



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

December 2024

A message from our National President

Dear Sisters,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and you are ready for Christmas! Thank you to the Chapters who participated in Jerky for the Troops, sponsored by Bass Pro/Cabela's. This was their first year to launch a national campaign, and like many national events, the first year can be a little rocky. For the most part, I think we did a pretty good job matching up Chapters with store locations. We realize there were a few Chapters who were not able to receive jerky, but we will continue to work on that for next year.

As many of you may have seen on Facebook, I had the honor and privilege of traveling on the Wreaths Across America (WAA) convoy from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery.....what an experience! I was given the opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes in order to make this big event happen.

This year's theme was Live With Purpose. Making several stops along the way at various schools was such a heartwarming encounter.

The excitement from the kids - you would have thought we were delivering Christmas presents. While each school was different, they all took the theme and created such great programs showing how they are living with purpose and how grateful they are for the sacrifices made for their freedom. The 2025 theme has already been announced – Keep Moving Forward. It is up to all of us to live with purpose and keep moving forward for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



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

President Message	1-2
Yearbook	3
Compliance	4
Online Store	5
Fallen Veterans	6-9
Blue Daisies	10
Chapters/Dept.	11-52
Inspiration	53

A message from our National President (continued)

I hope your Chapter was able to participate in your local WAA on December 14. If your Chapter is not involved, please let me know, I would love to get you connected. WAA is not just an October to December organization, it is worked year round so I challenge each of our Chapters to get involved, so everyone can

Remember the fallen
Honor those who serve
Teach the next generation the value of freedom

The National Executive Board will be on a winter break from December 21 through January 5 (although I'll still be working most days so feel free to reach out)

We wish you the happiest of holidays and pray 2025 will bring hope, prosperity, and good health to each of you.

Keep working the mission and collaborating with other Chapters.

Together, we are stronger!

Be Kind, Have Patience, Give Grace

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





Treering 2023-2024 Yearbook Cover



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

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.

To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook

Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

Go to: www.treering.com/validate

Enter your school's passcode:

101416260317183

Regular price: \$25.81





Compliance is Now Past Due!



The deadline for filing compliance for your Department, Chapter, or Auxiliary has now passed!

What does this mean? Your D/C/A is **STILL REQUIRED** to complete compliance **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, but now you are no longer in Good Standing. When you are not in Good Standing, you cannot receive funds from National (memberships due to you, grants, etc...). If your D/C/A needs a Letter of Good Standing for a donation or other need, we cannot provide it until you are back in Good Standing. If you do not have your compliance submissions complete by December 31, more steps may need to be taken. It is in your best interests to communicate with our N4VP and to get this done right away!

How do we know if we are in compliance? If your D/C/A has completed all components of compliance, your board has received an email from the N4VP with the subject line:

CSN – Compliance is Complete!

where CSN is your Chapter State and Number. If your board has not received this email from the N4VP, then your D/C/A has not completed all components of compliance!

What if the N1VP or the Financial Reviewer told me I was done? These important members of our Compliance Review Team will email you regarding your Officer Roster/Affiliation Agreement or your Financial Documents submitted with your Annual Report. They are only referring to those components of compliance that they are reviewing. The only member of the team who can let you know you are fully complete is the N4VP – until you hear it from her, you still have work to do!

Why is this so important to complete? Compliance is a required part of doing business. National must be able to answer to authorities, such as the IRS, regarding the compliance of our entire organization, that cannot be done if our D/C/As are not in compliance. It puts us all at risk.

How can I find out what we are missing? Just email our N4VP at 4VP@bluestarmothers.us and she will be happy to help you with that information.



Remember, this is now PAST DUE and must be submitted ASAP! Reach out with any questions!



A



Online STORE

Now available

- A. Travel Blanket with Embroidered Logo (58"x36") \$30
- B. Navy or Red, White, and Blue Umbrella with screenprint logo (42") \$20
- C. Laptop Sleeve with screenprint logo (17") \$25
- D. toiletry case with debossed logo (9"x10"x3-1/2") \$25
- E. Pom Beanie with Embroidered Logo \$20

B



C



D



E



We are pleased to announce we will be opening an online store platform similar to bonfire, but offers more variety of shirts, aprons, mugs, and more! The link will be found on our website under the online store tab!

Thank You
FOR SHOPPING WITH US

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.



Army National Guard

Anthony Whitworth
 Billy Ray Spivey
 Burt W. Collins
 Charles Freels
 David Blair Passmore
 Ervin Devero Smith
 Gregory E Daviau
 James Earl Sapp
 Jessie Adair Weitman
 Joseph Eugene Wiggins
 Richard J. Fairbanks
 Robert Wade Banks
 Ronald Leon Parker
 Stacy Onnasis Moctezuma

Air National Guard

Johnny L. Schuelke
Army
 Aaron Blossom
 Albert E. Guy
 Alexander C. Wisbith
 Alfonso G. Carrillo
 Alfredo Limon
 Allan Eitel
 Allen David Dark
 Alofaifo Visesio
 Alphonse Thibeault
 Andrew Champignie
 Andrew Ray Pierce
 Andrew Valero Jr.
 Anthony J. "Tony" Dattilo, Sr.
 Antonio "Tony" Moreno
 Antonio Larkin Martinez
 Archie Thomas Emery
 Arden A. Mattice
 Arthur Dale Cox, Jr.
 Arthur Fey
 Arthur James "Jim" Brown
 Arthur Messner
 Ashley Michelle Williams
 Barry Vaughn Orton
 Barry Wendell Wesley
 Bernabe Rodriguez, Jr.
 Bernard John Beaver, Jr
 Bill Dean Harris
 Bill Draper
 Billy Joe Hall
 Billy Ray Cox
 Billy Raymond Thornhill
 Billy Wayne Kester
 Bobby Jack Spencer
 Bobby Russell

Brandon Sauter
 Bruce Dale Fine
 Bruce Gargus Newton
 Byron Randall Johnson
 Camilo Daniel Saavedra
 Carl Edward Long
 Carl J. Schaeffer
 Carl Lee "Little Joe" Dorsey
 Casimiro H. Crockett
 Cathryn Ann Ingram
 Cecil Ellsworth Parsons
 Cecil P Wade Jr
 Charles " Charlie " Ray Ferrell Sr.
 Charles Beaty
 Charles Clifton Hinson
 Charles L Hurst
 Charles Richard Day
 Charles Sylvester Edgington
 Charles T Saunders
 Charles W Watkins
 Charles Wayman Chambers
 Christopher Robert McNeely
 Christopher Ryan Jones
 Christopher Schwieger
 Clifford LaTeer Awtrey
 Clyde Brown
 Clyde Stanley Walls
 Dale Dutchy
 Dale Edward Hackmey
 Dale Eugene Oakes
 Dale L Hayward
 Dale L. Conley
 Dalton "Jake" Lee Williams
 Daniel Allen Ellerbee
 Daniel O. Guzman
 Daniel Thomas Schewe
 Danny Dee Clark
 Danny Edward Cotton
 Darrell Dean Schmidt
 Darrell T. Kelly
 Darryl Dewayne Lumpkin
 David Allen Bentz
 David Krause
 David Philpot
 David Shaun Kemp
 David W Stallings
 David Williams
 Dayton and Richard Shearer
 Dean C Sleeper Sr.
 Dean Pursley
 Delbert Allen Zerjav
 Dennis 'Denny' R. Long

Dennis "Denny" W. Lange
 Dennis Paul Fischer
 Derek Anthony Gosciniak
 Dewayne Franklin
 Dexter Ray Haney
 Don Stock
 Donald Crawford
 Donald D. Culver
 Donald E MacGregor
 Donald Harris
 Donald Lee Horn
 Donald Ray "Donnie" Sampson
 Donald Ray Custer
 Donald Ray Stewart
 Donald W. Mingie
 Donald Wayne Kloss
 Donald William Baum
 Donnie Gene Greenfeather
 Donnie Ray Owens
 Dorothy Ann Malone
 Douglas Allen Wright
 Dustin DereK Blankenship
 Dwayne H. Celestine
 Eddie Howard Rider
 Eddie Lee Gurganious
 Edgar E. Smith
 Edward J Zwaduk Jr.
 Edward Jones
 Edward Lawrence Baradell
 Edward Lee Hunt
 Edward Rhorer
 Edward W. Rhoades
 Elbert Earl Humphrey
 Elijah Cappiello
 Elisha Cisciro Stampley
 Emanuel Flores
 Erik J. Cooke
 Ernest Manlove
 Ervin Young
 Floyd Dean Stead
 Floyd T. Reed, Jr.
 Founta M. Morris, Jr.
 Frank J Rizzo
 Frank Leroy Stringfield
 Frank Wayne Fuller
 Franklin D Smith
 Fred Pinto
 Fredrick Dixon
 Gary Anthony Hobbs
 Gary D. Doyle
 Gary Rice
 Gary Wayne Dowler

Gayl G Goodwin
 Gene Davis
 George E Delifus
 George Harril Wood
 George Kowalow
 George Perry Leuckel Jr.
 Gerald Edward Roark
 Gerald Getzfreid
 Gerald Tansey
 Girard Rene Wallis
 Glenn S. Oliver
 Gordon Brooks Carlton
 Gregorio R. Cruz
 Gregory Isaac "Grizz" Carter
 Gregory J. Leyrer
 Gregory Warren Rollins
 Hallas G. Hatch
 Hans William Christensen
 Harold George Rehg
 Harold Wendell Bush
 Harry Edwin Binns
 Harry Simon Deckness
 Henry P. Meyer
 Henry Wilkins, Jr
 Herbert E Griffin
 Howard Chitwood
 Howard L. Young
 Howard Ross Von Dissen
 Howard Suber
 Ismael Medina
 Jack Gorton
 Jack M. Wesson
 Jack T Humes
 Jackie Busbee
 Jame S Lamb
 James "Jimmy" Ethridge
 James "Tiny" Dancy
 James A. McKnight
 James Alman Brackeen
 James C. Buck Buchanan
 James Copeland Jr.
 James D. Spear
 James Dennis
 James Douglas "Bud" Sifford Sr.
 James Dubose Hartley, Jr.
 James Emmett Silkwood
 James Everett Benton
 James Hamer Jr
 James J. Sisel
 James Lawrence Shine, Jr.
 James Mason Hollingsworth
 James Robert Dorn

