



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

April 2024

A message from our National President

Happy Spring Sisters!

For those of us who live with all 4 seasons, I for one, am happy to say, "good-bye winter, hello spring".

For Michigan, Ohio, and Minnesota, Spring also means Conference time. Although I was unable to attend Ohio's North/South Conference, April 6th, due to my Dad contracting Covid, I was able to do a quick FaceTime with my Sisters as they were getting things set up on Friday evening. Thank you for that time, it was very much needed. Dad is recovering, and we are thankful for all of the prayers.

I was able to attend Minnesota's Conference this past weekend. Another great time with Sisters and the weather was PERFECT! During the conference, we were honored to participate in a Celebration of Life for one of the American Legion members. Such a touching time, and a reminder of our mission in supporting each other, and our Veterans.

All of you should have received the suggested governing documents. **This is not the final draft.** This is the review that has been going on for the past seven months by our Governing Documents Committee. They have done a great job reviewing every document from the first letter to the last period but now is **YOUR** turn. Please review these with your Chapter and submit your suggestions and comments to the Committee by **May 12**. They will add your suggestions and will get the final drafts ready to roll out for Convention. They have tried to keep these transparent, very clear and easy to understand, and fair for all of the membership. Although they have spent months reviewing these, it is very possible something was overlooked or not thought of from a different view. Please get your thoughts to them so we can get it right. Our goal is to get a solid foundation back, so we don't have to make changes. Reviewing every three years should be an opportunity to make minor adjustments, having that solid foundation will help and allow us to provide more training, which is what a lot of our members are requesting.

The Convention Committee is moving right along so please be reading the Convention Chatter.

Thanks to those who continue to promote our Bonfire shirts. We currently have two campaigns running that anyone, even those outside of our organization, can purchase, so please continue to promote these on your social media pages. All proceeds go towards Convention in an attempt to keep your costs down.

As always, my door is open to anyone who has questions or just wants to chat. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of our National Officers as we are here to serve everyone.

Yours in Service,

Becky
Rebecca Stafford
National President



Contact Information for National Executive Board

President: Rebecca Stafford - MO
president@bluestarmothers.us

1st VP: Karen Stillwell - OH
1vp@bluestarmothers.us

2nd VP: Karla Keller - MN
2vp@bluestarmothers.us

3rd VP: Jacqueline Ransom - MI
3vp@bluestarmothers.us

4th VP: Brenda Ternullo - CA
4vp@bluestarmothers.us

Recording Secretary: Amy Jo Hutchinson - OH
recsec@bluestarmothers.us

Financial Secretary: Sonya Kay - IL
finsec@bluestarmothers.us

Treasurer: Alethea Tennill - MO
treas@bluestarmothers.us

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Announcement from 2VP



The **June Newsletter deadline** is June 10th! Due to scheduling we need to complete the newsletter and send it out, **for JUNE ONLY**, prior to the 15th of the month this year. I apologize for any inconvenience.

HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE VA HOSPITAL FUND
BY PLACING AN AD IN THE
2023-2024 Yearbook

IS THERE SOMETHING YOUR CHAPTER OR DEPARTMENT
WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IN THE YEARBOOK?

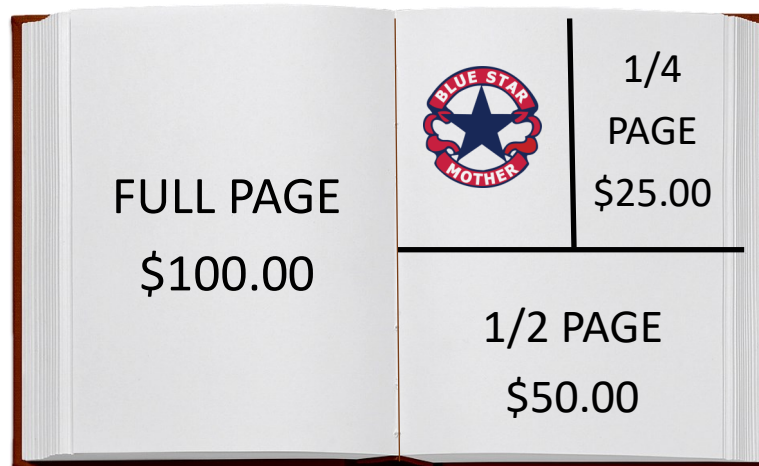
DESIGN YOUR OWN AD AND SEND IT TO

YEARBOOK@BLUESTARMOTHERS.US

BY JUNE 2, 2024

THEN SEND YOUR PAYMENT TO THE NATIONAL FINANCIAL
SECRETARY OR SUBMIT YOUR PAYMENT ON THE BSMA
WEBSITE “DONATE NOW” BUTTON, USE “PAYPAY” BUTTON, AND
NOTE “YEARBOOK VAVS AD” IN THE MEMO SECTION.

PAYMENT MUST BE
RECEIVED BY THE
NATIONAL FINANCIAL
SECRETARY TO BE
ACCEPTED



AD SPACES ARE
OPEN TO
MEMBERS,
ASSOCIATES AND
BUSINESSES

SPACE IS LIMITED
FIRST COME - FIRST SERVED
100% OF THE MONIES COLLECTED GOES TO
THE VA HOSPITALS

Any questions?

Please contact 2VP, Karla, at
651-470-8996 or email;

yearbook@bluestarmothers.us

Hello Sisters!

As we are getting ready for our 2024 National Convention, we wanted to reach out and let you know that once again, our Chapters will be hosting our 4th **Miles for Our Veterans – If These Boots Could Talk Virtual 5K for the President’s Project**. This year’s project is **Warriors for Freedom**. Warriors for Freedom is committed to supporting Veterans and their families through camaraderie programs while working daily to build suicide awareness and prevention. Here’s a link for those who would like to learn more about this program.

<https://www.warriorsforfreedom.org/>

How can YOU help?

- Your **Chapter can become a Sponsor: Sponsorship Opportunity will be open now through May 15!**
 - For \$50.00, or more if you choose, you can have your Chapter State & Number placed on the back of the shirt along with the other sponsoring Chapters. Space is limited so get your sponsorship in quickly. Please discuss with your Chapter body and vote to sponsor!
 - Each sponsoring Chapter will be expected to sell at least 5 registrations (registration will be completed by purchasing a shirt from our Gold Star Mother provider, link coming Memorial Day weekend!).
 - Each sponsoring Chapter will be expected to help promote registrations throughout their community.
 - <https://mandysteesandmore.com/collections/blue-star-mom-campaign/products/copy-of-chapter-sponsorship-oklahoma-city-2024-miles-for-our-veterans-virtual-5k> To sponsor, click this link and pay the \$50 fee, or more if your Chapter votes to support that by choosing additional quantities (each quantity is \$50), then email president.il6@bluestarmothers.us to send a copy of your receipt to let us know you have paid your sponsorship and to tell us your Chapter State/Number so we can include it on the shirts!
 - If your Chapter votes to support this project with a larger donation, please contact Sonya at president.il6@bluestarmothers.us to discuss how to get that to us with fewer fees. Our National President would like all Chapter donations to arrive before Convention so we can present a “big check” to this organization with our full donation on it. Chapters supporting this project with a large donation will be mentioned by name at Convention!
- Everyone can help **promote registrations/sales of shirts** through your Chapter and within your community. Our goal is at least 120 shirts this year! We’d love to meet that goal and exceed it!! Set up an event and have fun with it!
- **Everyone can register/purchase a shirt. Registration link will be open from May 24 through June 14!**
 - Registration costs will be \$27 for shirt sizes small to XL and \$30 for sizes 2XL and 3XL.
- This is a virtual walk so you, your Chapter, friends, and/or family can make it what you want. Whether you walk alone or with a group, please stop along the way to take a photo then send it to us so we can add you to our slideshow during Convention. There will be a Facebook event page where you can share your photos, we will gather them from there for this slide show!
- **You’re not a walker? No problem! You can still purchase a shirt to promote this non-profit organization.**
- Or **anyone can donate Donation link will be available May 24 through June 14!**
- The **virtual walk will take place** any time that works for you and your group **July 26-28**, the weekend before Convention! Some of us will be walking in OKC that weekend before Convention, bring your shirt and join the group there if you would like!

Have questions? Please feel free to reach out to president.il6@bluestarmothers.us

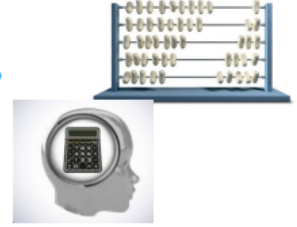
Your Sisters from IL6 ~ IL1 ~ MO4 ~ MO5 ~ LA1 ~ LA7 Thank you for your support!!


