Greater Rochester Chapter of ARC, Mary Anne Zani, Amy VanDerwerken, and Nick Stevanovic, Director Monroe County Veterans Services



CO 5 RAMPART RANGE BLUE STAR MOTHERS

At our November 2021 meeting we voted to sponsor 200 wreaths for Wreaths Across America and on December 18, 2021 several of our members participated in placing wreaths at the Pikes Peak National Cemetery in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Along with members of numerous veteran's organizations, family members of veterans, and other volunteers we braved the frigid morning temperatures with Pikes Peak in the background but our hearts were warmed by the memorial ceremony, 21-gun salute, and the playing of Taps before we began placing wreaths on more than 4000 gravestones and columbarium niches.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Our last fundraiser of 2021 was a Christmas Flower Arrangement Event.

Hand crafted with Christmas themed flowers & greens we created our own arrangements that were to be taken home and displayed for holiday festivities!



As the end of 2021 approached the Blue Star Mothers of Southeastern WI Chapter 2 gathered to support our Veterans and fundraise in order to continue to be able to make an impact on our mission to support our military community and share awareness of our organization! One of the very last activities our group attended was the December 2021 Veterans Treatment Court Graduation Ceremony. Several members of our group were present to witness this monumental event supporting Veterans as well as our own Blue Star Mother, the Honorable Judge Faye!

Veterans Treatment Court is described as an 18-24 month problem-solving court serving Veterans struggling with addiction, serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders. This 2-track court (high risk/high need, low risk/high need) serves Kenosha, Racine and Walworth County Veterans. Sobriety, recovery and stability are promoted with the Court's mission to honor veterans by restoring productive and healthy lives with evidenced based treatment with support from judiciary and veteran mentors to enhance public safety.



Lake Erie, Michigan 184

A busy two months at Chapter #184 was fruitful in providing packages for the Marines at the US Embassy in Kosovo and clothing the homeless veterans in Detroit Michigan.

With their first 50s/60s Fundraiser Dance, the chapter raised funds to clothe homeless veterans through the Detroit Rescue Mission with coats, gloves, hats and socks, wrapping the Christmas presents for each of them. Additionally, the group received donations to send taste of Michigan for Christmas to the Marines in Kosovo providing them homemade peach preserves, strawberry jams, and Rice Krispies Treats, a huge favorite of those serving overseas. A wonderful auxiliary member, Honor Shoemaker, crocheted over a dozen lap blankets for the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor to warm the veterans in wheelchairs.

Although a small chapter, every effort is appreciated. They received the following email from Sgt. Franklin, “Happy New Years Ms. Gross. Thank you so much for the snacks and the gifts. The Marines and I have already eaten all the rice Crispy treats you got us. And the Preserves you made for us were to die for. The Blue star mothers have really made a name for themselves here at the Embassy.”



Pictured left—Members and associates wrapping Christmas presents for the Veterans at Detroit Rescue Mission. Fifty winter coats, gloves, hats and socks were included.

Bottom right—grateful Marines from the U.S. Embassy .

Bottom left is member, Bev Boike dancing with her husband.



Southern California

Chapter 30

Chapter 30 from Southern California participated in Wreaths Across America at Riverside National Cemetery, the largest and busiest national cemetery in the country. Our area, known as the Inland Empire, encompasses Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The IE saw the devastating loss of 3 young marines on August 26-Hunter Lopez, Kareem Nikoui and Dylan Merola.



Participating: President Moira Fisher, Financial Secretary Lorraine Camire and WAA Coordinator Annette McKenzie

Fort Wayne Area Blue Star Mothers IN8

We stayed busy through November, December and January, packing and shipping care packages. We had fun choosing goodies to send along with Holiday cheer! During our annual Christmas Dinner Party we filled 40 Christmas Stockings and 6 large boxes for Fort Wayne's 3 veteran shelters. We also had 8 large bags specifically for our female veterans, filled with lots of goodies and necessary items. Each month we provide bottled water, coffee and juice boxes to the local VA hospital Outpatient Services Department, and 4 Welcome Home Kits to our local shelters for veterans moving into their own housing! These kits have necessary items to set up housekeeping: broom, dustpan, shower curtain and rings, bath mat, cleaning supplies, trash can, paper products and an encouraging note from our chapter. We begin 2022 thankful for our chapter and our friendships.





SPRING CREEK AREA

TX18



What We've Been Up To

2021 Ended with a **BANG!**

December, started off with our chapter Christmas party where we prepared stockings for Veterans and a Beverage station for the local VFW. On the 18th, a few of our members didn't allow the rain to stop them from attending Wreaths Across America and placing wreaths at the local cemetery.

Later in the month a few of our elves delivered the stockings full of goodies to Veterans living at Strake Place and the beverage station to the VFW.



A couple of our moms must have been on Santa's good list this year. Their special request came true and their children were able to come home for the holidays. There were huge hugs, smiles and laughs while they were home.



We are looking forward to another great year in 2022!



HAPPY NEW YEARS!