James Robert Schmoeckel
 James Stanley
 James W. Putney Jr.
 James Wade Waters
 James Walter Anderson
 James Wiseman
 Jared Hart
 Javier Acosta
 Jeffrey V. Anderson
 Jerome James Minnicks Jr
 Jerome Scholz
 Jerry William McCranie
 Jesse Leroy Mitchel
 Jim Henry Thompson
 Jimmie Lynn Neff
 Jimmy Dale Avants
 Jimmy Dale Grace
 Jimmy Joe Wilkerson
 Jimmy Kunz
 John Allen Parker
 John Cody Edwards
 John Earl Day
 John Hambrick
 John J. Yerger
 John L. Steer
 John Louis Harrington
 John Phillip Prather
 John Sanders Jr.
 John Shingleton Jr.
 Johnny "Randy" Chapman
 Johnny Lebow
 Johnny Ortega Torbellin
 Jose Eduardo Chavez
 Jose Eduardo Chavez
 Jose Martinez
 Joseph Benitez Cruz
 Joseph D Spencer
 Joseph Franco
 Joseph John Cusumano
 Joseph Ross
 Joseph Youn
 Julian Moreland
 Julius "Bobby" McNair
 Junior C. Allman
 Kathleen Marie Willson
 Kelly Granado
 Kenneth "Skeeter" Proffit
 Kenneth Ray Pigg
 Kenneth Thomas Childs
 Kermit "Bo" Watkins
 Kerry Dee Andraesen
 Kris Kristofferson
 LaMonte Connor

Lance Burton White
 Larry Buck Holland
 Larry Cowan
 Larry Ellerman
 Larry Eugene Banks
 Larry Mitchell Rooker
 Larry Richards
 Larry Wayne Joyner
 Lawerance Davis
 Lawrence 'Larry' S. Givens Jr.
 Lawrence Banks
 Lawrence Norbury
 Lawrence Stephens
 Lawrence Thomas Soprano
 Lemon Ashby Edwards II
 Leo A Yunker
 Leonard Clay Cable Sr.
 Leonard G. Wales
 Leonard Jack Delahaussage
 Leonard Louis Gehlsen
 Leonard Ray Beech Sr
 Leroy McKinley Butler
 LeRoy Russell Buckmore
 Leslie Foster
 Liam Kearney
 Linden Paul Booth
 Loren Lee Boersma
 Lou Deseta
 Louis Frank Napoli Jr.
 Luther A. Cole
 Malcolm Lee Gass
 Manuel Banaga Bringas
 Manuel E. Gallegos
 Manuel Jesus Maldonado
 Manuel Manny P. Perez
 Manuel Romero
 Marcelino C. Baca Sr.
 Marcos Davila
 Marion E Collie
 Mark Anthony Green
 Mark Edward Goebel
 Mark Edward Nielson
 Markutter McIntosh
 Martin Gutierrez, Jr.
 Marvin K Seidel
 Matthew Logan Finke
 Max Winfrey Heping Jr.
 Melissa Elizabeth Lance (Mcdowell)
 Michael Edward Mullens
 Michael J. Bogden



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.

Army (cont)

Michael Joseph Harrison
 Michael Lee Baugh
 Michael Lee Kobe
 Michael Woodruff
 Milton Gillaspie
 Mitchell McIntosh, Jr.
 Morgan Wesley Thomas
 Myles Malcolm Winters
 Nathan Henderson
 Neal Brown
 Neelis William Braud
 Neil Derisley
 Noel C. Matthews
 Norman Noel Litt
 Normand Menard
 Oriee Lee Ranshaw II
 Orine Ellis
 Pat Espinoza Jr
 Patrick "Paddy" Daniel
 McCarrick
 Patrick A. Vaughn
 Patrick John Monroe
 Paul Cottrell
 Paul E. Stanbery
 Paul J Kays
 Paul Matejka Jr.
 Paul Shirley, Jr.
 Perry Layne Adams
 Phillip J. "Joe" Moore
 Phillip Osborne Webb, Sr.
 Ramon Antonio Moreno
 Randal "Randy" Francis Rice
 Ray C. Campbell
 Ray Carroll Sr.
 Rebecca Hall
 Richard C. Wilson
 Richard Eugene Hardison
 Richard F. Hensley
 Richard Fields
 Richard Lee Love
 Richard Phillips
 Richard Prudencio Barreras
 Rickey Vonzell Tate
 Ricky Ricker
 Robert "Bob" Hart
 Robert Adas
 Robert D. Ritch
 Robert Dale Perry
 Robert E. Bailey
 Robert Elliot Leach IV
 Robert J. Gideon
 Robert J. McLaughlin

Robert Jonathan Payne
 Robert L. Kirner
 Robert Lamar Starnes
 Robert Lee Hester
 Robert Ortiz
 Robert Pedigo
 Robert Y. Murotake
 Rodney Elmo Paul
 Roger Lyle Bacon
 Roland Arthur Shumaker
 Rolla R. TenEyck
 Ronald Dale Haygood
 Ronald Duane Debban
 Ronald E. Bentley
 Ronald F. Hickey
 Ronald Joe Coates
 Ronald Phillip Stockdale
 Ronald W Barth
 Russell O. Rasmussen
 S. Lee Bishop
 Salvador Hutchins
 Samuel MacArthur Mayhew
 Samuel Odom, Jr.
 Santiago Rodriguez
 Scott Alfred Wartberg
 Scott Hoover
 Silas L. Griffin Jr.
 Sinxay Keopraset
 Spencer Warren Gay
 Stanley M Klimek
 Stanley Thomas Lyons, Sr.
 Stanley Walter Lupeika
 Stephen Schonbrun
 Steven M. Troup
 Steward Leonard Hearn
 Stewart Leo Pizzarello
 Susan May Zelenak
 Sylvester J. Becker
 Tamra Etheridge
 Terrance Wayne Hall
 Terry Allen Bird
 Terry L. Nicodemus
 Terry Richard Johnson
 Thair S. Pond
 Thomas M Schmidt
 Thomas P. Miller Jr.
 Thomas Russell Ruspoli
 Timothy J Stadfeld
 Tom Joe Allen
 Tommy V. Moreno
 Troy Burl "Hippie" Mays
 Vernice Harris
 Victor Carnell Watts

Vincent Messbarger
 Virginia Denise Davis
 Walter Charles Glanz
 Walter George Pieschke Jr.
 Walter J. Muller, Jr.
 Walter Lee Brazelton III
 Waymon Harper Jr.
 Willard Clarence Midkiff III
 William Bumgardner, Jr.
 William Duff Darnell
 William E. Smith
 William Earl Goodwin
 William Frank Roberts
 William Henry Kellner
 William Isaac Walker
 William James Lloyd
 William Lemley Gates
 William Oliver Kay
 William Rexford Smith
 William Sinclair Wentz III
 William Wright Wollberg
 Winston John Rutledge
 Zachary Keith Wilson
 Armand L. Auger/Marine
 Craig Burrett Adams/Marine
 Donald Daryl Hinson/Marine
 John Howard Stafford/
 Marine
 Barford Scott Wilson Sr/
 Navy
 Ben Marley Smith/Navy
 George W. Kret/Navy
 Michael Harvey Turnbow/
 Navy
 Raul Villar/Navy
 Teodoro "Ted" Garza/Navy
Army Reserve
 Arthur G. Brigman Jr.
 Thurman Brown
Navy
 Aaron Calder Turner
 Alan Holcomb
 Alan Smith
 Andrew Nicholas Arendas
 Anthony F. Buonanotte
 Arone 'Ron' H. Sather
 Arthur "Art" K. Clow
 Arthur J. "Sonny" Blasco Sr.
 Arthur James Buchanan
 Arthur John Nowicki
 Aubrey Durbin
 Barry L. Vernia

Ben F. Guess
 Benjamin Basora
 Bennett "Ben" G. Knight
 Bernard Day
 Bill Vernon Minier
 Billy Eugene Shuford
 Billy H. Butler
 Bradley Russell
 Buford Elliott
 Carl Bitz
 Carl W Shanosk Jr
 Cecil M. Kluttz, Jr.
 Cecil Yadon
 Charles Edward Acton
 Charles Dennis Dunn
 Charles Anthony Helle
 Charles E. "Chuck" Goatley
 Charles Earl Benn
 Charles Lee Libkie
 Charles Paul Brown
 Cheryl Ann Robinson
 Claude Riley
 Cody F Trotter
 Dale Edward Nichols
 Daniel Sassenhagen
 David Fair Baldwin, Sr.
 Dennis D. Overhalser
 Dennis Jordan
 Desmond L Dogan
 Dewey Wayne King
 Dianne Prueett
 Donald Emery Ogden
 Donald J. Bottiaux
 Donald Spring, Jr.
 Douglas Hunt
 Duane Conway Amundson
 Edwin L Herm
 Elizabeth Ann Nehring
 Forest "Sonny" Goff Jr
 Francis Smigowski
 Frank E. Brady
 Frank W. Storms
 Frank William Bonner
 Fred Russell Crowder
 Garland Wayne Wade
 Gary Lee Schwerr
 George Kezerle Jr
 Gerald Joe Bates
 Gerald Vincent Edson
 Gordon Allen Sterling
 Gordon Hoskins
 Gregory Alan Ballinger
 Gregory M. Kortman