Become a 2024 Sponsor – Get your Chapter State/Number added to the back of this year’s shirt!!





**CALLING ALL BOOKKEEPERS, ACCOUNTANTS,
FINANCIAL-LOVING, NUMBER-CRUNCHING
BLUE STAR MOMS!**



If you have ever entertained the thought of holding a financial position on the National Executive Board, then have we got a  call for you!!!

On May 4th, 2024 at 8am PDT (9am MDT, 10am CDT, 11am EDT), your National Treasurer and National Financial Secretary, along with the National Finance Chair are hosting an informative session to give you insight into the life of a financial officer on the NEB. We will provide a brief overview of the various responsibilities and will welcome your questions.

Everyone always wants to know that the finances of an organization are in good hands, but what exactly does it take to be a financial officer? We know that no one relishes stepping into the “unknown.” The brief description in our policies and bylaws leave a lot to the imagination and many qualified BSMs still wonder if they have what it takes to rise to the occasion. This Zoom call is intended to set your mind at ease and give you a look into the expectations and enjoyment of being entrusted with the finances of our organization.

Please email FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us to be put on the list of attendees and receive the Zoom invite.

Even if you're not currently considering running for a financial office on the NEB, but may consider running at some future time, or are just curious . . . you're welcome to attend.!

From the desk of

Anne Parker, VAVS Representative

For the past several years, at our annual convention, our moms have come together to package up a specific gift for the local veterans. We partner with the VAVS office from the area VA with what their needs are and we fulfil it.

For the past two years, and this coming convention, the ask has been the same...

Sweatpants with Pockets!

Have you wondered why this has been the request when so many options are available?

They have asked for specific sizes also. Medium, Large, XLarge, 2XLarge and 3XLarge. Colors: Black, Grey or Navy.

As for the pockets this is an important design in the sweatpants. Everyone needs a place for their keys, wallet, and small items for daily living. But why sweatpants? We asked and this is what the Chiefs have shared with us.

When a veteran comes into the VA hospital setting it is most likely a situation where they are put into a hospital gown and their own clothes taken and perhaps not returned. The medical needs are met for the veterans, but it is the emotional needs that are addressed as well. When they are discharged, they are given a pair of sweatpants, that fit properly, to wear out of the hospital. It is the little things, as we all know, that can make us feel whole again, feel comfortable and ready for the next steps.

This year, at convention, we will collect sweatpants again. In this newsletter and upcoming newsletters, you will read an announcement that includes the “ship to” address and information on how your chapter can help. We encourage you to participate and help one veteran at a time in their journey.

If you would like to help sort the items to prepare for the packing morning please email Doreen at vavs.deputy@bluestarmothers.us

We appreciate your willingness to help.

Never Forget Their Service



VAVS CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENT



Our project for the 2024 convention is collecting Sweatpants for the Oklahoma VA.

Sweatpants should have Pockets!

Colors: Grey - Black or Navy.

Sizes - Medium - Large - XLarge - 2XLarge - 3XLarge

In the past chapters have ordered from Walmart - Amazon or any online shopping with best prices that can ship.

You can begin to ship Now.... ship to this residential address:

Christy Brown

1113 W FARGO LANE

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74012

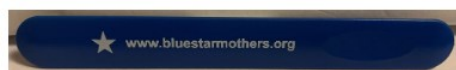
We thank Christy very much for her help!



Mothers Day is May 12th!

Here is a great Bundle for Mom

Order through the Online Store by April 30th



\$20.00
plus S/H
Ball Cap, Nail File and
Boots & Tags Patch

Now available!
Go to the Online Store
to order yours today!
New 2024 Tote Bag





We want your input!

GREETINGS FROM THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE

To qualify for tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, an organization's governing documents must meet certain requirements. The documents, also known as organizing documents or articles of organization, are legally binding instruments that formally establish an organization. They serve as the foundation for how an entity operates and interacts with its members.

By now, you have all received a copy of each of our Governing Documents, with proposed changes provided by the Bylaws Committee. We have been reviewing all of the documents since last September and provided draft copies to the NEB, for their input, at their mid-year meeting in February.

Our goal has always been to use our existing documents, rather than create a brand new set of documents from scratch. That process made our review, and your ultimate acceptance of changes much easier and understandable. The ultimate goal, however, is to create a set of documents that do not change every three years, unless there are significant changes in the way we operate.

In our review, we:

- Updated sections with more current information

- Moved entire sections to their proper placement, per Robert's Rules of Order

- Deleted Articles or Sections that no longer pertain to the organization, or have not been utilized in over 15 years.

Your input is vital to the success of the organization, so please review all of the documents and submit any changes to bylaws@bluestarmothers.us **no later than midnight, ET, May 12, 2024.**

You will receive an email from us acknowledging receipt of your submission within 4 days; if you have not heard from us, please re-submit!

I wanted to address an issue that comes up often...

“Members not participating in chapter events and meetings”

I often hear that chapters say “it’s the same small number of members doing all of the work” or “we have a lot of members that we never see.” I have come up with some ideas that may help all of us to keep the members engaged and want to attend more chapter activities.



*Form committees such as Financial Committee (you all should have this one for sure!) Fundraising Committee,

Stewardship Committee, Special Event Committee, Social Media Committee, Care Packing Committee. Be creative and find positions for your most of your members. The Chapter Executive Board shouldn’t be doing all of the work!

*The Stewardship Committee can plan social events for the members. Moms need to have fun and socialize too! Some chapters plan a social event monthly or bimonthly outside of their monthly meeting. (think Escape Room, Axe Throwing, Potlucks, Dinner Theater)

*Send meeting minutes out to all members within 3 days of meeting. Everyone will then know when upcoming events are and the needs of the chapter.

*Set up a member mentor/buddy program. Match up a new mom with an existing mom. Try to match up by child’s branch, common interests or if they live in the same area.

*Get members written permission to share contact information and birthdays. Send birthday greetings to members.

*Have your membership person write personal notes or postcards to the members not attending meetings or events to let them know you are missing them and thinking about them.

*Have welcome packets to give to interested new members. Follow up with them a few days after they receive the packets to answer questions. Have a Greeter at meetings to welcome new members! Make sure new members are introduced and feel comfortable! Ensure there is support for members at the meeting. If your meeting space is difficult to find, arrange to meet them in a common area.

*Conduct a survey to ask all members what their talents/interests are. Ask if the meeting time/day works for them. Ask if the location of the meeting is an issue for them. Ask what the member thinks would improve the chapter. It is sometimes hard to get these comments but will help the chapter grow!

*Try to do a lot of Community Outreach to get the word out about your chapter and our mission. Invite a “non-active” member to join an active member at the events. Always give all the members an opportunity to participate!

I hope some of these suggestions will help to grow your chapter in numbers and enthusiasm! This list is just a short list of ideas that were a product of lots of brainstorming with other Blue Star Mothers recently!

Please contact me, Denise Guerra, if you have any questions or need to know who your mentor is.

I can be reached at mentor.chair@bluestarmothers.us

A Message from our DC Representative

Teresa Sumners

I had the privilege of representing BSMA at the opening of the D-Day Freedom From Above exhibit hosted at the National Museum of the United States Army. During my visit, I was delighted to experience the interactive HistoPads that allowed guests to engage with the true stories of U.S. Army paratroopers. The exhibit showcased four Medals of Honor awarded to Army Soldiers for their bravery on June 6, 1944.

I highly recommend visiting this incredible museum. Plan your visit soon!



Through research we find hundreds of names of Veterans each month who have passed and we want to honor them by sharing their names with you.

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The Ancient Egyptians believe you die twice, once when you take your final breath and the last time someone speaks your name. We hope you will not let them be forgotten.



National Guard

Alvin Arnold /Air Guard
Chastity Nunez
David "Doc" Earl Beck
Douglas Eugene Whittler
Jerry Wayne Williams
John Cecil Morris
Wayne J. Blake
William Thomas Vance, Sr.

