



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

August 2024

A message from our National President

Dear Sisters,

I would like to start by saying what an honor and privilege it is to be re-elected as your National President. I look forward to working with the new Executive Board and of course, serving all of you.

Convention week is always a whirlwind, but more so during a governing documents year. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support I have received from my family and especially my husband, Jeff. Although he was introduced to everyone during the banquet on Friday night, I failed to publicly thank him. He is a rock and his support for our organization and the roles in which I have had the honor to be, would have been very difficult without him.

For those who were unable to attend our 81st National Convention, or perhaps chose not to due to this being a governing documents year.....you missed a great convention! I can't say "THANK YOU" enough to our Governing Documents Committee and to the body for taking time to review everything and provide input prior to our convention, and for coming to the table ready to ask great questions and make friendly amendments. Your preparation made our review very smooth and time efficient! We loved the questions, and your interactions with each other on the floor were like no previous convention. That success was 100% the body – "THANK YOU"!!

The updated governing documents will be sent to our Attorney for review and will be posted on the website as soon as possible. The minutes review committee will be working diligently to get the draft 2024 Convention minutes up on the website in a timely fashion as well. Again, "THANK YOU" to this Committee. It is not easy capturing all of the information, especially during a governing documents year so I appreciate their willingness to accept this huge task!

While your part of the governing documents are behind us, we still have lots of work to get done. Let's pull together, team up with Sister Chapters, and work the mission!

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 help 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

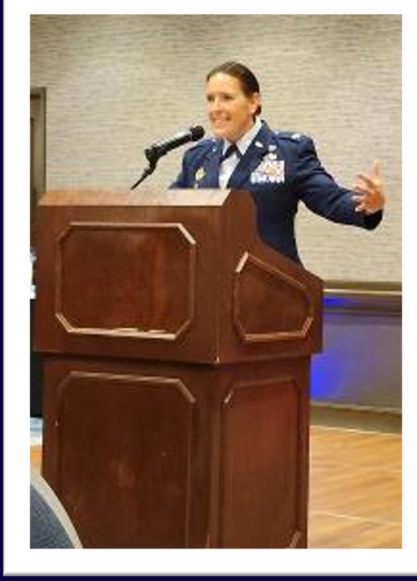
4th VP: Sonya Kay - IL
4vp@bluestarmothers.us

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

Financial Secretary: Carrie Beck - FL
finsec@bluestarmothers.us

Treasurer: Stacy Breithaupt - MI
treas@bluestarmothers.us

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Hello Everyone,

My name is Karen Stillwell. I am honored to be elected 1st Vice President for a second term. Like last year, my main duties will be handling membership, officer rosters, affiliation agreements and assisting the President. The prior two years I served as 2nd VP. My duties then were creating and producing a monthly newsletter and a yearly BSM Yearbook 2021-2023. This will be my seventh year serving on the National Board, including three years as the Department of Ohio President. I look forward to continuing my support of our mission as well as working with each of you. Thank you for giving me this opportunity!

I am a retired RN, working in the Neuro field early on. After marrying my devoted husband of almost 44 years, I began a career that combined my nursing skills and helping others with the challenges of working and running a small medical business. I retired a few years ago after 36 years of service in the health and wellness field. My husband and I share two wonderful children and three beautiful and amazing grandchildren. Our son, Lt Col. Ryan Stillwell gave me the honor and opportunity to be a Blue Star Mother and to work with all of you in this wonderful organization.

Like many of you, I have served at many levels of the Chapter and the Department Board positions. I quickly became involved in the sisterhood, helping our Military families, supporting the Gold Star families and fulfilling my passion to help the deployed and our Veterans. I encourage all of you to continue to pull together the strengths of your members to grow our organization. Together, we can accomplish more every year. Please feel free to reach out if I can help you in any way. Your NEB continues to support an open-door policy, welcoming your input, your questions and your willingness to learn and develop our organization into an even better support mechanism for all. I look forward to continuing to work with each and every one of you!

Karen Stillwell

National 1 st Vice President 2023-2025

1vp@bluestarmothers.us

614-893-1180



It was so nice seeing so many at the National Convention!

I joined Blue Star Mothers in 2009 just after my son's first deployment. I sure wish I had heard of BSM's sooner!

I am Karla Keller from MN 11 and I am so honored to have been re-elected as your National 2nd Vice President. I spent last year putting the monthly National Newsletters and National Yearbook together. I have enjoyed seeing what all of you have been doing all year. I am amazed at the work you all do and I am grateful you choose to share it with the other chapters.

I have three children and they all live close by. I live on the border of MN and WI by the beautiful St. Croix River. My oldest son is my Combat Army Veteran and he spent eight years serving his country. He was Active Duty, with two deployments to Iraq, deploying from Ft. Carson, Colorado. He spent his entire career at Ft. Carson and we really enjoyed visiting him and his brothers in arms there. He was with a core group of about 10 who deployed together both times and they were "my boys." They wanted "mom" to go everywhere with them, and I mean everywhere! Hahaha I love keeping up with them to this day and it has been 10 years since Brett was honorably discharged.

My middle child, Megan, is my only daughter and she has given me the greatest gifts. She and Derrian have given me these two cuties and I am so blessed to be their Nana.

My youngest Drew, married his High School sweetheart, Maddie, two years ago and I could not have chosen a more wonderful daughter in law, it just took him 13 years to make it happen.

Contact me with any questions you have and I can't wait to see what you accomplish this year!

Karla Keller

National 2VP

2vp@bluestarmothers.us

yearbook@bluestarmothers.us



As 3rd VP I am honored and humbled to be entrusted with the sacred job of taking care that our Military Service members who have made the most ultimate, caring sacrifice are forever remembered and that we show their families our utmost gratitude.

My name is Jacqueline Ransom and I am currently Past President and Chaplain of Department Michigan and Financial Secretary of chapter MI194. I have been a Blue Star Mothers member since 2014, although my son, Christopher enlisted in the Marine Corp 17 years before I knew about Blue Star Moms.

He is now retired and lives in Michigan (Yay!) running his business; Semper Fi Guns and Ammo. His business partner is a Marine and they employ 2 other Marines.

My wonderful daughter in law emigrated from Italy and became an American citizen in Okinawa. We tease her about that only occasionally...and we enjoy her cooking skills! They have 4 beautiful children.

My husband and I have been married 50 years and have 4 other children, all girls. We think they are the reason Christopher joined the Marines, anything to get away from all the skirts and hair spray! They are all married and between them have 5 more beautiful children.

I retired 5 years ago from working in the corporate office of a large mid-western superstore chain and yes, I am busier now than ever. In my spare time, I love my gardens, quilting, reading, restoring our 165-year-old home and spoiling my grandbabies.

Blessings to you all and looking forward to a great year of service to our Military and Veterans.

3vp@bluestarmothers.us



It is an honor to have been elected your National 4th Vice President, thank you for your confidence in me!

My name is Sonya Kay and I am part of IL6 in Chicagoland. My husband, Curt, and I have two daughters and one son, a daughter in love and a son in love, and one amazing granddaughter.

My first BSMA “why” is the tall guy toward the left in the photo, my Marine son. I joined BSMA as soon as I learned of it, within days of him earning his EGA.

My full “why” is our overall mission, which I embrace completely – supporting our troops, our Veterans, our Gold Star Families, and each other. The Sisterhood of our organization is a true blessing, to have so many who “get” it, who we can turn to, who will support us no matter what is truly amazing and something in which I am proud to be included. I have leaned on my Sisters more times than I can count and have supported them right back.

As your VP in charge of compliance, chartering new Chapters, and supporting struggling Chapters I am looking forward to working with many of you to make these things happen as smoothly as possible. If you have any questions, concerns, or are looking for information, please reach out to me.

I am happy to help!

