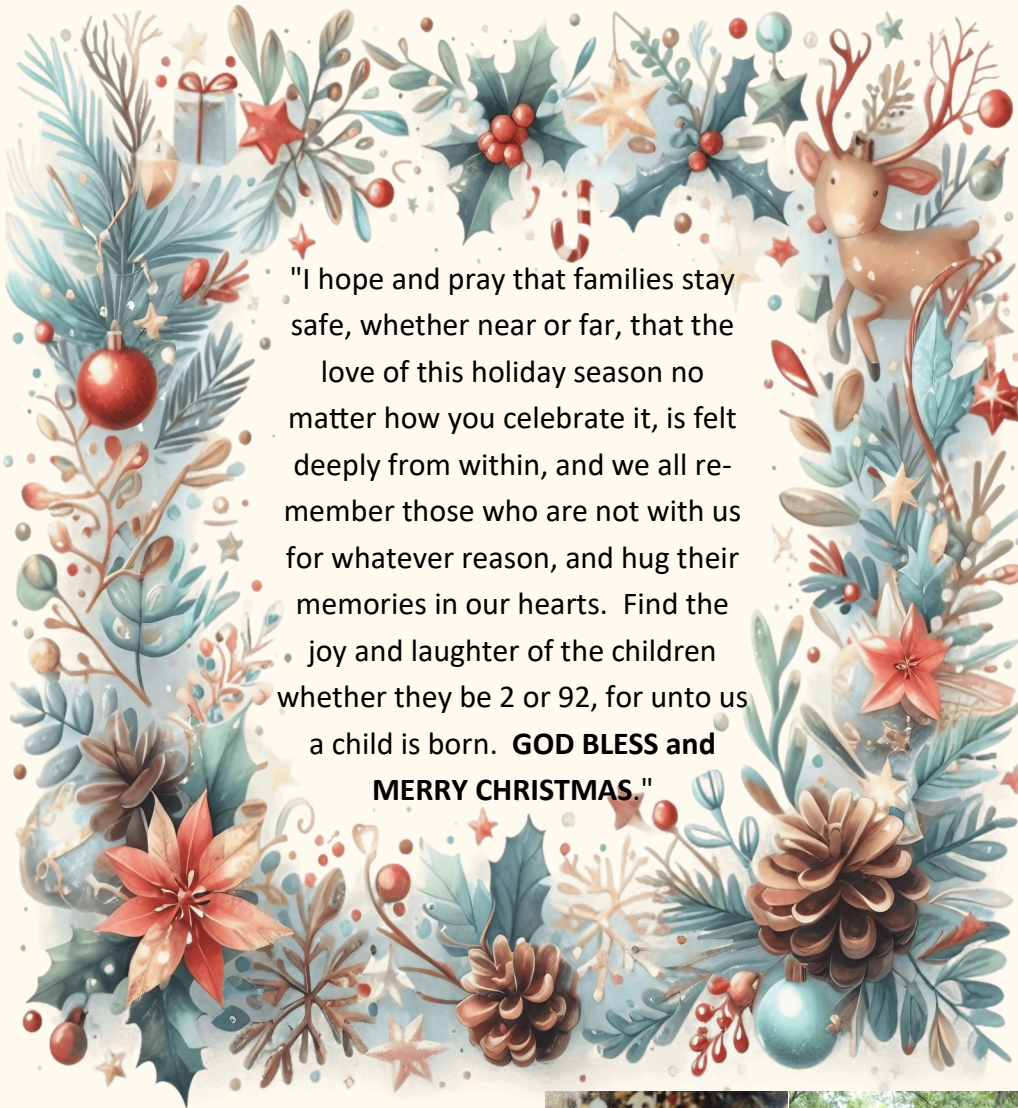




Big Dipper Auxiliary Newsletter



DECEMBER 2023



"I hope and pray that families stay safe, whether near or far, that the love of this holiday season no matter how you celebrate it, is felt deeply from within, and we all remember those who are not with us for whatever reason, and hug their memories in our hearts. Find the joy and laughter of the children whether they be 2 or 92, for unto us a child is born. **GOD BLESS and MERRY CHRISTMAS."**

