



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

February 2025

A message from our National President

Dear Sisters,

I always look forward to February for several reasons.....it's the shortest month of the year; we celebrate our love for each other; and it's my Birthday Month 😊

This year was very different for me. As many of you know, my Dad has been at the center of my world, especially since my Mom passed in 2018. Dad lived a very FULL life, and sadly, he went to be with Mom on February 6. He is at peace, and my head is finally starting to clear a bit, so with time we will all be okay.

I share this for one reason only.....the LOVE! Thank you to those who sent a text, a card, an email, or made a phone call. You reinforced what this organization is all about. Not only do we support our active duty, Veterans, and Gold Star Sisters, but we support each other.

I have recently seen on Facebook, or been notified by text, of other Sisters losing their parent. While it is heartbreaking, the Sisterhood we share is like no other. Our organization was built on this strong foundation, and I continue to be proud of each of you for the work you are doing within your Chapter and the support you show for one another.



Contact Information for National Executive Board

President: Rebecca Stafford - MO
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A message from our National President (continued)

As long as you continue that support, our organization will live on forever and our founding Mothers would be so proud of what they started. Just think about it for a minute.....in 1942 when they were called together.....I bet they never thought that 83 years later we would still be standing. You should each take pride in being part of a very long and strong organization.

I hope you've been reading the Convention Chatter, and you are getting excited about Milwaukee, WI. While I had to slow down a bit over the past several weeks, I assure you, the Convention Committee has been full steam ahead. We have a just few things to finalize, then the registration form will be ready to go.

Registration will be handled just a bit differently this year, but it will be very simple. Just like our online store, you will not pay at the time of completing the form; you will receive an invoice to pay. This will allow streamlining for our financial officers and provide a better way to capture all the information necessary to ensure our headcounts are correct. There will be more to come shortly but mark your calendars, book those rooms, and get ready for a fun-filled and very educational convention.

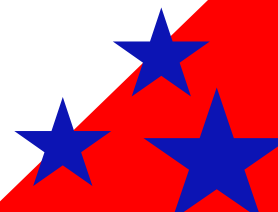
Together, we are stronger!
Be Kind, Have Patience, Give Grace

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



From the desk of

Anne Parker, VAVS Representative

VAVS AND BLUE STAR MOMS CELEBRATE "MILITARY CHILD MONTH".

As we honor our military and veterans every day, we sometimes forget the military child. Whether a child of an active duty or a veteran these children, no matter the age, can feel unseen, not remembered or thought of a vital part of the service their parent gives.

PURPLE UP! The color given on shirts and banners for the Military Child recognition is PURPLE. When you combine all the colors used by our military it combines to Purple. It is the joint environment of the military and engages all branches.

The month of April is given to these amazing military kids. The DOD celebrates military children all month. We have 1.6 million military children who face many challenges and unique experiences because of their parent's service or as a child of a veteran.

So, moms what can we do? First, kids need to be celebrated more than 1 month a year, but we can start this April 2025.

If you are a volunteer at a VA hospital or a chapter who donates to a facility here are some ideas.

Bring with you some pages copied from coloring books and some dollar store crayons to share a page or two with crayons to the kids waiting with their veteran parents for appointments.

Have some appropriate age story books and ask if you can read to the little ones or give them the book. The dollar stores have these books.

If you are near a base that has a school check on how you can work with them in the month of April for an event or ask what they are planning to join in. Contact an Air National Guard unit for their kiddo's too. Be imaginative.

So many ways to Celebrate Military Children. One easy way is to wear Purple in the month of April. Spread the word and **PURPLE UP.**

*** Good News**** The VA facilities have reopened the opportunity for onboarding. If you are waiting to have your background check, fingerprinting or training please call them. If you are waiting to fill out the VAVS application please go online to www.bluestarmothers.org and under VAVS complete your application and send to vavs@bluestarmothers.us

Thank you.



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

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Army National Guard

Blake Randall Godwin
Ernest Velasquez, Sr.
Ernest W. Musa
Jerry Wayne Ward
Luther Vance Watkins, Sr.
Moses "Mozell" Wright
Norman Legrand Hicks
Raymond "Butch" Multhauf
Robert Bruce Langenberg
Terry V. Yarbrough/NAVY

Army

Abraham A. Bolf
Alfred Joseph Nuvoli
Alfred Ray Bradshaw, Jr.
Aliro Saavedra
Allan Lee Locke
Andres O. Garduno (Tito)
Andrew Dudley Lindsey
Angel Figueroa
Angela Jean Finch
Arthur F. Tullock
Bennie Waynon Barrow
Bernice Stage
Billy Joe Lingle
Billy Pearce
Billy Whyte
Bobby Thomas Manning
Bohdan Paul Gregolynskyj
Bruce Edgerton
Bryan L. Jausel
Burton Marcum
C.H. Hughett
Candido Montoya
Carl B. Lewis
Carlton Lee Bryant
Charles Davis
Charles H. Kirby
Christopher D. Ramirez
Cleo Nelson Tippery Jr
Clifton Anglin
D K Johnson
Da'Mon Russel Jones
Dale A Embry
Dale R. Dubbs
Daniel Romo Pacheco
Daryl Eugene May
David A. Van Zanten
David Davis
David Eugene Stephens
David Perez Aguon
David Randall Cape
David V. Lipés

