

Happy New Year 2025



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

January 2025

A message from our National President

HAPPY NEW YEAR & Welcome to 2025!!

For some reason, I am finding this article very difficult to write. Some of us have been hit with devastating tornados, others with blizzards and freezing temps, and now horrific fires. I lost a very good friend this week from a sudden heart attack. I don't share this information for sympathy but just to say..... We ALL have something going on in our lives so PLEASE treat each other with kindness and respect.

I ask.... Why did you join this organization?

We are a very elite group, and not just anyone can be a paid member. According to today's stats, less than 1% of our population is currently serving in the military; so that means, less than 1% of Moms "qualify" to be here. Take pride in the fact that your son or daughter was brave enough to raise their right hand and swear to not only serve this country but die for this country.

Before you act or speak inappropriately, stop and think of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for us; take a deep breath and remember you are not here to make yourself look better..... You are here to work our mission..... Supporting our active duty, Veterans, and our Gold Star Mothers. We too need support, and no one understands military life better than another military mom, so please support each other and work the mission.



Contact Information for National Executive Board

President: Rebecca Stafford - MO
president@bluestarmothers.us

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

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

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

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

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

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

Treasurer: Stacy Breithaupt - MI
treas@bluestarmothers.us

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A message from our National President (continued)

For our Presidents.....when you took your oath and were handed the gavel for your Chapter, you were instructed to ***“Use it firmly and with discretion, but never in a dictatorial manner. Remember that the President is expected to set a good example. The success of this Chapter, for the period of your office, depends greatly on your wise conduct of its affairs.”*** The Executive Board works with the President to bring matters to the Chapter body; the Chapter body should be voting on these matters for the good of their Chapter and our mission. It is not up to the President or Chapter Board to make decisions for the Chapter.

If any Chapter needs clarification or assistance in this or any other area, your NEB is happy to help, but we ask that you work together in a cohesive manner to make your Chapter successful. We also continue to ask that your Chapter collaborate with other Chapters..... this is not a competition..... we are all winners because of the hard work and dedication we have to our military.

Positions are temporary.

Ranks and titles are limited.

But the way you treat people will always be remembered.

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

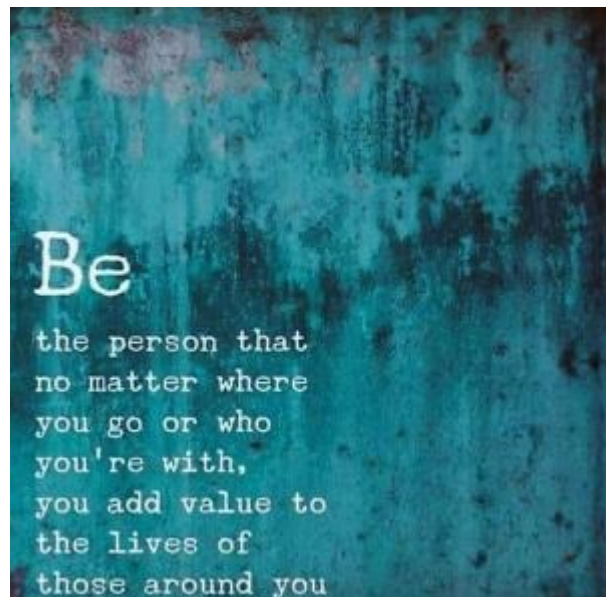
As always, my door is open to anyone who has questions. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of our National Officers as we are here to help everyone.

Yours in Service,

Becky

Rebecca Stafford

National President



2025 Updated Membership Forms

Attention Chapter Presidents and Membership Chairs—We have updated the Membership Application for 2025, developed a separate Associate form and updated the transfer form. Please download and use these anytime a paper form is needed. We have expanded these applications to collect additional information for our Gold Star children's names as well as additional information on our Veteran Mothers.

Another bit of good news - Associates can now join directly online by clicking on the Associate form, the same way our New Members may click on the Members only form.

The new forms were emailed earlier and are also located on the BSMA website. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Karen Stillwell, National 1VP

1VP@bluestarmothers.us

614-893-1180



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!



YOUR NATIONAL FINANCE TEAM IS HERE TO HELP! TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE OR TRAINING PLEASE SEND US AN EMAIL WITH THE TYPE OF TRAINING YOU'D LIKE AND SOME POTENTIAL DATES/TIMES AND WE WILL COORDINATE WITH YOU!

BUDGET

TRACKING EXPENSES

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE?

QUICKBOOKS

UNDERSTANDING THE FINANCIAL POLICY

MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES

ONLINE STORE PURCHASES

WOULD YOU LIKE FINANCIAL TRAINING?


DOS AND DON'TS


BANKING

DONATIONS



NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY
CARRIE BECK

 FINSEC@BLUESTARMOTHERS.US

 (772) 301-8661



From the desk of

Anne Parker, VAVS Representative

Wishing all our Blue Star Mothers a new year filled with joy, energy and determination.

The time since convention went so quickly and now, we are headed to convention again in a few short months which will fly by even quicker.

All our chapters have their plans made for packing parties, upcoming community events, fundraisers and monthly meetings which take up more time than the hours in a day.

Some of our military kids are active duty and more and more are becoming veterans. The one thing we can be sure of is one day they will ALL be veterans.

