

# BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.



## March 2022—Mid Year and Convention News

Happy March,

The NEB had a fabulous time in Myrtle Beach. This year I invited some of the appointed officers to join Rebecca and I the first 3 days of the week at their own expense. We had 4 appointed officers join us.

It was a great way to give some love and spend some great sisterhood time together. I would love to do this every time. We learned more about each other and no matter how much you try to not to talk about BSMA its at the top of very conversation.

The NEB worked long days and we achieved what we had on our agenda. I am so proud of each and everyone of you for all your hard work and what you bring to the table!!

We made some great connections with each other; we are sisters for life. We will never forget our time together.

We also had the pleasure of having SC8 and NC16 over for dinner on Thursday. I always love meeting new moms. Thank you to the ladies of the NEB for making some great home-made spaghetti. It was delicious.

Thank you to SC8 for all the snacks you had delivered to the house, they were appreciated by all.

### The BLING shirts have been shipped.

I will be traveling to Irvine CA this week to be the guest speaker for the Daughters of the American Revolution. They will be making care packages. I have some CA chapters ready to pick them up and send to our troops or give to our local veterans.

We are then going to Long Beach to finish and finalize convention plans. We are meeting the chef and finishing the menu.

**Please keep an eye out for "Stacy Live at 5" post on Facebook.**

Peace and Love

Stacy Anders - National President, 2021-2022



### Contact Information for National Executive Board

**President:** Stacy Anders ~ CA  
[president@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president@bluestarmothers.us)

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**4th VP: Pro tem** Brenda Terullo, CA  
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 Lucie Cutts ~ MN  
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**Treasurer:** Diana Vance—OH  
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**BSMA "Convention Chatter" March 2022**  
**Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.**  
**79<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention, Long Beach, CA**  
July 25-29, 2022

The Hilton Long Beach is ready for us to start making our reservations for Convention!

Hilton Long Beach  
701 W Ocean Blvd  
Long, Beach, CA 90831

The rooms will be \$149.00 (plus taxes and fees).

**\*\*Reservations will be only be through this dedicated link, do not call the hotel.**

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=LGBLHHF&groupCode=BSM&arrivaldate=2022-07-25&departuredate=2022-07-26&flexibleDates=true&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Parking: Hotel parking available for a daily fee of \$15.00.

Airports:  
Long Beach Municipal Airport (LGB)  
Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)

**Airport Information: It is recommended you get a refundable ticket if possible. COVID regulations continue to change daily!**

**This hotel does not provide shuttle service.**

We have contracted Super Shuttle from LAX to the hotel. Please use the following link:

<https://www.supershuttle.com/default.aspx?GC=KHC6Y>

We are still working on shuttle service from Long Beach airport (LGB)

**\*\*Reservations will be required.\*\***

Remember, if you have any questions please email: [convention@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:convention@bluestarmothers.us)

**Make your Reservations Today!!**



# Convention Sponsorship/Donation

We will recognize donations in our Convention Folder, BSMA website and the Chatter from Chapter and Personal Convention sponsors with donations of **\$25.00 or more.**

We will also recognize donations from Corporate donors of **\$100.00 or more.**

Donations will help with cost for AV equipment needed daily for convention, printing, grab n go breakfasts, supplies and so much more!

To submit a sponsorship/Donation log into the National website, on the right click on "2022 Convention Information"

Then choose your method of payment

[Sponsorship/Donation Form Debit/Credit Card](#)

[Sponsorship/Donation Form E-Check](#)

If the sponsor is not a member or is a corporation and would like to donate, they can go to the main BSMA page and click on the Donate Now button. They will need to add a note "Convention Sponsorship".

## Thank you for your support!

## Mid-Year Meeting 2022

The NEB and a few appointed positions met at the beginning of the week to begin the planning process. The full NEB worked throughout the weekend to analyze and improve multiple BSM documents.

**Amazing Teamwork!**



Pictured above with some NEB members are a few of our appointed positions that work hard each and every day for our wonderful organization.



Working and celebrating through special Birthdays! Starting early at sunrise and working well into the evening.



Brainstorming and bonding on a long walk!



Below are the Financial Detectives that teamed together to finalize the numbers



Bonding time while sharing a meal with local BSM Sisters!



Group photo top: the NEB and center bottom the NEB with appointed positions. All working together to strengthen our organization and improve our commitment to the Mission.



