

# July 2025 National Newsletter

## BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.



### Contact Information for National Executive Board

**President: Rebecca Stafford – MO**

[president@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president@bluestarmothers.us)

**1<sup>st</sup> VP: Karen Stillwell – OH**

[1vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:1vp@bluestarmothers.us)

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Karla Keller – MN**

[2vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:2vp@bluestarmothers.us)

**3<sup>rd</sup> VP Pro Tem: Mary Johnson – MN**

[3vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:3vp@bluestarmothers.us)

**4<sup>th</sup> VP: Sonya Kay – IL**

[4vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:4vp@bluestarmothers.us)

**Recording Secretary: Amy Jo Hutchinson – OH**

[recsec@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:recsec@bluestarmothers.us)

**Financial Secretary: Carrie Beck – FL**

[finsec@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:finsec@bluestarmothers.us)

**Treasurer Pro Tem: Jacqueline Ransom – MI**

[treas@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:treas@bluestarmothers.us)

**PNP Carla Brodacki** [pnpcarla@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:pnpcarla@bluestarmothers.us)

**PNP Anne Parker** [pnpanne@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:pnpanne@bluestarmothers.us)

**PNP Pat Soler Pro Tem** [pnpapat@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:pnpapat@bluestarmothers.us)

**Chaplain Carla Brodacki Pro Tem** [chaplain@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:chaplain@bluestarmothers.us)

**Parliamentarian Patti Elliott** [parliamentarian@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:parliamentarian@bluestarmothers.us)

**Dept. of MI President Trudy Wysocki** [president.deptmi@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president.deptmi@bluestarmothers.us)

**Dept. of OH President Barb Cook** [president.deptoh@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president.deptoh@bluestarmothers.us)

**Dept. of MN President Jen Pecarina** [president.deptmn@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president.deptmn@bluestarmothers.us)



NEB Contacts and Table of Contents	1
Presidents Message	2-3
1VP-Membership renewal	4
2VP-Yearbook Ordering	5
Fin Sec-Financial Questions?	6
Treasurer-Online Store	7
VAVs	8
Blue Daisies	9
Fallen Veterans	10-12
Chapters/Departments	13-39
Inspiration	40

## *President's Message*

Hello Sisters,

It is hard to believe that this is the last time I will be submitting the President's message to our National Newsletter. I can't say "thank you" enough to those who elected me to serve as your National President during the past two years. I have been blessed beyond measure to create new friendships and form a stronger Sisterhood with many of our members. I have had wonderful opportunities placed before me, for which I am eternally grateful. But most of all my passion for this organization has continued to grow, as well as my desire to bring peace and harmony to our Chapters.

I want to take this time to thank my National Executive Board. Each and every one of them has served with integrity, dignity and grace. A lot of long hours went into this year. Their teamwork has gotten us through a rocky time, but every decision made was for the good of the organization. Along the way, I suffered the loss of 6 family members/friends within a 7-month period. This was more than one should have to bear, but the love and support I received was overwhelming. Each one stepped up in a different way but that is what makes our organization and Sisterhood so unique.

To say this past year has been a challenge would be an understatement. We have far too many Chapters struggling to follow our governing documents, and many dealing with interpersonal squabbles. Please remember why you joined this organization.....it was to honor your son or daughter who raised their right hand and swore to serve our great country; paying the ultimate sacrifice, if need be. Think about the lives we've lost.....would they be proud of how we are representing them? A very dear Sister, and mentor to me, recently said, *"think hard about what has occurred in the past; think harder about how you could have acted differently so that the outcome was different. Be willing to forgive, and to ask for forgiveness. This sisterhood we have is a bond to be cherished, not tossed aside."* Those words were spoken to a Chapter she was assisting, but it is such a strong message for all of us. Another message I received was simply "THINK" .....

Is it True?  
Is it Helpful?  
Is it Inspiring?  
Is it Necessary?  
Is it Kind?

If we all just stop to "THINK" about the situation before responding, passing judgement, or jumping on someone else's bandwagon, I feel we could prevent the majority of the conflicts within the Chapters and get back to our mission. As Joel Osteen said.....*"Be careful what you say. You can say something hurtful in ten seconds, but ten years later, the wounds are still there."* Choose kind, encouraging and uplifting words to help make positive changes within your Chapter.