Gregory Peterson
 Harry 'Brud' Eugene Lavigne
 Henry Clay Jones
 Homer Wayne Yandell
 Hugh Francis Gallagher II
 Huldah Ann Mundell
 Jack French
 James A Arnold
 James Alfred Johnson Jr.
 James Dement Boyd
 James Douglas Buchanan Jr
 James E Rinehart
 James E. Mitchell
 James Edgar Keck
 James Edward Fairfield
 James Frederick Wilson
 James Kenneth Lee
 James Lee Powell
 James R. Beaird
 James Randall Gardenhire
 James Scott Stirling
 James Thomas Flood
 Jayme Lee Davis
 Jerald T Macklin
 Jerry C. "J.B." Ballard
 Jewell Bolt
 Jimmie Carroll Dittmar
 Jimmis Ray Luescher
 Joe D Quinton
 Joe Zammit
 John "Bear" Ybanez
 John Henry Tucker
 John Milton Foster III
 John R. Maduska
 John Thomas "Tom" Mayle
 John Zapata Gonzales
 Johnny Marshall "Coop"
 Cooper III
 Joseph Humphrey Braxton
 Joseph Sadler
 Justice James Myers
 Kamaldin Alizade
 Karl R Harrison Sr
 Kendal Tilghman
 Kenneth Wayne Chambers
 Kyle James Condroski
 Lafayette Gordon Bohling
 Larry D. Nelsen
 Larry M. Ruch
 Larry Miller
 Larry Stanley Myers Sr
 Leland Stanford Bacon III
 Leon J. Vassar

Leon James Vassar
 Leroy Clark
 Lewis Allen Hill
 Lindsey Hugh Edwards
 Lonnie Calvin Graham Jr
 Loren T. "Sailor" Stevens
 Luis B Carrillo
 Lyle Gilbert Wescott
 Mario H. Tondo
 Marshall L. Younts
 Marvin Mollner
 Matthew Arron Taylor
 Maurice Rainey
 Melvin Hillman Hancock
 Melvin J. Dudley
 Melvin R. Clark Sr.
 Melvyn George Provo
 Michael D. Kenny
 Michael James Sullivan
 Michael Lawrence Irvin
 Michael Spencer Hancock
 Monty Blake Wynn
 Noble Franklin Richardson
 Norman P. Thurston
 Oscar Clyde Westbrook
 Paul Chambers
 Paul J Schneider
 Paul L. Gonzales
 Paul L. Orr Jr.
 Perry Wayne Vargas
 Philip Guy Reilly
 Ralph Bernard Stegmann
 Ramon Ybarra
 Randy Clyde Stone
 Raymond A. Mack
 Raymond Conners
 Rex E. Cain
 Richard Brodeur Carron
 Richard Edward (Joe) Gall
 Richard Maypay
 Richard W. Nash
 Robert Allen Masters
 Robert Allen Warren
 Robert David Alexander
 Robert E. Cone
 Robert Earl McKinley Jr.
 Robert Gilbert Majhor
 Robert Harris
 Robert Joseph Paquette
 Robert Lee Rasmussen
 Robert Lee Taylor
 Robert Lynn Graves



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 (cont)

Robert Seay McLemore
 Robert Sworden
 Roger Kevin Conley
 Ronald James Baldie
 Roy Glenn Wells
 Ruben Eugene Henson
 Russell "Sonny" Luster
 Sherman Blackwell
 Steven Wayne Walker
 Terry Lee Norris
 Thomas A. Boland
 Thomas C. Elliott
 Thomas Charles Rengstorff
 Thomas J. Marx
 Thomas James Reilly Jr.
 Thomas Miller
 Thomas V. Escurdero
 Thomas Wade Smithwick
 Timothy Ellsworth Witting
 Timothy R. Denny
 Tommy Ward Ihrig
 Vernon "Wayne" Schoolfield
 Vernon Leroy Schuette
 Victor Lee Moshier
 Wallace Dugas
 Walter Herman Ihlefield III
 Walter L. Moore
 Warren Montgomery Scott
 Wilford Jack Harmon
 Wilfred Lester Hare
 Wilfredo Mandigma Lojo
 William A. Diffin
 William A. Strong
 William C Sei
 William E. Eckman
 William G. Read, Jr.
 William James Shelton
 William Jerry Abramowitz
 William Mills
 William R. Reynolds
 William Richard Govero
 William Warner Jr.

Marine Corp

A. T. "Tim" Carden
 Albert Marion Chambers Jr.
 Alfred Billy Spakes, Jr.
 Alfred Gerald Ferrell
 Allen Keith Smith
 Andrew Juraska
 Angie BriAnne Mestad
 Arthur Calvin Golden

Ashley Christopher Dobbs
 Barry Alan Straughn
 Barry Alan Straughn
 Billy Dean Martin
 Billy Henderson
 Billy Joe Boyd
 Brian Christopher Isom
 Byron Edward Reeves
 Calvin Green
 Calvin Ray Cowart
 Carl Otero
 Carlos Luis Baez
 Cary M. Landers
 Charles "Chuck" D. Vaughn
 Charles Dean Ellis
 Charles E. Goodchild
 Charles E. Rollins
 Charles Kohler
 Chester James Gross
 Clyde D Underhill
 Columbus Goza
 Daniel B. Tovar
 Darryl Lemore Goldsmith
 Donald James Barrett Sr
 Duane Ray Freiburger
 Eduardo Gutierrez Nava
 Edward Eugene Norris
 Eloy Anthony Gambino
 Ethan Michael Lewis
 Everett J Beach
 Frank A. Herman
 Frank W Jenkins
 Franklin Dale Burkett
 Fred DeMoers Moufang
 Gary Jones Breese
 Gary Lee Simpson
 Gene Irvin Fahlenkamp
 George F. Kessler
 George Gore
 Gerald Culpepper
 Gerald Davis
 Gerald Johnson
 Gordon Anders Schmidt
 Gregory Lynn Johnson
 Guy J Stickelmeyer
 Harold Nicholson
 Henry Meier
 Henry Tocci
 Hoyt Lee Ferrell
 Jackie D. Hartzog
 James Christopher Connor
 James Kirkeby
 James M. Lien

Jamie Lee Elliott
 Jeffery Winkler
 Jerry Dwayne Hamilton
 Joakim Stratos Doukas
 John Andrew Stromple
 John Carney
 John Thomas Adams
 Jon Wesley Ratcliff
 Jordan Frank Harbin
 Jordan Richard Taylor
 Joseph L. Ostrowsky
 Kenneth Edgar White
 Kenneth P. Brayton Jr.
 Kevin E. Thompson
 Laurance Hoyt
 Leroy Francis White
 Lorenzo R. Bancells
 Lori Ann Prater
 Louis "Lou" Snyder
 Louis Francis Johnston
 Louis P. Aycock
 Manuel J. Correa
 Manuel Pallib
 Mario Aniceto Herrera, Jr.
 Mark Alan Niesche
 Michael (Mike) Reed Kolb
 Michael Evans
 Michael James Collins
 Michael Romero
 Mike O'Flaherty
 Neal Scott
 Nelson Eugene Livingston
 Nicholas Chris Stavrojohn
 Nicholas D. Quets
 Otis C. Smith
 Pablo Hernandez
 Paul Edward Scott
 Paul F. Stuart
 Paul Raymond Lawson
 Peter Genovese
 Philip Daniel Endsworth
 Phillip R. Clark
 Phillip R. Cookman
 Phillip Wayne Brown
 Ray Pruitt
 Raymond Gerald Wolfrey
 Robert E Cartledge
 Robert George Miskar
 Robert Isabell
 Robert James Kimble
 Roger Sanchez
 Ronald Dale Conine Jr.
 Ronald R. Erwin

Ruben E. Chavez
 Samuel "Sammy" Rodriguez
 Sandra Elise Cain-Pearce
 Scott Niemoth Sr
 Shawn Edward Holwadel
 Steven P. Stills
 Terry Lee Gillman
 Terry Lee Gipson
 Thomas C. Hull
 Thomas George Wildfang
 Timothy George Gernhardt, Sr.
 Todd D Thomas
 Tom McKenney
 Victor Messick Brown Jr
 Virgil Clifford Pressley
 Wardell Lamont Monroe
 Warren Lee Farr
 William D. Hill
 William Halicy Mouser, Jr.
 William J Soriano
 William Joseph Tiernan
Coast Guard
 A Gerald Condon
 Bobby Rudolph May, Jr
 Donald P. Preau
 James Allan Fowler
 Leroy Gerald Stockton
 Randy Alan Peters
 William Ronald Davidson

Air Force

Adam J. Arvizu
 Alfonso P Cedillo
 Alvin Keith Bridges
 Anita Blankenship Fritz
 Antonio Sullivan
 Arthur Lee Ellis
 Authur Lorge
 Carl Grady Graham
 Carroll Walker Jr
 Charles Andrew Lund
 Charles Fisher
 Charles Franks
 Charles Hoover
 Charles James "Jim" Lau
 Charles Richard Ravan
 Charles Toshio Milmon
 Charles W. Gipson Sr
 Charley Frazier Jr.
 Claiborne Reginald Cobb
 Clarence Hudell Oliver
 Clarence Michael Lynch