Sonya Kay
National 4th Vice President
4VP@bluestarmothers.us



I am honored and grateful for your trust in re-electing me to serve as the Recording Secretary on the National Executive Board for another term. I deeply appreciate your confidence, and I am committed to fulfilling this role with dedication and integrity.

For those who may not be familiar with me, I am a proud follower of Christ. I am a devoted mother of three. My eldest son, who serves as a Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force, has honored me with the title of Blue Star Mother. My son and daughter-in-law have also blessed me with the joy of being a grandmother to our precious grandchild, Olivia. Additionally, I have two daughters who bring immense joy to my life; they work and reside nearby, allowing me to cherish our time together.

My husband and I reside in Geneva, Ohio, alongside our two beloved pets, Reagan and Harley. We are actively involved in supporting local veterans and take great pleasure in our shared passion for riding our Harley-Davidson motorcycles whenever possible.

Thank you once again for your continued support and trust. I look forward to serving you and contributing to our collective success in the coming term. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I am always happy to help.

Sincerely,

Amy Jo Hutchinson

National Recording Secretary- Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

Recsec@bluestarmothers.us



I am honored to have been elected to be your National Treasurer for 2024-2025.

A little about me...I am an Army Combat Veteran, an Army Combat Veterans spouse, and an Army mom. I have 4 children, 2 girls and 2 boys. Our oldest daughter, Maegan, is married to a soldier and is currently stationed in Germany. In November 2019 we lost our daughter Melissa, at just 20 years old, to what we believe to have been COVID. Our oldest son, Caleb, resides here in Michigan. Our youngest son and the baby of the family, Anthony, joined the Army in 2019.

I was in the Army from 1997 to 2006 as a healthcare provider. Once discharged I worked for the Department of Defense (DOD) while I earned my Bachelors in Business Administration with a minor in Accounting. I used my new knowledge to manage the DOD travel program. I then decided to try some different things so I managed hotels in Savannah, GA and did accounting for a busy realty/property management company outside Fort Stewart, GA. When I moved to North Carolina in 2017 I continued to manage a Marriott and then worked as a Store Manager for Dollar General, but eventually my love for the Military and Veterans took me back to work for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Greenville, NC in 2020. In November 2021 I retired from government service.

My deep-seated love and respect for our Military and Veterans is my why. Having a son in the Army is part of my why, but the health and welfare of your children are also my why. Since joining this organization I have met so many incredible women who pour their heart and soul into this mission we all share. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue to be of service in this new role! I look forward to working with you and beside you. Here's to an amazing year!

Stacy Breithaupt
National Treasurer

treas@bluestarmothers.us



My name is Carrie Beck and I am honored to serve as the National Financial Secretary for the 2024-2025 term.

My journey began in 2019 when my middle son enlisted in the Army, leading me to join BSMA. Since then, I have been on our chapter board upon chartering, serving as Treasurer for four years and as President for the past year, to which I am honored to be re-elected for the 2024-2025 year.

My grandfather served as a Marine in World War II, my son serves in the Army, and my youngest is married to a Navy Airman. As a mother of three, and a bonus son I am dedicated to those who serve, our military families, and veterans. I also serve as a lifetime associate member of our local VVA chapter and assist them as their secretary.

Professionally, I have over 11 years of experience in financial management, having previously worked in administration with a national real estate company and teaching for a decade. I currently manage a multi-million dollar business, combining my passion for finance and commitment to community service.

I am excited to collaborate with the NEB and the broader military community to advance the organizations mission. I look forward to getting to know everyone and making a difference together.

Carrie Beck

National Financial Secretary

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

finsec@bluestarmothers.us



IT'S RENEWAL TIME!!

Although our membership runs from September 1 through August 31, our renewal period begins June 1 each year. Within the next several weeks, you will be receiving an email with instructions to renew. For your convenience, we have noted several ways in which you can do this:

Option 1: Click the link provided in the email and pay online. **This is the easiest and quickest way to renew.** Once you submit your payment online, your profile is automatically updated with payment information and your expiration date will change to 08/31/2025. No waiting - done! **We do ask that you print your receipt and provide a copy to your Chapter for their records.**

Option 2: You may pay your Chapter and they can submit a Chapter Dues Renewal on your behalf. **This is also an easy way to renew your dues.** It will take a little longer than paying online by the time the Chapter and the National 1VP/National Financial Secretary process the renewal. Although this is done in a timely fashion, please remember, we have thousands of members renewing so things do slow down just a bit between June and August based upon how many choose this method of payment.

***Note to Chapters ~ please make sure your submissions are sent at least monthly.**

Option 3: Print the invoice and mail, along with your check, to the National Financial Secretary. While this is very much an option, it is the least recommended, simply for timing purposes. Once your invoice and payment make it through the mail to her PO Box, she then has to process, scan and email to the National 1VP. Please remember, both the National Financial Secretary and National 1VP are working very hard to get through all of their emails and processing procedures as quickly as possible. **So in a nutshell, this takes the longest to process.**

Renewal notices are automatically generated so you will receive one until your payment is posted and your profile is updated. If you choose option 2 or 3 above, please remember it takes longer to process and you may receive another renewal notice.

If you have **NEW** members joining, we highly recommend they join online. Again, this method is quicker; however, options 2 and 3 above are available as well.

Questions?? Please feel free to reach out to your National 1VP, I am happy to help you through the process.

Yours in Service,

Karen Stillwell

National 1VP, 1vp@bluestarmothers.us



treering



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PURCHASE THE BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA YEARBOOK! 2023-2024

Customize Your 2 Free Pages

Add photos from your computer, Facebook, Instagram, Google Drive & more.

Answer fun Memory Questions to help remember the year.

The 2 Custom Pages are FREE and are printed ONLY in your book. Want more pages? Each additional 2 pages is just \$0.99.

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Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

1 Go to: www.treering.com/validate

2 Enter your school's passcode:

101416260317183

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From the desk of

Anne Parker, VAVS Representative

The VAVS Team and all our wonderful convention volunteers would love to thank everyone who sent in the 1000 sweatpants for the Oklahoma VA. It was a labor of love to sort the pants, and pack and see the joy on the VA Chief's face.



We are excited for next year to see what the next donation will be!

Many thanks,

Anne Parker, Doreen Berggren, Carol Sanchez and all who helped.

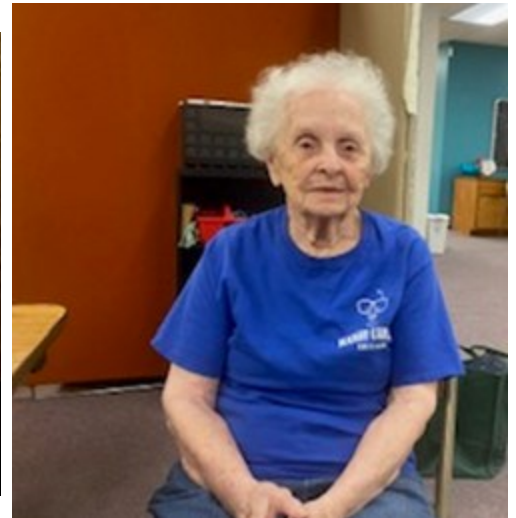
VAVS In Action

The **43rd National Veterans Wheelchair Games** were held in New Orleans in July! We had 18 volunteers assisting our veterans through the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Healthcare system CDCE office on multiple days and in multiple areas and events from wayfinding at the airport, assisting with durable medical equipment at hotels to swimming, bass fishing, 9-ball and archery. The veterans we encountered were nothing short of amazing! Our volunteers logged 100 hours of service to our veterans!



VAVS

In Action



Mary Lou Anderson, who we affectionately refer to as “The Pillow Lady” grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and is a Cubs fan.

She started by making pillowcases because of an article she read in the paper. At that time one of the airlines were donating the pillows, and the group she started sewing with just needed pillowcases.