David Walter Davis
Dennis A. Montgomery
Dennis Patrick Tingen
Dennis R. Smalley
Devon J. Hunter
Dionicio G. Villalobos
Donald Monroe Summerlin
Donald R Green
Donald Ray Winstead
Donna Maria Forster
Douglas Bruce Shear, Sr.
Douglas L. Wakeley
Douglas Shivers
Eddie L. Simpson
Edmundo Gonzalez, Jr.
Edward R. Pedersen
Edwin Mike Puckett
Elmer Joe Hanna
Emerito N. Mendoza
Ernest Walker
Eugene C. Chalaire
Eugene Guthals
Eugene Redahan
Everett Eugene Marquette
Fernando Sepulveda
Frank H. Arnold
Fred Thomas Singleton
Fred Walker
Frederick Gene Johnson
Gary D Miller
Gary Dwain Dale Sr.
Gary Foster
Gary Lynn Boone
Gary Lynn Smith
George Albert Beinke
George Henry Walker
George Norris, Jr.
George Thomas Baxter
George Wallace Dickinson
George William Ingle III
Gerald Ernest Jungmeyer
Gerald Russell Welling
Gerald Stansberry
Gerald Travis Shattle
Glendon Ray Russey
Gunther Wasmuth
Hal Branson Durfee
Harold J. Trudeau
Harold Wayne Gaul
Harry Reed, Jr
Harvey Creteau
Hilton Mendenhall
Howard Peak, IV

Jack Barden Durham
Jack Ray Cummings
Jackie Lee Lewis
James "Jim" Glen Steffan
James Bontrager
James Criswell
James Herron
James Roland Moore
James Thomas Beasley
Janet Marie Gorden
Jeremy Edward Stuart
Jerrell Rae Ballard
Jerri Rossi
Jerry T. Acker
Jerry Thomas Schmolke
Jerry Verdayne Cole
Jesse Neil Partridge
Jesse Ray "Buddy"
Auttonberry
Jesus "Jesse" Mendez-
Robles
Jim Wagner
Jimmie Tennison, Jr.
Joe JD Cruz
Joe Trujillo
John "Doug" Douglas
Warden
John Alvin Streets
John David Darwent
John E. Eaddy
John Elmer Nehrt
John Lynn Botello Sr
John Patrick Lichner
Joseph A. Toth
Joseph C. Gibson
Joseph Francis Anderson
Joseph Kevin Hall
Joseph L. Tumpkin
Juanita I. LeDesma
Julius Ceaser Bryant
Justin David Stagg
Karin Kruger
Kenneth Newton Cheek
Kenneth D. Wiberg
Larry Keith Gray
Larry LeRoy Rose
Larry Wayne Miller
Lawrence "Larry" G. Richter
Jr.
Lawrence R Sanders Sr
Leander Peters
Leon Michael Young
Leonard H Knopp

Leroy Samuel Rippy Jr
Levester Williams
Lloyd Alton Dowdey
Lonnie Earl Caudill
Lonnie Willis
Lowell Eno Blair
Luis Rosario-Zabala
Luther Caron Reddish, Jr.
Luther David Chaplin
Marion Leon Schneider
Mark Zavodny
Martha "Martí" Velasco
Max David Rasmussen
Melvin Powell
Melvin R Underwood
Michael Allen Walker
Michael Cassidy
Michael Charles Bass
Michael H. Sanborn
Michael Lee Waltman
Mickey Wayne Summers
Mike Landrove Rea
Mike Reda
Nickie Wayne Gage
Norbert Anthony "Tony"
Steinhardt Jr.
Olive Floyd Williams
Orville David Garrison
Patrick Davis
Patrick Francis Edward
McAdorey
Peter Michael Kachur
Phillip L. Tutino
Preston James Topps
Ralph H Anderson
Randall Scott Miller
Raymond Garcia
Refugio Gonzales Jr
Renwick "Renny" Dozier
Rex Lee Hamilton
Richard Eugene Himes
Richard Packard
Robert (Bob) Leroy
Anderton
Robert Charles Perry
Robert Curtis Andry
Robert E. Wright
Robert Herman Conrad
Robert Leo "Bob" Stoecklein
Robert Vonavon Greene
Robert Wease
Ronald E. Nichols
Ronald Richard Straub Sr