Veterans have the same sense of duty as they did while active duty without the full weight of their branch supporting them. What our veterans have is the VA facility which offers health care, classes, fellowship and Blue Star Mothers. As we do in other areas our moms fill the void. We volunteer at the facility during special occasions, holidays, day to day activities like escorting patients to appointments, greeting at the door to welcome them, and offering each a smile. What our Blue Star Mothers do is priceless.

Our chapters participate with their donations of pantry items, hygiene products, fresh fruit, books, blankets and so much more. Again, these donations fill the void.

Our volunteers donate their time and chapter funds to turn a day around for a veteran and with each day another serviceman or woman becomes a veteran.

Our VAVS program needs more volunteers. Blue Star Mothers who will spend a few hours a month to fill the void. Everyone is qualified and no special education or background is required. Only the willingness to do for another mother's child who is a veteran.

For more information, please contact our National VAVS Rep. Anne Parker – vavs@bluestarmothers.us. On the national website, under VAVS, you can fill out the application. If you cannot commit to being a representative, you can always be an occasional volunteer along or with other chapter members helping with events. Some of these events may be on the weekends.

Our VAVS team is here to help you get started. We look forward to having you JOIN us supporting veterans.

Anne Parker, Doreen Berggren and Carol Sanchez

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

Donald Grant Bahr
Lowell White
Michael C. Matthews
Oland Charles Bouillion
Ronald R. Besson
Tony Rice

Army

Adolph C. Valadez
Albert Dewain Campbell
Andres Correa, Jr
Andrew Jacob Boback
Andrew Weyker
Anthony "Tony" Lara
Antonin Rezac
August Orlando
Ben Hopper
Benjamin Green
Bennie Smith Jr
Bert Hanna III
Billy Don Stephens Jr
Billy Ray Self
Bobby Lee Williamson
Bret Allen Barker
Bruce Allen Stewart
Bryce Thornton
Burnett Frank Jermyn
Carl Fortner Jr
Charles Edward Isom, Sr.
Charles L. Davis, Sr.
Charles Tracy Blanford
Christian Joseph Power
Clair P. Finlayson
Clarence Klapmeyer Jr.
Clifton Robert Adams Jr.
Clinton Dean Ponder
Clyde Goodman
Clyde Lee Bonnelycke
Clyde Stevenson
Colton Davis
Council Donald Jr.
Craig F Mark
Curtis Carl Alexander
Dale Eugene Wilkerson
Dale Lee Elkins
Daniel A. Jones
Darrell Wayne Olds
Darryll Alan Rast
David Owen Eugene
Summers II
David W. Bentley
David Wayne Wilson
Dennis P. Johnston

Dennis Wayne Levinge Sr
Denny Copeland
Donald E. Pinello
Donald Glen Perry
Donald Meinen
Donald Shank
Donnie Randall Barrett
Douglas Allen May
Douglas C Walck
Douglas Edward Melter
Douglas Eugene Elliott
Dr. Stephen Welty Sr.
Du Hai Tran
Dwight Vernon McNeil
Eddie Wayne Glenny
Edsel Keith Kinney, Jr.
Edward John Nauss
Edward Paul Wuensch
Edwin L Owen
Edwin Thomas Strom, PhD
Emilio "Pops" Fonseca
Emory Donald Beasley
Eric Bey
Ernest " Pete " Cox
Ernest Nuncio Columbus
Felix W Henderson Jr
Foimai F. Lauofo
Frank Anthony Agricola
Frank Hernandez
Frank Webster Woodruff Jr
Fred H Paul Jr
Frederick Aaron Brafford
Frederick Daniel Dickas
Gary Allen Raabe
Gary Charles Worden
Gary Lynn Boone
Gary Lynn Stinson
Geary Ray McCabe
Gene Milton Sweet
George Adams
George Welborn Hensley
Glen A. Martin
Glenn Michael Sellars Sr
Gregg Petersen
Guadalupe Ramirez Garcia
Gustavo Arellano
Harlan Michael Adair
Harold Mance Doss
Harold Wayne Davis
Harold Welch
Hector Louis Ortiz
Herbert Terry, Sr.
Herman W Pickens Sr

Horace H. Moore
Ira J Anderson
Jack M. Webb
James "KARO" Melvin Orr Sr.
James Felton Puckett Jr.
James Franklin Mattox Jr.
James Handley Jr.
James Martin
James Patrick Wood
James Valentine Bugajski
James W. Brennan
James Wayland Cheadle
Jason Neumann
Javier A Morales
Jay Kelly Fain
Jaylon Leroy Johnson
Jeremy Lee Whitehead
Jerry Alvin Johnson
Jerry Lynn Davis
Jerry Wayne Haveard
Jess Leo Uribe
Jesse Williams
Jimmy L Harpole
Jimmy Lee Robertson
Jimmy Rodriguez
Jimmy Wayne Ward
John A Morassi
John Charles Amos
John Edward Bagby
John Edward Schoonover
John G Wolcott
John Lee Pulliam Sr.
John Raymond Morris
John Richard Dial
John William Lacey
John William Magnuson
Jonathon C. Marshall
Jose Gonzalez
Juan Cruz
Juan Cruz Copy
Juan Legarreta-Lopez
Juan Maldonado
Kenneth "Kenny" Shedd
Kenneth Duane Sanders
Kenton Max Grimm
Kevin Duane Brooks
Kurt A Lyle
Larry Buck Holland
Larry Dean Watts
Larry Donnell Johnson
Larry Thomas Doughty
Laurance Boyden