# Online Shopping



**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

## The BLING Shirt

Offered earlier this year on a pre-order basis, we will have a VERY LIMITED SUPPLY of these beauties available through the Online Store beginning on MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>, so mark your calendars! Pictures do not do this shirt justice. The blue star and red border of the logo glitter while the outlines that look like dots in the photo are really like small gems!

Available in size Small through 3XL. Cost will be \$38 + shipping. *First Come, first served!*

**Be prepared to Dazzle!**

## NEW...NEW...NEW

Gone from the Online Store are our blue bottom/strap zippered canvas tote.

JUST ARRIVED is our ruby bottom/strap zippered cotton canvas tote with our branch logo on its front pocket. Why the change? Why not?! Besides many members like to show their support for all the branches of the military. Bag measures roughly 10" height (not including straps) x 17" width with the gusset expanding to about 6".

Same price as the past tote, a mere \$20!





## Exciting News !

VAVS Representatives and Chapters, now is the time to be able to step up on your own schedule!

So many of our VAVS volunteers and their chapters have asked how they could volunteer for the VA and incorporate their own service and events. Well, NOW YOU CAN !

This is not just for VAVS but for all chapters everywhere.

**The National VAV's team is working on a new program called VetServe.** This is all new so I won't have all the answers but we will keep you up to date. The good news is you can begin NOW!

There will be a **National Directory** listing events and activities to volunteer with. Your chapter activity for veterans will be listed and anyone in the country can check the directory and volunteer. This is perfect for veterans who want to volunteer for their brotherhood, this is perfect for anyone who has time restraints but can look and see what may be available to fit their schedule. How perfect for someone on vacation in your area that wants to spend a day volunteering.

**How can you help?** We need to begin to collect activities that your chapter has planned. They will be submitted and listed in the directory by state/area.

**Example: San Diego North County Blue Star Moms Planting Flowers and Clean Up at the Veteran Park, Escondido, CA. March 12, 2022—9am-Noon.**

Please begin to collect your information and send to me at [vavs.deputy@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:vavs.deputy@bluestarmothers.us)

**It is important to list VetServe in the subject line.**



# Welcome



Congratulations to  
CA51 - High Desert  
Blue Star Mothers



Pictured: Top Row—Evelyn Bize, Penny Estrada-President, Terri Walters— 1stVP,  
Renee Larrah—Treasurer

Bottom Row: Teresa Bullock, Rita Hopper, Reggie Cervantes - Financial Secretary,  
Michelle Kasborn, Claudia Wolff-Recording Secretary.

# Greater Birmingham Area, Alabama AL4



BSM Chapter AL4 holds 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 include a Zoom meeting every month. We are looking forward to growing and finding more opportunities to serve our local military and veteran needs.

At this month's meeting, we had a special speaker. Tom Long is the President of Blue Star Salute Foundation. Their mission aligns with Blue Star Mothers in supporting active duty and veteran military. They hold many events in Alabama and as a chapter, we are looking forward to participating the many upcoming events together.



# Sacramento Blue Star Moms - CA7 February 2022



**Linda Battles**

September 30, 1963

December 4, 2021

Linda was employed by Contra Costa Sheriff Department until she suffered an aneurysm and was medically retired. Having survived the aneurysm, Linda chose to live life to it's fullest. Linda had the magical ability to make friends everywhere. Linda's presence never went unnoticed with her platinum blonde hair and welcoming smile. Linda gave from her heart. She was a relentless supporter of the Military, Law Enforcement and Aneurysm research. Linda left behind a village of brokenhearted friends, Blue Star Moms, her sisters and her only son, Brandon, who she loved more than life.



**HOME FOR OUR TROOPS  
LANDSCAPE DAY FOR  
MARINE CW03  
DAVID FIELD**



**SWEETHEART  
BUNCO  
FUNDRAISER**





## San Diego North County Blue Star Mothers, CA9



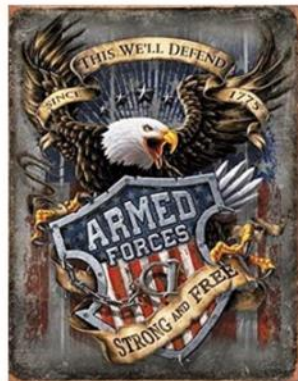
In February, 2022, we welcomed 2 new members and got a great picture of our attendees at our general membership meeting. Elle, Shannon, Cara, Ivana, Jennie, Doreen, Ivette, Tahirih, and Merri



In February, our chapter supported the Salute to Veterans at the La Jolla Veterans Medical Center. By keeping the mission in our vision, we are happy to always keep our veterans close to our hearts.