Ronald Tamie Thames
Ronnie Dale Harleston
Ruben Leandro
Ruth Holliday
Selma Brooks Jr.
Sonny Gerald Strickland
Stephen Jeffery Rutz
Stephen Ray Hannon
Steven Lynn Hutchens
Steven Rapis Baula
Stuart Donovan Dempster
Talmadge Steven Mills
Ted Francis Wilder
Thomas "Tom" Hart Goffe
Thomas A Brown
Thomas Edward Harman
Thomas Floyd Michelli
Thomas Irvin
Thomas Jefferson Courtney
Jr.
Thomas Kern Jones
Timothy Joel Boscoe
Timothy M. Belcher
Tommie Lee Holloway
Tommy David Burch
Victor LeRoy McCune
Victor Noel Harris, Jr.
Victor Ricard
Warren Dortch Herring
Wayne W. Kinsey
Wesley H. Marling
Willard Roscar Shelton
William "Billy" Donald
Wright
William Anthony Graves
William Bascom Holloman
William E. Burns
William Edward Lundergan
II
William Edward Smoak
William Howard Damron, Jr.
William Moder
William Morris
William Paxton
William R. Holmes
William Robert Morgan
Adam Lewis Lutzweiler Jr/
Marines
Jose Peralez/Marines
Leland E. Matern/Marines
William T. Izer/Merchant
Marines

William Erwin Schleifer/
NAVY

Army Air Corp

Charles E. Landon
Ralph Abner Hyde

Navy

Alan Ferris
Alan J. Ferrero
Alan Sluhan
Alexander Boag Erskine Jr.
Anthony E. Jarvis
Anthony J Aliano
Anthony J. Testa
Ausencio Almanzo
Bob Boren
Bobby Joe Raper
Cara Joyce Figuerido
Charles W. Tully Jr.
Clifford Raymond Fejfar
Danny Wade Fountain
Darrell Wayne Spracklin
David A Cotner
David Emil Tidlund
David Michael Hulsey
Delbert "Dell" Edwin Drake
Dennis Gallon
Dennis Ray Motschenbacher
Donald Angerer
Donald Harlow
Donald Lee Wilkins
Donald R Daney
Donald William Day
Donnie Mack Smith
Edward "Pop" Donald Peete
Edwin Larry Wood
Edwin Michael Roedenbeck
Elbert Glen Dotson
Eugene Henry Aragon
Fredrick Lewis Firth
Gerald "Jerry" Holloway
Gerald William Bunge
Hayward Eugene Lewis
Herbert Paulman
Herman Apol
Jack W. Adkins
Jack Webb Lewis
James A. "Jimmy" Harris
James A. Wilson Jr.
James J. Storms
James Kenneth "Rabbit"
Womble



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Navy (cont)

James G. St. Angelo
James L. Timmons
James W. Rooney Sr.
Jason R. Sifford
Jeffery Allen Garner
Jeffrey Scott Roskelley
Jerry Martinez
Jerry Smith
Jesus Alva
Jimmy Malcolm Pierce
John Lewis Jones
John M. Belch
John Newbern Rose
John Parker Boyden
Joseph A. Mahan
Karen Joy Jaragin
Kenneth G. Salm
Kenneth Willmann
Kevin Joe Griffith
Kodi Daniel Frank Valore
Larry D. Osborn
Larry Eugene Ingerman
Lowell Roger Allee
Marcellus Lawson Price
Michael Wayne Wiseman
Nicholas Sebastian Milano, Sr.
Paul Edward Savage
Paul Patrick Bibeau
Paul Summerford Anderson
Phillip Gable
Ray O. Olsen
Reginald Wayne Ward
Rev Charles Wheelis
Richard Nelson
Ricky Dale Lynch
Robert "Bob" Asbury, Jr.
Robert Eugene Dennis
Robert Joseph Jacuzzo
Roger D. Sullivan, Sr.
Ronald Doughty
Ronald Eugene Wiggins
Ronald J Popke
Ronald Lewis Bennett
Russell Warren Kimmey
Sandalo M Lleo
Sandra Jean Walls
Stephen Thomas Roschyk
Suzanne Gleason
Terry R Sherrard
Thomas Lee Wells
Timi Louise Swarm

Tommy G Franklin
Tracy Edward Mulford
Walter Larry Jones Billups
Warren Upton
Wesley "Maddog" King
Ulmer III
Wilbur Lewis Edwards
Wilburn C. Smith
William Clouse
William D. Carver
William Herschel Bruce
William Joseph Smith Jr.
William Kelly Jr.
William L Williams
Wilson Ronald Vinson