Army

Adolph N Wynn
Alan K. Mitten
Albert G. Terrien
Albert J. Matthes
Alfred Andrew Gravagna
Allan John Schott
Alton McCreary
Andres Hector Gonzalez
Anlow Melancon Jr.
Anthony E. Archuleta
Anthony Paul Riti
Arnold Boyd Ingram
Arthur R Bramstedt
Barbara Jean Woodley
Bob D. Lipsey
Bobby Fuller
Boyd Marvin Garner
Brian Tremayne Bradley
Bruce Norton Brantley
Bryan Andrew Moore
Byron K Jones
Calvin Edward Schlup
Candy Johnson
Carlos Conley Westling
Charles Edward Bell
Charles Franklin Dooley
Charles Henry Spangler
Charles J Brocato Jr
Charles James Guzman
Charles Vernon Anderson
Charles Wesley Hudnall III
Chester Lee McClora, Sr.
Christopher Gibson
Concetta V. Gilbert
Condellino Gallina
Dana Franklin Jarrett
Dana Gene Benson
Daniel Martin Broucek
Danny Brown Polite
Danny Joe "Dan" Adler
Daryel Lee Garnes
David Gill
David Lawrence Raetz

David Lee Butler
David T. Cypert
David W. Clapp
Dickey Wayne Lewis
Don Leo Engelbrecht
Donald G. Coulson
Donald Kirt Chapman
Donald Leon Ferebee
Donald Thomas Glenn
Douglas Alan Mulholland
Douglas E. Schmidt
Douglas Hubert Mazingo Jr.
Douglas Leon Doolittle
Douglas Orr
Dr. James Alton Rawls, Jr.
Dudley Frantz
Durlin Cecil Hayes
Dustin L. Cooper
Earl D Wilkerson
Earl Dean Kimm
Earl Van Winkle
Eddie R Maycwn
Edger William Fisher
Edward M. Ryan Jr.
Edward Wayne Schroeder
Edwin Wayne Hayes
Eliud Pabon
Eric J. Smith
Ernest Marvin Lollar
Ernest Pickens
Ervin Lee Postier
Eugene J. Murphy
Eugene Simpson
Francisco G Renaud
Frank H. Varner
Frank Joseph Lopez
Frank Megow
Fred Arthur Fowler
Fred G. Kirby
Frederick Carl Vaught Jr.
French Poole Jr.
Gary E Sharpe Sr
Gary E. Hamblen
Gary L Herb
Gary Weldon Barnes
George Kerr
George W DelGreco
Gerald C. Fels
Gilbert Martinez Reyes
Glenn Frederick Swan
Gregory Nagorski
Guadalupe Olguin
Hagie Mitchell

Harlan Ralph Blakely
Harold E. Lester
Harold Ray Wisecup
Harris Jones
Harry Jack Anastas
Henry J. Murray
Herbert Casey, Sr.
Herman F. Sosa
Hillie Capus Moore
Ira Dwayne Scott
J.D. Kirby
Jacob A. Munson
Jaime Roberto Williams
James Alan Morgan
James Albert Farrar Jr
James Albert Whitfield
James Allen Koenig
James Alton Green
James Clinton Reeves
James D. Thompson
James Henry Bell, Jr.
James Michael Enright
James Randall Harper
James Robert Torbert
James V. Scheel Sr.
James Wesley Wadsworth
Jennie Marie Armstrong
Jerry Buss
Jerry Ray King
Jerry Wayne Boudreaux
Jesse William Larison
Jimmy George "Tony" Braswell
Jimmy Lamar Sasser
Jimmy Lee Rhodes, Sr.
Joe Samuel Hayes
Joe Wayne Guthrie
John Anthony Lowden, Jr.
John Bradley
John Doloway
John Frederick Ruggles
John Lee Jenkins
John Redd
John Richard Stoeffler
John Vincent Trioli
John Wesley Welch
Johnny Morales Salazar
Joseph Bills
Joseph George Kislo
Joseph Rucker Jr.
Juan Cerda
Keith Owens
Kenneth Dale Kilcrease

Kenneth Judson Talley
Kenneth S. Lane
Kennith Bryant Lyles
Kent Von Fecht Sr.
Larry Meyer
Larry Moody
Larry Roberts
Lawrence Joseph Laske
Leland Franklin Jourdain
Leo George Gellings
Leonard Hess
Leora V. Gray
Leroy Workman
Lionel Sardinas Jr.
Lisette Marie Noelle Meline
Lonnie Franklin Seale
Luis Edward Ouslan
Luis Gloria
Lynn Kast
Manuel R. Valdez, Jr.
Margarito "Marty" Cunta
Mark Allen Myers
Marvin Linus Lueckenotte
Mary Louise Connor
Melvin Clyde Yates
Melvin Lee Ramsey
Melvin McCutchan
Michael Anthony
McCollums
Michael Grady Jr.
Michael Lee Jameson
Michael P. Crow
Michael Savage
Muriel Eugene Sanders
Nelson R Marshall
Norman Edward Oila
Oscar E. Qunicy
Pascal Buma
Patrick George Elsberry
Paul Bryant
Paul K. Penney
Paul Marsh
Peter Gutierrez Jr.
Pilar "Pete" Cantu Mireles
Ralph Eugene Dotson
Ramon A. Hernandez
Ramon Astillero, Sr.
Randall Glen Edington
Randy Ray King
Randy Ray McKinney
Ray Streets
Raymond Guzner
Raymond John Schal-

tenbrand Jr.
Richard Albert Granger
Richard P Macsisak
Richard Wayne Spanley
Robert A. Green
Robert Aguilar
Robert Anthony Pelle
Robert Carrol Van Horne
Robert David Burris, Jr
Robert E DeBehnke
Robert Earl Jones
Robert Earl Rankin
Robert Ellsworth Genry
Robert Hunt
Robert Leo Jones
Robert Orage
Robert Stewart
Ronald J. Moore
Roy E Dennington
Sam Vincent Zummo
Sanford Leon Mills
Simon Garcia
Stephen "Scout" Boyd
Steve Warnock
Steven G. Lester
Terry Jordon Speth
Theodore August Bajorek
Thomas Brian Miller
Thomas David Wiseman
Thomas E. Day
Thomas E. Hess
Thomas E. McClary
Thomas Lewis Pemberton
Thomas Melvin Slivon
Timothy A. Bohr
Vernon H. Noll
Versel Roy Fingers
Vincent Ralph Cannarsa
W David Powell
Walter Cherny
Walter James Henderson III
Ward Clayton Lingo
Werner Schlaupitz
Wilbur Edward Hufford
William Andrew Campbell
William Arnové
William B. Gist
William Dale Lutker
William Terry Victory
William Thomas Schroeder
Jerry W. Sanders/Ai Force
Patrick Danny O'Daniel/Air Force

Stoney B Toomer/Marine
Donald F. Underhill/Navy
Herbert Emmel Jr/Navy
Willie Joe Albright/Navy
Joe Sidney Duran/Air Force

Navy

Alan Ray Hall
Alejandro M. Castro Jr.
Allen J. Harper
Alton Laussade, Jr.
Andrew Urdailes
Bennie L. Maness
Benny Marion LeBon
Bernard Wayne Gifford
Carl Muscarello
Carl Richard Thackston
Carroll D. Hill
Charles Augustus LaBarbera
Charles Cornish
Charles E Barham
Charles W Crawford
Charlie Recobs
Clifford L Satterthwait
Clifton F. Lovitt, Jr.
Craig "Keebler" Bentzel
Curtis Edward Searcy
Daniel "Jack" Belcher
Daniel E. Ralston
Daniel McFadden
Danny Ray Moore
David Alan Cahill
David Carnahan
David Joseph Stear
David Venable
Dean A. Schnippel
Delmo Frank Trilli
Dennis Patrick Rooney
Don Garrett Leo
Donald Gordon Shroff
Donald Ray Nelson
Donald Richard
Douglas Leonie Havlik
Earl E. Bush
Edgil Burke
Eduardo Togni Legaspi
Edward Duwayne Carroll
Ernest Bocchino
Freddie Joe Chailland
Frederick "Carl" Schmidt
Furney Earl Locke
George L. C. Salazar
Gerald Dean Frye

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Navy Cont.

Gerald Wayne Rearick
Gordon Ralph Nichols
Harold James Morgan
Harold William Smoak
Harry Lester Goodnight
Henry Earl Gamblin
Horace E. Gryder
Howard L. Friday
Jack C Shultz
Jack Copeland
Jack Wesley Thomas
James Galwas Sr.
James Quinton Pitts
James Stewart Gilson
Jean Irene Matz
Jerome Simon Gudinas
Jerry Lee Coale
Jim Orozco
Jimmy Howell Reeves
John Anthony Riles
John Boynton
John E. Laws
John Golf Scruggs, Sr
John M. Campbell
Joseph Fleming
Joseph Frank Henke Sr,
Joseph Gibbs
Joseph William Maurer
Kenneth Louis Yelle
Kenneth Roger Shoemaker
Kyle Brock Lister
Lance Parsons
Leamon McMillion, Jr
Lester Dubke
Lynn Morris Whiting
Mark Spellmeyer
Martin Daniel Bowles
Mary K. Kohl
Melvin Wancowicz
Michael Alan Craig
Michael Lloyd Bailey
Myhalea Gene Powell
Pamela Sue Shields
Paul Edward Cline
Rafael Garcia
Ralph Claude Meenach
Raymond Fredrick Setter
Richard D Tener
Richard Gene Eberly
Richard Higgins
Robert Arthur Baillie
Robert Dale Willis

Robert F. Could
Robert L. McKnight
Robert Sidney Newsom, Jr
Robert W. Green
Robert Wells McEldowney
III
Ronald E Godfrey
Roy Creek
Roy Paul Rogers
Shane Craig Sigston
Shaun Thomas Downs
Shirley West
Stanley Jackson
Stanley R. Flaggs
Stephen Keith
Stephen R. Hammock
Steven Harvey Shafer Jr.
Thomas Edward Galyon
Thomas Hutkins
Thomas W. Adasiewicz
Thomas Williams Knight Jr.
Tracy Wayne Congdon
Victor "Vic" Paul Turner
Wallace D. Martin
Walter Laidlaw Chesman
Warren Ledger
Wayne Harold Darrington
Wilding Harris
William "Bill" Coco, Jr
William Kerr Rogers
William Shroyer
William Thomas Kinslow
Willie 'Bill' Eugene Craven,
Jr.
Willie James Jones
Melton Henry Pereski/Air
Force
Thomas Litzinger/Air Force
Jimmie Ray Henry/Army
Joseph Anthony Jacobs/
Army
Steven K. Mansfield/Army
Steven Robert Peretti/Coast
Guard
Marine Corp
Aime "Danny" Eldon Demp-
sey
Al Gray
Albert Cook, Jr.
Albert Estes Sr.
Anthony David Catapano
Benny Vern Straw
Billie Price

Bobby Douglas Jones
Bobby Ray Daniels
Burton Alvin Thompson Jr.
Carlos R. Robben
Charles Clark Niedringhaus
Charles Drerup
Charles E. Davis, Jr.
Daniel Alfred Preble
Danny L. White
David Bush, Jr.
Donald H Meyncke Jr.
Donald Harmon Snowbarger
Donald J. Ruder
Duane F. Hueneke
Earl Perkins
Emery Barksdale Jr.
Francis Rowe
Frank J Todd
George F. Moran
George Swanson
Gerald W. Linville
Gildardo Luna
Glen Harlen Owens
J.L. Taylor
Jake Edwards, Jr.
James E. Birch
James H. Miles
James Oliver Cromwell, Jr.
James Ralph Shingleton, Sr.
Jamie "Jim" Lynn Herrell
Jason Christopher Tutchtou
Jerald F. Jensen
Jerry Don Bennett
Jerry L Robison
John Richard Birdsong
Jose G. Trujillo
Joseph H. Padilla
Kelly R. Ransom
Kenneth Hopkins
Kenneth M. Shold
Kenneth McKenzie
Larry D Krueger
Lawrence Douglas "Doug"
Yates
Lester L Holmes Jr.
Lewis Charles Lowe
Lloyd E Cradlebaugh
Lonnie Williams Jr.
Louis Franklin Ryle Sr.
Loyce Hurley
Michael J. Carnell
Othar Lee "Woody" Wood
Paul D. DeRosa

Paul Govea
Randy Wayne Lowe
Richard A Palmer
Richard D. Morris
Robert Hill
Rodney J Brimmer
Ronnie Hall
Stephen Melvin Gunta
Steven Eugen Deleplanqcue
Thomas Michael Seidl
Thomas Ralph Davenport
Timothy Eugene McNeil
Trenton S. W. Turza
Truman Lee Reynolds
Vaughn Edward Hussong
William Harold Lightsey, Jr.
Alvin George Miller/Army
Edwin Tesheep/Army
Jonathan Gayle Fogle/Army
Leandrew Riley/Army
Marine Corp Reserves
William Dwayne McCreary
Coast Guard
Jack A. Lilley
Jerry Lynn Roth
Michael Jay Cain
Air Force
Abie R. Duarte
Alfred Reeves
Anothony Dominick Scrufari
Anthony E. Morale, Jr
Anthony Lueck
Arland L. Lester, Sr.
Arvil Theodore Hurt Jr.
Benny Edward Smith
Bobby Henderson
Bruce Chappell
Bruce M. Glidden
Charles Edward Barnes, Sr.
Charles Joseph Amie
Clyde Edwin Nelson
Curtis Elvin Hamilton
Cyril Wayne Hebert
Dale R. LeClerc
Dalwyn Larry Holcombe
Daniel Robert Adams
Delcia Claxton
Dennis Kinney
Don Courteny Robertson
Donald E. Davis
Donald L. Carvill
Donald M. Cowell

Donald Thomas Pierce
Donald W Webb, Jr
Douglas Alan Haberman
Doyle Sullins Tipton
Earl Clifton Seabron
Earl Ray Hughes
Edward Dale Hallam
Edward H. Seiler III
Edward Lewis Larsen
Ernest Smith
Ernest Ward Taylor
Fred Andrew Booth
Gerald Edwin Ingalsbe
Gregory J. Raymond
Henry Kroeger
Henry Lawson
Howard E. Boland
Hurshell Charles Isenberg
Ira Woods Jr.
James Paul Walters
James Sheleva
Jeffrey Francis Davy
Jerry Odell Bybee
Jesse H. Wills, Jr.
John D. Goldsmith
John Henry Stork, Jr
John William Bauer
Joseph Betty
Joseph Wall
Judy Ann Van Aman
Kevin Eugene Thomas
Kyler Michael Thibeault
Larry Junior Sullins
Lawrence Walter Wojcik
Leland Jacob Lloyd
Leonard J Mikolajczyk
Leroy Lokken
Lloyd Simmons
Martin J. Hauk
MaryAnn Arnold
Matt Nielsen
Maurice Dupree Davis
Michael Glen Danley
Miguel Antonio Avitia
Norman Leon Knight
Patrick James Minoughan
Paul Robert Riggie
Peter Robert Barden
Ralph J. Scheetz
Raullo Justin McConahy
Richard J. Berryman
Robert Blackwell
Robert Clinton Kerr

Robert Kenneth Kean
Robert Watson
Ronald C. Kazmierczak
Ronald Lee Welfel
Royall R. Thomas
Scott W Davis
Stanley K. Harper
Stephen Wayne Ancell
Thomas Perry Bush
Vanessa Muncy Crum
Virgil A. Shewbart
Wendell "Mac" McCoskey
William (Bill) P. Helton
William Charles Asher Jr
William Harris
William John Meyer III
William Kwame "Coach"
Baptiste
Terry DePlois
John G. Szczesniak/Army
Carroll Pellerin/Army Na-
tional Guard
Frank Mazzei/Army National
Guard

Blue Daisies



Army Veteran and a Blue Star Mother, Robin Countryman-Valk, was a member of a former California chapter. We thank her for her service to our country and send our sympathy to her family and friends.



Department of Ohio 2024 North/South Conference

Honoring a Gold Star Mother is a deeply meaningful and important expression of support and Sisterhood.



Department of Ohio Executive Board



National Executive Officers and
Department of Ohio and Minnesota
Presidents



Two speakers:
Craig Sams, Esq
spoke on Family
Law and the Military,
and Madison Rivera
from Adaptive
Sports Connection
Warrior Sports
Program



First time Mothers
at North/South conference.

**Moms coming together to support each other and
empowering communities where we can share our experiences,
knowledge, and skills.**



Department of Minnesota

April has been a busy month for me as president and our department. April 5-6 I attended the North/South Conference for the Department of Ohio. It was great to visit with my Ohio sisters and see how they run their spring department meeting. I felt so welcomed by all the moms! Thank you for being such great hosts to this Minnesotan!

The Department of MN held our annual Spring Meeting April 12-13 in Spicer, MN. We had an amazing day! Fun, laughter, learning, silence, listening, stories, tears, 21 gun salute for a Veteran, making memories, great weather, awesome venue, delicious food, sisterhood time/bonding, speakers, door prizes, care packages and so much more was shared among all in attendance on Saturday! Friday afternoon some were able to attend the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) Hall museum tour in Litchfield along the way to Spicer. We packed thirty-one "Movie Themed" care packages for the MN Red Bulls recently deployed. Each box has a movie ticket with a favorite line from a movie written on the back by each of the moms.