## *President's Message (continued)*

Those attending our National Convention in a few short weeks will be electing our next Executive Board. I ask that you look closely at those running and select a Board with the same values as those we have had in the past.....to work the mission and continue to grow the Sisterhood; not be self-serving, but be a servant to others.

Although I will no longer be your National President, my door will remain open to those who are here to work the mission and need any assistance. My phone number will remain the same, but my new email address is [pnpbecky@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:pnpbecky@bluestarmothers.us) - WOW, it feels funny typing that!

I wish each and every one of you the very best moving forward.  
May God bless you and your family.

Yours in Service,

*Becky*

Rebecca Stafford  
National President



God Bless  
THE USA

## IT'S RENEWAL TIME!!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Questions?? Please feel free to reach out to your National 1VP, I am happy to help you through the process. **Please use the new membership/associate and transfer forms posted on the website.** See me at the 1VP Convention training for additional instructions and Chapter tips on membership!

Yours in Service,

Karen Stillwell

National 1VP, [1vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:1vp@bluestarmothers.us)



82nd National Convention  
Milwaukee, WI  
July 28 - August 1, 2025  
"Together We Are Stronger"



## treering

Yearbooks will now be shipped to your homes.

A limited number will be available at Convention



# IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PURCHASE THE 2024-2025 BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA 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 \$1.99.

To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook, Use The QR Code Below, or:

Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

- 1 Go to: [www.treering.com/validate](http://www.treering.com/validate)
- 2 Enter your school's passcode:  
101416260317183

Regular price: **\$25.81**

\*Does not include sales tax, if applicable





**FINANCIAL  
TEAM IS  
ASKING....**



Email FINSEC your  
CHAPTER financial  
questions and we  
will add/or try to  
address in our  
convention  
training.



Email no later than  
**07/20/25**

**FinSec@BlueStarMothers.us**



**ATTENTION!**  
**IMPORTANT**  
**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**ONLINE STORE DATES** – As we prepare for National Convention:

July 14 through July 22 – the Online Store will be open **only for Convention pre-sale orders** to be picked up in Milwaukee

There will be no shipping charge on Convention pre-sale orders

**ORDERS MUST BE PICKED UP AT CONVENTION** – Please note the name of the member who is picking up your order on the store order form

July 28 through July 31 – Convention Store will be open at National Convention

The Online Store will re-open after August 31

# From the Desk of

Anne Parker, VAVS Representative

The VAVS Team, Ann Parker, Doreen Berggren and Carol Sanchez would like to say “Thank You” to the volunteers, chapters and everyone who has supported the VAVS Program again this year.

The program takes commitment and dedication to our veterans. Each hour, each donation, each Smile makes an impact and changes the outcome of a day not only for the veteran but the families.

We have Representatives, Deputies and Occasional Volunteers along with chapter members who take time to pack up items for the VA’s. This certainly, does take a village.

With as much as we get done, we still have voids that need to be filled. Not all of the VA facilities have a Representative. If you would like to be a Representative or a Deputy at your local VA please let Anne Parker know so she can begin the process of credentialing.

[vavs@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:vavs@bluestarmothers.us)

Another void we have found is many facilities are not located in a reasonable driving distance. Recently an email has been sent out, from Anne, showing the location of facilities. These are facilities that you can reach out to and ask for their Wish List. Your chapter can donate from that list by using walmart.com or amazon.com. It can be sent directly to the VAVS office.

If your chapter, that doesn’t have a Rep., would like to do this please let Ann know which facility you are “adopting”. A spreadsheet will be kept so your donations count for the totals each year.

If you are attending convention, please stop by the VAVS table during our training sessions to ask about becoming a Rep., adopting a VA facility or how you can help.

Again, Thank You All.