Lawrence 'Larry' Franklin Filener
Lawrence Eugene Welch
Lewis Edward Bowman
Lloyd Marcus Jolly Smith, Sr.
Logan Edward Werth
Lonnie Daniel Burks
Lonnie James Strachan
Louis Charles Leopard
Louis J. Scherer
Louis L. Schubert
Mark Allen Freedlund Sr.
Mark Daniel Fike
Marvin Bradshaw
Matthew W. Hill
Melvin Cintron Santiago
Melvin Lee Gregory
Michael Allen Carlson
Michael John Nixon
Michael P Hennessy
Michael Wayne Fish
Michell Stephen Johnson
Miles E Myers
Norberto Valverde Perez
Norman Lynn Crews
Odd Franklin (Frank) Holstead
Odis Ray Fletcher
Oland Charles Bouillion
Ora "Peaches" Watts
Pamela Joy Sherwood
Patrick Thomas Cooper
Paul Eugene Kinn
Philip Robert Ivey
Philip Stanley Brooks
President Prim Jr
Preston Leon Whalin
Prince Smalls, Jr
Ralph S. Cotner
Ralph Ronald Griffin
Ramon Mojica Zendejas
Randall D. Thaxton
Raymond F. Reeves
Richard Ehlers
Richard Oliver Whitehead
Richard Wayne Watkins
Robert Anthony Lynch
Robert Bert Hatch
Robert C. McIntire
Robert Griffith Owens
Robert Harl Hart
Robert Homero Sackett
Robert L Clark

Robert Lawrence Hall
Robert Platt
Robert Thomas Ford
Robert William Popalisky Jr.
Rocky Hoch
Rodger Leland Opfer
Rodney Ray Leech
Roger Carter
Roger Pierce
Rolph Gustav Diehl
Roman J. Bokowski, Jr.
Ronald DeSiderato Sr.
Ronald Douglas Sr.
Ronnie Hamblin
Roy Slagle III
Ruben Barron Banda
Sean Barnum
Shawn Adams
Stanley L. Buford
Stephen Allen Baker
Steve Bailey Brooks
Steve Randolph
Teddy Junior Casady
Thogarma Manuel Manzo
Thomas Charles Hazlett
Thomas G Deely
Thomas Henry Sacher
Tony Cary Jones
Tracy R. Willis
Víctor Manuel Padro
Martínez
Vincent Gatto
Walter Alan Clark
Walter Emerick
Walter R. Russell
Warren Bennett Thomas
Wilford Grant
Wilfred Clifford LaPointe
William Brinson
William F Reid
William F. Reamer Jr.
William Frank Bizzak
William G. Miller
William J Balsom
William Paul Templeton
William Preston McIntosh
Winton E. Michell

Navy

Albert "Shorty" Leon
Crumpler Sr.
Barbara Ann Fitzmayer
Bernard Joseph Fagan JR.
Bobby Eugene Osbourne

Bobby James Bayles, Sr.
Bradley W. Bowen
Bruce Bennett
Carl Vincent Wyss
Carlotta Stanley
Charles H. Griva
Charles Knapp
Christia J. Russell
Clinton Albert Coon, Jr.
Conrad Ruben Serna
Daniel Alexander Kline
Darain Ashton Woods
David Bruce Matz
David Lee Steinmeyer
David Owen Eugene
Summers II
David Scott Bramlett
David Summers, II
Donald E Reynolds
Donald K Ferguson
Donald Lee Wehnt
Donald M. Graham
Donald Paul Spahr
Donnie Randall Barrett
Edward Windhurst Jr
Ernest B Dunham
Everett Burcham
Floyd T Eastwood
Francis J Richards II
Gary Lynn Bitzer
Gary Walters
Harold W. Seibert
Harrell Pace
Hector Olmeda Jr
Henry Eugene Landers
Hugh Anderson
Ivo James Van Asten
James "Kirk" Edwards
James Emmanuel Orluck
James Patrick O'Leary
James Thomas Patterson
Jason Welch
Jasper Lee Rhodes
Jedarius Ford
Jesse Melvin Boyer
Jimmy C. Bishop
Joe Naquin
John Arlon Caudill
John August Moser
John Brown
John C Frank III
John Joseph "Joe" Riley



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Navy (cont)

