



# BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

July 2022



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# National Convention July 25 - 29, 2022

# See you soon!



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Dear BSMA Members and Associates,

On behalf of the National Executive Board, it is with heavy heart that we let you know of the passing of Todd Anders, husband of our National President, Stacy Anders. Todd was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer last year shortly before Convention.

He loved being a Blue Star Dad and what our organization stands for, and his pride and support of Stacy was unflinching. Stacy plans to see everyone on July 25, but in the meantime, we ask that you give her and the family a little space. In place of text messages or phone calls, we recommend you send a card to:

Stacy Anders  
138 Willowcreek St  
Watsonville, CA 95076

Should you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Service,  
Rebecca Stafford  
National 1st Vice President  
[1vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:1vp@bluestarmothers.us)  
573-220-0807



**Todd Anders**

**10/24/63 - 7/12/22**

# Sneak Peek

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.



Pick yours up soon at the National Convention in Long Beach, CA or order one online at [www.TreeRing.com/validate](http://www.TreeRing.com/validate), code101416260317183  
It is full of History, Respect and a Ruby Celebration of the Mission! We know you will love it!

## BLUE STAR MOTHERS RECOGNIZED!

At the Seventh Annual National Caregiver Conference held in Washington DC recently Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. was recognized, among others, for their support and dedication of our veterans and their families.

Through the VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement, volunteers – often members of Veteran service organizations – provide Veterans with regular engagement. One social prescription program, VA's award-winning **Compassionate Contact Corps**, matches Veterans who are socially isolated or experiencing loneliness with trained volunteers who connect with them via phone or video.

In 2019, a Blue Star mother shared that the Volunteer In-home Visitor program would have added tremendous value to the quality of her life as a caregiver. At the end of the recent conference, several caregivers applauded the highlighting of this important topic.

In 2022 with the restrictions of COVID the program continues by calling and perhaps even a ZOOM call to keep the connections.

Our VAVS program is an important part of the VA Health Care System and the VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement. What our volunteers do matters. It changes the lives, it lessens loneliness, brings joy and happiness to others who are seeking it.

If you would like to be part of our VAVS program please contact our National Blue Star Mother Representative, Anne Parker. [vavs@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:vavs@bluestarmothers.us)

ASK what you can do and how to get started.

**Thank you to all our VAVS volunteers who make a difference every day.**



# VAVS CONVENTION PROJECT!

If you are attending convention, we are asking that you bring simple cards from your chapter that we can add to the bags we are putting the sweatpants in. We do not need an envelope and inside simply write Thank you for your service.



**Remember to bring cards for our Veterans to the 2022 National Convention!**



# Message from National Financial Chair

Renewing your Membership? Want to know if your payment has gone through? Here are some ways you can track it:

- 1) Watch your bank or credit card statement,
- 2) Watch your email for confirmation,
- 3) Check your BSMA profile online - it will indicate if your renewal has been processed.

**PLEASE!** Do not ask the Nat'l Treasurer or Nat'l Financial Secretary to look it up - they're dealing with hundreds of payments. Thank you!!!

Julie Straw, National Financial Chair





VA4 had the honor to speak at the Chancellor Lions Club meeting and were presented a monetary donation for Care Packages. Members joined for dinner at the Sedona Taphouse Dine Out For Charity, where we are the July charity.

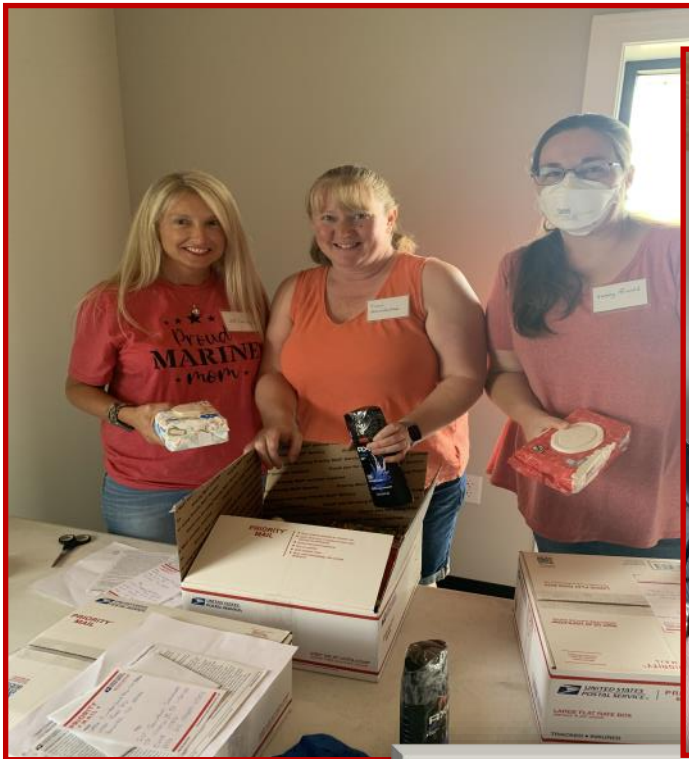


Thanks to our Blue Star Sisters of the Northern Virginia Chapter VA5 for inviting us to the first screening of Hidden Wounds at the Kennedy Center For The Performing Arts.