The VAVS Team  
Anne Parker, Representative  
Doreen Berggren, Deputy  
Carol Sanchez, Deputy



# Blue Daisies



Elizabeth "Liz" Fox, CA 27  
Liz was a member of CA 7  
before helping to Charter  
CA27. She was a very proud 2  
Star Blue Star Mom, with 2  
sons in the US Coast Guard



Nora Coy, OK 5  
Served as Recording  
Secretary in her  
chapter.  
Her son served in the  
Air Force



Starr Rife, MI 179  
Her son served in the  
Marines

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

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

**The Ancient Egyptians believe you die twice, once when you take your final breath and the last time someone speaks your name. We hope you will not let them be forgotten.**

**National Guard**

Benjamin Marksmeier  
 Bobby Jack Williams  
 Charles Joseph Nolan  
 Christopher Tripp  
 Diana Loraine Obenauer  
 John Lujan Bejarano  
 Joseph Celaya  
 Paul Woerth  
 Rex Mitchell Pike  
 Robert J White  
 William Hightower

**Army**

Alan C. Gillespie  
 Alan L. Travis  
 Alfonso Caterino Lucero  
 Alfred Buren Bradford  
 Allen Jastrzembksi  
 Alma Jean Knight-McGeorge  
 Alton Earl Jernigan  
 Andre Jansen  
 Andres Perez Delgado, Jr.  
 Barry S Pulsyer  
 Bemis Jake Thompson  
 Bernard Gilmore  
 Bernard J Mallen  
 Bertram Bryan Smith, Jr  
 Billy D. Fraley  
 Bobby Joe Stover  
 Bobby Ray Moxley  
 Bonifacio Roldan-Galarza  
 Bradley Auburn Wright  
 Braxton Jordan, Jr.  
 Brian Keith Schenewerk  
 Burl Montgomery Levins Sr.  
 Cal D. McCowin  
 Carlton Tyrone Brown  
 Carmen Arline Conner  
 Cary Lee Sledge  
 Cassimer Kukla  
 Chad Alan Miller  
 Chalmus Arthur "Chal" Burgess  
 Charles Cornell  
 Charles E. Stanley  
 Charles Ray Morris  
 Charles Watson Chastain  
 Charles Wayne Farrington  
 Charles Weeks  
 Charlie McKelton  
 Christine Marie Turner  
 Christopher Audette  
 Christopher J Harbaugh  
 CLARENCE DELANEY, JR  
 Clarence William "Bill" George  
 Claude Douglas "Doug"

Crouch  
 Cleo Hadden  
 Coleman Joshlin, Jr.  
 Corey Backer  
 Curtis Nathaniel Bishop, Jr.  
 Daisy Howard Broggin  
 Dale Leroy Schumann  
 Darron Dion Cox  
 David "Snafu" Smith  
 David Dullinger  
 David Hole  
 David Jerome Armstrong  
 David John Gross  
 David Leon Culbertson  
 David Michael Liles  
 David Omar Selland  
 David Towe  
 David Williamson  
 Dean Rozwell Bailey  
 Deeana Kays  
 Delbert Warren Strait  
 Deloris Victoria Harris  
 Dennis P Starkey  
 Donald Gerber  
 Donald Kyne  
 Donald R. Langham  
 Donald Ray Ward  
 Douglas John Streubel  
 Douglas Mitchell Hayden  
 Earl Higgins  
 Earl Wayne Carpenter  
 Edward "Chopper" Childs  
 Edward Donahue  
 Edward J Kulig  
 Edward Leo Epperson  
 Edwin Virgil Lance  
 Eldon Loyd Bridges  
 Eldridge Guy Batchelor  
 Elie Bowden, Jr  
 Eric James Lanstrum  
 Ernest Lee Keeton  
 Ervin Elmer Engelhart  
 Esaw Davis, Jr.  
 Everett Thomas Lontine  
 Felix John Shostack  
 Frank A. Casados  
 Frank E. Loeffler  
 Fred F. Polley, Jr.  
 Frederick W. Stacey III  
 Gail A. Wright  
 Galen Martin Bramlett  
 Gary Franklin Wilson  
 Gary Glen Castleton  
 Gene Vroman  
 George "Bill" William Lewellen  
 George Alan Aycock  
 George Calvin Phillips Jr.  
 Gerald D Carpenter