Jose A. Terreforte
 Joseph "Joe" Gregory Brown
 Joseph "Joy Ride Joe" Devon Hyatt
 Joy Marie Wink
 Keith B. Lambert
 Kenneth Nelson Smith
 Larry F Easterling
 Larry Wilkins
 Lawrence Francis Tregoning
 Leonard Delbert Tunnell
 Leonard Moody Harris, Jr.
 Linda Cheryl Colello
 Louis John Calleo, Jr.
 Lyle Dean Rochholz
 Melvin T. Spann
 Michael Alan Norton
 Michael Holtzman
 Michael Ray Scott
 Mike "Seawolf" Grow
 Pamela Rose Janek
 Pat Joseph DeLuccia
 Paul Bayard Brandt
 Ralph Logan
 Ralph Ronald Griffin
 Randy Scott Rawlin
 Rawland Vincent Stirling
 Richard Carpenter
 Richard Clinton Dailey
 Richard Franklin Sands
 Richard G. Olson
 Richard Gayle Tackett Sr,
 Richard Orville Cook
 Robert "Cowboy" Tumlison
 Robert B. Pearcey
 Robert Henderson Bratton
 Robert Herschel Evans
 Robert J. Richmeier
 Robert Menard
 Robert W. Scott
 Rocky Hoch
 Rodolfo Segovia
 Leuenberger
 Rosendo Sanzano Areola
 Russell Wayne Groves Jr
 Sammy "Kent" Neal
 Samuel Eugene Caudle
 Shawn Matthew Charchan
 Stephen Richard Jaggie
 Tawnya Ann Jennings
 Thomas Jerome Casados
 Timothy L. Porterfield

Victor Charles Highfill
 Walter "Gene" Smith
 William D. Powell
 William F "Bill" Bard Jr
Marine Corp
 Armando Hernandez
 Barrie Michael Grubbs
 Billy Ray Tillett, Sr.
 Charles Edward Isom, Sr.
 Charles Kohler
 Charles Rodney Duffin
 Charlie Henry Collins
 Clyde Lee Bonnelycke
 Danny Green
 Darain Ashton Woods
 Darren Ward Corley
 David Owen Eugene Summers II
 David Scott Bramlett
 Donald E Reynolds
 Donald G. Swift
 Donald K Ferguson
 Donald Lee Rosenberg
 Donald Paul Spahr
 Donnie Randall Barrett
 Edward George Zarate
 Edwardo J. Montano
 Ernest B Dunham
 Garry Allen Franklin
 Gary Erwin Patterson
 Gary James Corbett
 George Daniel Stagg
 George E Webb
 Gerald H Hardin
 Gregory L. Johnson
 Harold Mance Doss
 Henry Eugene Landers
 Hyland Dean Stegmann Sr.
 Jerry Dennis Nelson
 Jerry Lee Cinnamon
 John Joseph Herbst, Jr.
 John M Bird
 John Stephen Crossan
 Joseph "Joe" Edward Glaze
 Joseph Capriglione Jr.
 Lawrence Francis Tregoning
 Leonard Moody Harris, Jr.
 Linda Cheryl Colello
 Max Vernon Nabor
 Melvin Parker
 Melvin T. Spann
 Merlyn Smith Jackson
 Michael Creech

Monty Tennes
 Phillip John Cash
 Ralph Ronald Griffin
 Raymond W Hurt
 Ricardo Sanchez
 Richard Franklin Sands
 Richard J Malone
 Ricky Jacobs
 Robert A. Marshall Sr.
 Robert Bear Wallace
 Robert C. Milani
 Robert L. Trokey
 Robert M. Leyba
 Robert Phillip Corsa Jr
 Rodger D. Beck
 Shawn Matthew Charchan
 Stephen Richard Jaggie
 Thomas Charles Hazlett
 Thomas J. Burke
 Wayne Vincent "Butch" Roberts
 William T. "Bill" Dekle
Coast Guard
 Dennis Lee Means
 Keith B. Lambert
 Robert MacLeod
Air Force
 Albert J. Pugliese
 Alfred J. Inghram
 Allan E. Ritzer
 Ascension Calderon
 Billy Don Stephens Jr
 Billy Floyd Sprayberry
 Billy Ray Self
 Bruce Bennett
 Butch Waller
 Charles Edward Freeman
 Charles J. Steinbrenner
 Charles L. Davis, Sr.
 Charles Loew
 Charles M. Campbell
 Charles W Holmes
 Charles William Foster, Jr.
 Chester Isaac
 Clair P. Finlayson
 Clement R Dean, Sr
 Craig P Sweeney
 Cyril A. Bennett
 Cyril Anthony Bennett
 Dalroy Blaine "Cowboy" Ruppert
 Dan Diaz

David M. Woods
 Dorothy Lagway
 Earl Hoffman
 Earl Irvin Marders
 Earl R Jacobs
 Edward William Peckham
 Elizabeth Ann Huffmon
 Ellis Lavon Layton
 Emory Towsley, Jr.
 Ernest Nuncio Columbus
 Everett "Dale" Harner
 Frank Paul Mirabelli
 Frank Sweryda
 Fred Lloyd Jackson Jr.
 Frederick Aaron Brafford
 Gary R Aukes
 George Arthur Pontious
 George Butler Jr.
 George Earl Murphy
 Glenn Earl Schenk
 Gregory A. Hoette
 Harold Sargeant, Jr.
 Harvey Levi Berry
 Hubert Greene Thomas
 James Arthur Jones
 James Burnell III
 James Edward Daugherty
 James Ellis Jackson
 James Larkin Bunch
 James Lee Roberts
 James Paul Robertson
 James Roy Ford JR
 Jerry Lloyd Mason
 Jerry Wayne Haveard
 Jess Leo Uribe
 Jesse Francis Miller Sr
 Jimmy Wayne Oglesby
 Joe Alan Jefferis
 John August Moser
 John C Frank III
 John James Trichinotis
 John Richard Dial
 John Ronald Pfeiffer
 Jose Angel Vargas
 Joseph "Joe" Nathaniel Toup
 Julian V. Campise, Jr.
 Kenneth McKenzie
 Kenneth Wayne Cook
 Kenneth Wayne Speed
 Larry Norwood Mitchell
 Leon Meller
 Linda Dwight Hernandez
 Louis John Calleo, Jr.