When our favorite convention Sailor comes to town and is here for her birthday, of course we had to take her out to dinner.



In this time of uncertainty and extra deployments, we bring you this rose whose name is World Peace. May we all see this soon, but in the mean time, keep our service members and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

# Contra Costa, CA 20

On March 12, 2022, the Contra Costa Blue Star Moms CA 20 dedicated our tenth high school memorial at Antioch High School to honor SSG Daniel R. Scheile and SGT John D. Aragon. Joining us were families of SSG Scheile and SGT Aragon, several Gold Star families, and men who served with SSG Scheile. Our Fallen Warriors will never be forgotten!

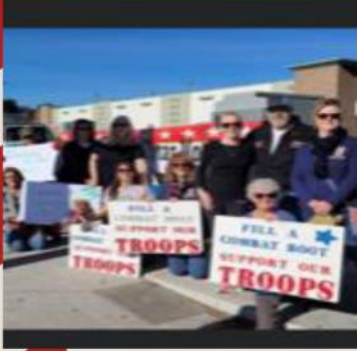


# SOARING EAGLES BLUE STAR MOMS CA22

Financial Sec.  
Joanne Darlington  
(3<sup>rd</sup> from rt)  
Treasurer Cari  
Neely (2<sup>nd</sup> from rt)  
Becky Neely  
Recording Sec. (1<sup>st</sup>  
from rt)



Our officers:  
President  
Berva Treat  
(4<sup>th</sup> from rt)  
1<sup>st</sup> VP Christy  
Rose (5<sup>th</sup> from  
rt) 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Tricia Deutsch  
(on the left)



We were honored to have radio talk show host Lia Knight helped us “Fill-A-Boot” for our President Project- Romans Warrior, helping veterans with PTSD. Lia also walked with us in our Community Light Parade.



Our care packages include cards from 4-Hers, letters from FFA members pillowcases from our Gold Star Mom and a wooden note saying “THANK YOU For Serving Our Country and Protecting Our Freedom – Soaring Eagle Blue Star Moms Susanville CA”



# Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers Illinois, Chapter 6



Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6 focused our efforts this month on a Cookie Drive for our local airport USOs! After our member, Tina, asked if she could arrange a Girl Scout Cookie Drive through the school district where she works and received a resounding YES and full support from them, she lead the way, along with our associate member Rosemary. Together these two collected 530 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies, working with a few scout troops and getting others interested for future drives as well. Other members joined in with some of the collecting. We hope to make this an annual project to support our local Girl Scouts and our troops! Our service members traveling through O'Hare and Midway Airports in Chicago are in for a special treat!





It is with great sadness that Fort Wayne Area Blue Star Mothers Chapter IN-8 informs you of the passing of our long-time member Dawn Howard (77) on Thursday, March 3, 2022.

Dawn joined our chapter within the first six months of its chartering.

Her great patriotism was one thing that caused her son to become interested in being a Marine. She initiated regular donations to the local VA Hospital, homeless veterans' shelter, and veterans at several local nursing homes. Dawn was tireless in her efforts to obtain donations for our annual Golf Outing.

Her death will leave a great hole in our group and our hearts.



## **Geaux Run with Geaux Seven Virtual 5K**

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



### **How it Works**

Click Register to participate by purchasing a T-Shirt.

Consider creating a fundraising page

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

Let everyone know they can donate to your fundraising page.

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

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

### **Register For the Virtual 5K**

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

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

**REGISTER TODAY**



## New Mexico, Chapter 2



Meet Dorothy “Dot” Bossard. NM2 just is so blessed to have Dot as an associate in our chapter. [...] “ I was hooked and found a new mission the winter of 2004 and it was by chance that I was at a Welcome Home for the Troops at the Albuquerque Sunport for a school mate of my son’s who had joined the Marines out of high school. Soon after I joined the Chapter, NM2 and quickly came to know they were in need of a meeting place to pack and store donations. Between our business partners we had a small warehouse that we agreed to let the Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers use for their new home and they have remained until this day. Through my some 17 years with RGV BSMs, I have not stood still and when Covid hit we, NM2 were even at a bigger standstill.[...] With that an idea came to me to suggest that we should do drive-thru donation with drop-offs where we could have minimal contact with the public, who remain in cars and yet keep our missions going. For the last two years the drive-thru’s have been successful with donation drop-offs and have helped keep us and the public safe and most importantly helped us adapt and keep going during these changing times. Dot is instrumental in organization with our chapter, unmeasured generosity and brings a whole lot of positivity to us in negative situations. We thank you with all our hearts Dot for your support! WE are ready to pack 300 care packages on 3/19/22.

# Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County NM6

We are so grateful to the wonderful friends and family members in our communities. Their generous donations—including foods and/or funds—made it possible for us to purchase, pack, and post almost 200 boxes this month.

From their shop in Albuquerque, Travis Ruiz and Cheryl Moya personally delivered to us some of their delicious *Lowrider Beef Jerky* (including green chile, red chile, salt & pepper, and lemon pepper flavors)!

Also, several members went on a fun shopping spree to pick up a few more items to pack.



We know the troops are busy and working hard, so it is always heart-warming to know they enjoyed the goodies we ship them, especially like this note from the commanding officer.



MEMORANDUM FOR Record

SUBJECT: Thank You Letter for the Blue Star Mother's

1. It is with my highest level of appreciation and thanks that I write this letter to the Blue Star Mother's! Thank you so very much for your overwhelming generosity, time and dedication to sending our Soldiers the best care packages we have ever received! I cannot begin to fathom the time, energy and resources your team put into sending us 60+ packages. We recently received them and the Soldier's here had HUGE smiles on their faces and got many items that we are unable to get here.
2. We were able to provide each Soldier their very own box, with several extra ones as well. Many of the Soldiers used the supplies to host a "Taco Tuesday" dinner party and several snack on the goodies throughout the day. Your kind gesture has really reverberated throughout the unit in an overwhelmingly positive manner.
3. Thank you again for all of your hard work and organizing such a wonderful surprise for our Soldiers. The packages care at an excellent time and as a complete surprise. Even though we may not personally know all of you, the impact you left on our Soldiers is second to none and much appreciated.



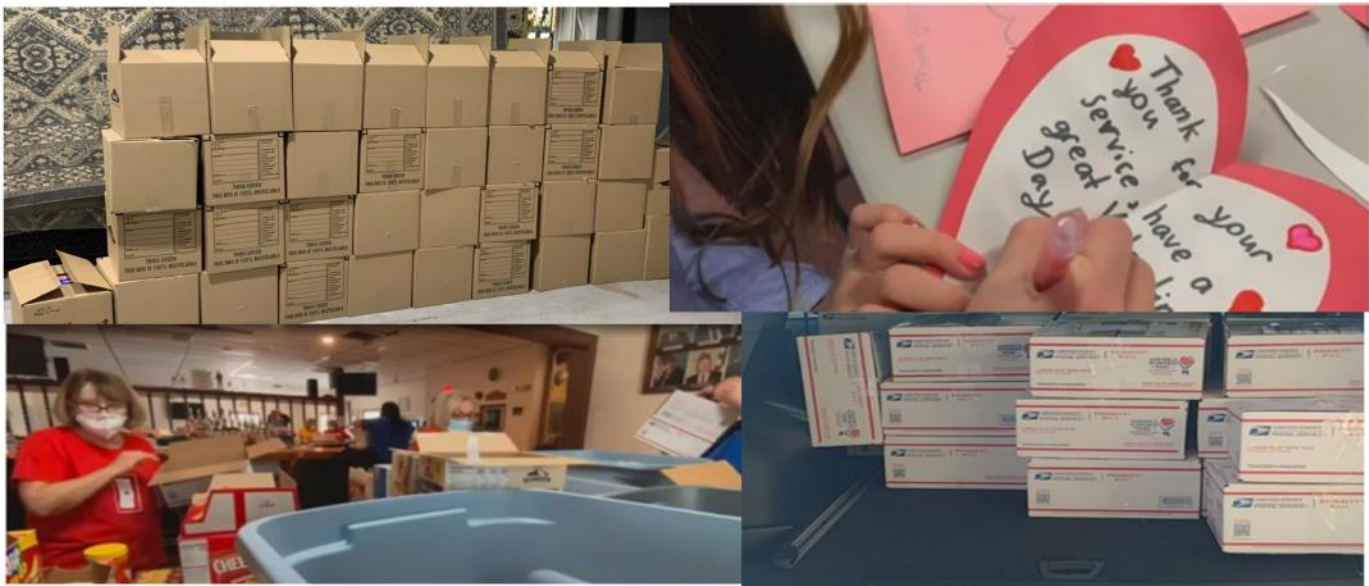
March packing—with a lotta help from our friends as well as some JROTC cadets (and their instructor) from Los Lunas High School

# New York, Buffalo-Niagara NY 7

BSMA NY7 representing the Buffalo-Niagara Region has had a busy three months! We have been blessed that the community has come together to help us send our "We Care" packages to our troops. Area businesses, friends of BSMA NY7, American Legion and VFW Posts, and local schools donated goods and greetings. During the holiday season, over 25 packages were sent to deployed service members. For Valentine's Day, area businesses donated yet again, and students from a local elementary school made wonderful Valentine greetings and donated additional treats that were included in the packages sent. Volunteers helped the Chapter assemble over 70 packages. Thanks to one of our generous donors, our Chapter received media coverage on local TV and cable news channels and newspapers.