Contact information for Officers

President: Pat Lomonaco
president.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Vice President: Connie Moler Shuck
1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Recording Secretary: Coni Brooks
recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Financial Secretary: Gen Schindler
finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Treasurer: Diana Vance
treas.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Michigan Dept. President:

Jennifer Brouwer

President.bdmi@bluestarmothers.us

Ohio Dept. President: Lynn Feldman

President.bdoh@bluestarmothers.us

Chaplain

Carla Brodacki

Newsletter:
newsletter.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Editor: Jennie McFarling

Lets go BIG and Lets have FUN while we EDUCATE,

Pat Lomonaco, National Big Dipper President



Membership

December 2023 Happy Holidays,
Our memberships are steadily increasing. Thank you all for your support of National Big Dipper Auxiliary.

Our current membership is 179. Information can be found on the Blue Star Mothers of American, website. And our membership form is also attached with this newsletter.

My Family and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Holiday season and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Yours in Service

Connie M. Shuck (Moler)

Email: 1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us

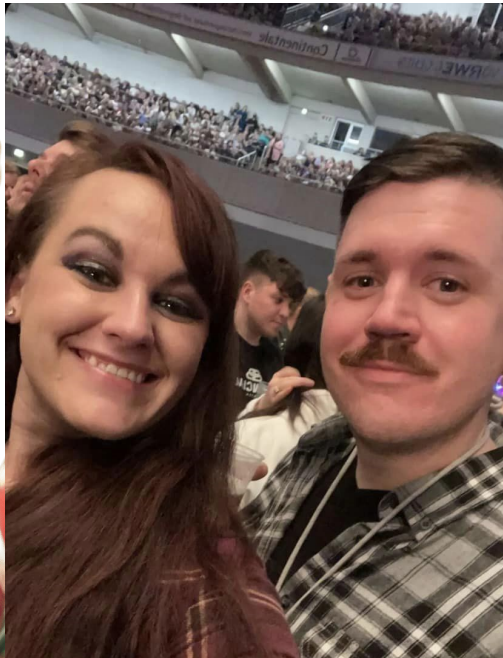
Cell: 408-807-8564



Sisters,
It is that time of year again for lights, mistletoe, and sweaters. The holidays are in full swing and everyone is getting ready to travel or welcoming family. Sadly, my Airmen will not be able to be home for the holidays and due to the unstable nature of things where they are, I am not able to go to them. My holiday wish for you is to be able to celebrate with your loved ones both near and far. For those whose children are overseas, like mine, I wish for you to have great internet access for those video chats and facetime calls. May you all have the best holidays and I look forward to seeing you in the new year and in Oklahoma for convention.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

Coni



**Photo of Kenny as a child at Christmas, graduation from basic training,
now a veteran after his tour in Afghanistan**

Always holding my son through the years...

May you all have a blessed holiday season, BDPNP Elizabeth





From our house to your house everyone have a wonderful Christmas, and a blessed new year! Near or far family is always in your heart

Berva Treat and family



My 2 Veteran Air Force sons





I would love to wish all my military moms a wonderful holiday season, however you all celebrate. I will spend it at home, maybe a trip to the mountains.

Happy New Year to you all and I hope we will see each other in Oklahoma City.

Jennie McFarling

Your newsletter editor!





ATTENTION

CALLING ALL QUILTERS

We are bringing back our Quilt Fundraiser

If you are a quilter and would like to make a square or would like to sponsor a square or three, please let us know.

Email: recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us for all the details.

WE ARE IN NEED OF SOMEONE TO PUT THE SQUARES TOGETHER & SEND TO THE LONGARMER.

If you are interested in please email Coni at the above email address.

Quilt Themes:

1. **Patriotic Themed: 2024 Big Dipper** (Color to be used: Red, White, Blue)
2. **General Themed: Supporting Sisterhood** (Colors to used: Dk Purple, Lavender, Yellow)

Space is limited to 100 Squares/ participants.