VA4 hosted the Fourth In Fredericksburg Children's Roll N Stroll. The children had a great time walking in their patriotic costumes and riding their decorated bicycles and wagons and strollers.

# TN Chapter 7



**CARE  
PACKAGE  
BREAKFAST**

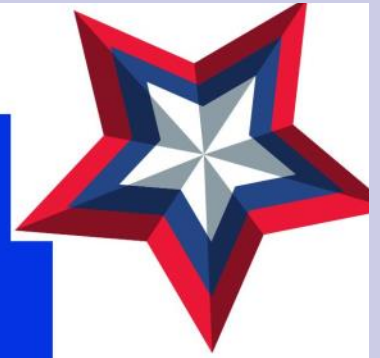




SPRING CREEK AREA

TX18

*Stars for Heroes*



This past year we added "Stars for Heroes" to our list of programs. We knew in order to make this a success we needed more flags than we could collect on our own. We created collection barrels out of large blue plastic barrels and placed one in a local VFW and one in a very well known cafe, Honor Cafe.

Recently, we were approached by Larsen Riise a Boy Scout from Troop 491 here in Montgomery. He has an Eagle Scout project to complete and saw our barrel in Honor Cafe. Growing up as a military child he knows the importance of retiring a flag and the respect a flag not only deserves but should be shown.

Larsen attended our General Meeting and presented a plan to build a beautiful flag box to replace our plastic barrels. We cannot be more excited. At this time we are waiting on the approval of his project. He then raises the funds to build the flag box and will donate it to our chapter. We are so blessed to have this young man choose our chapter and honor us with his project. We are excited to see the final project. We will keep you updated!





# Southwestern Pennsylvania PA16



**Memorial Day Parade  
Coraopolis, PA**



**Flag Retirement Ceremony  
with VFW Post 5111 - Mt. Washington, PA**



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



**Salute to Services Night  
Washington Wild Things Baseball Game**



**200 Care Packages for Deployed Troops**

# BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



## JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER

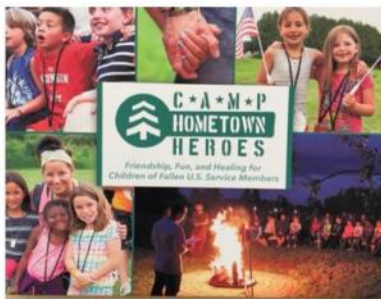
### Upcoming Events

July 16<sup>th</sup> – Brat Fry Fundraiser

July 19<sup>th</sup>- Annual Family Picnic  
for our chapter

July 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>- Milwaukee Air  
& Water Show

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



Hometown Heroes is a non-profit organization that provides support, healing and recognition to first responders, military community, and children & families in need. Through leadership development and the creation of service opportunities, we train and inspire the next generation of leaders. Our efforts greatly benefit the community while instilling the value and joy of giving in volunteers of all ages.



Blue Star Mothers of SEWI2  
volunteered come rain or shine at  
the 1<sup>st</sup> of several Brat Fry  
fundraisers!



On July 7 members of our group volunteered at Turning Rivers in preparation for the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the 10<sup>th</sup> annual **CAMP HOMETOWN HEROES**. We were honored to adorn all the “family” trees with yellow ribbons.

CAMP HOMETOWN HEROES is a free, week-long overnight summer camp for children and siblings of fallen US Service Members. Campers fly in from all over the US and during their visit they begin the healing process with others who have experienced a similar loss.



For 8 years CA Chapter 30 has been working toward building a Gold Star Family Memorial Monument at the George Ingalls Veterans Center in Norco California. That dream finally came true and the dedication of the Memorial took place on June 12, 2022. This is a Woody Williams Foundation Memorial Monument. Each one is custom made with pictures on the back depicting scenes chosen by the people purchasing it.



# Sacramento Blue Star Moms - June 2022



## Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser

## Downtown Tuesday Nights with Wreaths Across America



## Sacramento and Rolling Hills Blue Star Moms



## Blue Star Memorial Dedication

# Western Slope Blue Star Mothers - CO8



## July Chapter Happenings



### 4th of July Parade

We participated in our local 4th of July parade. During the parade route, if we noticed a veteran in the crowd, we took the time to acknowledge them and shake their hand. Each Mom carried an enlarged photo of their child, honoring their service!