We were also able to send Valentines to the residents at the Batavia, NY VA Medical Center along with 40 tote bags containing personal care items. These were made possible through additional donations received during the first few months of 2022. Buffalo and the surrounding area has always been known as the City of Good neighbors, and the love and support has been felt by the Blue Star Mothers NY7!

Additional donations will be sent as part of our We Care packages planned for March & April. We love hearing from the troops and always forward the messages to our donors.



For the second year, a local construction company provided donations to BSMA NY7. This year, the personal care items were in the gift bags delivered to the Batavia VA.





## News... March 2022

[www.bluestarmothersroc.com](http://www.bluestarmothersroc.com)  
cell phone: 585-210-9779

### Blue Star Mothers Rochester, NY8

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

### March is Women's History Month



(mimosa flower is a symbol of International Women's Day)

Let's celebrate our women veterans who have made contributions and sacrifices serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. One of our service projects is the Veteran Women's Coffee House, VWCH. One veteran we hold dear to our hearts is deceased member, Donnaræe McElroy, U.S. Marine Veteran who served from 1967-1970 as an Aviation Operations Clerk, LCp1. After serving she was an X-Ray Technician and thereafter worked as a Dental Assistant. She was a VWCH member since 2015. Donnaræe spent the last few years of her life at the Batavia Veteran Nursing Home. Photo is of VWCH members outing to the Eastman Theatre for the U.S. Army Band Concert in 2018



L to R: Donnaræe, Mary Anne, Dory, Apostle Charlene, Liz, Vivette, (middle) L to R: Stacy, Nancy and Sue

### BSM NY8 Active Duty, Reserves and Veteran Baby Shower, May 1, 2022



### Update...

Plans are underway for our annual baby shower! BSM Co-Chairs Amy Vanderwerken and Jill Harris are working diligently to ask stores and organizations for donations. Huge baskets will be filled with baby clothes, handmade crocheted clothes and blankets, diapers, car seats, strollers, diapers and accessories to complete the baby gift list. Currently there are 10 moms with 11 babies registered. There are 6 boys, 2 girls and 3 neutral. BSM are working with NY DAV and the Red Cross for additional baby items they will be donating. Other BSM helping with purchases and calling stores for donations are Nancy General, Dory Braun and Tammy Ensmann.

**It's Not too Late to Donate. Your donation will help us serve our Military and Veteran Families,**

**email: [bluestarmothersroc@gmail.com](mailto:bluestarmothersroc@gmail.com)**

**Phone: 585-210-9779**

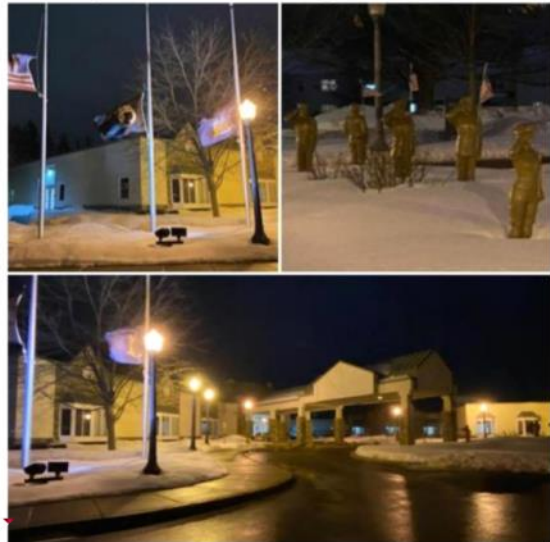


### Valentines Day Cards for Veterans

The E. Irondequoit Middle School Social Studies classes made 77 Valentine's Day Cards for the residents at the Batavia Veterans Nursing Home. This was certainly a tribute to Donnaræe McElroy, deceased U.S. Marine Veteran who received wonderful care at the facility. BSM, Lara Whitney, coordinated with her friend, a Social Studies teacher at the school. The teacher incorporated a class lesson on St Valentine's Day and students wrote about it in their cards to the veterans. They also thanked the veterans for their service to our Nation. A highlight of the lesson was how students on their own were expressing their love of country in the messages. BSM, Dory Braun who regularly visited Donnaræe at the nursing home was able to make the arrangements for the card delivery. The students were very invested and excited for this project. Lara said, "They wanted pictures of who was delivering the cards, so I took a selfie with their teacher to show the first hand-off." Lara also took pictures of the Nursing Home building to share with the students because they were very interested to see the place where the cards were being delivered.