We provide you with a piece of starter fabric for each block you sponsor.
At least a 2x2 piece must be included in your finished block. (This is the common link)

Add your own to fabric to make a finished Quilt block measuring $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ to allow for seam allowance assembly to make it a 9X9 finished placement block for the quilt.

You Must leave a 1/2-inch border around the block for seam allowance of the block.

Please Note: Directions & starter fabric will be mailed January 2024.

NATIONAL BIG DIPPER AUXILIARY STORE GALLERY 2023-2024



Item #1 Big Dipper Guard Pin



Item #2 Eagle Pin

Item #3 Heart Earrings
Item #4 Heart Necklace



Item #6 Big Dipper Lapel Pin



Item #7 Proud Veteran Pin



Item #5 Earrings and Necklace Heart Set



Item #8 Earring
Item #9 Necklace



Item #11 Patriotic Cross Pin
Item #12 Patriotic Cross Necklace



Item #10 Star Earring and Necklace set



Item #14 Gold Flip Flop Earrings



Item #15 Wooden Sunflower Earrings



Item #13 Silver Flip Flop Necklace



Item #16 Bow Earrings



Item #17 Blue Star Hat Bag
hat and gloves available through the National Online Store. The lining varies



Item #18 Flag Knit Hat, cozy and warm



National Big Dipper Auxiliary Store Order Form
WINTER SPECIAL ORDER FORM

Winter Special expires Jan. 15th or until hats run out.

Do not use this form after Jan. 15th, 2024.

--PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY--

Name _____ State & Chapter # _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ - _____ (Circle: Landline Cell)

Email _____

# Ordered	Item	Cost Each	Total Cost
	#1 Big Dipper Guard Pin	\$12	
	#2 Eagle Pin	\$8	
	#3 Heart Stud Earrings	\$12	
	#4 Heart Necklace	\$8	
	#5 Heart Stud Earrings & Necklace Bundle	\$18	
	#6 Big Dipper Lapel Pin	\$12	
	#7 Proud Veteran Pin	\$8	
	#8 Star Stud Earrings	\$12	
	#9 Star Necklace	\$8	
	#10 Star Stud Earrings & Necklace Bundle	\$18	
	#11 Patriotic Cross Pin	\$7	
	#12 Patriotic Cross Necklace	\$8	
	#13 Flip Flop Necklace	\$10	
	#14 Flip Flop Earrings	\$12	
	#15 Blue Star Hat Bag	\$10	
	#16 Flag Knit Hat	\$14	
	Shipping for Winter Special (\$6)		
	Shipping for hat (\$6 each)		
	Shipping for hat bag (\$6 each)		
	Shipping for jewelry (see below)		
	TOTAL		

Shipping for one hat = \$6

Shipping for one hat bag = \$6

Shipping for one hat and up to four jewelry items = \$6 (WINTER SPECIAL)

Shipping for 4 or fewer jewelry items = \$5

Shipping for 5-8 jewelry items = \$6

Shipping for 9-12 jewelry items = \$8

Make Checks Payable to "National Big Dipper Auxiliary"

Mail this order form and your check to:

National Big Dipper Auxiliary

c/o Genevieve Schindler, National Big Dipper Financial Secretary

PO Box 423

Coursegold, CA 93614

GIVING=BEAN.COM
great coffee {and tea} for great causes

You are supporting.

Blue Star Mothers of America Inc Big Dipper
Auxillary



For Several Years, Big Dipper has been fundraising with

GIVINGBEAN.COM

Giving Bean provides quality coffee (beans, ground and K-Cups) at reasonable prices direct to your door. They also carry black, green, herbal, ~~caf~~caf-free and organic teas & blends, Chai latte, all natural cocoa, scrumptious cookies, coffee & tea accessories.

They even have a coffee club!

BIG DIPPER will receive 25% of sales and 100% of this fundraiser will go to the JCEA Fund to provide educational assistance funds to active duty members & veterans, their spouses, their children & their grandchildren as well as BSMA moms in good standing, their children & their grandchildren.