Dan Thomas Gray
 Daniel Coughlin Jr.
 Daniel Robert Cowell
 Daniel Steve Mathys
 Danny Edward Schultheisz
 David Carrasco
 David G. Holcomb
 David L. Krick
 David William Sutton
 Dennis Murphy
 Don G. McConnell
 Donald Evans Dampier, Jr
 Donald Lee Turner
 Donald Turgeon
 Dorothy Ruth Fisher
 Eivan Overland
 Ella Rogers
 Forrest Wesley Eastman
 Gary Hall
 Gary Massey
 Gary Michael Simon
 Gearld Robert Sydner
 Gene Raymond Hinkle
 George C. Snell
 George S. Cudd
 Gerald L Hunter
 Gerald London Sr.
 Gerald Perkins
 Gerald Wayne Fryer
 Gordon Ray Hendrix
 Gustavo Arcides
 Guy Duanne Glidden
 Hadley Scott Thompson
 Harold Lake
 Harold Pickens Robinson
 Harry E. Roller
 Harry L. Lanfersieck III
 Harry Sherman Arnes
 Henry P. Trabucco
 Herbert Hutchens
 Howard L. Pines
 Hugh C. Maine
 Jack Bernard Randall Jr
 James A Lewis
 James Aaron McKenzie
 James Jim LaFon
 James Lee Godley
 James R. Buzzy Duckworth
 James Rufus Fisher
 James W Scarcello
 Jarrel Eric "Woody" Wood, Sr.
 Jay Swander

Jean Henry Bernier Sr.
 Jeremy Wayne Warren
 Jerry Fletcher
 Jerry Lynn Pringle
 Jerry Wayne Beaty
 Jesse Dwight Ellis
 Joel Beane
 John Brian Tyler
 John Douglas "J.D." Centilli
 John Edward Stockman
 John Fredrick Lidel
 John Gilbert Horn
 John J. LaBuda Jr.
 John Louis Breedlove
 John Thomas Griffin Jr.
 John William Kilcullen Jr.
 Jose A. Silva
 Joseph Labretto, Jr.
 Joseph Lee Gentzler
 Karen Ann Litt
 Keith Arnold Nelson
 Kenneth Christensen
 Kenneth D. Graybill
 Larry Gordon Croy
 Larry Jay Butler
 Lawrence T. Washington
 Leo A. Nozicka
 Leo LaPlume
 Leo Whitlow
 LeRoy Allen Jr.
 Lucky Lynn Frost
 Marcel Aguirre Belong
 Mark Kendall
 Matthew Michael Devito
 Melvin Showers
 Michael A. Reape
 Michael Adamson
 Michael Amedeo Missale
 Michael Caporale, Jr
 Michael D Selle
 Michael Hamil
 Michael Richard Hay
 Michael W. Foltz
 Miriam June Ashley
 Monroe Hummel
 Nathaniel Roger McCord
 Norman Wesley Booth
 Oralia T. Genovese
 Patricia Murphy
 Patrick Lynwood Edge
 Paul Alexander



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.

Air Force (cont)

Paul Allen Vanlinder
Paul Franklin Peoples
Polito G. Cantu
Ralph D. Marchetti
Ralph Franklin Bailey
Refugio R. Renovato
Reginald William Wise II
Ricardo Zamarron Sr.
Richard Alan Perschau
Richard Dana Wiggins
Richard Gene Stotts
Richard Lee Utt
Robert "Bobby" Connor
Robert A Robertson
Robert Charles Lore
Robert Eugene Harbach
Robert Henry Laxton
Robert Hugh White
Robert Kenschaft
Robert L Callaway, Jr
Robert Morris Langham, Jr.
Robert Moser
Robert Scott Hartless
Roger P. Reese
Ronald Pickens
Rosalino "Roy" Granillo Ruiz
Sam Beck Jr.
Samuel Jefferson Simmons III
Simon William Boyd Jr.
Stanley "Sta" Stahurski
Stanley Anthony Polityka
Steve Doggett
Terry L Harris, Sr.
Thia Lynn Wheeler
Thomas Edward Glover Jr.
Thomas James Quarles
Thomas L. Mead
Thomas N. Sellner
Timothy McNutt
Victoria Lynn Wanzo
Walter Lewis Fowler

Walter R. Harvey Sr.
Walter Roskowski
Wayne A. Smith
Wilbur Burtis Taylor
Wilford Dean Maples, Jr
William Grady Harris
William Harry Walker
William Jackson Marshall
William Lee Simmons
William M. Bernal
William Wilson McAlister
Ernest LeRoy Creech/Army
Hank L. DeVoll/Army
John L. Skelton/Army
Marcos Gerard Corona/Army
Nedd Paul Oldaker/Army
Stuart Harrison/Army
Tom Dayl Jones/Army
Ambrose James "Bud"
Hammond/Army/Navy Res
Clem Rayborn Thrift/Navy
Donald Ray Branstetter Jr./Navy
Kim Kuykendall/Navy
Leonard W. Zabor/Navy
Theodore Kenneth Walter/Navy

Blue Daisies



Janet Viel

OK 5 Broken Arrow

*Janet had been Chapter
President since 2005*

*She will be missed by
friends, family and her
Blue Star Sisters*

TREASURE COAST BLUE STAR MOTHERS, FL11



Treasure Coast Blue Star Mothers were honored to host an event recognizing Gold Star Families. Congressman Mast was the keynote speaker.



As our chapter project we have adopted a base off the coast that is very isolated. They invited our Chapter President and 1VP to attend their version of the Navy Ball. As a chapter we were honored to send them. Our President and 1VP came bearing gifts and a home cooked meal for the seamen there.



The Palm Beach VA Hospital gladly received our Christmas stockings for the residents on the Blind Wing

FL11 was honored to assist with the Red White and Blue veterans golf outing December 1st

President Carrie Beck with 2 VP Amanda receive a donation from the Fort Pierce Eagles Club



Treasure Coast Blue Star Mothers participated in the Fort Pierce "Color me Christmas" parade. One of our dads donned his uniform to be part of the float. Our theme was Packages from Home

MI 178

SHERRY KRAMER

The Blue Star Mothers have lost a beloved member, Sherry Kramer. She was a member of the Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI 178. Sherry died at the age of 66 on October 11th due to a lengthy illness.

Sherry married her "Navy boy" Lloyd Kramer on November 8, 1977. They had been married 47 years. Sherry deeply loved her family and grandchildren. Sherry was a lifelong member of Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic Church in Huron Beach.

Sherry was a true patriot who advocated for our Troops currently serving and Veterans. Her husband Lloyd served in the Navy and is a Vietnam Veteran. Out of twelve children, she had three children who served in the military and her son-in-law served in the military. Three are Veterans and one is still serving. Sherry is survived by her husband, Lloyd. Children, Vanessa (Matt), Marcus (Rachel), Jonathan, Adam (Pamela), Sara (Travis), Sean, Brian (Ashley), Gina (Torrey), Alicia, Kyle (Kayla), Dana (Bradley), and Marla (Hunter). They have blessed her with 17 grandchildren. Sherry was laid to rest at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly on October 22nd.

During her years as a Blue Star Mother, Sherry had served as President of Michigan Department Chapters, President of our Thumb Chapter MI 178, and held various other positions in the group. Sherry advocated, along with Past President Michigan Chapters Kathy L. Barnes, to establish the Blue Star Mothers Day in the state of Michigan, which was passed just this year. Sherry loved her Blue Star Sisters and attended many events.

Sherry was also active with Purple Heart Auxiliary #1985 in Gaylord where she also had the honor of serving as President.

Blue Star Mothers from across the State of Michigan attended Sherry's visitation honoring her with a committal service. Their presence was also noted at Sherry's funeral. If you knew Sherry, you loved her.

She had a fun personality and really loved her Sisters.

Flamingo Girls started years ago with 4 sisters from the Department board of Michigan going to Ohio's Convention. We just clicked as a group. We were going to be Hippy Girls because we liked Hippy Juice so much! But, I think it was Sherry that came up with Flamingo Girls. It related to the flamingo glasses, plates, etc at the convention. Then we went onto meeting for a few lunches and a sleep over at Beth Bohannon's, to Frankenmuth and created the flamingo shuffle the rest is history. One year we made a trip to Howell at Christmas time. The memories are so precious! Beth Bohannon, Marcia Janik, Peg Pawelek Brown, Jackie Ransom and Sherry Kramer became family and forged long lasting friendships.



Jackie Ransom, Sherry Kramer, Marcia Janik, Peggy Pawelek Brown and Beth Bohannon



Beth Bohannon, Sherry Kramer, Marcia Janik, Jackie Ransom and Peggy Pawelek Brown



Michigan Thumb Chapter MI #178 Blue Star Moms braved the cold and had a fun evening marching in the Bad Axe Christmas Parade November 30th! Pictured are Deb Robinson, Nic Stermer, Marcia Janik, Bregetta Little, June Young, Linda Tschirhart, and Sherrie LaLonde

NE 2

In October Blue Star Mothers Nebraska Chapter 2 packed 95 care packages for National Guard & other deployed service members.



**ALSO, IN OCTOBER,
WE PARTICIPATED
IN THE HAUNTED
ARMORY FOR LOCAL
MILITARY FAMILIES.**



Veterans Day Parade
November 2024

Serving
Thanksgiving lunch
to our Veterans at
Victory Park
November 27th





Tailgate fundraiser on September 7th

Though a windy day at the Canteen, Goeff H cooked burgers and hots instead of everyone eating from food trucks which increased BSMA NY#1 revenue for the day. There were about 60 awesome raffle baskets with contents ranging from miscellaneous Bills paraphernalia to coffee to children's toys to a suitcase, and even an autographed Bills photo! About a dozen vendors on the side parking lot selling candles, baked goods, lots of homemade items, and tons of military stuff! The baked goods contest saw many delicious entries!

Unfortunately, the chili contest had only one entry made by Bobbie, but the chili was sold for \$1 a cup to rave reviews as it sold out! There were great judges in the Mayor of Canandaigua City Bob Palumbo, Bob Green and Brian Mader. Geoff handled the grill like a pro, making up hot dogs, hamburgers and hamburgers with cheese. Cliff Wiley was on hand to lend assistance as needed and Josh Allen floated gently on the front lawn!