Luis Paez
 Melvin Cintron Santiago
 Melvin T. Spann
 Michael Prendergast
 Michell Stephen Johnson
 Necole Ciera Marie Barr
 Nickey Nick Ptacek
 Norman Lynn Crews
 Ott-Vidrik Aring
 Paul Frank Reynolds
 Philip Stacy Mathis
 Ralph Bernard Hills
 Raymond F. Reeves
 Richard G. Olson
 Robert "Bob" Gregg Crocker Sr.
 Robert "Bob" Joseph Young
 Robert "Bob" Lee Norton
 Robert Glen Heartsell
 Robert Henderson Bratton
 Robert Hugh White
 Robert Joseph Young
 Robert Phillip Corsa Jr
 Robert Ratliff
 Robert Veno
 Robert W. Arnold
 Roger D. Noel
 Ronald A. BeVelle
 Ronald John Tucker Williams
 Ronnie Hamblin
 Ross A. Scardina
 Timothy Lyle Mitchell
 Walter Abram Crawford
 Walter Williams
 Wayne A. Winchester
 Wayne Alan Hoffman
 Wayne M. McLellan, Sr.
 William Barrett Self
 William Leroy Adams
 William Richard Day
 William "Bill" Joseph Hunt
 Willie Ransom Howell

9

**Department
of Ohio**



Ohio North/South Conference

Mark Your Calendars Now

WHEN: April 25-April 27, 2025

WHERE: Berlin Grande Hotel

Call to Convention

and more details to follow in February



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

To all the incredible Blue Star Momthers!

As we step into this new year, may it be filled with hope, joy, and cherished memories. Your strength and dedication inspire us all, and I wish each of you peace and happiness in the coming year. Let's continue to support one another and celebrate the love we have for our brave wonderful servicemen and women. Here's to a wonderful year ahead.

**Barb Cook
Department of Ohio
President**



OH57

Happy New Year!



We had our first ever new years celebration with our Veterans at the Cleveland Louis Stokes VA Medical Center. We toasted in the New Year with our friends and Sparkling Grape Juice!



Western Slope Blue Star Mothers CO8

May this year bring you abundant happiness and continued success

CO National Guard Holiday Party



On December 8th we helped the Western Slope Elks give a holiday party to the spouses and children of the deployed Colorado National Guard. Our chapter gave the families books donated by Tricia Shumaker and bears (made from National Guard uniforms)

Junior Service League Grant Award



The Junior Service League chose us to be one of their recipients to receive a grant which will be put towards our upcoming high school event and new mom outreach

We helped send off some new recruits!



Cabelas donated lots of bags of jerky for our care packages



We helped place approx. 1400 wreaths during the Wreaths Across America Event



We helped welcome home many for the holiday!



Thumb Chapter MI 178

IN EARLY DECEMBER THE BLUE STAR MOTHERS THUMB CHAPTER MI 178 SHOPPED FOR OUR TROOPS, THEN PACKED IT ALL UP AND SENT OUT FOR CHRISTMAS SURPRISES. OVER 71 BOXES WERE PACKED. PICTURED ARE SHERRIE LALONDE, MARCIA JANIK, LYNNE TSCHIRHART, GRACE ROSENTHAL AND DEBBIE DECKER.



WISCONSIN BLUE STAR MOTHERS
CHAPTER 1



WI BSM Chapter 1 received a call for action. A local community member was in need of partnering with a group to get some wipes shipped out. They thought of us! The best connection. A need arises, and they think of Blue Star Moms. That is what we have been striving for! Looks like 2025 might be the year of collaboration!

Keep raising funds, keep getting our names out there, keep doing good things!

Happy New Year Chapters!

★ Ohio True Blue #15 busy with events and activities in December! ★



Christmas Tree Festival

Theresa Daniel and Betty Wharton (pictured) along with Debby Wadham decorated the Ohio True Blue #15 Christmas tree for the 52nd Annual Christmas Tree Festival held at the Allen County Museum in Lima. The tree is adorned with ornaments with pictures of our military heroes.

Adopt A Platoon Care Packages Completed!



Ohio True Blue #15 members who worked tirelessly to get all the items packed and boxed up were Mary Evans, Karen High, Dee Thies, Debby Wadham, Betty Wharton and Theresa Daniel. Our fearless leader, Gretchen Schmitz played photographer.



The first two of the 26 packages to reach their destination!



On December 4, we met to package and mail out 26 care packages to the platoon from Ft. Drum that we adopted in September. The individual boxes included an assortment of pictures, letters, cards, snacks and personal hygiene products. Also included in our first shipment were several packages that included birthday presents. All the packages were received by December 29th!

Wreaths Across America Community Event



Ohio True Blue #15 members (from left) Betty Wharton, Karen High, Debby Wadham and Gretchen Schmitz.