Gilbert Alton Clark  
 Gilbert Henry Williams  
 Glen Horrocks  
 Gregory J. Creaturo  
 Harold Ronald Story  
 Henry Clark Snodgrass  
 Henry Torres Canales  
 Henry Weaver  
 Horrell White  
 Howard Eugene Swain, Jr.  
 Hunter Benjamin Matthews, Jr.  
 Ignacio C. Garcia, Jr.  
 Jack Emerson Payne  
 Jackie Walker  
 Jacob Postma  
 Jake Floyd Maestas  
 James "Jim" Manley  
 James Duwayne Bates  
 James Edward Thomas  
 James F. Cullen  
 James G Loterbaugh  
 James Lloyd Browning  
 James Marshall Speth  
 James Ruben Lundblad  
 James Williams  
 Jeremiah Spires  
 Jerry Barnes  
 Jerry Lee Lemon  
 Jesse G. Lopez  
 Jody Lee Phillips  
 John D. Hightower  
 John J. Mulholland  
 John Robert Ball  
 John Ross Taylor  
 John Tucker  
 Johnnie Williams  
 Jonathan Lee Sines  
 Jose Antonio "Tony" Hernandez-Ero  
 Jose T. Lara  
 Joseph Vincent Kent II  
 Judson "Timothy" Mello  
 Keith Shaw  
 Kelly Young  
 Kenneth Ervin Sthanuth  
 Kenneth Faircloth  
 Kevin Walker Smith  
 Kurt Neumann  
 Larry T Hawkins  
 Lee "Leo" O'Daniel Bryant  
 Leroy Torres  
 Lester Glen "Pete" Brooks  
 Lloyd James Boswell  
 Lorenza Pickett, Sr.  
 Loring E. Lord  
 Luis D. Rodriguez  
 Luther Lamar Allen  
 Manfred Batts

Mark Steven Strate  
 Marshall J. Honore, Jr.  
 Martin Gunter  
 Martin L. Tschantz Jr.  
 Martin Ondroid  
 Marvin Burstein  
 Marvin Earl Schoenfeld  
 Marvin Martin  
 MARVIN MITCHELL  
 Maynard J McCrea  
 Melvin Walker  
 Merle Lloyd Cooper  
 Michael Carl Ramsey  
 Michael Cole  
 Michael Francis Scuka  
 Michael Joseph Rogers  
 Michael Mellon  
 Michael Ray Myers  
 Michael Wayne Williams  
 Miguel A. Mateo Jorge  
 Nancy Gail Smith  
 Nelson Earl Marvin  
 Nicholas Lee Swatek  
 Patricio Javier Gonzalez  
 Paul B Englehart  
 Paul Bernard Mattes  
 Paul Cravens  
 Paul Edward Erhard  
 Paul Maxwell Amrine  
 Payton Johnson Rowan  
 Peter Israel Mayhew  
 Philo Harvey  
 Prentiss Elwood Taylor  
 Ralph Jerry Burkhead  
 Randolph Smith  
 Raul Aguilar  
 Ray Collier  
 Rayfield M. Meyer  
 Raymond Keeran  
 Renaldo Weekes  
 Retha Ann Moore  
 Rex Dale Wood  
 Richard A. Gatlin  
 Richard Allen Shine Sr.  
 Richard Daniel Osborn  
 Richard Dennis Williams  
 Richard E. Naster  
 Richard L. Clark  
 Richard L. Perron  
 Richard Michael Arnold  
 Richard Sifuentes  
 Robert Alan Jennings  
 Robert Allen Freeze  
 Robert Blaker Sr  
 Robert Eugene "Bob" Lakey  
 Robert Glenn Vinson  
 Robert John Williams Sr.  
 Robert L. Harmon