Thanks to Bobbie, Dick Metcalfe, Brian Mader, Stephen Mader, Becky, Rosie, Fran and her very sweet cousin, Cliff, Carol Adamowicz, MaryAgnes and her friend Bob, Geoff and Jane Hallstead, Wesley, Linda and Bob Green. We pulled it off in spite of the competition of other events. Thanks for all the generous donations of baskets. We had some wonderful gifts for the baskets and everyone who won something was very happy.

Many, many thanks to Bobbie Metcalfe for all her hard work organizing and getting the party to fruition! She did a stellar job and it was a spectacular party!!!



Chef Goeff



Baked Goods Contest

Raffle Baskets



On September 21, NY#1 had a table at the Support Our Veterans 60 for 60 held on Mohawk Run road in Cicero, NY.



Truckee Meadows NV #3



Booth at Stand Down



BSM float in Veteran's Day Parade



Choppers & Treats with the National Guard



Lone Star Chapter, TX6



Thank you to Allison, of Girl Scout Troop 5586, for choosing to do her Girl Scout Gold Award in support of our military! TX6 was honored when she asked us to mentor her. Allison accomplished her award by creating care packages for active military. !



Lone Star Chapter TX6 had a wonderful time visiting with our Past National President Anne Parker. Thank you Anne for all you do for our troops, veterans and blue star mothers!

Elks Lodge #2114 not only packaged Christmas packages, they paid for the contents and the postage!
THANK YOU!



Honoring Veterans on Veterans Day



Rowlett High School and Austin Academy had a great time decorating and packing items for Christmas care packages!



We had an extremely busy November. We could not have done all of this, and more, without the support of our members and communities. Thank you all!

Upcoming Events

- 12/7-Chapter Christmas Lunch
- 12/14-Wreaths Across America at Sparkman/Hillcrest



Ohio Chapter 21

It was a busy fall for our chapter. We sold cash calendars to support our November Care Packages. We are hoping to ship at least 300 care packages to deployed military personnel this shipment.

We also began planning and fundraising for our Wreaths Across America event on December 14th at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky.



Top picture: Edison High School Leadership class prepared deployment bags for a local group of soldiers who have since been deployed.

On right: Members of our chapter were honored to serve lunch to the soldiers.





**BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF THE
LEHIGH VALLEY PA201
SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2024**

Our Chapter distributed beautiful flower arrangements to local Gold Star Moms on Gold Star Mother Day in September.



Our 10th Annual Basket Social was conducted on October 19th and was a sold-out event. Attendees enjoyed appetizers, a family style dinner, and homemade desserts.

Thanks to monetary and item donations from local businesses BSM members, family and friends event participants were provided with the opportunity to win one or more of the 100+ prize baskets raffled off.



Our membership was split between two events on November 2nd, our Fall packing event and a Veteran's Day event at Kospia Farms in Alburtis PA.



Veterans and actively serving military personnel attending the event for the first time were gifted with a BSM challenge coin and a thank you for their service to our Country.

The event was a huge success and all proceeds will benefit our local Veterans and deployed military personnel.

A total of 125 care packages were assembled for shipment to deployed military personnel.



The Veteran's Day event attendees had the opportunity to jot down words of thanks on pillows donated to our Chapter. These will be distributed to deployed military personnel and Veterans at a local VA. Local Boy Scouts also conducted a flag retirement ceremony which touched the hearts of all in attendance.





Blue Star Mothers of America

Louisiana 1

News from the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women
November 2024



HOMELESS OUTREACH

LA1 participated in two homeless outreach events in Louisiana this October. Members joined Bethany College for the Love LA Outreach project in Baton Rouge and distributed backpacks and supplies to the homeless community and homeless veterans. LA1 and our LA7 sisters also partnered with Veterans Affairs and VAVS to provide assistance to the homeless veterans in New Orleans at the VA Hospital Stand Down.



249TH MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BALL

Jo Burns and Janet Broussard attended the 249th Marine Corps Birthday Ball hosted by the Marine Corps League – Lcp. Justin D. McLeese Detachment 1487 in Mandeville, La. We were proud to stand with our Gold Star Mothers Sharon McLeese and Lisa Kirk to celebrate the Marine Corps' Birthday. This Marine Corps League detachment was named to honor Covington Native and Iraq War Hero Lcpl Justin D. McLeese, son of Sharon McLeese.



HIDDEN HEROES

Natalie Truax and Denise Singleton represented Blue Star Mothers at the Elizabeth Dole Foundation Hidden Heroes roundtable in New Orleans. During the event, Gov. Jeff Landry declared Louisiana as a Hidden Heroes state, committing to increasing awareness and support for the 29,000 military and veteran caregivers in the state. Representing the State of Louisiana were Jerome Buller, LDVA deputy secretary, and Larry Williams, LDVA outreach director.

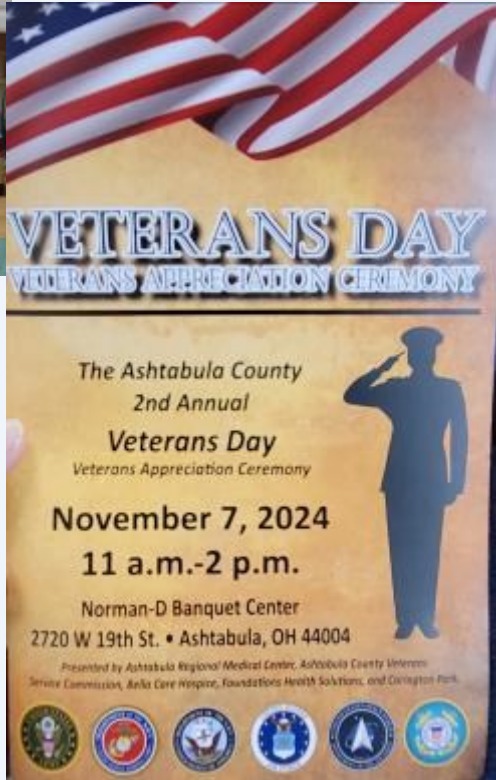
VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

LA1 attended the Veterans Appreciation Day at the Home Depot in Denham Springs. Gold Star Dad Stan McCurdy organizes the event annually to honor our Veterans. Chapter members connected with attendees and spread the word of Wreaths Across America and Blue Star Mothers.



OH 57

OH57 had our Annual Pasta Dinner Fundraiser. We have a volunteer that brings her beautiful truck to display for all our friends to admire. We sold 200 tickets and had a raffle basket sale with over 160 donated baskets. We thank our friends, family, and community for their support every year



Some of our ladies attended the second annual Veterans Day Appreciation Event led by our Veteran Service Commission and local nursing homes. They bring together all local Veterans residing in nursing facilities to honor them for Veterans Day .



Lisa Delaney Meleragno preparing to lay wreaths.



Deedee Gibson preparing to lay wreaths



OH 57 and friends and family laying wreaths 2024²⁰



RONKONKOMA STUDENTS DONATE SUPPLIES TO THE THROUGH THE BLUE STAR MOTHERS FOUNDATI



★ LONG ISLAND BLUE STAR MOMS NY6 ★



Blue Star Mothers Southwestern PA16

- * Columbus Day Parade along with Italian American Veterans
- * Veterans Leadership Program: Stand Down Pittsburgh
- * PA VetPets Annual Cash Bash
- * Honor Flight Pittsburgh Mission 14
- * Care Packaging Event
- * 911th Airwing Trunk or Treat
- * AMVets Clean Up
- * Officer Installation Meeting
- * Veterans Day Breakfasts & Parade



Blue Star Mother Holiday Tree on Display at the George Eastman House

Joann Cooper, a Blue Star Grandmother once again created a tabletop tree for display at the George Eastman House. The trees are created by various Rochester organizations to be displayed over December for visitors to the Eastman House to enjoy.



November Care Packages

The BSM and help from the community packed 240 care packages going to service members stationed overseas and to 15 Red Cross Service installations overseas.



YELLOW ROSE - TX20

November 2024



BSMA Yellow Rose TX20



WE LOVE SEEING THAT OUR CARE PACKAGES ARE MAKING IT AROUND THE WORLD!



Thank you BSM for the care package for my son serving in Germany. He really liked the crackers and all the goodies inside!



Thank you to our partners at B1 Bank for helping us decorate and build 30+ care packages!

Thank you to our partners at Hilton Direct and Hilton Worldwide Sales Support for building, decorating, filling and packing 30+ care packages!



Our 1st Chapter Shipment! 60+ Thanksgiving Boxes

Our littlest Americans helping pack goody bags for our care boxes.

It was great to catch up with PNP Anne Parker while she was in town.



♥ YELLOW ROSE IN ACTION ♥

October Events

- Oct 14 B1 Bank Care Box Packing Party
- Oct 16 Hilton Care Box Packing Party
- Oct 17 Toys for Tots Kick Off Event

November Events

- Nov 1-3 TX 20 Board Retreat
- Nov 7 Celina Veterans Day Celebration
- Nov 9 Little Elm Veterans Day Walk
- Nov 9 Sons of the American Legion Ceremony
- Nov 9 BSM Recognition by the American Legion
- Nov 14 Little Elm Veterans Banquet



HONORING OUR VETERANS!



Little Elm Veterans Committee Walk and Ceremony



Our Blue Star Mothers were recognized at The Colony's Veterans Day Celebration.



Bass Pro Jerky for the Troops!



Celina Independent School District Veterans Program with our friends at the Celina American Legion Post.

Connecting with the American Legion in Frisco, TX



Our President was a guest speaker at the Sons of the American Legion Veterans Ceremony in The Colony.