When she moved to Minnesota, she hooked up with a quilt group at Our Saviors Lutheran Church. She started making the pillows and pillowcases and donating them to Soldiers Angels who shipped them to Landstuhl hospital in Germany for her and quilts for the quilt group. The medics had requested this particular size because they fit well in the medivac transports from the war zones of Afghanistan and Iraq.

When Soldiers Angels stopped shipping the pillows and quilts for them, they had to find different outlets to get them to veterans. Minnesota North Metro Blue Star Mothers (MN7) is helping her put the pillows in the hands of veterans who need them. (They have handed them out at Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans Summer Salute and Home for the Holidays, donated some to the St. Cloud Standdown also.)

Mary Lou’s husband was in the Merchant Marines, her uncle was a POW during WWII and did return home, her son-in-law was in Vietnam and died at the young age of 40. She feels this is a small way to repay her heroes.

Mary Lou has just turned 92 and said she is slowing down. She only makes 15 pillows a week now instead of 20. Her friends Darlene Sandbakken and Charlene Behne help to stuff the pillows now and sew them closed.

She had made about 10,000 pillows now that have all gone to actively serving military personnel or veterans.





Calling all Chapters that have not applied for a Chapter Grant in the last two years!



We are closing out the current fiscal year with 8 grant slots still open ~ that's \$250 each that could assist an existing chapter with operational, program, or event fund-raising costs. We have the money in the national budget and chapters exist as our organization's "boots on the ground" to carry out our mission. Please look to see if your chapter couldn't use an extra \$250 to assist with a veteran or service related project. The application is included in this newsletter and on the BSMA website through the Financial quick-link.

If your grant is received and approved prior to August 31st, it will come out of FYE 08/31/2024 funds. If not received in an adequate time frame for processing, your grant will be included in the FYE 08/31/2025 grant allocations.

Email completed applications to: FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us



Chapter Grant Program Summary (Annual maximum set by Approved Budget)



- Eligibility:** New and Existing chapters.
- Amount:** \$250 grant.
- Purpose:** Assist in offsetting chapter start-up expenses, or upcoming program/event or operational expenses.
- Frequency:** May apply/receive a grant only once every two fiscal years.
- Requirements:**
- 1) Complete and submit Grant Application to Finance Committee (via FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us).
 - 2) If awarded, provide a report and pictures documenting the use of the grant funds (for other than start-up expenses.) **NOTE: Use of grant funds must match the purpose described in the application.**



APPLICATION FOR BSMA CHAPTER GRANT PROGRAM

Chapter Name, State and Number _____

Chapter Address _____

Chapter President _____

Chapter President Phone Number _____

Chapter President Email _____

Check One: New Chapter Existing Chapter

REASON FOR GRANT – Please be specific – i.e. chapter start-up, coats for veterans.

This application is to be submitted to the Chairman of the Finance Committee for approval.

FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us

EMAIL

Upon approval, a check will be forwarded to the address listed above.

Other than chapter start-up grant, please furnish a picture and short report to the Finance Chairman at FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us **upon completion of your grant project.**

For Finance Committee Use Only:

Approval Date: _____

Date Check Sent: _____

Date Pictures Received: _____

From our Friends at ShipThrifty



Transform Challenges into Opportunities: Unlock Nonprofit Growth with 501TechStack

Are you relying solely on social media to connect with donors and volunteers, while your web presence is non-existent or outdated and neglected? It's time to rethink your strategy. Without a dynamic and professional online presence, your nonprofit is missing out on vital opportunities for growth and deeper engagement.

Reevaluate Your Approach

What if there was a way to transform these challenges into growth opportunities? 501TechStack is not just another platform—it's your all-in-one solution designed to streamline every aspect of your nonprofit's online presence. Imagine effortlessly boosting revenue, engaging more volunteers, and showcasing your impact without needing technical skills or incurring high costs.

The Hidden Costs of Inefficiency

Are you still dealing with multiple tools and manual processes? The risk of decreased donations, lost volunteer opportunities, and a fragmented online presence could be holding back your organization's growth. The frustration of not having a cohesive and efficient system is more than just an inconvenience—it's a barrier to your mission.

Ready for a Transformation?

Join us for an exclusive webinar where we'll show you how 501TechStack can help you:

- **Increase Revenue:** Effortlessly collect donations, run fundraising campaigns, and sell merchandise.
- **Engage Volunteers:** Seamlessly post events and allow easy volunteer sign-up.
- **Enhance Your Online Presence:** Present a polished, professional image and automate tasks like payment processing and thank-you notes.

Don't Settle for Less—Transform Your Nonprofit Today

Discover how 501TechStack can revolutionize your nonprofit's operations and amplify your impact.

<https://youtu.be/9cecOFT0Gvc>

Think You Know Everything About Shipping Care Packages? Think Again.

Shipping care packages to deployed troops is crucial, but are you truly optimizing the process? If you're still manually creating labels, juggling spreadsheets, and making frequent post office trips, you might be missing out on a smarter, more efficient way.

Challenge Your Assumptions

What if there's a better way? ShipThrifty isn't just another tool—it's a game-changer. Our platform simplifies label creation, cuts costs by up to \$8 per box, and eliminates the need for cumbersome manual label creation and tracking. Plus, you can schedule free pickups to save even more time.

Are You Ready to Rethink Your Approach?

Think you're up-to-date with USPS rules? The risk of lost packages, delays, and nonrefundable returns from outdated practices could be costing you more than you realize. Our webinar will challenge what you know about care package shipping and show you how ShipThrifty can reduce errors, ensure compliance, and streamline your process so you can focus on supporting our troops and your mission.

Don't Settle for the Status Quo—Register Today

Join us to explore how you can elevate your shipping strategy, avoid costly mistakes, and make a bigger impact with less effort.

<https://youtu.be/-ZnbYFwYwH0>

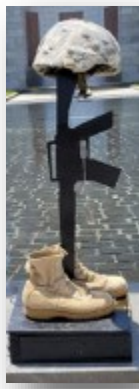


BSMA Limited-Time Offer

Signup by **Sept 30, 2024** and save \$100 every year!

Annual Subscription
\$249

Use Code: BSMA100



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.

We started this addition to the newsletter beginning with all the Veterans who passed in Fiscal Year 2023-2024, each newsletter from now on will be those from the previous month.

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

Kurt Anthony Westrich
Roderick A Gonzales
Zachary Ryan Nickell
John Lee Jenkins/Air NG

Army

Adam Filo Suapaia, Jr.
Alan Davis
Albert Levi Plummer
Albert Reardon Jr
Allen Franklin Rossow
Allen J La Bissoniere
Alphonso Richards Johnson
Andrew J Adams
Angus L White
Aniceto Guzman
Anthony Corona
Anthony Piotr Kaminski
Antonio Ramone Ramirez
Arthur G. Dague
Aubrey "Al" Lafferty
August H. Roemer
Barney Ray Mecom
Billy Eugene Davidson
Billy Mitchell Jr
Billy Turner
Bobby Earl Mayberry
Bobby Joe Cline
Boyce D McKinney
Bradley Gruetzner
Bruce Allan Reynolds
Buford Thaddeaus Mahone
Cameron Vaughn Amuso
Carlos Pineda
Carroll Ray Johnson
Cecil Roy Arnett
Charles Delph
Charles Douglas Otterstatter
Charles Eugene Nichols
Charles Kilgore
Charles L Frazier, Jr
Charles L Spencer
Charles Pelkey
Charles Willey Washington
Christopher M Thomas
Clyde Smith
Connie Lee Bridge
Daniel Allen Wall
Daniel Faulkner
Daniel Speaks Sr
Daren L. Gilliam
Darlene Ann Brown
Darrel Ferreira