Central Valley Blue Star Moms California CA10



Central Valley Blue Star Moms have been very busy the past month! We participated in our local electric light Christmas parade (pictured above). We held a Christmas wreath making & potluck social for our members, participated in Wreaths Across America, participated in another local parade, where we won “Best Over All Float”, volunteered with our local Veterans Center as they opened their new heritage museum, had a game booth at the Veterans Centers Christmas Extravaganza Community Night and our biggest event we held our annual Christmas Package Drive to send out packages to our troops! This year was a great year with so much community support (package drive pictured below).



Gulf Coast Florida Blue Star Mothers 12 wishes everyone a Productive and Happy New Year!

We finished up 2021 with several projects and events.



We distributed over 5000 toys from Dollar Tree to military families, Veterans' families, VA Clinics and Toys for Tots. Thanks to members Kim Hatchel, Irene Giordano and Kim Gaide for heading up this project and making lots of children happy!

We were honored again this year to participate in Wreaths Across America. On December 24th we partnered with our local Gold Star Mothers to deliver Christmas dinner and gifts to the Veterans living in Alpha House.

We are looking forward to a great 2022!



On December 1st, BSM from NM2, travelled to Fort Bayard a State Veterans Home to deliver goody bags and much more for their Christmas Holiday party! We partnered with a local credit union to make everything possible. They wished for a catered dinner from KFC and they received it.



Lisa, Navy Mom, on the left, managed our WAA website and NM2 delivered 318 wreaths to Santa Fe National Cemetery on 12.18.21. Carolyn, Army Mom, and a founding mom of NM2, since 2004, helped deliver some of the 318 wreaths to our heroes interred at Santa Fe National Cemetery.



Next up for NM2, is packing on March 20, 2022 and State Convention on April 9, 2022.

Department of Minnesota



We had a table for our Reading Glasses at the Home for the Holidays Veteran event on Wednesday, December 15th. The event was sponsored by the MACV (Military Assistance Council for Veterans). Thank you to Laura Powers and Heidi Harvey for tending the table. They gave out 45 pairs of reading glasses to veterans.

We Wish You



Happy Holidays and a Great New Year

Missouri Gateway Blue Star Mothers started the Holidays by Decorating two Christmas trees. One in Old Town St Charles and the other is St Peters in front of City Hall.



OH21 Lake Erie Shores



On a chilly, rainy day on December 18, our chapter coordinated Wreaths Across America at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky, Ohio. With a full ceremony including the presentation of colors, Pledge of Allegiance, and Honor Guard, nine chapter members conducted the solemn event. As 1200 wreaths were placed by 40 friends and family, each veteran's name was said after the wreath was laid against the headstone. Remember. Honor. Teach.

Fredericksburg, Virginia – Chapter 4



The VA4 Chapter welcomed a new Blue Star Sister Jennifer Garrison at our November meeting. Teresa Summers swore her in and Debby Krieter pinned and presented a scarf.

An enjoyable night at the Marine Toys for Tots Dinner hosted by the Marine Corp League. Martha Poillon and Teresa Summers donated toys and attended on behalf of VA4. Norka Kletzke donated twenty-eight plushy Christmas stuffed animals and were dropped off at the Fredericksburg Toys For Tots location.

On December 8, 2021 we placed specially made wreaths at Quantico National Cemetery in respect and to honor CPL Mario Kletzke, Marc Plotts, LDCR Richard Thomas Allen, and Serina Vine. Yellow Roses were placed on our chapter member's family's headstones. The rain held off long enough for Debby Krieter and Teresa Summers to complete the privilege of visiting our heroes.

A joyful Holiday Party was hosted at the home of Wendy and Jim Lyman. The White Elephant brought much fun and laughter with the Toilet Golf and several other unique items. We sat family style to eat delicious Smoked Brisket, Chicken Verde, Macaroni Salad, Charcuterie Board (AMAZING!), dips, desserts and beverages. Jim had a bonfire for us to all sit around and roast Marshmallows. It was an awesome time for us to share with each other.

We wish all our Blue Star Sisters and your families a Merry Christmas!



NEW YEAR'S BLESSING



In this New Year, may you have
A deep understanding of your true value and worth,
An absolute faith in your unlimited potential,
Peace of mind in the midst of uncertainty,
The confidence to let go when you need to,
Acceptance to replace your resistance,
Gratitude to open your heart,
The strength to meet your challenges,
Great love to replace your fear,
Forgiveness and compassion for those who offend you,
Clear sight to see your best and true path,
Hope to dispel obscurity,
The conviction to make your dreams come true,
Meaningful and rewarding synchronicities,
Dear friends who truly know and love you,
A childlike trust in the benevolence of the universe,
The humility to remain teachable,
The wisdom to fully embrace your life exactly as it is,
The understanding that every soul has its own course to follow,
The discernment to recognize your own unique inner voice of truth,
And the courage to learn to be still

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Author of *Finding Tranquility Base: A Novel*

www.janetrebhan.com

Photo of Broad Beach in Malibu, California by Janet Rebhan