GO TO <https://www.givingbean.com/store/home.php?partner=eb4ff>

This fundraiser is on-going, so you can enjoy ordering throughout the year!

WHAT IS BIG DIPPER YOU ASK? Well, here is your answer

The “Big Dipper” Organization

The Big Dipper is an auxiliary of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., that came into being in Milwaukee, Wisconsin November 7 at the 1951 National Convention.

The objectives of the organization are threefold: 1) honoring outstanding members of the Blue Star Mothers, 2) sponsoring a “Fun Night” at conventions and 3) providing educational assistance. In the beginning membership was very exclusive.

To be a member of Big Dipper a Blue Star Mother (BSMA), all BSMA's in good standing are encouraged to become a member of Big Dipper. Membership is easily accomplished. You submit your name, address, application form (found on the National Website **AND IN THIS NEWSLETTER**).

The second objective is to sponsor a Fun Night which is held annually during Convention for both the National and Department. This event is held at the request or permission of the Big Dipper President and the President of the parent organization. This is a time to promote harmony, goodwill, cooperation and fellowship, not just among Big Dipper members, but among all BSMA. This event is also a way to garner more money for the educational assistance fund, which comes from the dues of Big Dipper members and any possible donations. Each event has a theme.

One of the most popular activities held on Fun Night has been a silent auction. Chapters and individuals are encouraged to collect items and donate them to be sold. The bidding goes on throughout the evening during the other activities and then about 30 minutes before the evening ends, the bidding is closed and the winners are announced.

The last objective is to provide educational assistance to a child(ren) and grandchild (ren) of a veteran or BSMA member; a veteran, active duty personnel, a BSMA member or the spouse of a veteran or active duty personnel are eligible to apply for educational financial assistance.

The educational assistance fund was dedicated to the memory of Josephine Calenda of PA 22 at the National BSMA Convention held in Lansing, Michigan in 1989. Josephine, after many years of active service in BSMA, died that year while holding the office of National Big Dipper President.

NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS, EVERYONE, PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND SEND IT IN SO WE HAVE A RECORD OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

This is the only application to use, Please check the mailing address.



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
National Big Dipper Auxiliary
Membership form for **2023-2024**



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter: _____ Department: _____

Date: _____ Check #: _____

**** if you belong to a Department, please send form to your Department Big Dipper Financial Secretary****

Send form **AND** check for \$10.00 paid to the order of Big Dipper Auxiliary.

if paying through Paypal, please fill out this form and email it to: finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us

FOR BIG DIPPER USE ONLY BELOW THIS LINE

Processed: _____

Deposited: _____

Chapter Donation information

Every year, members of chapters donate funds to the JCEA. This plaque/award goes to the chapter that donates the most money. Could this chapter be yours?



It will be awarded at the 2024 National Convention in ??????????????.

Please send all donations to the Big Dipper Financial Secretary, Gen Schindler.

Be sure to specify where your chapter donation is to go, ie: JCEA fund or convention expenses. If no notation is stated, it will automatically go to the JCEA Educational Fund to be awarded at the end of the fiscal year.



Hello Big Dipper Sisters,

When sending any monies to Big Dipper, as your 2023-2024 National Financial Secretary, I am sharing the following pointers to facilitate locating any checks:

- Please send all requests for missing checks to finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us
- Include the following with your request:
 - The check number
 - The amount of the check
 - The approximate date the check was mailed
 - Your state/chapter number or state department
 - A working email (several emails have been returned as undeliverable)
- When issuing a check to the Big Dipper Financial Secretary, please make your checks payable to

National Big Dipper Auxiliary.

- Please mail your payments to:

National Big Dipper Auxiliary

c/o: Gen Schindler, Big Dipper Financial Secretary

P O Box 423 Coarsegold, CA 93614

By helping me with the above information, I will be able to help you as quickly as possible.

Thank you so much, Gen Schindler,,

2022-2023 National Big Dipper Auxiliary Financial Secretary