David C Eberhart
David E. Hensley
David John Rumney
David Lee Blanton
David LeRoy Lesser
David Neal Brown
David R. Torrez
David Schall
David Shane Jordan
Deborah Boyd
Delores E. Rowan
Dennis E. Cox
Dennis Jazel Long
Devyn Alan Trampe
Dewey Eugene Dubose
Donald B Sharp
Donald Perrine, Sr
Dwight R. Richardson
Earl Hubert McKinney
Edward George Miller
Edward L Bolin Sr
Edward T. Robinson
Edward Truman Edwards
Eric Glenn Pinner
Ernest Medina
Erwin Carl Werner
Escolastico B Griego, Jr.
Faron Lee Key
Felimon C. Carrillo
Floyd LeRoy Trimmer
Frank Forbes, Jr.
Frank R Ganschinietz
Franklin Junker
Fred A. Stecher
Frederick Barnett
Fredrick Davies
Gabriel Damian
Garry L Lyon
Gary Lee Millar
George Benedict Krautbauer
George Burdette Hillyer
George Burke
Gerald Floyd Harmon
Gerald Murran
Glenn Mulchrone
Gordon Colbert
Gregory Lynn Lewis
Hamilton R. Hogan
Harold A. Schafer
Harry McCandless
Henry "Allen" Minyard
Henry I Tousignant
Herbert S. Thomas

Hubert Clyde Schexnayder
Ignatius James Giganti
Inez Davis
James Annable
James Delbert Hall
James H Flebbe
James L. Saffran
James M. Fowler
James Richard Boyd
James Szepelek
Jeffery Freeland
Jeffrey Dale Simon
Jerry Lee Fraser
Jimmie D Rubarts
Jimmie Taylor Jr.
Jimmy Ray Sampley
John Edward Overcast III
John Henry O'Bryant
John Hossenlopp
John Leroy Dulaney
John R Arnold
John R Bueno
John R Trombino
John Raymond Wells Sr
John William Lorenz
Johnny Lee Cox
Johnny T Rowe
Jonathan Bragg Sunkees
Jose "Joe" LeDesma Jr
Joseph A. Wotchko
Joseph Foppe
Joseph R Cissell
Joseph W. Plucinski
Joshua Jimenez
Joshua Motta
Juan Jose Leza
Juan P Arvizo
Junius Woodrow Loving
Kenneth C. Evans
Kevin Mark Grant
Larry Eugene Baines
Larry J Lambdin
Larry Wade Adams
Lawrence Dey Scutt
Lawrence Eugene Bragg
Lawrence Landry
Lee Roy Mose
Leo R. Caraveo
Leroy George Burnham
Leroy Johnson
Leroy Jones Sr.
Leslie W Prather
Lillian D. Winbourne Lucas

Logan M. Burnett
Loren Neilson
Luis Fernando Ruiz-Perez
Lyle Gilbert
Marcos Rodriguez
Mariano Legarretta
Mark A. Preble
Mark Christopher Cocco
Mark L. Hutton
Marvin Larry Cook
Maurice Lauderdale
Michael "Mike" Earl
McCauley
Michael Belton
Michael D Brown
Michael D. Grace
Michael E Hart
Michael Farver
Michael Keith Darr
Michael Rolston
Milton Uliss Terry
Mose E Vance
Nancy J Eckert
Ovidio J Romero
Panfilo "Paul" Martinez Jr.
Paul Ernest Mock
Paul Eugene Lewey Jr
Paul Russell Terveer
Pavel Grepl
Peter L. Ziebell
Ralph Zuccarelli
Ramiro Gonzalez
Ray Anthony Waiters Jr.
Raymond Leslie Long
Rayshawn Thomas
Reyes Olona
Richard "Corky" Linder
Richard Ayers Sullivan
Richard D. Veighey
Richard Henry Miller
Richard L Perkins
Richard O Brumfield
Richard Ray Estes
Richard RTO Curtis
Rick Ellis
Robert "Bob" Lee Thomas
Robert Allen Buckley
Robert D. Jackson, Jr.
Robert Daniel Keys
Robert Daniel Pate
Robert Earl Yarbrough
Robert H Maurer
Robert Pfeiffer

Robert Pinion
Robert Smith Jr.
Robert Thomas Hafler
Rodney Stafford Barilleaux
Roger M Cook
Roland O. "Pat" Patterson
Ronald Henry Schilling
Ronald Tittle
Ronald Walter Ficzo
Roy Cooper
Ruben Caldera
Rudy B. Perez
Rudy Luna Moreno
Russell A. Baker
Russell Dumka
Russell E. Wallace
Samuel Lawrence Ashford
Samuel Lee Woodell
Sean Eric Wilson
Shawn L. Mills
Shelton Wayne Alsup
Steven Ray Thompson
Thomas (Tom) Muirhead
Thomas E Robertson
Thurston L. Bybee
Timothy P. Anderson
Vicky Gyweston Travis
Victor F. Kyatt
Walter W. Hammerschmidt
Wayne Thomas "Tom"
Walker
Wesley L Morton
William Henry White
William J. Grundy
William John Kurek
William Moxley
William Robert Southall
William S. Killgore
William Snodgrass
Willie Bankston
Oliver Albert Hamilton/Air Force
Roy B Forrester/Air Force
William Kelley McCutchan/
Marine
Billy Fletcher/Navy
Navy
Add "Hump" Monroe Lancaster
Albert Frederick Dickerson
Anthony Eric Rothenfluch
Bernard Thomas O'Neill Jr.
Bertha Lee Milhouse

Briana Navarreto
Bruce Voges
Charles "Ben" Basye
Clyde Eugene Jackson, Sr.
Dale E. Walters
David Earl McDowell
David J McQuay
David Patrick Wills
David Wayne Denham
David Weintraub
Derry Thomas Young
Dhyan Latrell Spencer
Donald H Jarvis
Donald Lee Gray
Early A. Woods
Edward John Boutin
Ellery Earle Cadiz
Ellis James Stocks
Ernesto Nunez
Francis Rozin
Frederick Frank Porcace
Gabriella P Quintana
Gary Bert Lambert
Gaylon Dale Littleton
George Gales
George T Barrett
Gerald P. Anderson
Gerard "Gerry" Molineaux
Gilbert Hughes
Harland Wesley Peaslee
Harold Edward Stafford
Henry Ferree Miller III
Howard L. Beardsley
Howard Robert Wood
Jack Lurlyn Walters
James Kammeyer Sr.
James Stockton
James Sylvester Popke
Jarvis Malik McIntire
Jimmie Dean Parham
John D Connell
John Wesley "Buck" Harrell
Joseph Carel Rouse
Joseph J Hilgers
Joseph P Vescovo
Kenny Paul Bradley
Larry L Spencer
Lawrence Allen Northrup
Leo B Mullarkey
Lester Oliver Prue, Jr
Louis P Pechon Jr
Mark David Christian



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.

We started this addition to the newsletter beginning with all the Veterans who passed in Fiscal Year 2023-2024, each newsletter from now on will be those from the previous month.

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.