Robert L. James  
 Robert Lee Roy Rice  
 Robert Paul L'Ecuyer  
 Robert Ronald Paino  
 Robert Roy Hallenbrook  
 Robert S Kang  
 Robert Stephen Hartsock  
 Robert Watson  
 Roderick Adair Saunders  
 Rodger D. "Fishhook" Smith  
 Rodger Dean Andrews  
 Roger Dahlgard  
 Roger Edward Shaff  
 Ronald "Ron" M. Fanning  
 Ronald Harry Breakfield  
 Ronald Linsky  
 Rudolph "Rudy" J. Ropp  
 Sammy Lee Veach  
 Samuel Eugene Kersey  
 Sharon Kay Cipriano  
 Stephen W Owens  
 Steven A. Duncan  
 Steven Kenneth Stallings  
 Steven R. Klapp  
 Swanson Rollen Clay Jr  
 Terry Daniel Thompson  
 Theodore Bogard  
 Thomas "Tommy"  
 Winfield Waldrop  
 Timothy Richard Johnson  
 Vernon (Vern) Leslie  
 Rourke  
 Vernon Duane Aleshire, Jr  
 Victor Manuel Benavides  
 Walter Gordon Smyth  
 Walton P Patterson  
 Wayne William Schmid  
 Wesley Allen Howard Jr.  
 Wiley N Jones  
 William "Lonnie" Catlett Jr  
 William Charles Pendered IV  
 William Dee Bryan  
 William F Smith  
 William Gordon Davis  
 William Lee Gibson  
 William Lewis Cofield  
 Willie Lester Overton Jr.  
 Willie Sims  
 Willson Edgerley  
 Dale E Miller/Air Force  
 Harold Bass/Air Force  
 Wilbert Kalmbach/Air Force  
 William Howard  
 Colbert/Air Force  
 Barbara J Watson/Army NG

Chad Michael Lorenz/Army NG  
 Kenneth L. Whitney/Army NG  
 Leeward Joseph Danise/Army NG  
 Robert Kevin Tennell/Army NG  
 Roger R. Braun/Army NG  
 Wallace Mecham/Army NG  
 William Benford Major, Jr/Army NG/AF Reserve  
 Kip J. Neblett/Army NG/Army Reserve  
 Ben Masters/Army Res  
 Christon Jamael Currie/ArmyRes  
 Claude Elmer Ford/Army Res  
 Daniel James Gordon/Army Res  
 David Heffner/Army Res  
 David Heilpern/Army Res  
 Donald E Kershner/Army Res  
 Ernesto E. Romero/Army Res  
 Jack Earl Smith/Army Res  
 Javis Angel Paredes/Army Res  
 Jimmy Dean Linesberry/Army Res  
 Joesph Robert "Bob" Schowengerdt/Army Res  
 John Patrick McDevitt/Army Res/Army Res  
 Judy Lynn Bowsby/Army Res  
 Kelly Scott Presley/Army Res  
 Mark Reynolds Pike/Army Res  
 Matthew Wayne Robertds/Army Res  
 Oscar Gottfried Laurene/Army Res  
 Ramon Jairo Paredes/Army Res  
 Roger A. Wuelling/Army Res  
 Sylvester Mark Whitefield/Army Res

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)**

Timothy Allen  
Culver/Air Force Res  
Wendell Thomas  
Betts/Air Force Res  
William Franklin  
Kohl/Air Force Res  
William Robert  
Monroe/Army Res  
Anna "Nancy" Friis-  
Hansen/Army Res/Army  
Nurse Corp  
Edward Earl Glowski Jr./Air  
Force Res  
Raymond T Johnson/Air  
Force Res  
Luther Cecil Swindell  
Jr./Air Nat Guard  
Phillip Michael  
Carnell/Marine  
Terry Haywood/Marine  
Donald Elbert Marler,  
II/Army  
Paul Gene Lister/Navy  
Richard Everett/Navy  
Royce Eugene  
Hamm/Navy  
Dennis J Hanna/Navy/AF  
Lyle Blaine  
Schleve/Navy/Army Res

**Army Reserve**

Jack Charles Drysdale Sr  
Richard L. Reetz

**Navy**

Alex Sandoval Rodriguez  
Allen Allman  
Allen L Futch  
Alvin Noel "Vinny"  
Readeau  
Aram Anton Anderson  
Arthur L. Miller  
Arthur W. Weiss  
Bernard Albert Rigaud Jr.  
Brent Edward Whittaker  
Brondel "Jerry" Baynum  
Carl Fred Copeland  
Charles "Chuck" Connelley  
Charles Anthony Vile  
Charles Taylor  
Christopher A Sapp  
Christopher A. Coleman  
Clarence Edward Brown  
Clayton Grant Walker  
Clifford Keheley  
Corbett T Combest  
Curtis James Davis III  
Curtis Randolph Walters  
Dan E. Altman  
Daniel B. Turner