Board Retreat - lots of planning and FUN!

CA 15



On Oct 13, CA15 and CA26 walked in the San Francisco Fleet Week parade. It was very uplifting to hear all the support we received by the crowds. "Thank you" was being shouted as we passed. Applauses too!



On Oct 19 our chapter joined forces with the Redwood City Elks Lodge in packing 450 boxes and over 100 bags for our local Veterans. This is the 2nd year in a row the Elks Lodge has hosted the event.



On Nov 11 Brandi Lombardi presented the Blue Star Mother wreath at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, CA. Even though it rained she had a big smile on her face showing her pride for her Airman son.



WI Blue Star Moms Chapter 1



Mom's Attended a Veteran's Day Recognition Outagamie County Courthouse 11/11/2024. We were invited to attend a Memorial Dedication, Oakridge Cemetery, Neenah WI. Craft shows are bringing in much needed funds! November was packing month!



N
M
2



Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers



October 18, at GM, NM2 and Albuquerque Gold Star Mothers shared a High Tea with fancy hats and elegant teacups and a wonderful hospitality table with delicious snacks. There were also door prizes. NM2 members supported Albuquerque Gold Star Mothers by with their Luminaria kits sales.

OCTOBER 26, 2024



NATIONAL DAY OF THE DEPLOYED
Thank you and your families
for your selfless sacrifice

New Marine Mom, Erica!!



Veterans Day, November 11, 2024. Rio Grande Valley, NM2 was present at the NM Veterans Memorial Park to honor and Acknowledged all Veterans and their families from all branches of service for their commitment and sacrifice in keeping America free and protecting our freedoms and liberties. Thank you Veterans for your Service!

NM2 WORKING THE MISSION BY SUPPORTING DEPLOYED TROOPS WORLD WIDE. 425 CARE PACKAGES MAILED! 11/9/24



We visit Santa Fe National Cemetery on December 14th with Wreaths Across America. We purchased and sold 388 wreaths.

Rio Grande Valley, NM2 members wish all our BSMA sisters Merry Christmas and Blessings for the New Year 2025!

LA GEAX SEVEN BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA



Geaux Seven Blue Star Mothers rode on the VFW Post #3784 float at the Veterans Day Parade in Walker, Louisiana



Our ladies had a great time participating in the Veterans Day Parade



Geaux Seven BSM participated in the Veterans Day Program at the Central Middle School



Our BSM carried the service flags at the Veterans Day Program



President Kathy Baker and 1st VP Christie Landry presented the Honor and Remember flag to the Mayor Wade Evans of the City of Central Louisiana



Geaux Seven BSM were honored at the Central High School Football Game November 22nd



Blue Star Moms Becky LeDuff and Sandy Stockwell working the tent at the game



Becky and Sandy were co-captains with the football players for the coin toss



At halftime the cheerleaders did a donation run for our organization as we were honored during the game with all Veterans

FORT WAYNE AREA BLUE STAR MOTHERS CHAPTER IN8

The month of November 2024 have been very busy for our chapter. We're getting more responses to our outreach and having opportunities to talk about our chapter and organization in the community.

On November 9, we participated in the Annual Fort Wayne Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony, where we were asked to speak and set a wreath recognizing Blue Star Mothers.

The same evening, we attended the 249th Marine Corp Birthday Ball, as special guests, at the Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne. We were asked to speak during the program and enjoyed the awards, guest speaker, dinner and dancing. We are 1 of 3 selected beneficiaries of proceeds from this Birthday Ball and received a check that evening to be used towards our mission.

We're shipping 25 care packages to local Indiana soldiers deployed in the Middle East in mid-November, filled with holiday cookies, treats and decorations to help brighten their quarters.

We have also reached out to two local families that experienced a death. An active-duty soldier's family will have a Blue to Gold Ceremony in the next few weeks at the family's request. A tree has been planted by our chapter in honor of their family member. A Military Veteran, related to one of our members, passed away. A donation was made, and cards sent to family members.



Marine Corp Birthday Ball and Check Presentation



Fort Wayne Veterans Day Parade Care Packages Ready to Ship



In the fall of 2023, MN 7 began volunteering at the Minneapolis VA Fisher House. Each month, chapter members would plan, purchase, and prepare dinner for anywhere from 20 to 50 guests. We quickly discovered that working together in this way was both enjoyable and fulfilling.



Then, in the summer of 2024, while tabling at an event, we met staff from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA). They shared information about a grant program that caught our attention.

The MDVA's Support Our Troops (SOT) grant program, which launched in February 2016, is funded through sales of the Minnesota "Support Our Troops", license plates. The grants, ranging from \$1,000 to \$100,000, are available to Minnesota organizations with programs aimed at supporting and improving the lives of veterans and their families.



During our conversation, we casually mentioned how wonderful it would be to have funding to cover our monthly meals at the Fisher House for a couple of years. To our surprise, the MDVA staff encouraged us to apply for the grant. Although none of us had experience with grant applications, we were inspired to take the leap. After receiving some guidance from dear friends, we decided to go big: we applied for funding to provide three meals a month for two years at the Fisher House. In mid-August, we received the exciting news that we had made it to the final stage of the process. We were invited to present our Blue Star Mothers story to the MDVA leadership via a PowerPoint presentation on Teams, where we discussed the details of our proposal. The presentation went well, and we were thrilled to learn that our application had been approved. However, there was a catch: only a few of us knew about the approval, and we had to keep it a secret. We were instructed to keep the news under wraps until the end of October, even from our board members, chapter members, and initially, the Fisher House manager. The grant, a reimbursement award of \$9,720, would be used solely for providing meals to guests at the Minneapolis Fisher House three times a month. The grant officially began on November 1, and we couldn't be more excited about the opportunity to continue supporting our veterans and their families in this meaningful way.

Our Chapter members handed out Reading Glasses at the St. Cloud Standdown event (a Department of MN initiative).



Some members attended the dedication of the Veterans Freedom Rock in St. Cloud.

Volunteered at the Pop-Up Pantry at the Minneapolis VA.



MN7 members joined MN13 in decorating Christmas Stockings to be sent in their Holiday Boxes.

MN7 Board Members got together for some bonding time and made Porch Pots.





SACRAMENTO
BLUE STAR
Moms



Oct 24 - CA 07



5TH ANNUAL SPOOKTACULAR BUNCO



Western Slope Blue Star Mothers CO8 ★

We had a fun paint night



All Services Ball

We partnered with several sponsors and held a Ball to honor our local military and first responders.



Veteran's Day Ceremony

Every Year on November 11th at 11:11 a.m. our community comes together for a Ceremony honoring our Veteran's.



Veteran's Day Parade

The Battling Betties joined us this year, at our local parade!



The President's Own United States Marine Band

We delivered thank you notes and Enstroms Chocolates to the Band



We helped send off new recruits



Blue Star Moms of California - East Bay Chapter 101: OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024 EVENTS



"Our hearts are on the line."
East Bay Chapter 101

Speaking Engagements:

- Oct 16 - National Charity League (NCL) Lafayette Chapter event folding socks that were donated to our BSM chapter.
- Oct 20 - National Charity League (NCL) Vista Oaks Chapter event making holiday cards to go out with our care packages.
- Nov 1 - Kaiser Permanente Northern California kick-off event for their annual card making and halloween candy good bag project.
- Nov 6 - Women in God's Spirit (WINGS), St. Raymond's Church (Dublin, CA) annual outreach project collecting items for our care packages.

October 29 - Las Positas College "Trunk or Treat" Event. Hosted by Veterans First Program, this was originally for veteran students and their children but has been expanded to include everyone who wants to come and join the fun. Our Chapter supports this fun event every year. We come with our own decorated "trunk" and give out treats to the trick-or-treaters.



November 9 - 11 - Veterans Day Events at Veterans Memorial Building.

This year's pop-up museum included displays of items from the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, 75th Anniversary of the Berlin AirLift, everyday items invented for the military astrophotography, women in the military/space, models of America's rockets and space artifacts, and several presentations. Our Chapter had a table at the entrance that displayed a sample of our care package, Christmas cards for the kids to write greetings to our deployed troops, and pictures of our own Blue Star Moms' veteran sons and daughters. This was a great opportunity to meet our local veterans and the community and spread the word about what we do. We also collected generous donations from the community from this 3-day event.

In addition, our Chapter also participated at the Veterans of Foreign Wars event held in Livermore, CA on Veterans Day where we had a table set-up with our materials.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

Operation Home Baked

December 5th

Wreaths Across America

December 14th

Veterans Equine Alliance

December 14th

December Meeting

December 17th @
6pm

Flower Workshop Fundraiser

December 20th



Since our last meeting in October, our group participated in quite a few events and fundraisers. We held our annual fall Board & Brush fundraiser, were guests at the most recent Veterans Treatment Court Graduation, welcomed home Veterans on a recent Honor Flight and made fleece tied blankets to be donated!

A couple of Monday's ago a number of members and guests shared a meal at MKE Burger Company as part of a fundraiser. This event led up to several Veterans Day activities, one being the annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Milwaukee and a POW/MIA Chair of Honor Dedication at Prichard Park.

We also attended the ribbon cutting event for a new organization, Veterans Equine Alliance. They are a veteran-owned, non-riding center that provides spiritual healing through partnership with horses for transitioning military veterans and their families. We wrapped up this past week with a Cooking with Class fundraiser. As we look towards the next month and all the festivities it brings, we look forward to our continued support of each other and our children!





Central MISSOURI Blue Star Mothers

November 2024

We have been given a challenge from our Mentor, Ann Parker to recruit 2 new members. We are on our way to meet this challenge. At our October meeting we welcomed Sara to the chapter.



We held a Meet-n-Greet on October 26th and had a good time talking about our kiddos.