Navy continued

Melvin Wayne Kuykendall
Merion Douglas White
Michael E. Arledge
Michael James Saunders
Michael Story
Miguel Antonio Moreno
Monte J. Davies
Nick L Morris
Phillip R Lujan
Phillip Reagan
Ralph Clarke
Ralph D. Moss
Randy C. Agnew
Raymond Godin
Richard A Viscarra, Jr.
Richard Joseph James
Richard Lane Weston
Robert A Armstrong
Robert Charles Snyder
Robert Harry "Bob" Ferguson
Robert James Fowler Sr
Robert Mark Smith
Robert Riley
Robert Scott Finley
Ronald Dale Underwood
Ronald Dean Coen
Ronald DeGenaro
Ronald Victor Lundy
Sandy Marie Harnish Reyes
Stanley Wayne Laird
Steven Gene Connor
Terry Heller
Thomas Jerry Hopkins
Thomas W. Faber
Timothy Michael Uecker
Vincent Paul Lunsford
Wayne D Perry
Wilbert D. Sackman
Wilbur "Willie" Schoff
William F. Gleason
William Ferrell Forsyth Jr.
William Vincent Johnson
James Thomas Waller, Jr./
Army Nat Guard
Golda Faye Fabian/Coast
Guard
Joseph John Vitkovich/Coast
Guard
Thomas Daniel Gelwicks SR/
Coast Guard

Marine Corp

Alekzander "Alek" Wayne
Love
Anthony E Arnold
Bert Louis Mestel
Bobby Britt
Bobby Spooner
Brian Darling
Cedric Allison Jordan
Charles Dean Gabbard
Charles Edward Bonney
Charles Michael Tucker
Daniel D Vines
David Eric Allred
David Grigsby
David J Fink
Dennis P McKinsey
Edward Magers
Florival Archibeque
Floyd Odell Baccus
Frank Fred Jost, Jr
Freddy Santiago
Gordan Stuart Peryam
Gregory P Todd
Henry "Hank" Randall
Baskett Jr.
Herbert Anthony McDonnell
James M Lyons III
James McKinley Wright
James Oscar Mullins
James R. Moore
James Robert Brandon
James Thomas Turner
Jason Cummings
Jerry Lynn Newkirk
John A. Klein
John Barron
John David Bunch Jr
John P. Hartman
John Stewart Barron
John W. Woodard
Joneita Howard Carroll
Joseph William Gavis
Joseph William Oros
Karl William Weissert
Kenneth Aldridge
Kevin Wayne Justice
Lawrence C. Green III
Loy Whitely, Jr.
Margarito Valenzuela
Salazar
Mark Allen Busken
Michael R. Sandberg

Myron Douglas Doug Bass,
Jr.
Orace Leon Edwards
Peter M Srmetta Sr.
Philip S. Scholle
Phillip Cosmo "Mo"
Capriglione
Raymond March
Robert L. Long, Sr.
Robert Punch
Stanley "Gino" Eugene
Harpold III
Stanley Wagner Scott
Terry James Chancellor
Thomas Fela
Thomas Lyle Loy
Thurman Wesley Roland III
Timothy Gray
Timothy Paul Dobos
William "Bill" Phillips
William Allen Foreman
William Lester Glenn Jr
William R. Humphrey
Frank Baxter/Air Force
Jimmy Allen Carrigan/Air NG
Jimmy Mears/Air NG
Brian James Gilmore/Army

Coast Guard

Franklin Clarence Burke Jr
Jack Miller
James F. Phillips
Ken Wilkins
Oscar Barreda Sr

Air Force

Alva K Cooper
Alvin G. Neugebauer
Archer Ben Harrison
Art Harbolt
Billy Daniel Holcombe Sr.
Dale Wagner
David Edward Olden
David Glenn Rudolph
Donna Jill De Hoyos
Edward J. Burns, Jr.
Edwin Audorff
Elward Alonzo Sallis
Esther Willie Morgan
Evelyn Faye Williams
Francisco Cuevas
Garner "G.L." Lathan
Crocker
Gerald Bracken

Gilberto Manso-Y-Jimenez
Glenn Milton Brooks
Gordon Bacon
Harold L. Fidler
Henry Bernard Schuck
Hugh Franklin Davis
James J Ramey
Jean B McLay
Joe B. Berry
John F Windsor Jr
John F. Ratliff
John Francis Reardanz
John R Leisenring
Joseph Anthony Huesman
Joseph R Pelkey
Joyce L. Kelly
Katherine M Malapanes
Kenneth Cordier
Kevin Colgan
Kieth Burns
Mack Craig
Mariesa Ann Raymer
Marlan Dinwiddie
Michael Marlow
Michael Terry Potter
Nathaniel Glover
Neal Harvey Godwin
Paul Ashman
Paul Nedlose Sr.
Ralph W Reynolds Jr
Raymond Anthony Gonzales
Raymond Wilsey
Raynold G. Maez
Richard Arnold Moore
Richard E. Beebe
Richard H. "Dick" Slye
Ricky John Willis
Robert B McGraham
Robert Ben Toretta
Robert Gene McQuery
Robert M McKiernan
Robert Milton Platt
Robert Norman Burden
Robert W. Grier Sr.
Rodney Brown Maxwell
Ronald Albert Spielman
Ronnie Ray McMillian
Roy J. Spencer
Ruby Ross Hutchison
Sabrina Daphne Catlin
Stephen G. Morgan
Terry Payne
Theodore Ivey

Thomas Kelly
Thomas N. Wilkes
Thurman Adolphus Ross, Sr.
Wade Martin Ramie
Walter A. Bielik
Walter Brashear
Walter L. Watkins, Jr.
William Arthur Crandall
William Fred Kammerer
William L Lynn

Womens Air Corps

Jeanette Ide

Unknown Branch of Service

Edward L. Dilver

Blue Daisies



Betty Myers OH 21

These Blue Daisies will be missed by their families, friends and Blue Star Sisters. We hold them in our thoughts and prayers. Laurie was a poet and one of her poems is at the end of this newsletter.



Laurie Skogman Mandery MN 13



Stella Huso MN 13 Blue and Gold Star Mother
105 Years Young

Chesapeake Blue Star Mothers

MD 3



July 4, 2024 Our chapter got a spotlight on Fox 45 Morning TV News.

We got a surprise donation of \$2200 from Eastern's Automotive.

[Giving A Lift: Blue Star Mothers of America - Easterns Automotive](#)



July 17, 2024 another spotlight on the radio stations WFMD and WFRE radio.

Chapter President Christeanna Levesque & Vice President Nicole Kelly were present at both media events.

Highlighted why Blue Star Mothers is so important to us.

In addition, how to find our chapter & to be involved.

Neither of us are great public speakers, but we did it!



Department of Minnesota



July 19th Mary Johnson MN7 and Dept 3VP and Karla Keller MN11 met with some MN National Guard CAO trainees to discuss how we can work together to support the families of our fallen at one of the most difficult times of their lives. This was the third time Mary has spoken with different CAO trainees explaining the role of the Blue



We had a great time at Convention too!



Blue Star Mothers of Northern Virginia VA5

Walk to Remember...If These Boots Could Talk



VA-5 participated in the Walk to Remember...If These Boots Could Talk. Not all members could meet up so many participated virtually. Some met at Arlington National Cemetery, some walked at parks near their homes, some during vacations. They walked wherever they happened to be.

Military Appreciation Night



In July, the VA-5 Chapter was the sponsored charity for Military Appreciation Night hosted at the Old Brogue restaurant to help us raise funds. The chapter gave a presentation about the work that the Blue Star Mothers do and showed an example of a care package that is sent to deployed troops. We also made baskets and donated items that were also auctioned off.



OUR RIM BLUE STAR MOMS HELD 2 HOMETOWN HERO INSTALLATION DAYS IN AUGUST. WE HAD BEEN TRYING ALL YEAR TO HANG ABOUT 7 NEW BANNERS. WE HAD TO BRING DOWN 14 RETIRED, SEPARATED FROM DUTY, OR DAMAGED BANNERS NEEDING REPLACEMENT. JOSH SNYDER AND DERRICK HILL OF BIG TOP TREE SERVICE MADE MANY MOMS SO HAPPY THAT THEIR BANNERS WERE FINALLY INSTALLED. THEY DESERVE A HUGE SHOUT-OUT IN OUR COMMUNITY! THEY WERE SO SUPPORTIVE! IN ADDITION, WE MARCHED IN THE MOUNTAIN TOP DAYS PARADE IN RUNNING SPRINGS ON AUGUST 2ND.



Blue Star Mothers HOME CA30

In June CA30 was recognized with the Community Service of the Year Award by the Western Riverside Council of Governments. This is an honor that the board was grateful to receive on behalf of the chapter.