Ohio True Blue #15 participated in their first Wreaths Across America event held on Saturday, December 14 at Shawnee Cemetery in Lima. Following the presentation, participants placed 600 wreaths placed on the graves of veterans, as well as ceremonial wreaths were displayed to honor each of the branches of the military, first responders, POW and MIA, and the Gold Star Mothers. Everyone who placed a wreath spoke the name of the hero who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

BSM #15 was honored and humbled to be a small part of this national event and are excited that the organizers are looking to continue participating in the years ahead.

Christmas Party 2024

Ohio True Blue #15 held their Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 18th. Following the festivities, Vice President Karen High presented Tom Schmitz his Blue Star Dad pin. Tom is the husband of Chapter President, Gretchen Schmitz.



Merry Christmas from Ohio True Blue 15. Karen High (from left, Debby Wadham, Gretchen Schmitz, Betty Wharton and Mary Evans.

LIGHTS OF HONOR



A Busy Month for Rochester BSM NY8

Army Navy Game Day Fundraiser



Webster Wreaths Across America



ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, OUR RIM BLUE STAR MOMS PARTICIPATED IN THE WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CEREMONY AT THE RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY. WE SPONSORED AND PLACED 20 WREATHS ON THE GRAVES OF VETERANS. A FEW OF OUR MEMBERS WERE ABLE TO PLACE THEM ON THEIR RELATIVES GRAVE SITES OR CRYPTS.



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: VETERAN LIN KOTICHAS, BRENDA SHINGLETON, MARISELA GRANADOS, NADIA PHILLIPS

DURING THE CEREMONY WREATHS WERE PLACED TO HONOR EACH OF OUR MILITARY BRANCHES



CRAIG AND NADIA PHILLIPS WERE ABLE TO HONOR HER GRANDPARENTS WITH A WREATH



RICK AND BRENDA SHINGLETON WERE ABLE TO HONOR HER GRANDPARENTS WITH A WREATH



LIN KOTICHAS WAS ABLE TO HONOR HER UNCLE WITH A WREATH

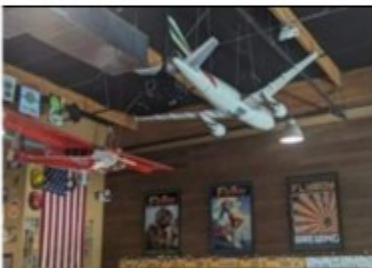


Blue Star Mothers of Oregon 1

Our small but mighty Oregon Chapter has been busy with many community activities this past year! Our Spring included representation at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial ribbon cutting - several Blue Star Moms were involved in planning and attendance at the event followed by providing Welcome Home move in packages for a new veteran housing project, Meet and greet events for BSM members & community x2 - FlyBoys and Uptown Barrel - (2 Veteran owned businesses as well!), Memorial Day event & community picnic in conjunction with local VFW & Rotary, Military Appreciation Night at local ballpark (owner is military veteran and local military and families honored with program etc). The latter portion of the year included implementation of a new website: (BlueStarMothersofOregon.org), partnering with local Veterans organizations, assisting with Deployment Readiness, Resource and Send off events, assisting with fundraising for Veteran based causes including a local race created in honor of a fallen Marine with funds that fuel scholarships and local activity programs for an entire community, Veteran's Day events, Care Package item collection and boxing events for deployed military from Oregon and SW WA in cooperation with local Boy Scouts as well as partnership with local schools, attendance at various Veteran's events including the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Dedication Ceremony in our State Capital, POW/MIA Remembrance Event attendance, provision of much needed supplies at our local USO and MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station) and engaging with our Oregon and SW WA Blue Star Mothers and Associates via our newly formed website (which now contains a plethora of Resource materials and contact forms to further engage our community), and get together events to celebrate and support one another.



**2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery
Regiment Mobilization Ceremony 8-9-**





★ NORTH CENTRAL PA 12 ★



PA Chapter 12 has been busy elves the last several months. We attended the local Veterans Day Parade and handed out Challenge coins to local Veterans.

We hosted a Holiday Care Package Night and sent Holiday greetings to our servicemen and women.

We hosted a Gift Bag Night where we packed many Holiday bags and gifted them to local Veterans.

We participated in Wreaths Across America and honored our fallen Servicemen and women.

We hosted a table at a local Jolly Kringlefest to create a thank you note for our Serviceman and women to include in our care packages.

**Volume 4
2024/2025**

MN II St Paul Blue Star Mothers



400 packages of Jerky were collected at the Woodbury, MN Cabela's in December, was packed up and shipped out at our January meeting. We know it will put a smile on many faces overseas serving our country!

What an honor it is to have this opportunity to show them that community members are thinking of them and wishing them a safe journey back home to their families and friends.



Donna, Lynn and Karla running the meat raffle fundraiser

Have a Safe and
Happy New Year

MI 197



Many businesses and organizations bring light to our little village. In Sanford, MI.

Christmas trees are decorated all around.

This tradition started in 2020 after the dams failed.

It gave people a reason to smile for a while.

Pictured are: Darci Cole, Kathy Bate, Lori Jackson and Lora Schultz with their Blue Star Tree



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.