Who doesn't love attending a Craft Fair? Our chapter participated in the American Legion Riders Craft Fair on November 2nd.



Honoring our Veterans in November



Our chapter participated in several Veterans Day events. We baked dozens of cookies for the VFW, attended a local Middle School's Veterans Day Program where members of our chapter presented the flags and participated in the folding of the flag. We rode in the Osage Beach, MO Elks Lodge annual Veterans Day Parade. We had the opportunity to meet and talk with many veterans during the lunch served after the parade.

Blue Water MI Chapter 180 held its election on November 12th, and a new board was installed for the 2024-25 year.

President: Kim Muller

1st Vice President: Denise Walkowski

2nd Vice President: Claudette Talbot

3rd Vice President: Joyce Fabian

Recording Secretary: Paulette Gloden

Treasurer: Tonya Lahr

Financial Secretary: Karen Amormino

On November 11th in honor of Veterans Day, several members attended an Open house at People of Impact at Freedom Lake, and our Chapter was invited to set up an informational booth and many new contacts were made as a result.

This is a non profit 501c3 that offers transitional living, job placement, recovery support, recreational activities and much more.



Hello, wonderful sisters, from the **Michigan Big Dipper!**

Another year has come and gone, and we are gearing up for the 2024-2025 year.

At the Department of Michigan Convention, a new Big Dipper board was elected.

The Officers for the upcoming year:

President: Claudette Talbot

1st Vice President: Elizabeth Bohannon

Recording Secretary: Shellie Wilson

Treasurer: Diane Jacek

Financial Secretary: Carrie Stout

Each of these women bring their experiences and love for the organization to the table and I have no doubt that we will have a wonderful year.

The Josephine Calenda Education Assistance (JCEA) only received two applications last year. It is the mission of the Big Dipper to hold a fun night during convention to raise money for the JCEA. Thanks to your generosity during fun night, we have the funds to award but no one to award. So, for this year, I would like to challenge each chapter in getting one completed application. The deadline is 30 days before the commencement of the Department of Michigan Convention. So, there is plenty of time to focus on that one application. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to a board member.

In His Faithful service,

Claudette Talbot

Michigan Big Dipper President

President.bdmi@bluestarmothers.us



Diane Jacek (Treasurer), Shellie Wilson (Recording Secretary), Claudette Talbot (President), Elizabeth Bohannon (1st Vice President) and Carrie Stout (Financial Secretary)

Blue Star Mothers of the Hudson Valley New York 15 Awards Grants for Suicide Prevention for Vets

by Marion M. Walsh , 2VP

The [Blue Star Mothers of the Hudson Valley NY15](#) (BSMHV), based in Wallkill, New York proudly announces the second year of our Suicide Prevention Grant program. Since 2023, we have awarded a total of \$20,000 in grants to Hudson Valley organizations serving service members and veterans, to assist in mental health and wellness.

The high suicide rate among veterans and service members represents a national tragedy. BSMHV saw this pressing issue in 2021, as on August 24, 2021, a decorated veteran who fought five tours in Iraq took his life in the Hudson Valley. Our chapter reached out to the soldier's mother and learned about his heroism and lack of services and care. We established our grant program in 2023, in honor of our heroes who served bravely in the military and who have completed suicide, as well as their families. In 2023, we also awarded \$10,000 to suicide prevention programs. We are proud to take the lead in this area, as, based on our information, we represent the first Blue Star Mothers chapter to establish this type of grant program. For 2024-2025, we awarded grants to:

[Hudson Valley National Center for Veteran Re-Integration](#): The Center provides peer counseling to help with reintegration, as well as helping veterans to access additional community services.

[Clear Path for Veterans](#): Clear Path also received a grant in 2023. They promote social connections, strengthen support systems, and have many approaches to improving vet mental health.

[VetZero](#): Hudson River Housing and VetZero Services for Veterans aims to reach ZERO veteran suicides and ZERO veteran homelessness. Vet Zero received a grant in 2023 also and we applaud their tireless work.

[Hope for Heroes Foundation](#): Empowers independence for disabled veterans.

[Mental Health America of Dutchess County for Veterans](#): MHA Dutchess provides comprehensive services for vets including support groups, social activities, help with benefits, education and mental health support.

[Crazy Cat Lady Therapy for Veterans](#): CCLT4 serves veterans, current servicemembers, and first responders by inspiring and uniting them through a community of compassion, respect, dignity, and accountability. To provide alternative therapies through psychoeducation, creative art workshops and empowering activities

[Veterans Sportsman Association](#): Through the Veterans Safe Project, the VSA teaches safety and self-worth, through training on safe storage of firearms, risk assessment, support, and integrated activities.

[Warrior Bonfire](#): National organization that provides opportunities and support for wounded veterans.

Since 2021, when BSMHV formed, we've raised over \$15,000 a year to support veterans and service members. We raise most of our funds through a Galentine's Day Designer Pocketbook Bingo in Walden, NY, complete with a DJ and dancing. Our next Bingo is Sat., February 8, 2025. If you are nearby, please come support us.



Picture 1: BSMHV 24-25 Officers: Left to right: Kate Beare, 1st VP; Marion Walsh 2nd VP; Lisa Guercia, Fin. Sec.; Tezza Pizzuto, President; Kathe Leon-McHugh, Historian; Patty Whelan Wall, Rec. Sec.; Daleann Cruver, Treas.

Picture 2: Tommy Zurhellen from VetZero with BSMHV Officers Marion and Kate.

Picture 3: Past President Jamie Ackerly, 3d from left, with BSMHV officers Tessa and Kate, presenting a grant to Sullivan Vet2Vet Service Dog Training Program.

Blue Star Mothers of NEPA (PA-14)



We just came off of our Annual Hero 5K Run/Walk event on 11/9/24, where we raised over \$20,000 for military and veterans throughout the year!

Yesterday, with proceeds from our fundraisers, my group got together to mail out over 200 care packages for the holidays, so we've been BUSY! I've attached pictures. In our packages, we include local NEPA things like maple syrup, honey, and even local Gertrude Hawk chocolate candy bars but added our own special label to them (see attached).

Our group continues to grow, and we have a lot of fun in the process!

May you and your family have a wonderful Christmas holiday season!



November was a busy month for Chesapeake Blue Star Mothers MD3



Our chapter had two Veterans Day parades, speaking engagement, collected care packages, provided food for Freedom Food Pantry, and participated in a resource fair (Army National Guard). In addition we worked with an airline that does DOD flights. Special Forces coming back from deployment received nice thank you pens on flight back to the United States.



Christiana
I thank you so much for shoppers but more importantly, thank you for your support! As a military mother, we understand the sacrifices you also have to make, so thank you for everything you've done to serve the nation by raising a soldier.
All My Respect,
Dann



LAKE ARROWHEAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL POSTED A BANNER REQUESTING DONATIONS FOR MILITARY CARE PACKAGES. VICKI AND ALMA PICKED UP THE 4 BOXES OF DONATIONS THAT WERE USED AT OUR DECEMBER MEETING TO PACK 25 CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR ACTIVE AND VETERAN SERVICE MEMBERS. MOMS DONATED PATRIOTIC ORNAMENTS AND DECORATIONS TO DECORATE A CHRISTMAS TREE FOR THE LAKE ARROWHEAD REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION. ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, OUR MOMS MARCHED IN THE BLUE JAY CHRISTMAS PARADE KNOWN AS THE "SHORTEST PARADE IN THE US"! WE HAD BEAUTIFUL WEATHER AND EVERYONE HAD A GREAT TIME.



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: NADIA PHILLIPS, MICKEY CABALLERO, ALMA DIAZ, SANDI DEMARCO, VICKI GARNER, BRENDA SHINGLETON, MARISELA GRANADOS, LIN KOTICHAS, TRACY WILLIAMS



NY7 participated in the Buffalo Bisons baseball game recognizing military and first responders. Our Chapter members were on the field during the National Anthem and one of our members threw out the first pitch.



Annual remembrance of 9-11 with Flags on the Bridge



We were honored to participate in the dedication of a monument recognizing the sacrifice of local Gold Star Mothers



Our Chapter members, friends and family sold 50-50 tickets at the Buffalo Sabres and Buffalo Bills Military Appreciation Games.



During Military Appreciation Month, our Chapter was invited to a Salute to Service Baby Shower sponsored by the Buffalo Bills. We honored 4 local military members who are expecting their first baby and provided shower gifts.

NY7 and our community packed and shipped 433 We Care Packages to our deployed military. This is the highest number we have ever sent!



Serving Pancakes to our Veterans



Merry Christmas From NY7!



December 2024 CA-10 Events



We've had a busy couple of months at the Central Valley Blue Star Moms of Fresno, CA. We elected new officers, honored our veterans on Veteran's Day, and packed boxes for our Remember the Troops Package Drive for active duty military serving at Christmas



MI 202

We have had a very busy couple of months. In October we elected our new Board for 2024 - 2025

President- Terri Kariniemi

1VP - Brandi Robinson

Recording Secretary - Kristen Brown

Financial Secretary - Barbara Johnson

Treasurer - Nicole Fouty

We also have donated 14 quilts and lap blankets to the Ann Arbor VA the to Quilters at a local church who have opened their closet to us whenever we find a need.

In November we had the honor of attending 15 Veteran Day Events with our local AmVets including the local elementaries, middle school, high schools, and 5 Sr. Centers.

We also had our first packing party with special guests from the kindergarten class who collected donations and made decorations and cards to send to our deployed. Thank you to St. Mathews Lutheran School and Ms. Osbron's class and their adorable ambassadors Luke, Audrey and CiCi.

In December we laid wreaths at the Milford War Dog Memorial during Wreaths Across America.