We marched in the 4th of July parade for the 9th year in a row. Many Gold Star Families joined us and received a standing ovation along the entire parade route. Eight moms participated in the "If These Boots Could Talk" Warriors For Freedom 5K fundraiser. We began at the American Legion, stopped halfway at the Memorial for the Fallen 13 of 8-26-21, and completed the walk at the Gold Star Family Memorial.





Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers



NM2 CELEBRATING THE MISSION 2004 – 2024
20TH ANNIVERSARY
CHARTERED 30 AUGUST 2024



FOUNDING BSMS –
CAROLYN DONNELL
& CHERYL SWARTZ

CELEBRATE!

NEW MEXICO
VETERANS
MEMORIAL PARK



SATURDAY, JULY 27,
2024



VIDEO &
MUSIC
PROVIDED
BY RUTH
HARRIS,
BSM



THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING
WITH US! RGV NM2



ORGANIZER
FOR 20TH
ANNIVERSARY
ROSEMARY
FREELIN,
BSM



GUEST
SPEAKERS
COL. TYLER
DONNELL
US ARMY &
MS.
RACHEL
DONAVAN,
BSM





TN4 was able to do a very successful motorcycle run fundraiser. A 4th of July family BBQ was enjoyed by all.



Department of Ohio



The Department of Ohio was well represented at the 2024 BSMA National Convention held in Oklahoma City. This was a governing documents year and all those present knew that "Ohio was in the house." Our delegates did a phenomenal job working with the rest of the convention body in developing and updating those documents that keep our organization efficient and effective.



The three State Department Presidents:
Dept of Minnesota Jen Pecarina, Dept of Ohio Lynn Feldman, Dept of Michigan Trudy Wysocki

Big Dipper Fun Night



A night of fun and fund raising. OH3 as the "Blue Star Pink Ladies"



Welcome to our new "Honorary Ohioans" Past President Pat Soler and Past National 4VP Brenda Ternullo



Department of Ohio State Convention
October 4,5,6
at

Nationwide Conference and Convention Center
Lewis Center (Columbus), Ohio

If interested in more information, email
president.deptohio@bluestarmothers.us

Department President Lynn Feldman partnered with OH9 President Diana Vance who attended a presentation at the National Veterans Memorial Museum by Adaptive Sports Connection/Warrior Sports for Veterans. The next day was a family day full of fun and activities for Veterans and families. Organizations that provide support for Veterans were invited to be a part of the "Vendors Village".

CARE PACKAGES

Of the 172 care packages packed and mailed by Blue Star Mothers NY8 and friends on Saturday, June 22nd, 15 were sent to the American Red Cross Service Station in Poland. A note from the Red Cross staff person, Darla Roote, deployed to Poland, is below and included is a picture of the service members with the care packages.



Thank you so much for all 15 of the care packages. To see Wilson Beef Farms in the mix was wonderful. I love their snack sticks and have promoted them to all the soldiers. We are very grateful for all of the love that went into sending so much to us. Some of the soldiers are getting ready to go on a 100 mile, 4 day ruck march and are so glad to have the snacks available to them. Here are a couple of pictures that were taken with the first boxes that we received. Again, I/we cannot thank you enough.





Southwestern Pennsylvania

Chapter PA16

- Attended: National Convention
- Volunteered: Vintage Baseball Game benefiting Butler VA. Handed out items to Veterans. Spoke on air at event with local radio station.
- Participated: 5K Memorial Walk/Run benefiting the Jason M. West ROTC Memorial Scholarship
- Hosted: 12 Community partners as special dinner guests
- Volunteered: Veterans Appreciation Day - Abie Abraham VA Clinic
- Volunteered: VetPets fundraiser
- Donated: Food and dry goods to Veterans Leadership Program thru Vet Net
- Volunteered: Legacies Alive Gold Star Reunion and Picnic
- Participated: 4th of July parade
- Attended patriotic movie: Something to Stand For



MN 11

St Paul Blue Star Mothers

The St Paul Blue Star Mothers were represented at the 81st National Convention of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. by Karla Keller, Debbie Zenner and Denise Guerra. We are proud to share that Karla Keller was re-elected as National 2nd VP.



LOUISIANA GEAUX SEVEN CHAPTER

JULY 2024

Several of our members attended the 1st Red, Rock and Boom Celebration that was held by our mayor's office in the City of Central for July 4TH



Some of our members participating in the 2024 "Miles for our Veterans" fund raiser by sharing their walk together!



Our Moms volunteered in the 2024 National Wheelchair Games held in New Orleans this month – they greeted the veterans at the airport and helped assist them in the fishing, corn hole and pool tournaments. Last but not least, our members pictured with Louisiana Chapter 1 members representing us proudly at the 2024 Blue Star Mothers Convention. .

TREASURE COAST BLUE STAR MOTHERS, FL11



Had a great fellowship day with several members of the Treasure Coast Blue Star Mothers. Just a fun day spending time at Kennedy Space Center hanging out and supporting one another.



YELLOW ROSE - TX20

August 2024



BSMA Yellow Rose TX20



We shared with the community about BSMA, we partnered with the City of Frisco to write letters and color pages to send to active duty service members and we survived the 100 degree temperatures!

Check out our new website!

Click Graphic



TX20 Fundraiser at Portillo's



♥ YELLOW ROSE IN ACTION ♥

July Events

- Chapter Meeting - July 2
- Frisco Freedom Fest - July 4
- Marine Corps League of Collin County Meeting - July 17
- Chapter Fundraiser at Portillos in The Colony - July 25
- National Convention in OK - July 28-Aug 2

August Events

- Chapter Meeting - August 6
- Frisco Mayor's Purple Heart Event - August 7
- Little Elm's Veterans Committee Social - August 8
- Chapter Pool Party and BBQ - August 25
- Frisco Veterans Advisory Committee - August 26



Frisco's Purple Heart Event was so special. Thank you Frisco Veterans Advisory Committee for recognizing these heroic recipients.



TX20 & TX6 attended the Collin County Marine Corps Leagues monthly meeting. What a fantastic opportunity to gather for fellowship and share information about our organizations.

Our First National BSMA Convention!



Blue Star Mothers of America Louisiana 1

News from the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women
August 2024



RED ROCK AND BLUE – JULY 27-28

LA1 served concessions and worked the gate for the 30th annual Red Rock and Blue softball tournament, our largest fundraiser of the year!

LA1 appreciates the help from the community for a successful Red Rock and Blue. The Cajun Cooks made jambalaya for the concession stand. The Combat Vets LA 6-8 kept us supplied with hamburgers and hot dogs. Baton Rouge Magnet High School Key Club also provided volunteer support!

We are thankful that Jacques Doucet and Iris Malveaux continue to support Blue Star Mothers with this event.



NATIONAL CONVENTION 2024

Karen Byrd, Dora Sanford, Sunn Senft, Denise Singleton and Natalie Truax represented LA1 as delegates at the 81st annual National Convention of the Blue Star Mothers of America.

Karen Byrd and Dora Sanford were recognized for attending their first convention. Denise Singleton

participated in the opening Memorial Service. Sunny Senft received recognition as a VAVS volunteer representative.

LA1 had a wonderful convention making connections with our Blue Star Mother sisters across the nation and sharing ideas to honor our active duty, veterans and Gold Star heroes.





NIGHT OUT AT FREEDOM FARM



CHAPTER 2 AT NATIONAL CONVENTION



OHIO BLUE STAR MOTHER DAY
PICNIC



A LITTLE RAIN DIDN'T STOP US FROM HONORING
OUR VETERANS AT THE AKRON VA CLINIC


Stars and Stripes
OH2

Four Corners Blue Star Mother's NM1

While our officers were representing us at the National Convention the chapter members supported the Wounded Warrior Extreme Adventure.



Welcomed warriors to town



Warriors escorted by Blue Star Mother's to throw 1st pitch at championship game of Connie Mack World Series



Working our County Fair booth



A plaque was presented for our years of support

Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley, AZ4



Three of our chapter sisters attended convention! Theresa, Michelle and Sue



There was time to collaborate, share ideas and listen to amazing stories. Connections were made and friendships were forged.

In between all the work there was time for some fun! This fun picture was taken during the Ship-Thrift presentation. Travels to the convention location were also interesting- they encountered hail, storms, blue skies, and gorgeous scenery along the way!



Closing ceremonies of Convention. We will see some changes in the near future. Thank you for serving Blue Star Moms so well!

Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley AZ4

July/August 2024 Events

30 boxes were packed and shipped in July. Another packing party is planned for August. Our chapter is currently supporting hundreds of troops overseas.

AZ4 received a beautiful Certificate of Appreciation which was awarded to our chapter by the 198th Regional Support Group.

"Rounding Up Blue Star Mothers" 81st Convention Recap

Several Blue Star sisters attended convention this year in Oklahoma. Our chapter surprised our President Theresa with a very special nomination for the "Shining Star" award!



The convention was full of amazing stories, connecting with friends, and getting important business done. The sisters did a side-bar trip and stopped by New Mexico chapter NM2 to help them celebrate their 20th Anniversary! This is a chapter that our President Theresa has mentored through the years. While at convention, members participated in the 5K walk for "Miles For Our Veterans, If These Boots Could Talk". Over \$10,000 was raised for Warriors For Freedom!

IOWA★STAR

News from Blue Star Mothers of America, Iowa Chapter #1

www.bluestarmothersofiowa.com

SUMMER 2024

bluestarmothersia1@gmail.com

Blue Star Mothers of Iowa Sponsor Quilts of Valor

In February, our chapter committed to sponsoring eight Quilts of Valor. To date, six quilts have been awarded. Recipients of the first four quilts were featured in the March/April issue.

George Vebsky is the recipient of the fifth quilt. He enlisted in the United States Army in May of 1968. His MOS was 67E10, Helicopter Mechanic.



George deployed to Vietnam in December of 1968 and landed at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. He was going to be assigned as a crew chief on a helicopter but was sent back stateside due to an eye condition. Subsequent duty assignments included clerk typist, finance clerk, and official courier for military records.

Following his honorable discharge at the rank of Specialist 5th Class in May of 1971, George joined the Army Reserves and was trained for Biomedical Equipment Repair. Following this, George was with the 325th Reserves in Kansas City. His final Army Reserve location was the 73rd Combat Support Hospital in Cedar Rapids. He retired from the Army Reserves with the rank of Sergeant.



Brent West is the recipient of the sixth quilt.

Brent enlisted in the United States Army in 2008. His MOS was 25U, Signal Support Systems Specialist. Brent was assigned to the 4th Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington, where he became a member of the Calvary Scouts in the 2nd Squadron of the 1st Calvary Regiment.

In September of 2009, Brent deployed to Iraq. While assigned to Headquarters Troop, he was responsible for combat operations and radio communication.

In 2012, he deployed to Afghanistan as part of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Calvary Regiment ARO Troops. In 2013, he returned to the United States and was discharged from the regular Army with the rank of Corporal. Brent joined the Army National Guard in 2013 and served until 2016. His last duty location was Ottumwa with the 833rd Engineer Battalion. His ending rank then was Sergeant.

*George and Brent, we hope these beautiful quilts bring you much comfort.
We will always be grateful for your service to our country.*

Summer Service Project

Thanks to all who participated in our care package prep in July. We assembled over 500 dryer and washer sheet baggies to be included in our care packages. Great work, Moms!



Welcome New Members!

Lisa Buck, Jackie Henning Krpan,
and **Holly Johnson Nokes**

Mark Your Calendars

Fallen 13 Heroes Remembrance Walk

Monday, August 26, 5:30 p.m.

Grays Lake Park

Join us to walk 1.3 miles in remembrance of the 13 Service Members who tragically lost their lives in the attack at Abbey Gate in Kabul, Afghanistan, on August 26, 2021. Let's walk in solidarity to pay our respects to these brave heroes and honor their memory.

Hot Rods for Heroes Car Show

Saturday, September 21 at 9:00 a.m.

DMACC Ankeny Campus

Iowa Remembrance Run/Walk

Sunday, September 22 at 9:00 a.m.

Raccoon River Park

Honoring and Remembering Iowa Service Members who have been killed or who have died as a result of a service connected illness

Blue Star Mothers



President
Lisa Wilson

Vice President
Jen Fletcher

Recording Secretary
Kim Vernon

Financial Secretary
Leigh Tomich

Treasurer
Jannelle Chase-Kennedy

The Blue Star Mothers of Iowa is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization devoted to supporting our Military Forces, our Veterans, and their Families.

Send offs!!



Western Slope BSM CO8



3 attended
convention



2024/25 Board



Welcome Homes

We saw David!!



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

**Irreverent Warriors
Silkies Hike**
August 24th

Brat Fry In Elkhorn
August 31st

Honor Flight
September 7th

**Veterans Outreach
of Wisconsin
Banquet**
October 12th

Gold Star Luminary
September 29th

In July we had our annual family picnic where we shared a night of sisterhood with members, family, welcomed a new member and enjoyed the presentation of guest speakers from Custom Canines.



In July the Racine Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) celebrated its 125th Anniversary. Part of the program was honoring people in the community that embodies "Angels Living Among Us". Our member Debbie was nominated to be one of those angels. Pictured below is Debbie at the ceremony and the certificate that was presented to her. Additionally, a donation in Debbie's name was made to our Blue Star Mothers chapter. Thank you, Debbie, for embodying the spirit of our group and to Danni, who is a member of our chapter and DAR for recognizing and nominating Debbie!



Below are photos from a few different events members of our chapter attended or participated in this past month. From the left, supporting the American Legion post 494 (our meeting location) at their fundraiser. The second & third from left are photos from this year's annual BSM convention in OK, and the photo on the far-right was after the Brewers Community 5k Run/Walk fun! Funds from this year's walk went to support Fisher House WI & the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, WI.



OH1 Spirit of Freedom

OH1 held their Annual Miami County Fair Summer Fundraiser. We "manned" the Dairy Bar at the Miami County Fair to raise funds for our upcoming chapter projects.

Our American Honda Volunteers again helped us out. We couldn't do it without them!! This fundraiser has been held yearly since 2008.



Left is associate member Meilssa Romanoli, next to her is Anita Wagner, right in the middle (under the sign) is associate member Kelly Hinderman, Vivki Daniel is in the dark blue shirt with the banner.



2024 Miami County Fair



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

MI 178



In July, the Thumb Chapter MI 178 of Blue Star Mothers celebrated their **20th Anniversary** as a Chapter with a potluck picnic at Harbor Beach.

Pictured are Grace Rosenthal, Marcia Janik, Pat Rogers, Julie Hund, Deb Robinson, Polly Koehn, Linda Elandt, Nic Stermer, June Young, Donna Wolschleger, Heather Kowaleski, Sherrie LaLonde, Sinda Golem, and Lynne Tschirhart.



Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6

From walking our Miles For Our Veterans 5K at the Big Red One Museum grounds, to participating in the 10th Annual National Gathering of American Indian Veterans to attending BSMA National Convention to presenting funds we raised at our annual Battle of the Branches Chili Cook Off to Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, to electing our 2024-2025 Chapter Executive Board, IL6 has had a busy, busy month!



Sonya and Nancy at Convention

Josh from MSHV accepting our donation

Our 2024-2025 CEB – Treasurer Becky, FinSec Sue, 1VP Colleen, President Sonya, and RecSec Mary



MN 13



Minnesota Chapter 13 had three moms attend National Convention this year. It was a great experience and we learned a lot this year going through the Governing Documents!

We got all dressed up in official uniform. Dressed casual and Route 66ish for the Big Dipper fun night.
We're loving our convention shirts!