We had two speakers. The first one was Carmen Brunsvold who is a Soldier and Family Readiness Specialist for the MN National Guard. She talked about what her job entails and how she is there to help the soldiers and their families. We learned about different things that we as Blue Star Mothers can do to help the soldiers and their families.

Our second speaker was Evy Hajustilianos, author of the book A Penny for Ryane. She talked about her journey in gathering information about Ryane so she could write the book. She read the book to us, the room was silent and you could have heard a penny drop! It was a very moving and touching story about Ryane from his friend's (and his friends' children's) point of view and learning why there are pennies (and other coins) on gravestones. The book is about Spc. Ryane G. Clark whose mother, Tracy Clark, is a member of the Department of MN. Ryane lost his life while serving in the Army in Afghanistan on October 4, 2010, we speak his name.

We've started a tradition to make fleece tie blankets at our department meetings for any member going through cancer. Each blanket is tied with love from the members present. This is a personal effort from the members at no cost to the organization. At this meeting we tied two blankets. We keep these ladies in our prayers and wish them well.

We're all getting excited for summer to arrive and all the fun activities everyone is planning.



The five department chapter Shining Stars front row: Cheryl Heinz (MN7) and Helen Helgeson (MN13). Back row: Kimberley Jakes (MN1), Karla Keller (MN11) and Tish Carlson (MN16).



Our Department Shining Star Cheryl Heinz and Department President Jen Pecarina.



Department Board: L to R:
Terri Hawkinson, Treasurer,
Mary Johnson, 3VP, PDP
Jeanne Ullmer, Recording Secretary, PDP
Jen Pecarina, President,
Karla Keller, PDP and Chaplain,
Pam McCabe, 1VP,
Tish Carlson, 2VP and
Denise Guerra, PDP.
Missing: Pam Dickson, Financial Secretary and Lucie Cutts, PDP.

Thirty-one "Movie" themed care packages packed at Spring Meeting being sent to deployed soldiers.



Spring meeting attendees.

Military Moms gotta be flexible like Gumby! Killroy was here!

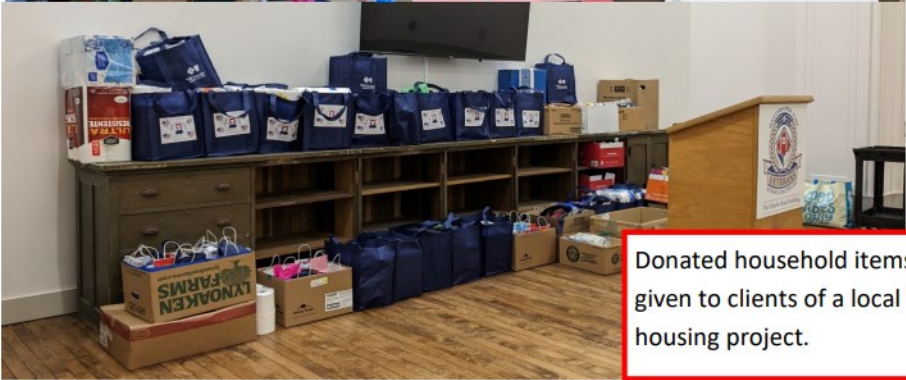
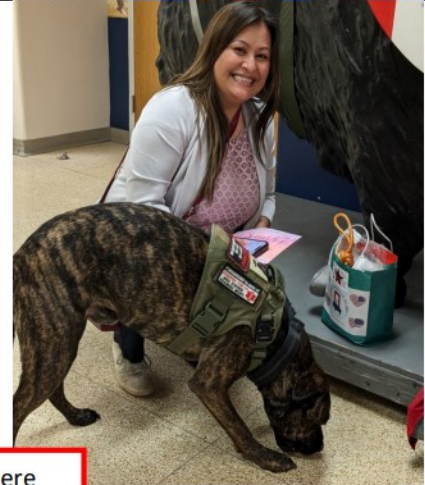


NY7 Buffalo-Niagara



Chapter NY7 was busy during January and February!

- * We started with a wonderful time hosting Bingo at the local VA Medical Center.
- * A local business and schools partnered with us for our Valentines for Veterans Program. 300 gift bags full of donated personal care items and handmade Valentines from schoolchildren were assembled and delivered to hospitalized veterans at two area VA Medical Centers. We even made special bags for service dogs!
- * We then honored a local fallen hero.



Donated household items were given to clients of a local Veterans housing project.

Chapter representatives attended a Celebration of Life for a local Marine and performed the Blue-to-Gold Ceremony.

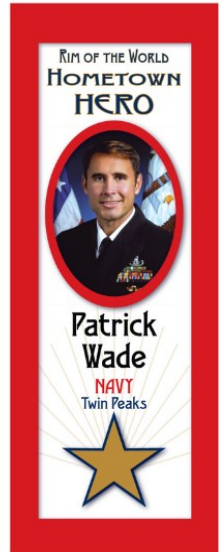




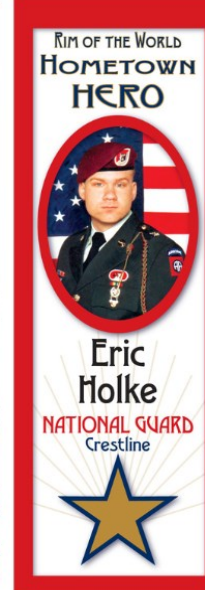
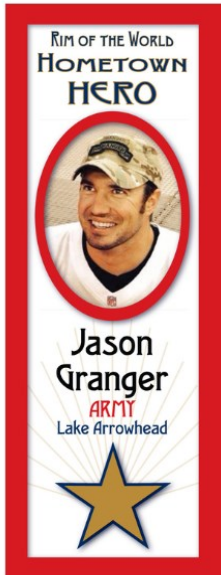
IN HONOR OF MEMORIAL DAY, OUR RIM BLUE STAR MOMS WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT OUR GOLD AND SILVER STAR HOMETOWN HERO BANNER RECIPIENTS. SERVICE MEMBERS RECEIVE A GOLD STAR BANNER WHEN THEY SACRIFICE THEIR LIVES WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE AND A SILVER STAR BANNER WHEN INJURED ON ACTIVE DUTY. OUR CHAPTER WILL MAINTAIN THESE BANNERS IN PERPETUITY.



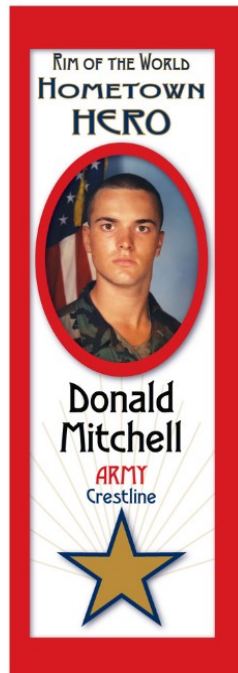
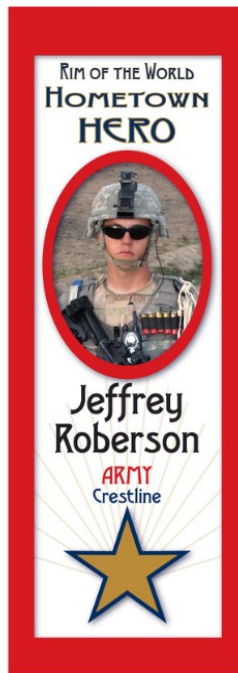
Trevor joined the Army on May 1, 2002. He attended boot camp in Fort Benning, Georgia and was stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington. Trevor served with the 24th Quartermaster Company, 55th CSB. His unit deployed to Iraq in November, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. On April 30, 2004, Trevor was a gunner in a step side truck and was hit by an IED on the main supply route near Tikrit. He was airlifted to a hospital but died of his injuries on May 1, 2004, 2 years from his date of enlistment.



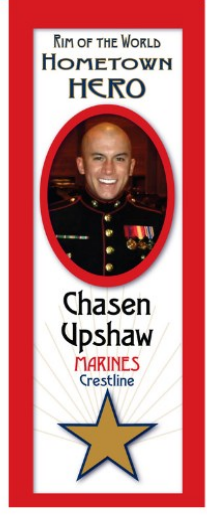
Army Spec. Jeffrey G. Roberson
230 Military Police Company, 95th MP Battalion, 18th MP Brigade, duty station K-Town Germany. Assigned to the 554 Military Police Company, N. Afghanistan. KIA 11/28/2006 Logar Province, Afghanistan.