Daniel Lee O'Brien  
Daniel LeMaster  
Daniel Roger Henneberry  
II  
Danny K. Watson  
Donald Adams  
Donald Joseph Gray  
Dwight Oneal Holland  
Earl Fred Copeland  
Edgar Marion Brown  
Edward B. Hoffman  
Ervin Dahlen  
Freddy Roy Lewers  
Gary Scott  
Gerard Valdez  
Glen Allen Meyers Sr  
Glen F. Norris  
GMC William Hoyle Capps  
Jr.  
Harold Edgar Radiel  
Harold Thomas Call  
Herbert Glenn Brown  
Herbert Joseph Therrell  
Homer Wesley Thompson  
Jr.  
Jack D. Jones, Jr.  
Jack J Cutrone  
Jack Lee  
Jack Lester Moulton  
Jack Rollaine  
Jacob A. "Jack" Venhuizen  
James "Butch" Holcomb  
James D Blankenship  
James Leonard  
James Louis Swanson, Jr.  
James Russell Warrington  
Jerry Cissney  
Jesse R. Dalton  
Jimmy Jewel  
John Floyd Cottner  
John Martin Perez  
John P. Bourke  
John R. Hobbs Jr.  
John Richard "Dick"  
Finkner  
John Robert Hood, Sr.  
John Stout  
Johnny Allen Cowan  
Jordan Kacachos  
Joseph Chouinard Sr.  
Joseph Ervin Smith  
Kathleen Denise Bryant  
Kenneth W. Page  
Kirk Edward McDonald  
Larry Leon Price  
Lawrence E. Crook  
Lee Earl Ellett  
Leo E. Hindbaugh  
Lloyd R. Hudgens

Louis J Manito Sr  
Marcus Semmelmann  
Mark Albert Ridlon  
Mark R. Carley  
Mary Ann Wiley  
Maurice Epstein  
Michael W. Mitchell  
MMC Daniel Allen Hiljus  
Patrick Bird  
Patrick Ivan Heisler  
Montgomery  
Peter A Colonna  
Philip B. Klotz, Jr.  
PNC Ellen Harris  
Ralph A Lich  
Raymond Arthur Miles  
Reuben William Jr  
Richard Blaine Holt  
Richard Charles Rehkopf  
Richard Frank Gilmore  
Richard J. Bogert  
Richard Keith Norberg  
Riley O'Brien Hodge  
Robert "Bob" H Gilroy  
Robert Abe Milam  
Robert L. Rodriguez  
Robert M. Williams  
Robert McPherson  
Robert S. Tibbetts  
Roderick Shayne Huggins  
Rodney Nelson Taquino Jr.  
Ronald J Popke  
Ronald John Dobransky Sr.  
Ronnie Allan Porter  
Ross Birdsall Best Jr.  
Stacy "Bob" Robert  
Wagner  
Stanley Neil Shattuck  
Steven Wade Hiebert  
Terry Olen Pollard Sr.  
Timothy Burns  
Timothy James Strickland  
Vernon Eugene Dowell  
Walter McNay  
Wesley Earl Dixon  
William "Bill" Allen  
Culbertson  
William Edward Nicholas  
William Joseph Mueller  
William Robert Wyatt  
William Wayne Perschon  
Willie Cornell  
Robert Dale Hinebaugh  
Mary E. Wheeler/Navy Res  
Paul Michael Elmore/Navy  
Waves  
Howard Joseph Hilliard  
Jr./Air Force

Donald Theodore  
Cameron II/Air Force  
Gregory Joseph  
McFarland/Air Force/Air  
Nat Guard  
Guy Davis Hartsfield,  
Jr./Coast Guard Res.  
Howard Dale Odle/Navy  
Reserve  
John A. Gonzales/Navy Res  
Jon T. Powell/Navy Res  
Kevin Walsh/Navy Res  
Robert Earl  
Chapman/Navy Res  
Thomas D.  
Moczynski/Navy Res