Navy Reserve

Joseph Dana Whitney
Marine Corp
Andrew Sebastian
Florenzano
Andrew Wiley Vendal
Brenda Jo Cooper
Carl Pausewang
Carolyn Ann Welschmeyer
Charles (Chuck) S. Gaede
Charles Edward Armour III
Daryle Lynn Grounds
David Neil Sprott
Dennis R. Holman
Donald "Don" Leroy Martin
Donald "Jack" William Hart
Donald Lee Brinkley
Donald W. Martin, Sr
Earl Brown Jr
Edgar Warren Stephens
Ernest John Peto
Floyd Green
Frank Lozano
Frank T Walters
Frank Williams
Garland Albert Cox
George Michael Yett
George S Horton
George Scarberry
George Walter Lewis
Gerald Fredrick Hokenson
Gordon Eugene Boltz Sr.
Gordon Stokes
Gregory Leonard Jones
Ira Otis Grady
James Ihrie
James Rickey Flury

Jerry "Smoke" Polumbus
John Anthony Tullous
John Navaira Perez
John S. Laursen
John Winston Davis
Jon Jay Davis
Keith Kelly
Kelly Anderson
Kenneth Lawrence Burkett
Kenneth Perry Jr.
Lawrence Douglas Downs
Lawrence J "Pie" Rivet
Len Harold Prichett
Leslie George Dick
Louis Edward Nance
Malvin Haubenstein
Morris Hardiman
Nelson J Abreu
Pedro Cruz Gonzales
Ray Sammons
Rayburn Lee Blair
Raymond E Drake
Richard Hennessy
Rodney Batts
Roger Antonio Leyton
Roland Alfred Frech
Ronald M. Aardema
Russell Rosenthal
Scott Christopher Gonzales
Stanley Anderson Powell
Trevor Ryan Hixon
William McLane
William Sams
Zachary George Mixon
Jimmie Glenn Cothorn/Navy

Marines Reserve

Gene Higgins
Mark P. Funk
Coast Guard
Dollie Mae Clayton
Mary (Smith) Coles
Robert M. Vukanovich
Rodger Bernard O'Brien

Air Force

Alexander J. Pochek
Alfalene Wilcox Walker
Anthony Charles Bohlin
Anthony Rivoli
August J. Sherman
Benny Joe Caster
Bernard "Gene" Powell
Brandy Pentz McMillan

Carl Philip Beach
Charles R. Smith
Christopher Lee Johnston
Claude Norton Barrow
Dan O. Griffin
David R. Noel
Delvin "Del" Brown
Dennis Joseph Smith
Donald Thomas
Donald Vincent Simone
Douglas Gorden Sterr Sr.
Earl Augustus Hill
Eddie Otero
Edwin Walker
Esequiel Jesus Azua Jr.
Ezra Allen Paul
Frank Olsen
Freddie Birdsong
Frederick C Sicker Jr
Gary A. Merritt
George A Dymarcik
Geraldine Shubrick
Gordon Levi Foreman
Gregory Alvin Willis
Harvey Cecil Mayhill
Harvey Elmo Cargill
Henry Sapin Teran
Herbert Jordan
Ivan L. Woods
James "Mickey" Smith
James Boyd Stoker
James Burke
James Richard Dills
Jearld Douglass Garner
Jerry Lynn Pringle
John Edward Wright
John Garcia
John Joseph Cucuzza
John M Bell
John Paul Cernicek
John Stephen Forde
John William Lucian Beck
Joseph R Ballard
Julian Garcia
K. Emily Jean Foster
Karen Marie Layhew
Keith C. Brown
Keith Forest Sr.
Kenneth Robert Castania
Leonard Meyer
Leonard Wills
Leslie Charles Schaefer
Lois A. Matt

Marion Rich
Maurice Lee Mullinax Jr
Michael Andrew Lauer
Michael Gilbert Linton, Sr.
Michael Judson (Buddy) Bailey
Michael Kevin Lehr
Paul L. Harder
Peter Igor Denissoff
Philip Ray Ruzicka
Proctor Morton Boyd Jr
Rafael Temblador
Ralph "SKIP" Edward Feese Jr.
Robert Carroll
Robert Earl Mossey
Robert L. Cox
Robert Nathaniel Lewis
Robert Paul Terbet Jr
Seth Thomas White
Square Bynum, Jr
Steven Hofeditz
Theodore Smerkanich
Thomas David James
Warren Denmon
William Arthur Toler
William D. Wray, Sr
William Norman Hodges
William Thomas "Tommy" Buford
Barbara D. DiPoli/Army
Donald L Foerch, Jr/Army
Edward Hodapp/Army
Frank Jasper Eldridge/Army
James A. McDonald/Army
James Leon Zills/Army
Roy Dillard Goodman/Army
Robert "Thunder" Fred Kenyon/Army/Navy
Emanuel Leon Gunter/Navy
Frank Richard Lamothe/ Navy
Charles Allred/Marines
James Ellison Fultz/Marines
Mitchell A. Setliff/Army Nat. Guard
Tina Renee Sultzman/Army Nat. Guard
Wayne H Schomber/Army Nat. Guard
Wesley Frank Massey/ Army/Coast Guard/Navy