We acknowledged our chapters first Blue Daisy, Mary Beth Broderick, who passed away on July 12 of this year, she did not have a service.



August 15, we honored our second Blue Daisy, Laurie Mandery, with over 20 Blue Star Mothers, past and present, show their support for her at her funeral. Both ladies will be missed. Laurie passed away August 7.



On August 11 our third Blue Daisy, Stella Huso, passed away. Stella was 105 years 7 months and 3 days old when she passed. She was a Gold and Blue Star Mother. Her funeral is at the end of August.



With a few activities in July and August, the physical year is ending. We held two events on the same day and time in July. We received an invitation to set up an informational table at the Full Distance Brewing for the Bull Run III Ride hosted by Virginia Chapter 27-2 of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association. The remainder of the Chapter attended the monthly meeting, while Mary Kulesa and Karen Taylor took care of it. With Chaplain Mary Beth Algert officiating and Navy Moms Debbie Snellings and Brenda Barker offering support, new member Mary Wayland was sworn into the chapter. Faye Mohler was named our July Most Valuable Star Recruiter. Other members showed up for the event after the meeting ended. Catherine Elson and Teresa Sumners represented our chapter at the Oklahoma City BSMA Convention in 2024. Air Force veteran Catherine proudly carried the Space Force Flag, while Teresa had the opportunity to share the Most

Valuable Star Recruiter Program (MVSr). The program involves providing a tool bag to members containing business cards, brochures, membership forms, and a pen to facilitate information exchange with other military moms and supporters. Points are awarded based on specific actions, such as distributing brochures or business cards (1 point), inviting a guest to a meeting (3 points), and recruiting new members (5 points). Members can submit their points at each meeting, and the person with the most points for the month receives an award. We have already welcomed eight new members and one Associate, showing progress. In August, the top MVSr of the year will receive a larger prize and an MVSr Certificate. Kudos to the Convention and Governing Document Committee; your time is much appreciated for all the preparations to make it all seamless. The Chapter was honored to have an information station at the Spotsylvania American Legion Post 320 baseball game. On the field, Mary Kulesa, Debby Krieter, Natalie Foley, Brenda Barker, Pat Stello, Brenda Barker, and Scot Barker were recognized. More baseball! The chapter attended the Fredericksburg Nationals baseball game on Military and First Responder appreciation Sunday. We enjoyed a buffet lunch and watched the game from the Sky Porch. During the game, Debby Krieter presented Mr. Gaylord with a pin commemorating the Vietnam Veterans. His face lit up with pride as he received it! We sponsored our first American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library branch in Fredericksburg. We had the opportunity to have the donors, who were waiting to sign Christmas cards, to be included in the care packages and to notify them about our next care packing event thanks to our information booth. The drive was successful, with thirty-five units donated at the blood drive. That's a wrap!



Minnesota North Metro Chapter 7



MN7 Chapter Board 2024-2025

Chapter members attended National Convention



Volunteering at the VA Pop Up Food Pantry

Chapter members participating in the National President's 5K walk for Warrior for Freedom

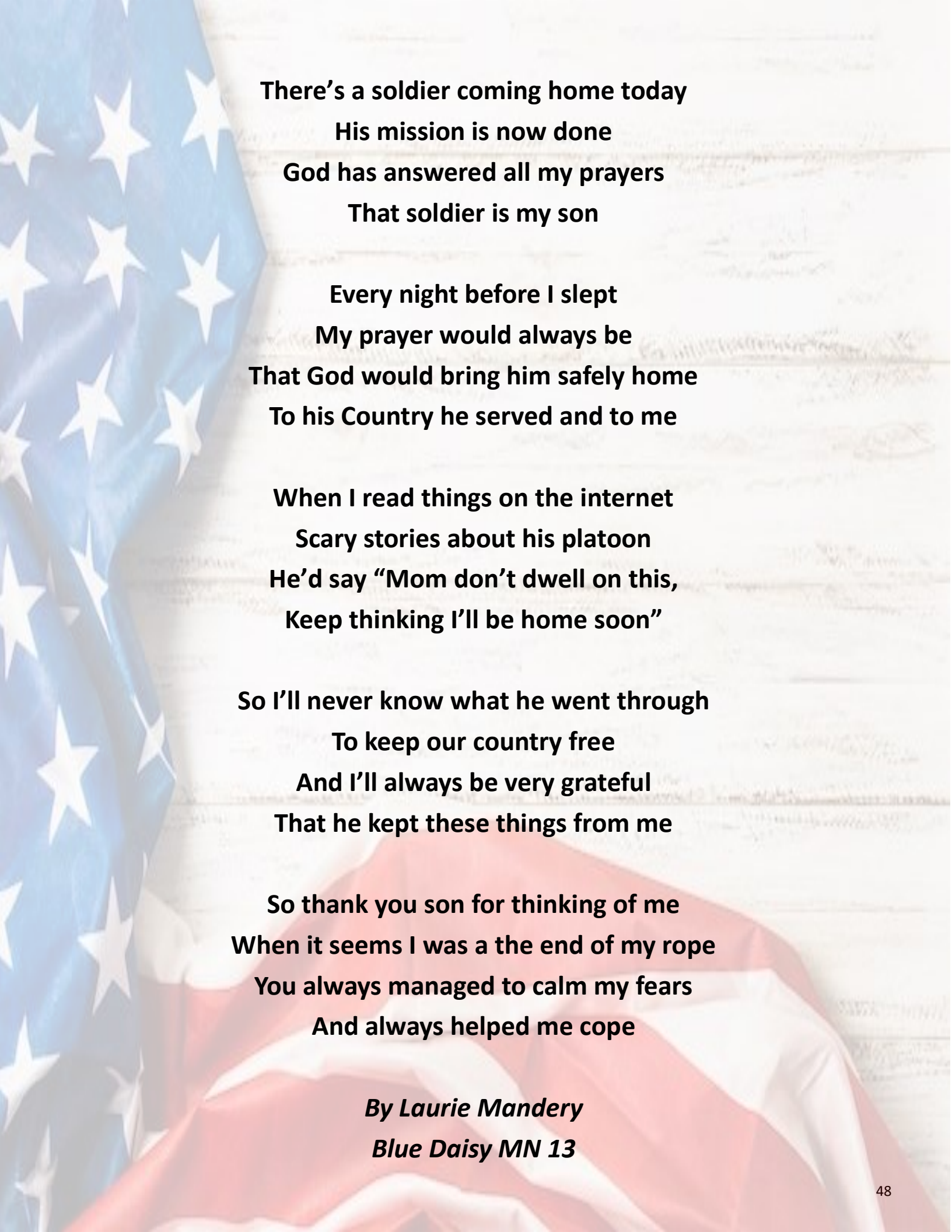
Fisher House Meal Thank you - Many, many thanks for your delicious Tater tot Casserole and luscious fresh fruit Salad.

The Blue Star Mothers of America Volunteers are so cherished at Fisher House-Minneapolis VAMC, 14 August 2024 and many other times.

The Staff and the Veteran Community served by your thoughts and your labor and meals is so very much appreciated.

*Best Regards
Kenny and Raymond*



The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag. The stars and stripes are visible, with the blue field of stars on the left and the red and white stripes on the right.

**There's a soldier coming home today
His mission is now done
God has answered all my prayers
That soldier is my son**

**Every night before I slept
My prayer would always be
That God would bring him safely home
To his Country he served and to me**

**When I read things on the internet
Scary stories about his platoon
He'd say "Mom don't dwell on this,
Keep thinking I'll be home soon"**

**So I'll never know what he went through
To keep our country free
And I'll always be very grateful
That he kept these things from me**

**So thank you son for thinking of me
When it seems I was at the end of my rope
You always managed to calm my fears
And always helped me cope**

***By Laurie Mandery
Blue Daisy MN 13***