Middlesex County Blue Star Mothers - CT3 Cromwell, CT 06416

BRANFORD VETERANS DAY PARADE:



BOXES TO BOOTS PACKING



BOXES TO BOOTS



VETERANS HOLIDAY PARTY



VETERANS HALLOWEEN PARTY



BSM HOLIDAY PARTY



Blue Star Mothers LA Geaux Seven



Nov. 16: We had amazing volunteers who helped us prepare care packages for our troops! Because of their hard work and support, we were able to assemble 169 care packages to send love and encouragement to our deployed heroes overseas



Dec. 11: Our GEAUX 7 Chapter of Blue Star Moms is overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible support from Bass Pro Denham Springs and their amazing customers! Thanks to their "Jerky for Troops" fundraiser, they raised an incredible 607 bags of jerky to be donated to our military heroes! These tasty treats will be a huge morale boost for our troops, showing them just how much they're appreciated back home.



December 14: Our Geaux Seven Chapter of the Blue Star Moms, alongside other dedicated volunteers, participated in the Wreaths Across America initiative at the Port Hudson National Cemetery and the Louisiana National Cemetery in Zachary, Louisiana. On Friday, we helped unload and place wreaths, and on Sat-



Geaux Seven Chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of American Christmas party. We had a great time with our Blue Star Sisters and took a photo with Santa





Dec. 17: Delivered coffee, beef jerky, socks and other items to the Louisiana War Veterans Home in Jackson, LA.

Our associate member, Mike Landry, picked up his new service dog, Hercules. Mike was honored at the Saints game on December 29th, where he received well-deserved recognition for his service and resilience. Huge thanks to US Veterans Service Dogs, the Saints organization, Louisiana Cat, and the Texas VFW for making this moment possible.



YELLOW ROSE - TX20

January 2025

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



Happy
New Year
2025



We were excited to partner with the Knights of Columbus in our first Wreaths Across America event at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and Cemetary in Pilot Point. TX20 President spoke in the ceremony prior to everyone laying wreaths.



Honored to host the MIA/POW table at the Little Elm Veterans Banquet



Yellow Rose Christmas Party following WAA in Celina



TX20 met up with students from Lone Star High School in Frisco to deliver Thanksgiving goodies bags, handmade cards and succulent plants to Veterans at The Landing at Watermere Assisted Living.



FILLING UP OUR BIN FOR TOYS FOR TOTS



Partnering with Healthy Heroes at Panther Creek HS, Black Rifle Coffee and Soldiers Angels to get much needed items to our Veterans for the winter weather.



Thank you Bass Pro Stores for collecting beef jerky for the troops! We had a SUV full!



Thank you Collin College for your donations to our care packages and Soliders Angels.



We love when our Blue Star Mothers' volunteer at the USO. Especially when they can give one of our own TX20's Marine some love at DFW!





12/08/24
303rd Send Off



12/10/24 JB Hunt
Wreaths Across America



12/10/24 Legacies Alive
Cookie Drop Off



12/13/24 Wreaths
Across America- FL



12/13/24 Wreaths
Across America- PA



12/14/24 Army vs
Navy Game



12/18/24 BSM Dec Meeting



12/19/24 911th
Children's Holiday Party



12/21/24 Neighbor
2 Neighbor



12/27/14 Service
Academy Ball





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

Blue Star Moms of California - East Bay Chapter 101

November/December 2024 Events

Speaking Engagements: For each of these events, a Blue Star Mom from our Chapter gave a brief talk about our organization and what we do for our military service members.

- November 20 - Cub Scout Pack in Alamo, CA. The Scouts collected and put together mini snack bags that were donated to our Chapter. These mini snack bags were included in the holiday care packages.
- November 25 - HHF Planners. This landscaping company sponsored a Veterans Day service project for their employees where they made paracord keychains that they donated to our Chapter.
- December 18 - Charlotte Middle School. Students made bookmarks that we included in the books we pack in our care packages.

Events:

November 16 - Drop Zone at Safeway Lafayette

December 5 - Holiday Care Package

December 5 - Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley Annual Holiday Dinner

December 11 - Holiday potluck and gift exchange

December 14 - Wreaths Across America

December 14 - Operation Santa Claus - for children of active and veteran military families (E3 rank and lower) and Gold Star families





Truckee Meadows NV #3



Packing Party X-Mas



BSM Christmas Tree at Atlantis



In December we delivered our Holiday Bags for veterans in transitioning housing. Bags included hygiene items, cleaning supplies, holiday treats, handmade dishcloths, Girl Scout cookies, jerky, Christmas stockings and Target gift cards among other items. Quilts were given to new residents of the two apartment complexes that we adopted.



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



Chapter members along with members from MN13 and MN11 participated in Wreaths Across America at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Mary Johnson, Gold and Blue Star mother from MN7 placed a wreath in honor of her sons.



Chapter 7 members gave out Reading Glasses, pillows, jerky and Girl Scout Cookies at the MACV Winter Salute.



We had the honor of meeting and sharing about Blue Star Mothers with baseball Hall of Famer Bert Blyleven of the Minnesota Twins. He was gracious enough to take a photo with us. We gave out 88 pairs of reading glasses, 108 pillows, 87 packages of jerky, and 68 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies. Giving out reading glasses at Stand Down events is a Department of MN project.