Air National Guard

Paul Frazier
Michael Amos/Navy

Blue Daisies



*Joanne "Joan" Davis OH 15
Joan was a sister and
Chapter Chaplain and will be
missed very much by her
Blue Star Sisters.*

*Ida Ketchum CA 14
Ida worked for NASA at
Edwards AFB and was a very
proud Blue Star Mother. One of
her sons and her husband both
retired from the Air Force.
Her chapter will miss her greatly.*



Michigan Blue Star Mothers Day

Blue Star Mothers of America, was organized on Jan. 21, 1942, in the office of the Flint News Advertiser. On January 22nd 1942 the weekly paper made an announcement about this new patriotic organization for mothers. It also provided a coupon with the article. Mothers who filled out the coupon and returned it received a blue star, one for each child serving in our military. With the overwhelming response a meeting was to be held on February 1st 1942 at the Hotel Durant in Flint, Michigan. So 358 mothers attended and Blue Star Mothers of America was born.

When BSM Dept. President Carol Gates asked if anyone wanted to work on a BSM State holiday, I raised my hand. That was in 2011. I put my wrong foot forward stumbled through the gates but continued to try to get it noticed. Sherry Kramer & I testified before the Veteran's Committee a couple of times, others came along side and with the perseverance of Rick Outman, my representative then he continued on as my senator, it was finally signed into law!

On September 10, 2024, we met with Governor Whitmer, Past Dept. President Marcia Janik, Past Dept. President Jackie Ransom, me and Past Dept. President Elizabeth Bohannon.

Written by Kathy Barnes, MI Past President Blue Star Mothers September 10, 2024

Blue Star Mothers-Department of Michigan was recognized Tuesday, February 4th at the Michigan State Lansing Capitol for the official Blue Star Mothers Day (which is actually February 1st). Trudy Wysocki, Blue Star Mother Department of Michigan President, attended along with Mothers from Chapters 99, 179, 188, 191, 194, 195, 197 and 198. Thank you to Representative Martin for setting up the meet and greet to celebrate with so many Sisters and visiting with our Senators and Representatives.





MD3 Winter Happening's: We have braved the cold on many occasions.

December was the Annual Holiday Activity Duty/Veteran Meet & Greet. We love getting them together and it is always the highlight of the year.

January we attended Howard County Flag Retirement, Decorated collection boxes for Freedom Pantry food/diaper drive for National Guard Families in need, and even crafted our own chapter logo notepads.

Looking forward to warmer weather and more fun filled days in 2025!





We are planning a fundraiser for May, 2025, at Veterans Park. Jeff Gallahan has agreed to be our Chicken Barbeque cooker again and we are lining up crafters. Hopefully we can have a great event and maybe even make a profit!!!

That would be very nice. We have an Eagle Scout who may do the flower beds for his Eagle Project in the Spring. Hopefully, it won't overwhelm him and send him screaming for help.

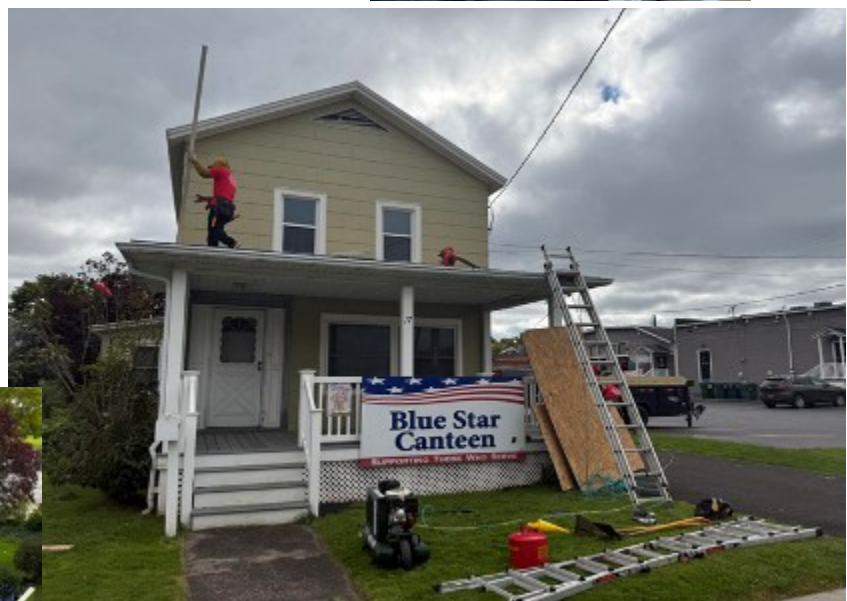
The gardens are rather overgrown; one might even say jungle-ish.

Canteen News

Exciting news! A new roof and windows were installed on October 10th!

A gift to NY#1 and the Canteen from Veterans Choice Exteriors. Also, a new driveway was installed!

We are waiting on information regarding a grant for new siding for the Canteen. See pictures below!