SGT Chasen Upshaw My son was a junior at Rim when a recruiter from the Marines came in. He made up his mind right then. He joined as a junior and received early entry. Upon graduation, he already had a year of service. He entered as a private first class and soon became an E3 Lance Corporal. Sergeant Upshaw spent 9 yrs in the Marines. He was awarded many achievements, becoming marine of the quarter several times, spotlight marine, marksmanship and was chosen to depict a Marine landing in Vietnam on display at the Marines Corp museum in Quantico, Virginia. If you Google him, you can watch some videos on him and see the process of the making of the statue.



Donald Mitchell joined the army after graduating from Rim in 1988. He served as a Blackhawk crewchief. Donald loved the army. He was stationed at Fort Riley Kansas. In January 1990 he and three crew members flew their Blackhawk to Fort Irwin for maneuvers. On January 9, 1990 their helicopter crashed into a mountain at Fort Irwin, California. All four crew members died in the crash.



FL10 Ocala Blue Star Mothers



FL-10 members, Liz and Hal Wegner. Preparing to feed veterans, attending Charlie Retreat at Camp Freedom, hosted by Soldiers Freedom Outdoors.

Soldiers Freedom Outdoors is dedicated to serving our active-duty and service veterans.

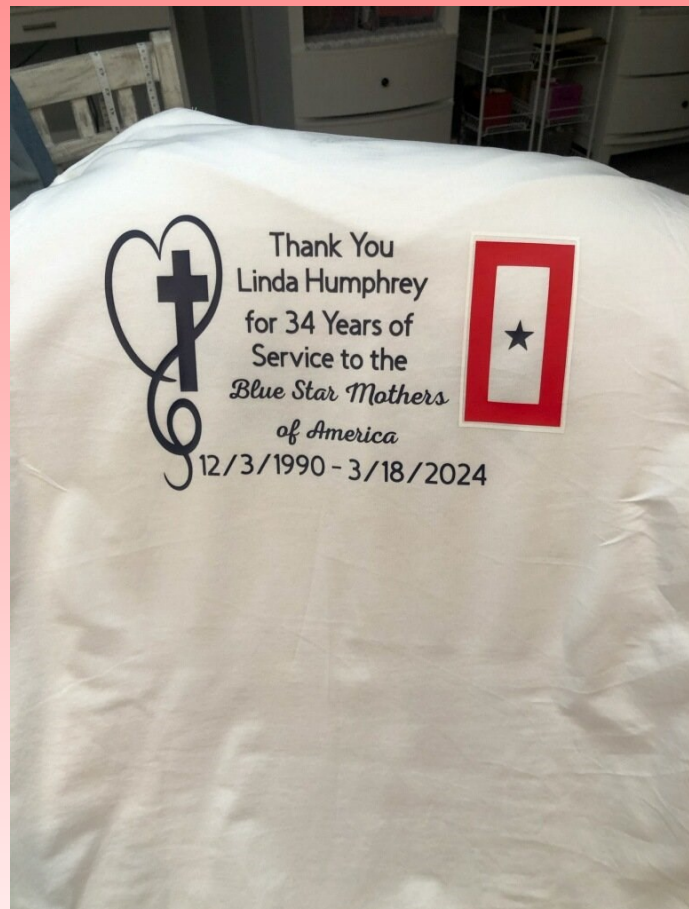
In 11 years of service, SFO has provided eco therapy (nature therapy) to hundreds of soldiers, regardless of gender, service branch or length of service.

Our long time member Linda Humphrey is moving out of state to be with her family. We celebrated her and thanked her for her 34 years of service in our chapter and at Department level.



Presenting a shirt made especially for Linda: past Chapter President Vicki Morrissette, past Chapter President Amy Hutchinson, current Chapter President Jennifer Reshetar. In front Linda Humphrey, and Associate member Cathie Schmidt.

Member Peggie Sonstein with Linda Humphrey



Our entire group celebrating Linda at our Social Meeting

Linda's new shirt with her dates of service

Ohio True Blue Chapter 15



True Blue 15 President Gretchen Schmitz and Chapter Historian Kay Sellers chat together before the event begins



Members Dee Theis (from left), Betty Wharton, Debby Wadham and Teresa Daniel braved the cold elements and arrived safely at the Bath Craft Sale to help run our fundraising table.



True Blue #15 of Lima, Ohio braved the winter weather Ohio threw at us and set-up a booth at the Bath Boy Scout Troop 82's annual Spring Craft Sale on Saturday, March 23rd. We sold military rubber ducks and raffle tickets as well as passing out information on our organization and applications to military moms and grandmothers

Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI 178



The Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI 178 filled boxes with Easter goodies, socks, personal hygiene items and other miscellaneous items to be shipped to our overseas Military Troops.

The "In States Troops" all received a gift card and Easter card from the Chapter.

We do all we can to keep up the morale of our brave men and women during their time of need.

Pictured are left to right front row: Nic Stermer, Linda Elandt, Pat Rogers, June Young.

Second row Bree Witter, Dolores Bumhoffer, Grace Rosenthal, Sherrie LaLonde, Marcia Janik.



SPRING CREEK AREA TX18

BLUE STAR MOTHERS

We went country celebrating our local VFW



Meet Grace Kotalik, Associate Member and daughter of Blue Star Mother Dawn Kotalik. During her Eagle Scout project she held a flag burning ceremony where 400 US Flags were properly retired, Gold Star Families were honored and a couple of our Blue Star/ Gold Star Mothers held a Special Pinning Ceremony for Vietnam Veterans.

March Meeting/ Packing Party SO MUCH FUN





April 2024

Blue Star Mothers ROC

Blue Star Mother & Veteran Honored



Amy Hudzinski was honored at the March 16th Rochester Blue Star Mothers meeting for being the 2024 Female Veteran of the Year at CompeerCORPS. Amy served in the Reserves from 1984-2006 and was activated for Desert Storm 1990-1991. Amy's daughter was ROTC.

Sitting behind Amy is Ret Colonel Nancy Bird, an Associate member and facilitator in the Women Veterans' Coffee sponsored by the Rochester Blue Star Mothers.

CompeerCORPS facilitates peer support and opportunities for Veterans to engage, network, and form friendships with other Veterans in camaraderie though ongoing transition back to the Rochester community and civilian life. The Rochester Blue Star Mothers are proud to partner with CompeerCORPS with various community events.



Rochester BSM Keynote Speaker at American Red Cross Military Resource Brunch

Rochester Veteran and NY 8 Blue Star Mother, Kathy Quiñones, will be the keynote speaker at the Red Cross Brunch on Saturday, May 4th. Kathy has had an amazing military career and continues her service to the community. Her son is currently deployed.

Kathy's career began while she was still a junior in high school. In 1984 she attended Basic Combat Training and Advance Individual Training, her skills included working in Human Resource, Automated Logistics Specialist. In 1996, she was offered a position with the New York Counterdrug Task Force, as a drug prevention specialist and Regiment Administrator for the Corps of Cadets. When the terrorist attack of 9/11/01 occurred she immediately reported to the New York/Canadian Border with the Counterdrug Task for 30-day duty. She was deployed with her son both times to Afghanistan in 2007-2008 and Kuwait 2012. Katherine had a wonderful career of 32 years 10 months with the New York Army National Guard, 20 of them as active duty for New York Counter Drug Task Force. She earned numerous awards including, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (3rd Award), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (5th award), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award), and NATO Medal. Kathy was recently inducted into the NY State Veterans Hall of Fame.

2024 Baby Shower

The Rochester Blue Star Mothers will once again be hosting a Baby Shower for 20 military families. They will be showered with gifts for both mom and baby. Volunteers will be needed to help at the Sunday, May 5th shower. Please use the link below if you would like to shop for the shower using the Amazon Baby Registry:

<https://a.co/9H6jrcY>



Who: Active Duty, Veterans and Military Spouses of Active Duty & Veterans who are expecting or have children up to 6 months old.

When: May 5, 2024 between 11:00am - 1:00pm.

What: Beautiful gifts for you and your baby including baby clothing, handmade outfits, diapers, baby supplies, and much more.

FREE for the first 20 women to register!!!