Top photo, E. Irondequoit Middle School Student/Lara and teacher  
Bottom photo, Batavia Veteran Nursing Home





# Southwestern Pennsylvania PA16

Chartered October 19, 2017

Monthly meetings: Mission BBQ Restaurant  
Robinson Township, PA

## Blue Star Mothers paid respects to fallen Marine

Private First Class Zachary "Zach" Wayne Riffle, 18, of Kingwood, WV passed away on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, following a tactical vehicle rollover near Jacksonville, NC.

Paying respects were Leslie Majocka, Cindy Lauderbaugh, Jackie Huston and Elizabeth Bush.



## Volunteers at gala benefitting PA VetPets

Assisting Veterans with PTSD  
[www.pavetpets.org](http://www.pavetpets.org)



## Quilts of Valor presentation at our monthly meeting



## Veterans' outreach: Donations collected for local VA hospital



## Just for fun: Some members met for lunch



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

February Activities

# Kinzua, PA, Chapter 203

## Celebrating three year Anniversary of Blue Star Mothers and going strong!



We have an exciting event coming up in April.

Blue Star Mothers of Kinzua PA 203 will be holding a special 50th Vietnam Veteran War commemoration dinner on April 30th to honor our Vietnam Veterans for their service and sacrifices..

We are very excited about this upcoming event. Many months of time and planning have gone into this. We can't wait to share with you all. Be watching in May's newsletter for photos from this very special event.



# Arizona, Chapter 3

## Serving Our Veterans

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



# SPRING CREEK AREA TX18



## is TURNING

# 1



PARTY!  
PARTY!  
PARTY!

AND OH WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN!!!

03162022



The VA4 hosted “An Evening With The Stars” Gala on March 12, 2022. The evening began with Teresa Sumners, VA4 President introducing Katina Randle Howard, Mistress of Ceremony, and a proud daughter of a retired Army Veteran. The program proceeded with the National Anthem sung by Mr. Cornel W. Gillmore II, POW/MIA presentation by Mr. Jose DeLeon, followed by Reverend, Dr. Edric Spruill’s prayer. Mr. Sean Brown, Associate Director, Philanthropy, Southeastern Guide Dogs was the evening’s keynote speaker. After leaving the US Army, Sean suffered from anxiety and PTSD and he knew he had to seek help. He became a candidate for a service dog through the Southeastern Guide Dogs Organization. At a time when we are losing so many veterans to suicide, it was a humbling and unexpected highlight of the evening. [www.guidedogs.org](http://www.guidedogs.org). The evening concluded with the announcement of Silent Auction winners and guests dancing to the sounds of DJ Stepchild. Normine Allen-Brown and Karen Taylor along with their Gala Committee Members organized an exceptional evening for our guest’s enjoyment.



# BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



## MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

At our February meeting we were honored with guest speaker Sister Linda “Sister Sarge” McClenahan. Sister Sarge spoke to our group about her healing retreats (free) for military veterans called Coming Home. Her retreats are designed to help veterans with spiritual healing and reconciliation with God, themselves and others. She enlightened our group with not only words of wisdom, but laughter and even a few tears. Her next retreat is set for May 21-23<sup>rd</sup> at the Sienna Center Retreat house in Racine. For additional information about upcoming retreats, or to register, the number to call is 630-825-9000.



Our group ended the month of February with a literal bang...and a little paint! Members showed their creative side at our most recent fundraiser pounding, staining and painting custom wood signs at The Board & Brush in Oak Creek, WI.



In February, one of our members was honored to pack goody bags for female sailors during a recent trip to Washington DC as a DAR service project with fellow Blue Star Mothers from Pennsylvania and New York. Both organizations serve our current and veteran military members.



Sister Linda “Sister Sarge” McClenahan pictured on the far left, speaking to our group.





May the road rise  
to meet you. ❀

May the wind be  
always at your back.

May the sun shine  
warm upon your face

The rain fall soft upon  
your fields. ❀ And

until we meet again,

May God hold you in  
the palm of His hand.