*No act of kindness, no matter how small,
is ever wasted. Aesop*

2024 MI201 Presidents Project-”Operation She-roes”: With the help of our community we donated over 80 bags filled with care items to the Saginaw VA Women’s Center. Pictured: President Stacy Breithaupt, 3 members of the VA Volunteer and Women’s Center teams, and Treasurer Patty Jarvis



We also had our 2nd Annual “Christmas with our Sisters Dinner” in December hosted by our Social Media Chair, Becca Shaw.



**Jeanette Brunnetti,
Bridgette Lombardi,
and Patty Jarvis**

**Stacy Herriman, Lauren
Romankewiz, and Pam
Frederick**

**Pam Frederick, Ariel Blackman,
and Becca Shaw**





Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6

Highlighting the partnership with Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's, we hope all our Sisters and Chapters who were able to participate had as wonderful of an experience as we have had! We were so appreciative to be given the jerky from not just 1 nearby store but from 4 stores! With that to distribute we were able to support many of our partners with the jerky, all of them are SO appreciative!

We were able to donate to:

Hines VA Veterans Food Pantry

Hines VA Fisher House

USO – Midway Airport

USO – O'Hare Airport

USO – Great Lakes Naval Station

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans

Operation Support Our Troops – America (OSOT – care packages for troops serving overseas – anyone can sign up on their website to receive one!)

We are already talking with BPS and Cabela's about next year – can't wait!





BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PA201

Our Chapter participated in Wreaths Across America at two locations in Pennsylvania, Allentown and Riegelsville, on December 14, 2024. Judith Miller, President of PA201 represented our Chapter in Riegelsville. A service was held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at noon followed immediately by the laying of wreaths on all the Veteran's graves.



Riegelsville, PA

Joan Glover, our Chapter's Recording Secretary and Air Force Veteran, was Mistress of Ceremony and presided over the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Allentown. Blue Star Mothers in attendance escorted Gold Star families to the grave sites of their fallen loved ones to lay wreaths. Afterwards all continued the placement of wreaths on Veteran's graves.



Allentown, PA





Blue Star Mothers of America Louisiana 1

News from the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women January 2025



VETERANS DAY 2024

LA1 participated in several Veterans Day events across the area. Dora Sanford and Denise Singleton attended the Baton Rouge Mayor President's Veterans Day Breakfast and then joined Linda Taylor and Brittney Kean at the Citizen Bank and Trust Company Veterans Recognition event. During the event, a young man enlisted in the U.S. Army.

LA1 was invited to join the ExxonMobil Veteran Advocacy and Support Team on their float in the City of Walker Veterans Day Parade. Natalie Truax, Karen Byrd, Debbie Seymour and Pat Schilling enjoyed riding in the parade to honor our veterans.



Our members also pinned veterans as they arrived for the Veterans Day ceremony at the Ascension Veterans Park. Many members attended the event to support the veterans and participate in the ceremony.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2024



For the first time in LA1's history of sponsoring the Wreaths Across America program at the Baton Rouge National Cemetery, we achieved our goal of covering all 5,100 graves in the cemetery with wreaths. It was truly a community effort through donations to the wreaths as well as donations of time from our partner support groups to carry out the mission to Live With Purpose. We appreciate our community partners for



joining us in removing the wreaths this January. We are blessed to have our supportive community!

CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024

LA1 members had a grand time celebrating the holiday season during their last chapter meeting of the year. Members gathered scarves for the homeless to be placed in downtown Baton Rouge as part of the Scarves of Love project.



FORT WAYNE AREA BLUE STAR MOTHERS CHAPTER IN 8

Our Chapter has been very busy these past 2 months. Rededication of Sterling Chapel at the Veteran's National Memorial Shrine & Museum, preparing care packing for deployed military, providing desserts for a local Army Guard Base Family Christmas party, filling and delivering 75 Christmas Stockings to our local VA Hospital, helping a local Air Guard Family have a Merry Christmas! Happy New Year to All!



Mountain Valley TN4

TN 4 has had a very busy December.

- We helped serve at the American Legion/Military Ball.
- Our annual friends & family Christmas social was enjoyed by all.
- Participation in the Wreaths Across America .
- Ending the month assisting Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) , in serving at a luncheon to show appreciation at the VA.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



DECEMBER 2024 / JANUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

January 2025 Meeting

January 21st

Honor Flights

April 26th, May 17th
& June 14th

2025 National Convention


July 28th-Aug 1st



The final months of 2024 turned out to be some of our busiest as a chapter! Our presence in the community was seen at several events and outings, from Wreaths across America, a visit at the Veterans Equine Alliance, Operation Home Baked to the historic Pabst Mansion in Milwaukee, WI.

We celebrated the holidays and our sisterhood at our December meeting as well as our 3rd annual Flower Workshop Fundraiser! Pictured below are photos from each of these events, including Cabela's generous donation of Jerky for the Troops. As we embark on a new year we look forward to our continued commitment to supporting each other and our Military. We especially look forward to this years National Convention in Milwaukee!






A New Year is like a blank
book, and the pen is in
your hands.

It is your chance to write a
beautiful story for
yourself

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Happy New Year 2025

“ Forget the gloomy days of last year. Let's
brighten up with a new spirit. Like sparkling
fireworks. We celebrate the new year with
kindness. Happy new year 2025 to you “