**Marine Corp**

Arthur Toney  
Charles E. Ritter  
Charles White  
Charlie Pollard  
Clarence Edward Atwater  
Colonel Jack Gale Davis  
Dale Kidd  
Dan K. Radford  
Danny Carlos McCalvin  
Darvin Lee Barth  
David Lee Callahan  
Donald Flowers Jr.  
Donald Stuart  
Donald Whipple  
Frank L. Rivera  
Gary Leon Pence  
Gary Richard Swenson  
Gerald G. Anthony Sr  
Harry Joseph Dubinick  
James Allen Pilgreen  
James Dale Johnson  
James Manser, Jr.  
Jeffery Stickney  
Jerry O'Keefe  
Jesse Jack Gentry  
Jim Branaum  
John Alan Longo  
John Elrod  
John Francisco Jr.  
John Shuler  
John Valley  
Jose Berrones  
Jose Estevan Ipina  
Joseph D. Wood  
Joseph Wayne Christopher  
Joshua D. Varner  
Kenneth Kunze  
Kristopher Ryan Goldsby  
Leona Wiedman  
Linda Bricker Forbes  
Michael Kainz  
Martin Eugene Kennedy

Michael T Mouritsen  
Nathaniel Edward Curtis  
Norman Edward Graham  
Norman Swanty  
Pedro R. Contreras  
Peter Pekelo Pihana  
PFC Harry LeBert  
Ramon Vern Salisbury  
Randy Joe Belt  
Reyes Jimenez  
Richard Dale Clark  
Richard M Mahoney  
Richard Wayne Howard  
Robb Scott Jenkins  
Robert Dewey Patterson  
Robert Edmund Szostak  
Rodney Cole  
Ronny Joe Brock  
Rudolph A. Woolford  
Shon E Olson  
Stan Mehlochick  
Stanley Patlan  
Theodore "Willie" Burkley  
Williams Jr.  
Thomas C. Englert  
Thomas Duane Robinson  
Thomas Eugene Tuttle  
William Edward Theaker  
William Wells Jr  
Willie Luther Williams  
Wayne Sellman  
Earl Carlin Bottorff Jr  
Gerald Eugene  
VanHoose/Marine Corp  
Res  
Reco Gibson/Marine Corp  
Res  
Robert Thurman  
Butcher/Marine Corp Res  
Rudolph R. "Rudy".  
Wegert/Marine Corp Res

**Coast Guard**

Donald George Oates  
John H. "Johnny" Quarles  
James "Jim" Pardue  
Lloyd Eugene Hensley  
Michael O. Halliday  
Allen E Szczepek Sr  
Archie Vanburn Swanson  
**Air Force**  
Abel Balderaz  
Alene Broadhead Bryant  
Alfred White  
Andy Rogers Parker  
August "Gus" Joseph  
Dattilo  
Augustine Robert Disidoro  
Bobby Wayne Richardson  
Jr.

Brian David Barnes, Sr.  
Carmen Graven Turney  
Charles William Wright  
David Allan Beavers  
David Anthony Burke  
David DeRusse  
David Franklin Dickerson-  
Rambo  
Deborah Jean Chunn  
Donald Whitsitt  
Dorothy Kaplet  
Douglas K Freeman  
Douglas Wayne  
McCasland  
Edward G. Whitehead  
Edward Mason Elliott  
Efton Medford Sager  
Francis G. Johnson  
Frank Frances Cramer III  
Garlin David Pilgrim  
George C Werth  
George G. Buschman III  
Gerald John Wedlake  
Gerald Madsen Blangsted  
Gilbert Floyd "Gil" Pitts, Jr.  
Harlan Pitts Sr  
Harleys Norean Herndon,  
Jr.  
Harold James Mays  
Heather Lynn Bitterman  
Ike T Lewis  
Jack A. Sockoch  
Jacob L. Sharp  
Jalmer Clay Rittenberry  
James Quander Mitchell  
James Randolph Garrett, Jr  
James Turquette  
Janet Manor  
Jeffery L Davis  
Jerome Spann Sr.  
Jerry J. Larpenter  
Jerry Lee Parker  
Jimmie R Carroll  
John Anthony Tyson  
John Metzger  
John Robert Rodgers Sr.  
John Shannon Olmstead  
John Thomas Clough III  
Jose Ernesto Renteria  
Joseph Ambrose Hart  
Joseph Bankston  
Joseph Rudolph "Joe"  
Nagy  
Joseph S. Kasprzak  
Julie Ann Hook

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.