Huron Valley Blue Star Mothers wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Wreaths Across

America

December 14, 2024

Fort Snelling National Cemetery

Karla, Benita, Debbie and Kathy joined other Department of MN Blue Star Mothers for Wreaths Across America. Our Gold Star Mother, Mary Johnson, presented a wreath representing Gold Star Mothers and for her son, Tom, during the ceremony.



St Paul Blue Star Mothers MN11

The St Paul Blue Str Mothers has had a busy fall. Some of our members and families joined other Department of Minnesota members at the Honored Always fundraiser at Fort Snelling in November.



After having Laura/Area Operations Specialist for the USO, speak at our chapter meeting in October, we partnered with the USO to provide toys and snacks for 50 kids at a Holiday Party for the 148th Fighter Wing.



The chapter was able to accept a donation of 400 packages of jerky as part of the "Jerky for Troops" promotion through the Bass Pro/Cabela's Stores. The generous donation was presented to President Kathy and Financial Secretary Karla on December 11th by the management and some employees of the Woodbury Cabela's. One of the 20 veterans who work at this store helped load our vehicles.



Our Sal's Meat Raffle fundraiser is up and running twice a month. Lynn, Donna, Dave and Mike worked the Dec 14th raffle.



Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley, AZ4



We participated in Wreaths Across America and two Veteran's Day Parades-Phoenix and Surprise.



We represented our Chapter at the Marine Flag Raising Ceremony in Uitchfield Park. At the Floor and Décor Veteran Event we were joined with the American Legion and Rosie the Riveters.



The Blue Star Moms collected handmade Christmas Cards from the cardmaking clubs of Sun City West and donated them to the Military Order of the Purple Heart for their Angel Tree Tag program, giving gifts to Veterans all over the valley this Holiday season.

Our Chapter attended Blue Horizons Elementary School where they honored our Veterans and Active Duty with a wonderful program. The children decorated and signed hundreds of Holiday Cards for the chapter that were sent out with our December care packages. It was a wonderful event!



Our Chapter was invited to speak at Peoria Women's Club.

\$1,200 worth of candy was collected from neighbors in Sun City West and the city of Surprise by our Chapter to replenish supplies for upcoming packing parties.

Our Chapter partnered with SRPVETS to include 21,000 baked or bought cookies in 93 packed boxes of goodies sent to deployed troops.



We were invited to the Gold Star Mom Holiday Party held at Soldier's Best Friend. Blue Star sis Lauren provided musical entertainment.

Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley AZ4

November/December 2024 Events

- November Highlights:
- Veteran's Day Parades-Phoenix/Surprise
 - VetFest
 - Glendale Stand Up
 - Blue Horizons Elementary School-Vets Floor and Décor Veteran Event
 - VAVs Mom and Baby program
 - Sun City West Candy Drive
 - Guest Speak: Peoria Women's Club
 - SRP Pera Club-Vets Mesa Event
 - Marine Flag Raising
 - Gold Star Christmas Party
 - 1,000 Christmas Cards Collected
 - Memorial Garden work

- Early December Highlights:
- SRPVETS/Blue Star Mom Care Packages
 - Wreaths Across America

- Up Coming Events:
- Space Force Flag Raising
 - All American Patriot Golf Tourny
 - Chapter Holiday Party-Pot Luck

Summary:

November is always our busiest month full of many activities focusing on our Veterans. Every event listed above was represented well by our various Chapter members. Every event was meaningful on so many levels. Our Chapter and individual members donated many baby outfits for the VAVs Moms and Babies Shower. Many military mamas received gifts of baby clothing and other essential baby items to help get their journey into motherhood off to a great start. We joined forces with the Salt River Project Company Employees and decorated hundreds of cookies, did a side-by-side packing party and shipped off 93 care packages full of love, sweet treats and cookies all over the world to our deployed troops.

CA30 hosted our 3rd annual Gold Star Sunday Sunset Ceremony on September 29 at the Gold Star Memorial in Norco, CA



MI 184

Family members of MI 184 Lake Erie Chapter participated in Wreaths Across America at Little Arlington in Lansing, Michigan, laying wreaths on the graves of those killed in action



The Tarnowski children lay wreaths and say the names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country

IOWA STAR

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

www.bluestarmothersofiowa.com

OCT-NOV-DEC 2024

bluestarmothersia1@gmail.com

Setting a Precedent with 2024's Care Package Project



This year's care package initiative achieved unprecedented success, thanks to the efforts of chapter members and numerous volunteers, donors, and community supporters. Countless hours were dedicated to the mission, contributing essential items, financial support, and outreach efforts.

As a result of this incredible effort, a **record-breaking 600 care packages** were shipped in to Iowa service members serving around the world.

This achievement highlights the power of collaboration and our unwavering commitment to supporting the well-being of Iowa's service members. We deeply appreciate everyone who contributed to making this year's campaign a remarkable success!

Community Outreach



"Boo Star Moms" **Lisa Wilson, Laurie DeHaai, and Holly Nokes** had a great time at Camp Dodge's Trunk-or-Treat event for military kids.

Wreaths Across America: Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach



Lisa Wilson, Monica Augspurger, Jannelle Chase-Kennedy, Leigh Tomich, and Jackie Krpan



We were honored to participate in the **Wreaths Across America** ceremony at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Adel. With a mission to remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach the value of freedom, we joined with communities across the nation in laying wreaths on the graves of our heroes. This heartfelt tribute symbolizes our enduring gratitude and unwavering support for the brave men and women who have served our country with courage and sacrifice.



Lisa Wilson and Leigh Tomich attended the monthly breakfast at the Bondurant American Legion. It was an opportunity to support the Legion's outreach and discuss potential avenues for collaboration.

Merry Christmas



and Happy New Year!



President
Lisa Wilson

Vice President
Jana Jones

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.

This fall has been a busy one for the Pine City Blue Star Moms!



In October, we hosted the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., Department of Minnesota 2024 Convention at the beautiful Armory in Cambridge, MN. Guest speakers from Ship Thrifty and Roger Up were among the highlights of the day, and it was great to see some old and meet some new friends.

November we were busy with our annual luncheon and bake sale fundraiser - but with a twist - it was 2 days this year. We also packed up and shipped care packages to soldiers overseas and stateside. Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in Duluth, MN donated 444 pounds of fudge to send in the boxes! They donate a pound of fudge for every pound they sell during the month of September and we have been fortunate enough to include them in our



Finally, in December, we shopped for and brought much needed household items, cleaning supplies and toiletries to the veterans who reside in the Linden Grove apartments in St. Cloud, MN. We also gave Holiday goodie bags, that included beef jerky donated by Cabella's in Rogers, MN, to each of the residents - all of whom who very appreciative and we enjoyed meeting them all.

Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6



The last two months have been huge for supporting our troops in Chicagoland! Care Package Collections – working with many partners, and with Operation Support Our Troops America (OSOT) for packing, we held a very successful care package collection drive and packing!

St Margaret Mary Big Day of Service – A local church invited us to be one of the many charities they support annually. They made holiday ornaments and handmade cards to be included in our care packages!

Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Naperville Sweets for Service – Our longtime partner collected bags of patriotic gummy bears for us to share with the USOs near us

Fisher House Breakfast – Once a quarter we make and serve breakfast to those families staying at our local house.

Bass Pro Shops Beef Jerky Program – WOW!! Our Bass Pro Shops in Bolingbrook, IL collected 1807 bags of jerky for our troops – the most of any store in the nation! We worked with our partners at Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans (MSHV) to get about 620 bags of jerky to them for their programs. Our three local USOs have always wanted to provide jerky but could never afford it, so we arranged for nearly 1200 bags to go to them. Both groups were so appreciative! And we are still waiting on more jerky from our local Cabela's for several more of our partners!

To end this year, we got together for a holiday party with our families – oh what fun we had! Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a Wonderful New Year!



Mountain Valley BSM TN4 has had a very busy November. We were featured in the local newspaper twice. Some things we are proud of this month are: Donating a flag to the local library, Donating snacks to the VA in Cleveland, Participating in the Veterans Day parade and packing 200 stockings for our deployed.



s News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Veterans Day Parade



The Mountain Valley BSM (Blue Star Mothers) were part of the Veterans Day parade in downtown Athens on Saturday. After the parade the Blue Star Mothers turned around and met at the VFW and stuffed 200 Christmas stockings for local troops who are currently deployed. The BSM are mothers, stepmoms, grandmothers, foster moms,

and female guardians who have children serving in the military or children who are veterans. They support each other and their children while promoting patriotism. They meet monthly on the 4th Saturday of the month at 10 am at the Mountain Valley BSM.



DOVEY WOLKIN, THE DAILY POST ATHENS
The local chapter of the Blue Star Mothers and the McMinn County Veteran Honor Guard raised a brand new American flag at E.G. Fisher Public Library Tuesday afternoon. The Blue Star Mothers are ladies with children who are currently serving in the military or have children who are veterans from the military. The local chapter Mountain Valley Blue Star Mothers meets the fourth Saturday of the month E.G. Fisher Library at 10 a.m. All mothers are welcome from any branch of the military that the children served or are serving in. President of the Mountain Valley Chapter is Karen Qualls, the vice president is Angela D. Coleman, recording secretary is Kelly Holmes, financial secretary is Sarah Isham and treasurer is Deanna Silar. The members of the honor guard in attendance are Gary Johnson (left), Commander William Anderson (center) and James King (right).

Happy  Holidays!

Merry Christmas
to the Families
of our Military
Men
and Women



May you have a
Blessed Christmas!

Merry Christmas
to all our Military men and women
who can't be with their families on
Christmas. You are in our prayers
and forever in our hearts.

-Charly M. Kibbey-Bentley



MERRY CHRISTMAS
TROOPS AND
VETERANS

MAY GOD
BLESS YOU