We have a beautiful new back porch entry way to surprise people with when they come. Brian Mader and Stephen and Dick Metcalfe did an amazing job. It is now a very bright and cheerful entrance.

Despite the winter weather, the **Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI 178** had a great turnout for the January 15th lasagna dinner in Port Austin! We appreciate all who attended and who support our mission.



Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI 178 prepping for January lasagna dinner at American Legion Post Port Austin. Pictured are Eileen David, Donna Wolschleger, Pat Rogers, Linda Elandt, Lynne Tschirhart and Sherrie LaLonde. Missing from picture is Nicole Stermer.



TREASURE COAST BLUE STAR MOTHERS, FL11



FL 11 Treasure Coast Blue Star Mothers have been active during the month of January. Photos of our visit to Ft Pierce Coast Guard station with loads of goodies.



Photos of the Purple Heart Cane project which the chapter supported. Each cane was hand crafted for a specific veteran awardee. It was a very moving event.



Lone Star Chapter, TX6

Happy Valentines Day to all our BSMA Sisters!

Thank you to our member Shelley who does the USO and was there for Gold Star Families at Snowball Express!



Lone Star Chapter TX6 sending some love from Texas!



Wreaths Across America

Chapter Christmas Party



Upcoming Events
2/15 February Meeting
2/24 Chapter Anniversary
3/15 March Meeting



TWO OF OUR RIM BLUE STAR MOMS, PRESIDENT TRACY WILLIAMS AND RECORDING SECRETARY BRENDA SHINGLETON, VOLUNTEERED AT THE LOCAL QUILTS OF VALOR SEWING DAY IN CRESTLINE. THE GROUP SEWED 3 PATRIOTIC QUILTS FOR OUR VETERANS.

AT OUR FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING, MOMS PARTICIPATED IN THE "SHOW SOME LOVE TO OUR MILITARY" NATIONAL PROJECT. WE PUT TOGETHER 50 VALENTINE CARDS AND TREATS FOR OUR ACTIVE DUTY & VETERAN SERVICE MEMBERS. VALENTINE CARDS WERE COLORED AND SIGNED BY LOCAL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AT LAKE ARROWHEAD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL.



A joint project involving the Rochester Blue Star Mothers, the Gold Star Mothers, and the Webster NY community hopes to be able to fill care packages going out to deployed services with letters from a grateful community. The plan involves placing “mail boxes” in businesses and agencies throughout the community, where people can deposit cards, letters and notes for the troops. Plans are to collect the letters in April, and then include them in care packages the Rochester Blue Star Mothers will be sending overseas in June. If you are a business or an agency in Webster, NY and would like to get involved, please collect blank cards or note paper and email missyblog@gmail.com for arrangements to pick up the cards.

Mail Call Letters from Home A Community Project



The 2024 Baby Shower Squad



The Rochester Blue Star Mothers will once again host a baby shower on April 27th for military and veteran families expecting a child or have a child less than 6 months of age. The shower is free for the first 20 families that register. Families will be showered with baby equipment, supplies, clothes and diapers.



ST PAUL BLUE STAR MOTHERS

MINNESOTA 11

It's winter in Minnesota but that doesn't stop the St Paul Blue Star Mothers from working the mission! Debbie, Benita and Donna joined other moms, from the Department of MN, in the St Paul Winter Carnival Grand Day Parade. It was a bit chilly but "not as cold as some years!"

While they were walking in the parade, other members, Lynn, Kathy, and Marilyn were working the twice monthly Sal's Meat Raffle, which is our main fundraiser.

Our chapter was invited to help with the USO's baby shower for the MN National Guard at Fort Snelling Air Guard Base. Our chapter provided some gift bags, Kathy, Karla, Benita and Debbie helped with games and a light meal. They were joined by 2 members from MN7 (Jeanne and Jen) and the Red Cross of Minnesota. Some great connections were made.

During our February meeting, we made Valentine cards. Along with a nice donation of Valentine drawings from the 3rd Graders at Capitol Hill Elementary we had a total of 169 cards to deliver to the Minneapolis VA!



OH 57



We packed 180 Troop Boxes this weekend.



We had 34 volunteers from our local VFWs and communities come together. And again an "anonymous" donor stopped in and paid for most of the shipping fees.

We are so blessed.



YELLOW ROSE - TX20

February 2025

 Blue Star Mothers of America Yellow Rose TX20
 BSMA Yellow Rose TX20



REMEMBER HONOR TEACH

WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA

Sonia, Judi and Kade braved the bitter cold in January to assist with WAA's wreath retrieval at DFW National Cemetery.



We are putting our Bass Pro Shops beef jerky donation to good use already!

Following our February Chapter meeting, we made good use of our time and built 50 treat bags with jerky, candy and activity books that we shipped to a unit overseas.



TX20 was honored to participate in the community-wide City of Frisco - City Hall Pep Rally. Any chance we get to cheer on our local Frisco Veterans, you will see us there!



Every bag received a personal note of appreciation from our Chapter Members plus letters from the community.

At our February Chapter Meeting, we celebrated all of our sisters in honor of Blue Star Mother's Day, February 1st.





**BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF THE
LEHIGH VALLEY PA201**

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION DAY JANUARY 20, 2025

The day of the Presidential Inauguration is filled with procedural requirements and much pomp and circumstance. Celebratory activities also play a huge part in the swearing in of a new United States President. This year's Presidential Inauguration Day held a very special meaning for one of our Chapter's Blue Star Sisters. Anita Krause, long time member of PA201 had the distinct pleasure of seeing on television her Naval Academy granddaughter participate in the Inauguration Event.



Sophia Krause, who is a Youngster (2nd year) at the United States Naval Academy and member of the Naval Academy Glee Club had the honor of singing at the Inauguration Ceremony. Sophia is the daughter of Jeff and Lourdes Krause and has two sisters who are graduates of the US Naval Academy, Isabel Class of 2017 and Victoria Class of 2018. Sophia will graduate in 2027. Sophia also sang with the Glee Club as Jimmy Carter was brought to the Capital in Washington DC to lay in state. The Glee Club including Sophia will be performing in Orlando, FL during the Naval Academy's Spring Break.

Sophia is the young lady on the left in this photo



Sophia with her proud parents

Sophia and the Glee Club had the honor of a photo op with US Senator Tim Sheehy, Navy Seal and Aerial Firefighter. Definitely a moment of pride for all of these Naval Academy Glee Club members to have their photo posted on Instagram by a US Senator.

Our Blue Star Mom Chapter congratulates our sister, Anita Krause, her son and daughter-in-law and especially her granddaughter, Sophia on her participation in the Inauguration Day for our 47th President!!

Tim Sheehy @TimSheehyMT · 17h
Ran into the Naval Academy Glee Club who did an incredible job during today's inaugural ceremony. Go Navy!



63 207 3.6K 128K

LA 7

Geaux Seven Chapter, Kathy Baker and Sandy Stockwell along with Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1, Sonny Senft delivered Christmas stockings stuffed with goodies to veterans that were hospitalized in the VA Southeast Louisiana Health Care Medical Center in New Orleans.



Kathy Baker, Terri Covington, Sandy Stockwell and Dena Landy meeting before going to Wreaths Across America Retirement of wreaths.



Sandy Stockwell, Dena Landry, Michelle Searcy and Terri Covington along with Kathy Baker packed 9 care package boxes for our special adopted deployed servicemen which will be mailed out from Jan-June.



Kathy Baker, Donna Lee and Sandy Stockwell the Geaux Seven Chapter BSM Military Hero Banner Committee met to discuss the 2025 banners for the four cities that will be placing banners this year.



Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley, AZ4

Chapter members assisted military families with Christmas shopping through MAMs (Military Assistance Mission) event.



Below: Our Chapter thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Wickenburg Veterans Stand Down. Hosted by American Legion Kellis-Draper Post 12, this wonderful event took place on a crisp and clear mid-January weekend in this picturesque Western town. It featured designated military speakers and numerous Veteran Service Organizations who set up decorative tables filling the halls of the Post and adjacent Elks Lodge as well as along the outside corridors of the buildings. Veterans and their families were treated to plenty of information, giveaways, and good conversations. Post 12 also hosted a silent auction and a delicious grilled hamburger & chips lunch while Country music from one of the local radio stations contributed to the enthusiasm in the air!



The students at Litchfield Elementary School District created 50 beautifully decorated and filled Valentine bags for our deployed troops overseas and those defending our United States Borders. We are so blessed to have community support!



The children at Dreaming Summit Elementary School made cheery valentine cards during their art classes that went into our February Care Packages.



Left: Our chapter table theme at the Buckeye American Legion Post 53 Valentine Event was "Australian Food". We served up Chicken Parm and Macaroons!

Right: Massing of Colors for the Military Order of World Wars was held at the Palm Ridge Center in Sun City West, AZ.



The Avondale Interfaith Council invited our Chapter to participate as one of their guest speakers at their recent meeting, which was very well attended. Councilwoman Tina Conde and Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson were also in attendance. Speeches were given by Angels on Patrol and an Avondale Police Officer shared a very inspiring story. On the left is the amazing female combat veteran Jeannette Garcia who served 2 terms in Iraq.



Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley AZ4

January/February 2025 Events

- Space Force Flag Raising
- Military Assistance Mission-AZ Natl Guard Facility
- Deliver Playhouse to Military Member
- All American Patriot Golf Tourny-Care Packages assistance
- Elementary School Valentines- Troops
- Care Packages-40 boxes shipped
- Wickenberg Stand Down
- Guest Speak-City of Avondale
- Veterans Community Project #5
- Piestewa Fallen Heroes Memorial Fundraiser Dinner
- American Legion Valentine Dinner
- Honor & Remember-13 Fallen families

Summary:

The end of December we teamed up with the Mavericks and assisted with a huge packing party at the All American Patriot's Golf Tournament in Litchfield Park. We assisted military families with shopping for the holidays through Military Assistance Mission at the Arizona National Guard Facility. We supported Space Force by attending the Space Force Flag Raising ceremony. Four West Valley school districts created beautiful Valentine's Day cards for our February Packing Party, where we packaged and shipped out 40 boxes to our deployed troops. We set up a booth at our first ever Wickenberg Stand Down-there was a lot of great foot traffic and special connections made with our Veterans. The City of Glendale broke ground for the amazing Veterans Community Project-City #5. Several chapter members attended the American Legion Post 53 Valentine Dinner/Dance. Our food table was Australian Themed! We proudly mayored our flag in the Massing of Colors hosted by the Military Order of World Wars event in Sun City West.



Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6

We were honored to be recognized at Chicago Steel Hockey Military Appreciation Night as the Charity of the Game!

It is always special to us to serve desserts to our Veterans, their families, and their friends at our VFW Fish Fry!

Now we gear up for our annual fundraiser – our Battle of the Branches Chili Cook Off!!



In January, we held our annual Holiday Party, featuring a delightful potluck and an engaging dice game with fun gifts.

Members walked in the St. Paul Winter Carnival Parade on a cold and windy Saturday in January.



In February we had our annual grocery bagging fundraiser. It was a busy day, and we made over \$1400.00.



We continue to make meals at the Minneapolis Fisher House three times a month.

We volunteered at the VA Pop-Up Pantry.

We sent Valentine Cards to the Minneapolis VA.



Also, in February we volunteered at and donated items for a USO Baby Shower that was held at the 133rd Airlift Wing with many expectant mothers, a few dads and siblings and even a little 6-week-old baby.





Southwestern PA 16

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA

Volunteering Event



The Blue Star Mothers of Southwestern PA began 2025 with much planning for the upcoming events, sharing our time with a dinner for the residents of the Colonial Garden Veterans Home. We shared fellowship and food. Sharing stories and learning about the great things these wonderful Veterans have done.

Donations

We are so blessed to receive the donations of support like we do! The Planning Ladies of Cumberland Woods Village made 65 mats for our next care packing event. Planning is, the process of turning plastic bags into yarn, or plarn, and then crocheting or knitting it into items like sleeping mats, rugs, or purses. What a lovely group of patriotic ladies.

Thank you very much
This mat was made
for you with love
By the Planning Ladies of
Cumberland Woods Village
in Allison Park, PA
Thank you for all you do!



Blessings were sent from the Bethany Church who hand made Pocket Prayer Shawls to include in our care packages. One of the members is 92 years young who made these! So blessed!



Our chapter collected items for the Butler VA's Homeless Veterans Program. We collected, clothing, goods, snacks, toiletries, cutlery, and first aid supplies.

Sacramento Blue Star Moms CA7

[February 2025] NEWSLETTER



Care Package Event November 2024



The Sacramento Blue Star Moms are thankful for Care Package donations

from the Elk Grove Community and students from

Pleasant Grove High School and

Katherine L. Albiani Middle School



Rucksack Walk January 2025



Moose for the Troops December 2024





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2/2/2025 - Members of Rio Grande Valley had the honor to attend the Lt. Dan Band Concert with Gary Sinise at Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque. It was a beautiful day as we sang along, and danced and were toe-tapping. He performs at USOs, military bases and entertains troops, and raises money for disabled veterans, Snowball Express and so much more. Honor. Gratitude. Rock & Roll!



NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERANS FEBRUARY 9-14, 2025
RIO GRANDE VALLEY, NM2 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
ALBUQUERQUE GOLD STAR MOTHERS DISTRIBUTED VALENTINES CARDS AND CANDY
TO INPATIENT VETERANS AND CLINCS AT THE RAYMOND G. MURPHY VA HOSPITAL ON FRIDAY.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



FEBRUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

February 2025 Meeting

February 18th

Quilt Raffle

Jan 21st-Feb
28th

Honor Flights

April 26th, May 17th
& June 14th

2025 National Convention

July 28th-Aug 1st



Pictured above are snapshots from our 1st fundraiser of 2025; creating trivets made from wine corks! Not only did we raise funds, but we shared a meal, laughed and showcased our crafting talents.



At our January 2025 meeting, we gathered (in sub zero temps!) and gave special recognition to our Associate Member Debbie, who goes above and beyond for our chapter, our Active Military and our Veterans. Also pictured (on the bottom right) are the donations (*a complete baking set & bakeware accessories*) that were provided to Fairchild Veterans Hall.





A simple smile makes any day better

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