Where: American Legion Cottreal-Warner Post # 942
818 Ridge Rd Webster, NY 14580

To register / additional information contact:

Baby Shower Committee Co-Chairs:
Amy VanDerwerken and Jill Harris
email: 1VP.NY8@BlueStarMothers.US



**N
M
2**



Rio Grande Valley
Blue Star Mothers



0900 hours, 370 care packages packed and sent worldwide to deployed servicemen and women. With help from Active Duty Military, Veterans and, the Albuquerque Community and of course, The Members of Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers NM2. The packing mission was accomplished in 1 hour and 43 minutes.

Thank you to AZ4, CA30 and CA46 for addresses and working the mission in sisterhood!



MARCH 29, 2024. NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

**NEW MEXICO VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK, ALBUQUERQUE, NM.
VIETNAM VETERANS AND FAMILIES, BSMS FROM NM2, VOLUNTEERS FROM THE NEW MEXICO VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK, AND CITY, VAVS/CEDE RAYMOND G MURPHY VA EMPLOYEES AND GUEST RESPECTIVELY HONOR THE SACRIFICE AND HARDSHIP OF VIETNAM VETERANS AND FAMILIES THAT ENDURED THE WAR FROM 1955 TO 1975. PRAYERS WERE SAID FOR THE POW/MIA'S AND 58,000 PLUS THAT DIED. A NEW MOMUMENT WAS ALSO UNVIELED, A SEAGOING MARINE MOMUMENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND WELCOME HOME.**



CA30

On March 21, CA30 attended the annual fundraiser for the Marine Reconnaissance Foundation held at Ballast Pointe Brewery in San Diego, CA. We presented them with a donation to be used for the needs of injured recon marines and the families of the fallen. Present were President Moira Fisher, Financial Secretary Noelle Harmer (her son is a recon marine) and Finance Committee members Yi Eubanks and Christy Payne.



On April 6, CA30 attended the 100th Anniversary of the Elmer Jertberg American Legion Post 299 in Chino, CA. Many family members of Elmer, a WWI veteran, were in attendance. Our member Yi Eubanks, an Army veteran, organized the event.



SC8



South Carolina Top Groups



72,385
Veterans'
Graves
honored in
South
Carolina

#1	SC0017 - Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina	8859.30 Wreaths
#2	SC0151 - Sun City Hilton Head	8088.20 Wreaths
#3	SC0015 - Ft Jackson National Cemetery 3 for 2 Wreaths	4962.30 Wreaths
#4	SC0135 - Greenville SC Harley Owners Group #4800	1919.50 Wreaths
#5	SC0214P - Mount Ariel Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution	1197.10 Wreaths

162 Sponsorship Groups

130 Participating Locations

Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina, SC8, was notified that we are #1 in SC and #10 in the Nation for Wreaths Across America. It was announced yesterday. We are so excited!



Top 20 Groups Nationwide



#1	FL0042P - Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon Foundation, Inc	19,745.00 Wreaths	#11	TX1341 - Wreaths Across DFW	8,599.00 Wreaths
#2	GA0023 - Bennett / Taylor Family Foundation	18,907.30 Wreaths	#12	TX0019 - Chris and Mary Bush Fundraising Page	8,196.70 Wreaths
#3	IL0013 - Operation Care Package	17,196.70 Wreaths	#13	SC0151 - Sun City Hilton Head	8,088.20 Wreaths
#4	MI0178 - Team Matrix Expedited Services	13,156.40 Wreaths	#14	GA0023 - WAA North GA	7,966.00 Wreaths
#5	FL0250 - Family & Friends of Sarasota National Cemetery Inc	12,443.20 Wreaths	#15	PA0586 - Wreaths for Montoursville, Antes Fort, Jersey Shore, and Wildwood Cemeteries	7,517.10 Wreaths
#6	FL0642 - North Florida & South Georgia Supporting Jacksonville National Cemetery	11,067.30 Wreaths	#16	VA0080 - Team Bear	7,483.40 Wreaths
#7	IL0061P - Honor Wreaths for Veterans	10,169.50 Wreaths	#17	FL0134 - Wreaths Across America SFNC	7,376.60 Wreaths
#8	TN0080 - Friends and Family of Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery	9,677.40 Wreaths	#18	KY0011 - Kentucky Patriots	7,337.70 Wreaths
#9	OH0004P - Toledo Memorial Park Group	9,019.50 Wreaths	#19	WI0004 - American Legion Riders District 8	7,297.40 Wreaths
#10	SC0017 - Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina	8,859.30 Wreaths	#20	PA0576 - Washington Crossing Wreaths For Veterans	7,265.40 Wreaths



Lone Star Chapter, TX6

Altrusa Richardson held their kindness weekend event on April 6th and chose Lone Star Chapter, TX6 to be a partner. Along with their other projects, they decorated care package boxes and folded pocket flags.



Upcoming Events

- 5/23 - Memorial Park Flag Placement
- 5/25 - Flags Out, Richardson Flag Program
- 5/27 - Honor Veterans at Poor Richard's and Red Truck
- 5/27 - City of Plano Memorial Day Service
- 6/01 - Pick up Flags, Richardson Flag Program

Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley, AZ4



It was great to see and meet individuals who came to watch their sons or daughters perform and educate the community on the many facets of Luke Air Force Base and those who support their mission!

Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley AZ4

In March, our main focus was the Luke Air Days 3-day event. We as a chapter proudly came together to raise awareness of our Blue Star Mothers of America Mission! The chapter worked on creating many items to sell. We designed a new “pull up” advertiser banner and had a table with coloring pages for the kids to color and write notes for our troops overseas. The event was a tremendous success with over 420,000 people in attendance and our chapter raised money to help send delegates to the convention coming up this summer. Luke Air Days had been cancelled for the past 6 years so bringing it back required lots of planning. Our President Theresa attended the planning meetings and offered valuable insight into how things were run a few years ago. We had many chapter members participate in this event at various levels- from attending meetings, creating crafts, planning the booth layout, dropping off tents, tables, chairs, banners and hauling everything in to set it all up and take it all down. We enjoyed the air shows and sat in the cockpits of various ginormous cargo airplanes. Our Blue Star sisters were impressed by the sheer size and power of these amazing machines!

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

CENTRAL VALLEY BLUE STAR MOMS



This month we highlight and extend our gratitude to a Blue Star Mother whose love for family and her country continues to be part of her legacy. We are so thankful to Connie Pennington's family for sharing these words with us:

Connie epitomized the essence of motherhood, extending her boundless love and care not only to my brother, husband, sister-in-law, and myself but also to her three adored grandchildren. Her dedication to family, coupled with her reverence for country and flag, distinguished her as an extraordinary individual. Over their 46 years of marriage, she stood resolutely by her veteran husband's side, navigating the enduring challenges stemming from his service. Connie's steadfast presence became a beacon of strength for my father, fortifying him through the physical and psychological tolls of his military experiences. Acknowledging and honoring the sacrifices inherent in military service, Connie rejoiced when my brother Kyle, my husband Chris, and sister-in-law Codi chose to follow in my father's footsteps by serving in the United States Army. Throughout our collective deployments to the Middle East spanning from 2004 to 2019, our parents remained unwavering pillars of support, attending our training graduations, bidding us farewell before each deployment, and jubilantly welcoming us home upon our return. During our deployments, Connie undertook a personal mission to ensure that our hometown of Sanger, California, remained cognizant of our service overseas. Along the tranquil expanse of Canal Drive, where my parents resided, Connie embarked on nightly endeavors, adorning 20 stately sycamore trees with vibrant yellow bows crafted from rolls of plastic table covers. Each morning, she meticulously inspected her handiwork, ensuring that the bows retained their resplendent allure, a testament to her enduring love and dedication. Even now, the remnants of the luminous yellow bows she once painstakingly adorned along Canal Street serve as poignant reminders of her enduring love and unwavering support, etching her legacy indelibly into the fabric of our hearts and community.

We are so grateful for the contributions of supporters like Connie and her family, along with many other community members and organizations.

RECENT EVENTS:

This month CA-10 participated in the following events:

- Flag retirement
- Vietnam Day
- VA baby shower & female homeless outreach event
- Donation of 48 bags for veterans

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 18th: Gold Star Moms Tea



Western Slope BSM C08

Vietnam Memorial Day event

We won "Most Inspirational" at Veterans Day parade!!



Vietnam Era pinning ceremony



We welcomed home a Sailor



We sent off some recruits!!