We took 2nd place in the parade!



### New Recruit Send-Offs

When our local recruiters have recruits that are heading off to bootcamp, we try to have Mom's there to help support the parents. As families are preparing for one of the most emotional times at the beginning of their child's military career, having Blue Star Moms there to answer questions, provide support and show them they are not alone in this journey, has proved beneficial. This activity aligns with our Chapter's focus areas by promoting patriotism, serving members of our military, and connecting with current and prospective Blue Star Moms.



# Chicagoland

## BSM IL 6



**WOUNDED WARRIOR  
PROJECT**



Chicagoland BSM IL6 Helps Welcome Home Wounded Warrior Project Soldier Ride Chicago Participants at the end of their 3 day ride through our area! On their final night, we met up with the Warriors for a dinner to celebrate their accomplishments, listen to a program, and feed these brave men and women who worked so hard! We brought them lots of tasty dessert choices to go along with their dinner. It is amazing to spend time with these Warriors, to hear their stories, to listen to them talk to each other, to share in their victories. We look forward to this event every single year!

## Buckeye Military Moms OH9

We have kept busy the past couple of months. It's actually not 'keeping busy,' but just the way our chapter operates, we guess! We may get hot, we may get rained on, but we are always up for supporting our chapter, our mission, our troops and our veterans! We continue to wish all other chapters the very best!



Packing boxes for our deployed troops!



We held a fundraiser at a local grocery store where we sold drinks and pizza, making a nice profit as well as having a wonderful time socializing. The 'celebrity' bartenders kept busy! 😊



We presented information at the *Shootout for Soldiers* event, a 24-hour lacrosse tournament, held in town.



Our members distributed wonderful goods at the VA, promoting the upcoming Ohio State Fair, having fun as always, speaking with the veterans as they enter and leave the VA, and handing out all kinds of goodies!

We participated at the Quaker Steak *Bike Night*, until the storms came. We had time to get a quick picture before more rain!



# Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County NM 6

## July 2022

The July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend was filled with fun, fireworks, flag waving and carrying, and food! Some members were at the Veterans Memorial in Belen (NM) supporting the events of the day along with the Mayor and several Councilors. On Monday, thousands of folks of all ages lined the main street of Los Lunas to watch the annual parade—back after the covid break. Leading all the floats and horseback troops and vintage cars and political candidates was the color guard from *our* VFW Post 9676 followed by the Post's 30'x60' American Flag. Many members of our community, including Boy Scouts, veterans, and Blue Star Moms, were needed and honored to carry that beautiful flag through town. It was really great to see folks stand, men remove their hats, and most cover their hearts as we passed by. If just for that moment, no one cared about political parties—everyone was just happy to be there! After the parade, the VFW served a bbq feast for anyone who wandered by. Delicious.

With the National Convention right around the corner, the New Mexico Beef Council once again donated a bucket full of New Mexico goodies! We are grateful for Executive Director Dina Reitzel and her Administrative Assistant Liz Roche for letting us *shop* in their storeroom! The winner of that basket at the silent auction will get *lotsa* good stuff, for sure!

We lift up Stacy Andres and family in prayers in the passing of her husband, Todd. We also pray for safe travels for everyone as by planes, trains (?), and automobiles we gather together in Long Beach to share stories, to make memories with our *sisters*, and especially to support Stacy.



Blue Star Mothers  
Rochester NY8



Rochester, NY chapter officially chartered in 2011

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

Care Package Event: June 18<sup>th</sup>

Packages of Loving Care were prepared and mailed to overseas deployed service men and women. The 93 boxes were assembled and ready for USPS to pick up and ship. Included were packages to deployed chaplains. We received emails from grateful care package recipients. One of the chaplains was surprised to see a care package sent to him directly. The chaplain thanked BSM. "It has been a morale booster for myself as it's always good to remember the appreciation from a grateful nation." God Bless our Troops!



"The Presidents" photo (LtoR) Dorothy R., Current Pres. Gold Star Mothers; Angie S., Former Pres. Blue Star Mothers (BSM); Amy V. (Center), Current Pres. BSM; and Sue L., Former Pres. BSM.

**Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Recruits**

Scholars to Soldiers Future Strong Stars Dinner, June 30<sup>th</sup>

Special thanks to the Ely Fagan American Legion and Mission Barbeque



After dinner each recruit was congratulated and given a \$50.00 gift card. Dinner was provided by Mission Barbeque Community Outreach Organizer, BSM Lynn P. **BSM Co-chairs Vera Mae Rudd Young and Rochelle Hoffmeister** started the Scholar to Soldiers Future Strong Stars service project in 2016. It is collaboration with Army Strong Community Center, Rochester Recruiting Command and the Blue Star Mothers. Our monthly Monday night gatherings from 7-8 PM at Panera Bread help Blue Star Mothers in building bridges with families of all Branches of the Armed Forces. This is an opportunity for families to ask questions about boot camp and deployments. Recruiters, recruits and their families are welcome to join us. For further information call Blue Star Mothers 585-210-9779.

**Community Salutes Our U.S. Navy Future Sailors on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Greater Rochester Airport International Hall, Class of 2022**



Photo: Future Sailors with Special Guest of Honor: LT (Senior Grade) George Milner, 101 Year-old, WWII Veteran Petty officer First Class – U.S. Navy Recruiter, Charlton Harley called upon the BSM to assist with the special ceremony for high school graduates from Rochester and outlying areas. Counties represented: Monroe, Aurora Cayuga, Genesee, Monroe, Ontario, and Wayne.



L: Future Sailors seated, Chaplain and PO1 Harley and speakers, R: BSM Ginny N. with her son LT. Nguyen, Chaplain Mary Anne & her sister, Angela M. BSM Associate

BSM Chaplain Mary Anne Zani gave the Invocation, Benediction and spoke to families about the importance of becoming connected with the Blue Star Mothers for support including Operational Security (OPSEC) while their sons and daughters are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Ceremony highlights: PO1 Charlton Harley, Master of Ceremony; Swearing In, LT Nguyen (son of BSM Ginny Nguyen); and Presentation of Certificates, Chief Boeh. There were seven speakers: Christian Harley, W. Irondequoit Teacher, (mother of Charlton Jr.); Dr. Thomas Putnam, Penfield Superintendent; Veteran John Luce, Penfield American Legion; Corey Brown, Monroe County Under Sheriff; Josh Jensen, 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly District (AD); Marjorie Byrnes, 133rd AD; and Brian Manktelow, 130<sup>th</sup> AD.

**CompeerCorps Summer Kickoff: June 25<sup>th</sup>**; The picnic was held at the Chile American Legion Post 1830. Veteran and service organizations were represented. BSM NY8 met veterans and blue star families. Special thanks to CompeerCorps.



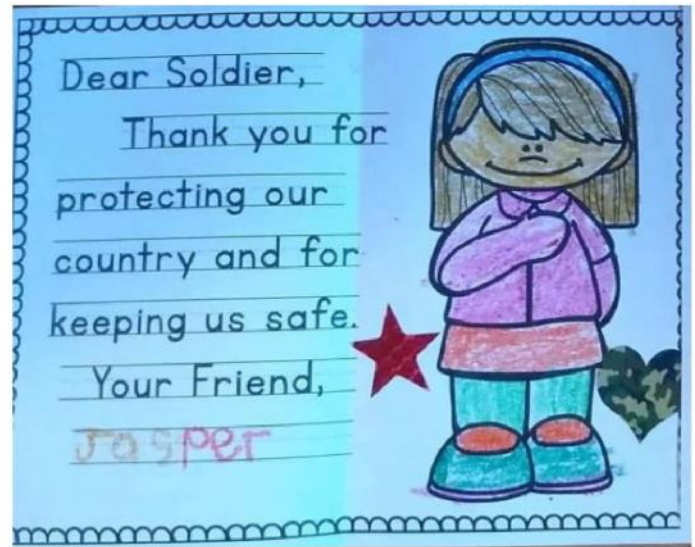
Photo LtoR, Nancy L., Amy V., and Mary Anne Z.

# NC 10

It was Christmas in July in the Western North Carolina's city of West Jefferson. Thanks to the booth set up by the **Blue Star Moms of the High Country**, festival goers filled out over 600 heartfelt cards to deployed troops



Thank you for your sacrifice in this world. Some don't understand the bravery it really takes. Some also forget that freedom is a privilege. 🍌  
Thank you Again,  
  
M.C.  
From Appalachia, North Carolina



In addition, over \$200.00 in donations were generously given to fund such programs as our annual hero's dinner for newly enlisted high school students and packing care packages for the region's deployed veterans.



# Footprints in the Sand

“Lord, You said once if I decided to follow You,  
You’d walk with me all the way.  
But I noticed that during  
the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,  
there was only one set of footprints.  
I don’t understand why, when I needed You the most,  
You would leave me.”

Then God whispered,  
“My precious child, I love you and  
will never leave you; never, ever, during  
your trials and testings.  
When you saw only one set of footprints,  
It was then that I carried you.”



LAND OF THE FREE  
BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE