



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

November 2023

A message from our National President

It's hard to believe we are 1 week from Thanksgiving – the months are just flying by! I had the pleasure of attending the Department of Michigan Convention October 13-15 and the Department of Ohio Convention October 27-29. It is always wonderful spending Sister time with the Departments. Congratulations to the new Department Boards – we wish you a very successful year and we look forward to working with you. I am so proud of the many Chapters across the country who have been posting pictures participating in their local Veterans Day Ceremonies – way to represent our organization! While you ladies were working at the local levels, it was my honor to represent Blue Star Mother's of America, Inc. in DC during the National Veterans Day Ceremonies, with my Veteran son, Jacob, by my side. Thank you for providing me with this honor. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we received several proposals for our next convention. I am excited to announce the 2024 Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. National Convention will be July 29 – August 2 in Oklahoma City! Start watching for the Convention Chatter, as well as the launching of the 2024 Convention tab on our home page. I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving. I know firsthand our families may not be complete this year – for those of you, please know you and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

As always, my door is open to anyone who has questions. 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

P.S. ~ PLEASE get your compliance filed by December 1. If you need assistance, we are happy to help you!



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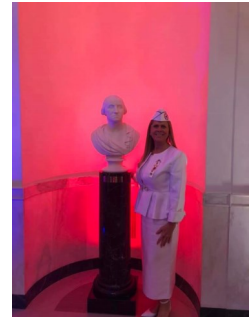
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Veterans Day Washington DC





1st VP Message

- Please email me if you have problems accessing your profile, I will assist you with a reset
- Please reach out by email, text or phone if you have any questions—the NEB embraces an open door policy
- Be sure to contact new members ASAP, our welcome letter indicates you will reach out within 10 days
- Encourage mothers of Veterans to stay as active members; every member makes our organization stronger
- Respect each other; we all contribute in different ways
- Please use @bluestarmothers emails; it helps your members, your officers and all of us trying to support you

Respectfully Yours In Service,

Karen Stillwell, National 1stVP

1vp@bluestarmothers.us: 614-893-1180

Have a
Joyous Thanksgiving!

TIME IS RUNNING OUT FAST!



If you have any questions or need any help with compliance, please contact me at

4vp@bluestarmothers.us

There is also a video of how to file compliance on the website under the Training Videos tab.

Brenda Ternullo, 4VP

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc has set a deadline for all compliance to be completed by December 1st of each fiscal year. The IRS has a deadline of January 15th to file the 990 (most chapters qualify to file the 990N postcard). Please note that the IRS shuts down between mid-December to mid-January and your chapter will not be able to file the 990n postcard online.

If your chapter officers have not received an email from me stating the chapter has completed compliance, the chapter president can email me and ask what is missing in order to get compliant.

- Please do not wait until December 1st to try to get compliance completed.
- If your chapter is unable to complete all required forms to be submitted, PLEASE EMAIL 4vp@bluestarmothers.us right away and explain.
- Remember that the Chapter Officers must be unique individuals (no one person can hold two offices).
- Once the forms are submitted, they are subject to review and could be rejected for one reason or another. If this happens, the form must be re-submitted with the correct information.



From the desk of

Anne Parker, VAVS Representative

November is Veterans Day but as Blue Star Mothers we Remember our Veterans Everyday.

With so many volunteer opportunities in our towns, cities and states it can be confusing as to where to go. Human nature says... when confused do nothing.

When you are not sure why you should take time out of your already busy life and cannot make a decision once again human nature says... let me wait.

Volunteerism benefits our veterans in so many ways but as a volunteer we benefit as well. This can directly impact your personal work experience, social life, finding new opportunities and more.

Our Big Questions is always WHY... why volunteer. Here are some WHY's.

Gain Work Experience, Learn New Skills, Meet New People, Social Interaction, Give Something Back and Serve Others.

Volunteer Opportunities always depends on the needs of individual VA facilities but here are some of the ways our BSMA volunteers serve.

Escorts, Drivers, Clerical/Computers, Information Desk, Red Coat Ambassadors, Guest Registration, Chaplain Services, Compassionate Care Calls and so many more ways.

Can you check any of these boxes? Our veterans need us. They need our compassion, our joy, our humor, and friendship.

And we, need them! If you can fill a need for yourself and a veteran then WOW... we all benefit.

To learn more about the BSMA requirements, commitments and how to begin please contact our National VAVS Rep., Anne Parker

Vavs.bluestarmothers.us and on our national website under VAVS there is further information.



Stocking Stuffer Bundle \$10.00

Online Store

www.bluestarmothers.org



Logo Pen



Nail File



Luggage Tag



Proud of Our Sons and Daughters 3 inch Patch



Department of Michigan

The Michigan Department Convention was held in Grand Rapids Michigan at the Holiday Inn downtown
October 13-15th .

Please congratulate our new 2023_2024 Department of Michigan Board.



Quilts of Valor were presented by the Michigan Coordinator of Quilts of Valor. Guest speakers from the Kalamazoo Air Zoo and Homes for our Troops were all in attendance and gave great presentations.



Big Dipper fun night was a success with the game of 'Clue' being the highlight of the night.



Please congratulate our 2023_2024 Big Dipper Board



Department of Minnesota

Members of the Department of Minnesota placed wreaths at the graves at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis on Saturday, November 4. This is done as a fundraiser, working with Honored Always, who donates a portion of their profits to us for helping them place the wreaths.



Terri, Cheryl and Jennifer from MN7 and Lynn and Karla from MN11 volunteered at Meals From the Heart, a non profit organization that packs food items for multiple organizations. This year, again, they will be given to National Guard Families at Armories throughout Minnesota. 300 bags of groceries were packed in 2 hours. They were told that was a record! Turkeys will be also be given to these families when they are distributed.



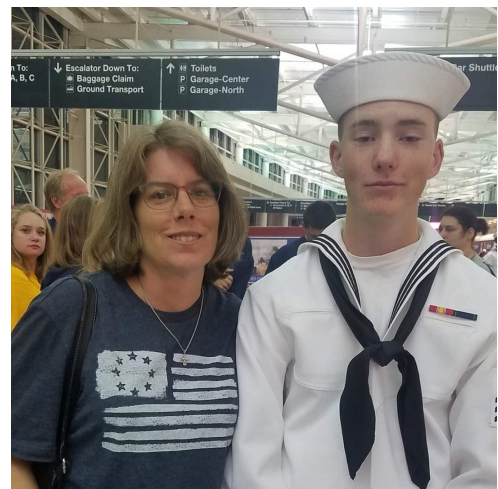
Blue Daisies

Some chapters include their members who have passed away on their chapter page in the newsletter others submit them separately. Either way we send our thoughts and sympathy to all the chapter members as they grieve their loss.



On August 23, 2023, our founding Charter member of BSM Lehigh Valley Chapter PA 201, in 2005, and our 1st Chapter's President Dorothy "Dottie" Niklos, was called home at the age of 78. She was very active in our organization, as well as, LVMAC (Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council) and other local military interests, ensuring our deployed military sons and daughters received care packages filled with love from home. She also was pivotal in directing new Veterans to receive the benefits they were entitled to coming back from the War in Iraq/ Afghanistan/Operation Enduring Freedom. A 1 star Blue Star Mother, her son Thomas Igoe proudly served in The US Marine Corps. Dottie loved putting those care packages together and getting them to as many of our soldiers/ units/ platoons, as humanly possible. Her wish was for our Chapter to continue on for years to come and continue to do the important work of all we stand for and our Sisterhood we share. Dottie will surely be missed.

Karen Austin was a member of Lake Erie Shores OH21. She was their Treasurer for the 2022-2023 year. Karen was also very active in the Norwalk VFW Auxiliary #2743. Karen died on Oct. 25, 2023.



Tracy Spitzer was a member of TN6 Blue Star Mother of the Tri-Cities



Greater Birmingham, Alabama AL4

BSM AL4 Chapter holds our monthly meetings on the 3rd Saturday of the month at locally owned restaurants
We have a Facebook page (facebook.com/bsmal4) and Instagram ([bsm_al4](https://instagram.com/bsm_al4)).



November Meeting

76th Annual Veterans Day Parade



Volunteered at 1st Annual Cornhole Tournament to benefit Dove Tail Landing



Veterans Day Awards Dinner



Volunteered for Alabama Veterans' War on the Greens Golf Tournament



AZ4 Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley

The Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley are fulfilling their mission with pride, smiles and true sisterhood. They were given special recognition for their efforts by being awarded with the “Spirit of the Southwest Valley Award” Hall of Fame nomination made by the Agua Fria High School District. Here are only a few highlights from the past few months: They attended and assisted with registration at the Patriot’s Ball and the Navy Ball. The Chapter was given the incredible honor of pinning our beloved Vietnam Veterans at a special banquet held in their honor. At the Glendale Stand Up, Blue Star sisters assisted our vets. There were 690 veterans, 53 legal assistance, 42 veterans through Courts, 53 veterans through DMV, 73 veteran service organizations all represented. For the Air Force 76th Flag Raising, we had Rosie the Riveter’s present along with sisters from our chapter. Over 50 Airmen and Airwomen were present. Our chapter is currently decorating a float for the Veteran’s Day Parade in Phoenix.



CA15 San Mateo County Blue Star Moms



We participated in the Italian Heritage Parade on the streets of San Francisco during Fleet Week.

The Moms: Brandy, President - Brenda Ternullo, Robin Harmison - Associate, VP Cheryl Brennan, East Bay member - Chris

Our amazing couple, Rich and Robin Harmison, donating their time to prepare for this event. Here they are decorating their truck and then join the parade with the Blue Star Moms.



On Saturday, October 7, we held a packing day. It was a suc-



LAKE ARROWHEAD,
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER 25

VOLUME 2: FALL 2023 PG 1



Rim Blue Star Moms participated in the VA's Veteran Fishing Trip in September. A busload of Veterans were brought up from the VA in Loma Linda to have breakfast then go boating around beautiful Lake Arrowhead. Blue Star Moms helped welcome the vets and served lunch.



CA30



November is our favorite month! On November 3 we had the opportunity to attend the American Legion's Coffee with a Veteran. On November 10, MaryAnn Sherman and Moira Fisher attended a ceremony honoring the 31 veterans at the local assisted living facility. Later that evening, Gold Star Mother Evelyn Baltierra was honored at a Marine Corps Birthday Celebration and Fundraiser for 29 Palms Marine Base. Veterans Day found some members of CA30 at Riverside National Cemetery placing flags while others attended the annual ceremony at George Ingalls Veterans Center in Norco.





Blue Star Moms of California - East Bay Chapter 101: SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2023 EVENTS

September 8 -11 - "Stand Down on the Delta" sponsored by Delta Veterans Group (DVG). This is a four-day event wherein veterans receive free services in medical, dental, housing, job placement, mental health and drug/alcohol counseling. Basic necessities such as clothing and boots were also given to the veterans. This biennial event has helped over 1,154 veterans and their families since it started in 2015. DVG works with 70 different organizations and hundreds of volunteers, including our Chapter, during this four-day event. The Blue Star Moms helped in distributing boots to the veterans.

September 9 - Care Package Shop and Drop Event at Veterans Memorial. The chapter collected care package items and cash donations.



September 11 - 9/11 Ceremony at Oak Hill Park, Danville, CA. Our Chapter set up a table with information about our organization's mission and the services we provide for our military and veterans. It was also a great opportunity to share flyers for our drop zone and upcoming fundraiser events.

October 21 - Las Positas College's Veterans First Program hosted "2.2 for 22" Fundraising Event to Support Student Veterans and Bring an End to Veteran Suicide. Every year, the Blue Star Mom supports this event by sponsoring a table/challenge station.



October 27 - Trunk or Treat at Las Positas College organized by the Student Veterans Organization. Our Chapter supports and joins this fun every year. We come with our own decorated "trunk" and give out treats to the trick-or-treaters who are mostly children of student veterans.

**TREASURE COAST
BLUE STAR MOTHERS, FL11**

SUPPORTING ACTIVE DUTY,
VETERANS, AND
MILITARY FAMILIES

www.BlueStarMothersFL11.org





Some of our mothers participated in the Gold Star Walk-a-thon for Military Suicide Awareness.



While others participated in the Veterans Day Parade in West Palm Beach.



Painting with a Twist Fundraiser hosted 28 friends and family. Painting with a patriotic theme



Member Susan Bellamy connects with military moms at her church after service Sunday morning





Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6

Our last few months have been really busy – serving desserts to our Veterans at the VFW Fish Fry, supporting the Veterans Baby Shower at our VA, networking for a day with other VSOs at the Rolling Thunder Pig and Gig event, collecting for and packing care packages with our partner Operation Support our Troops America, partnering with Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory for their Sweets for Service campaign, holding our meetings, welcoming new members, planning for upcoming events like our 3rd Annual Battle of the Branches Chili Cook Off and our Gold Star Parents Brunch, networking at local events with our Chamber of Commerce and our local Rotary Club, and so much more! We are into our new year full swing and are working our Mission!



LOUISIANA GEAUX SEVEN CHAPTER

OCTOBER 2023

October 12th Our President Trudy Dupuy spoke at the Daughters of the American Revolution's monthly meeting.



October 28th Blue Star Mothers (L to R) Billie, Carol, Wendy, Trudy, Bunny, Sandy, and Christie attended the Home Depot and Gold Star Father Stan McCurdy's Annual Veterans Appreciation Day.



October 7th Blue Star Mothers Chapter 7 attended the Louisiana Honor Flight which included a meet and greet dinner the evening before and welcoming them back from their flight to Washington D.C. the next evening.



Blue Star Mothers MA1



November Newsletter 2023



The Helen Hill Patriotic Award was created for GSM who supported Veterans in the community.



**BSM Sharon Bouchard & Rose Annese
(Blue to Gold Liaison)
Presented to Col Timothy Bigelow DAR Chapter
on Blue Star & Gold Star Mothers**



**Welcoming New Members
Kristine, Wanda, Cie, Nancy**



Installation of Officers

MN7 North Metro Blue Star Mothers

Several members of MN7 attended Minnesota Heroes Day at the State Capital grounds, where we got to visit many of the memorials and visit with individuals at each memorial, including the Medal of Honor Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Korean Memorial, WWII Memorial, Firefighters Memorial, Military Family Tribute Memorial, and a tour of the State Capitol. We also had the honor of meeting a gentleman from Minnesota that had received the Carnegie Life Saving Award. It was a great day; great comradery and to conclude the afternoon, we met two Vietnam Veterans that hadn't seen each other in decades, and they were there to honor the Laos Veterans at the Laos Special Forces Memorial. This is to be a yearly event and we will be sure to go back again next year.



Our Chapter Board got together recently for a Team Building event. We all made Porch Pots and had time to talk and relax, have a delicious lunch and had time of sharing.

MN11 St Paul Blue Star Mothers



Everyone's happy when we shop, pack, load up and ship our boxes to Service Members overseas. We get moms, Marilyn's son and her grandkids all involved!



Every other week October through March, Chapter members help with a meat raffle, sponsored by the Bayport Legion, before BINGO begins. We sell the tickets for them and they donate to our chapter as our main fundraiser. We have a great time! This week, left to right, Lynn, Karla and Kathy helped out. (Lynn's husband, Dave, was also there helping and took the picture)

MN13

The Wright County Area chapter in MN has been busy with our annual Holiday Project. This month we held our craft fair (which helps fund our project). We had a great turnout of crafters and shoppers to make for a successful event! We also went around to seven local schools to collect their donated Halloween candy, handmade cards and monetary donations.

We had a good time supporting and honoring our local Veterans at three different events November 10 and 11.



Flag line at the Buffalo High School to honor the Veterans



Moms (left to right) with the keynote speaker at the high school program. Kerri McDonald, Jen Pecarina, Sgt. First Class Tom Bauman, Retired, Dannell Hartung, and Helen Helgeson



Photo of us with our display table at the Veterans event in Sartell. It began with a resource fair, then an appreciation dinner with the band "Only Vessels" playing while we ate and finishing the night with guest speaker Mike Mills with Operation 23:0 speaking about his injury and the struggles he went through with the burns and choosing life.



Helping at the Veterans Breakfast (left to right) Kerri McDonald, Helen Helgeson, Jackie Rassat, Jen Pecarina, Pam Dickson



Kerri McDonald and Pam Dickson serving food at the Veterans breakfast held at the Buffalo American Legion Post 270 where we honored local Veterans.

NY1

After months of planning, on Saturday, October 21st, BSMA NY#1 hosted a Buffalo Bills themed tailgate fundraiser at the Canteen. There was a Chili Cookoff, Baking Contest, Craft Vendors, Food Trucks, and over 60 Raffle prize baskets! This event was open to the public and many arrived wearing Bills gear! Many volunteers, including the chili and baking judges, made for a memorable day. A female Air Force Veteran, who also brought a food truck, won the chili contest, and one of our NY#1 members won the baking contest with her delicious home-made, legendary apple pie! Due to the cold and windy weather, the event ended early, but all had a great time!

The Canteen is located at 17 Foster Street in downtown Canandaigua.



BSMNY7—Buffalo/Niagara



240 We Care packages were packed and sent to our troops to enjoy "Christmas in July".



We enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship with our Blue Star Sisters from NY7, NY4 and PA203 during a cruise along the Buffalo waterfront.

Our officers were installed on September 7, 2023. Judi Kogler-Recording Secretary, Cindy Bancroft-Treasurer, Laura Hafner-Financial Secretary, Kimberly Tront-3rd VP, Arlene Natwora-2nd VP, Eileen Bunn-1st VP, Anne Gross-President



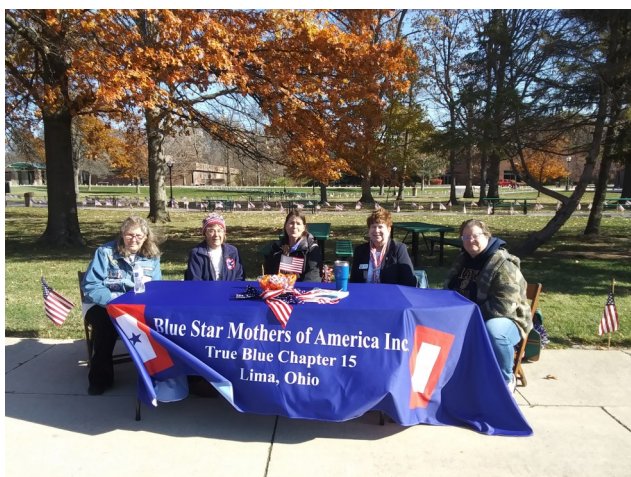
Information about Blue Star Mothers was shared with attendees at a local air show.



True Blue Chapter OH 15

True Blue Chapter 15 Attends Veterans Awareness Event

Blue Star Mothers of America - Ohio Chapter True Blue 15 attended the Second Annual "Walk for Military Suicide Awareness" event held on Thursday, November 9 at Rhodes State College in Lima, Ohio. The event was held to pay tribute and bring awareness to the 22 military veterans that lose their battle to post-traumatic stress each day, which is equivalent to one veteran every 65 minutes. Attendees at the event walked 2.2 laps around the college campus to remember and honor the estimated 22 veterans who take their lives every day.



(from left) Braving the crisp Ohio weather are: Debby Wadham, Secretary; Betty Wharton, Treasurer; Mary Evans, Patriotic Instructor; Karen High, Vice President and Vicki Peter-Wills, Financial Secretary.



Members (from left) Debby Wadham, Mary Evans, Betty Wharton and Kay Sellers attended the Veterans Day Ceremony at the American Legion Post 96 on Saturday, November 11.



The Marine Corp League presents Debby Wadham the American Flag. Debby's son, Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Wadham, of the Tennessee National Guard, died Feb. 15, 2023 in a Black Hawk helicopter crash near Hunstville, AL.



All the wreaths that were presented by various organizations.

Fundraiser Night on Monday, November 13, at a locally owned favorite, Happy Daz Restaurant. Greeting drive thru patrons is Debby Wadham (left) and Gretchen Schmitz. Welcoming inside diners are (from left) Karen High, Vicki Peter Wills, Mary Evans and Betty Wharton. The local chapter received 10% of the sales for the evening.



OH21



We spent the summer visiting many of the local farmers markets selling our Cash Calendar and various shirts, one being our RED Friday shirt.



Our CEB met and completed compliance



On October 28th we lost one of our long time members Karen Austin.



November 4 we held our Christmas packaging and sent all of our care package recipients a box filled with a Christmas Tree and decorations for it.



We recently started a fundraiser with a local vendor for these ornaments.

We are also very proud to say that 2 of our chapter members now sit on the Dept of Ohio board and 1 sits on the Ohio Big Dipper Board.



**Department of Ohio
2023 Convention
Chapter 21**

 **Southwestern
Pennsylvania**
Chapter PA16



Music City Blue Star Moms TN3

We are pleased to have welcomed another new member this month whose son is serving in the Space Force.

Several of our members attended the US Air Force Band concert on October 20 in Nashville.



We successfully raised enough money to send 575 Christmas stockings stuffed with goodies to deployed troops as part of our annual Operation Christmas Cheer. Our 'little elves' from a local elementary school were a big help and they also learned a lot about the meaning of Veteran's Day and patriotism!

We were honored to participate in the annual Veteran's Day parade in Nashville. Grand marshals Brigadier General Eden Murrie, Director of Air Force Services, and country music star Kid Rock who is known for his support for the military, led the parade and featured the 101st Airborne Division Band, local veterans, first responders, Gold Star Families and Blue Star Moms.



We will display the Tree of Heroes at Nashville Airport December 3 – January 7. This upcoming event will be a Christmas tree which we will decorate with red, white, and blue stars bearing the names of our children who are currently serving or have served.



We had our Fill the Humvee collection event for our care packages and then we also participated in a Veterans lunch.





SPRING CREEK AREA BLUE STAR MOTHERS

TX18



89352EE021347

★ November Meeting ★
 Since our monthly meeting falls on Veterans Day, we will replace our meeting with Veterans Day Activities

★★★★★  ★★★★★

JOIN US

Friday, November 10th - 11am - 2pm
 Camp Hope

Saturday, November 11th - 9am
 Montgomery County Veterans Memorial Park

Saturday, November 11th - 8am - 1pm
 Heritage Park, Mighty Oaks

★★★★★




Margie Taylor, 1st Vice President and Heather Herlong, Past Chapter President and Veteran representing at Greater East Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Luncheon honoring Veterans. Looking wonderful Ladies!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

TRUNK OR TREAT
 SPONSORED BY VFW 4709

BSM.TX18@BLUESTARMOTHERS.US



Over 500 care packages were packed on Saturday, October 28, 2023, at the Stafford Fire and Rescue Station. It was an unforgettable day. We express our gratitude to the fire station for allowing us to use their firehouse. Without the assistance of many people in our community, including Stafford Fire & Rescue Firemen, Dr. Lupi & Staff, Celebrate Veterans Group, Team RWB Fredericksburg, Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge, Spotsylvania High School Knight Battalion JROTC, Potomac JROTC, Hylton JROTC, Stafford 4-H, Canes 16U North Prospects Baseball Team, Weichert Realtors, Downtown Dolls, Heritage River Group, Greater Falls Lions Club and many more. the packing could not have been completed. Papa John's, Chick-fil-A, Doc Roco's, Mission BBQ, and Gourmeltz all contributed to a light lunch for the volunteers. Following that, on October 30th, we had an informational table at the MANARC Golf Tournament, where the proceeds went to support us. Our pals Chris Bowers, Director of Programs at Leashes of Valor, and CEO and Founder Jason Haag attended the event in support. After taking a few days off, we headed to the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Veterans Day celebration on November 4th, where we set up our information table. A Black Hawk was able to soar above and land in the location for us to witness. On that same day, our very own Pat Stello volunteered to be an Honor Guardian, and several of our members welcomed the Old Dominion Honor Flight at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Several members attended the Fredericksburg Veterans Day Ceremony and presented our wreath. That's All Folks!



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

**VOW 2nd Annual
Winter Banquet**
December 2nd

**Operation Home
Baked Goods**
December 7th

**Up & Down
Tournament**
December 9th

**Wreaths Across
America**
December 16th

Christmas Party
December 19th

**Christmas Floral
Arrangement
Fundraiser**
December 21st



In September our Blue Star Mothers of SE WI Chapter 2 installed our 2023-2024 Board Members, Appointed Board Members and 3 new members. In the past 2 months we have had the pleasure of welcoming 3 additional new members! Our events this past month included volunteering at the Community Veterans Stand Down event, where not only did we help organizers distribute items; we had the honor of pinning several Vietnam Era Veterans with the 50th Commemorative Pin. We marched in the Veterans Day Parade in downtown Milwaukee, participated in a local Veterans Day tribute and did several more Vietnam Era Veteran 50th Commemorative pinning & welcoming home events. Pictures below are from these great events.



Pictured below are 2 of our recent "creative" fundraising events: Glass Fusion where we learned the art of making ornaments & the annual Fall Cooking Class.

"Drive-By Parade" for one of our very special Blue Star Sisters & her Veteran husband on Veterans Day!





*Thanksgiving is
a reminder
that together,
we can create a world
filled with
compassion and kindness*

INTREPIDSCOUT.COM

One of the best gifts you can
give someone is the gift of
thanking them for being a
part of your life!

Thank you!

Happy Thanksgiving!

"Thanksgiving is a time
to give, a time to love,
and a time to reflect on
the things that matter
most in life."

- Danielle Duckery -