We sent out 58 care packages





Southwestern Pennsylvania

Chapter PA16

- Attended: Veterans Affairs Expo in Fayette County. Hosted information table. Distributed gift bags to Veterans.
- Volunteered: Free Drive-Thru Breakfast to bolster awareness of Military and Veterans Services in Washington County and Greater Southwestern PA
- Attended: Vietnam Veterans Day Recognition Heinz History Center. Hosted information table. Cheered for Associate Member Stan Majocka as he was recognized for his service.
- Attended: Gala for Heroes Masquerade Ball
- Baked cookies and attended: Purse Bash benefitting local Veterans
- Hosted Guest Speakers: Foxy and Craig Life Changing Service Dogs
- March meeting: Western theme - Hosted a "Round Up" of our members and enjoyed some good chuck wagon grub



Louisiana Top Groups			
27,600 Veterans' Graves honored in Louisiana	#1	L.A. - For The Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1	State Wreath
	#2	L.A. - Wreaths from the Heart	State Wreath
	#3	L.A. - Beau Rivage Chapter 246	State Wreath
	#4	L.A. - 4th District Veterans and Military Affairs Council	State Wreath
	#5	L.A. - Bayou Metairie Chapter	State Wreath
#6 Sponsorship Groups		#6 Participating Locations	

Blue Star Mothers



Of Louisiana Chapter 1



*Great job to everyone who helped out with Wreaths Across America! All of your hard work paid off.

*Thank you Mary Beth Adams Cauthen, for representing our chapter with NELA Chapter 6 at the Adjutant General of Louisiana Change Of Command Ceremony.



*Books for Boots shipped out 10 boxes sponsored by our Chapter on March 11th.

*It was an honor to join Senator Franklin Foil at Roaring on the River as he was presented the Patriot Award.



*Our Community Salutes held on April 9th, was very well attended by Blue Star Mothers and Associates. Our graduating seniors were Honored by all that attended.

*We never let good things go to waste, Ms. Dora delivered the leftovers from Our Community Salutes to the Magnolia Veterans Home.



Upcoming Events:
May 25th- Memorial Day Garden of Flags

Sacramento Blue Star Moms CA7

APRIL 2024

Month of the Military Child

WE RECOGNIZE YOUR BRAVE
HEARTS AND SACRIFICE

THALIA

CALEB

TAIKA

STELLA

ZOEY

SOPHIE

TOMMY

NATHAN

GUNNER

SOFIA

JASON

COLLIN

MILES

WYATT

KAITLYN

SALEM

LIAM

MADISON

RICHLIN
JR

WILLOW

HAZEL

OLIVIA

BAYLEE

MIA

St Paul Blue Star Mothers MN11



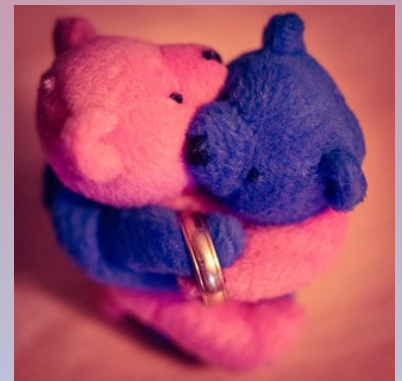
We held our last Meat Raffle Fundraiser for the year. Each year from October to March, every other Saturday, we help run the meat raffle for the Bayport American Legion. Time after time we see familiar faces. The customers and staff at the restaurant, Sal's Angus Grill, are so wonderful and supportive.



We have a great time! Our chapter had five members attend the Department Spring Meeting in Spicer, MN. We had a beautiful day both with the weather and the Activities. National 2VP and MN11 member Karla checked out all the vendor tables and Donna helped put together one of two comfort blankets that were



given to members families who are dealing with a health crisis. We have done this for members in the past and this year included two family members. The fleece was donated by PDP Mary.





Minnesota Chapter 7

Members packed boxes to send to our military members serving overseas.



Several Board Members traveled to St. Cloud to meet with and get a tour of the St. Cloud Stand Down Facilities. Veterans Helping Veterans since 1998.



We continue to make meals at the Fisher House every month, this month's menu was sloppy joes, coleslaw, chips and banana bread brownies.

Several Chapter members attended the Department of MN Spring Meeting in Spicer, MN. Great sister time!



Blue Star Moms

Houston Chapter TX-2

April showers bring May Flowers? Not for us. April showered us with cases of Girl Scout cookies!



We had fun activities and great donations for our troops.



Ohio Chapter 21



We had a request for care packages for some military personnel who were having a hard time adjusting to deployment. On March 5th we met to assemble the packages and send them some love from home.



On March 11th we had our last craft show planning meeting. During this meeting we worked on some crafts that we will have at our table. Our 8th annual craft show is scheduled for March 23rd at the Bellevue VFW. Doors open at 10am. We have fifty crafters registered for this fundraising event.



After our February meeting we installed officers. From Right to Left: Leslie Fritz President pro tem, Marie Taylor 1st VP pro tem, Tanya Gilbert 2nd VP pro tem.

On February 24th several members of our chapter we to Lakeside to send off 150 members of the Ohio National Guard's 1483rd Transportation Company as they are deploying in support of U.S. Central Command.

The picture on the right is a son of one of the soldiers saluting the troops.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

Honor Flights

April 20th, May 18th
& June 15th

Board & Brush

May 6th at 6pm

Field of Flags

May 20-24th

Union Grove Memorial Day Service

May 26th

Westlawn Flag Placement

May 23rd at 7:30am

Fundraiser Cooking Class

June 3rd at 6pm

Veterans Treatment Court

June 10th at 3pm

Camp Hometown Heroes

July 2nd at 9am

Irreverent Warriors Silkies Hike

August 24th

At our March 2024 meeting we welcomed 1 new member, discussed past events as well as upcoming volunteer opportunities, many of which are listed below on the left. We also shared a brief explanation of all the fundraisers we participate in as a group; a great introduction for our newer members.

Pictured below is our recent Glass Fusion Fundraiser where members, associate members and friends carefully created glass window catchers.



Pine City Blue Star Mom's Chapter MN16

March has been a very busy month for our Group. We had 2 major events that were extremely fun and successful! The first was our Dinner and Comedy Show Fundraiser on March 16th. The event was headlined by the very funny Daren Strelow. It was a night full of laughs, and some tears. Thanks to our wonderful surrounding communities we raised around \$11,000.00.



Then on March 23rd, we had an information table with crafts and baked goods at the Spring Craft Fair in Braham, MN. Our group served lunch for the event and raised around \$1,200.00.

Some of our members also participated in the MN BSM Spring Convention in Spicer MN. This was held the weekend of April 12-13.

May will not only bring in the Flowers of Springtime but our annual Garage Sale Fundraiser and the Pine City MN Memorial Day Parade.





Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6


We have had a busy month here in Chicagoland! We had a presence at Military Appreciation Night at Chicago Steel Hockey. We participated in a retreat with some other chapters. We started working with our Hines VA Fisher House and served breakfast to the families staying there for the first time for us. This is definitely something we will do again! We had an amazing experience working with the staff to coordinate, working together to prep the food, and experiencing time with the families. Hopefully we can do this regularly going forward and even more of our Chapter can be involved!





The Marine Corps Race 17.5 distance is a way to honor the year the Marine Corps was established. Before the race day, Faye Mohler and COL Bill Holt volunteered at the Packet Pick-up table at the Full Distance Brewing. VA4 members attended the Leashes of Valor (LOV) Open House and Graduation, where two veterans were awarded their Graduation Diplomas and their loyal and well-trained dogs received their service vests. During the event, the veterans expressed gratitude to LOV for the positive impact their dogs have had on their lives, improving their overall quality of life. On March 29th, we commemorate Vietnam War Veterans Day by honoring the Vietnam Heroes. We conducted a ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where we pinned COL Bill Holt. During the ceremony, we read aloud the names of local fallen Vietnam veterans and our fallen family members. We placed a rose and a flag at several of the Vietnam hero's headstones to show our respect. After the ceremony, a few members of VA4 visited the Mission BBQ locations in Fredericksburg and Stafford to pin Vietnam Veterans. Additionally, we took part in the grand opening of Black Rifle Coffee Company and were pleased to be a part of it.



A vibrant spring landscape featuring rolling green hills, a clear blue sky with soft white clouds, and a foreground of lush green grass with yellow daisies and white flowers. Two monarch butterflies are visible, one on the left and one on the right. The top of the image is framed by a border of green leaves.

Spring is coming... Time for some cleaning.
Remove all the self-doubt, worry, jealousy,
regret, anger, guilt, or any other negative
emotions that are holding you back from
your happy, fulfilled life

- Nanette Mathews

Wherever you are,
be all there.

JIM ELLIOT