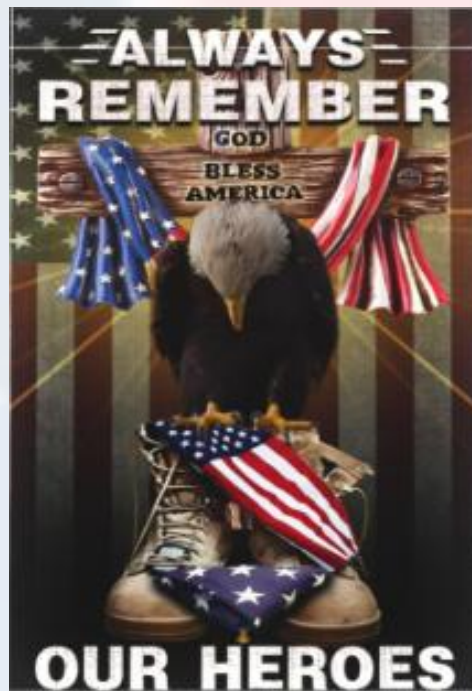
We started this addition to the newsletter beginning with all the Veterans who passed in Fiscal Year 2023-2024, each newsletter from now on will be those from the previous month.

**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)**

Kay Lloyd Wilen  
Kenneth Austin Hyatt  
Kenneth DeWayne Haire  
Kenneth Edward Mitchell  
Larry Bellmore  
Leon Trenton Pauley  
Leslie Gordon Collins  
Linda M Greenwood  
Marc (Nemo) Nemeth  
Marvin E. Smallwood  
Matias Pacheco Jr.  
Max Thomsen  
Michael F. "Mick"  
Stenftenagel  
Nathaniel Sterling Smoot,  
III  
Oscar Franklin Carter Jr  
Paul Verdun Arries  
Ralph H. "Tony" Miller  
Randy Roy Mesec-Barlow  
Raymond L Rydlewski  
Raymond Trusz  
Richard A. Naughton  
Richard A. Yunghans  
Richard Harold Dameron  
Richard John Newman,  
Sr.  
Ricky Ozbirn  
Robert William Hamilton  
Roland E. Wingert Jr.  
Ronald Charles Gallup  
Ronald Lee Coontz  
Ronald Ozell Vaughan  
Roy W. Miller  
Stephen L. Keller Jr.  
Stephen Souto  
Steven Benear  
Thomas Moeglein  
Timothy Herbranson  
Timothy Warren Brown  
Vicki Lynn Beasley  
Wayne Richman  
William "Billy" Henry  
Garrett  
William James Nix Jr.  
William Overton

Jesse Evin Roberts/AF Res  
John Dubis/AF Res  
Mark Victor Wilder/AF  
Res  
Charles Owen  
McDonald/Air Nat Guard  
Christopher James  
Rich/Air Nat Guard  
Wesley Allen Foote/Army  
Nat Guard  
**Air National Guard**  
Ray Rush  
Richard Dennis Eichler



# LA 7 Geaux Seven Chapter



Pinning of Associate Member Kaitlyn Summers



Attended the 4th Annual Women Veterans Symposium at the American Legion Post 38 June 12, 2025



June 28, our Geaux 7 Chapter packed 180 care packages that were mailed to our servicemen and women overseas.



Below: The Red White and Boom July 5th event in Central Louisiana, our Geaux 7 Chapter participated by having a booth and sold our patriotic items and visited many veterans and prospective members.



# TN Joint Chapters Brunch

## TN 3, TN 4 and TN 7

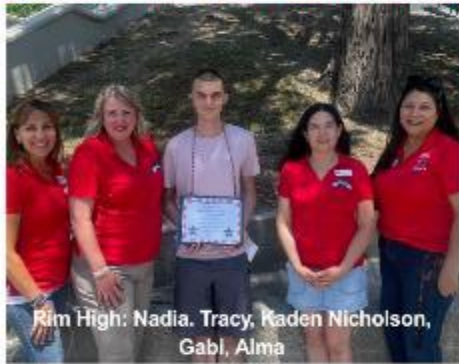




WE HAD A GREAT TIME PRESENTING GRAD CORDS AND CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO TWO RIM OF THE WORLD HIGH SCHOOL GRADS ON MONDAY, JUNE 9. THE RECIPIENTS WERE ISAIAH RODRIGUEZ AND KADEN NICHOLSON, BOTH OF WHOM ENLISTED IN THE NAVY. WE PARTICIPATED IN THE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY AND PINNED SEVERAL VIETNAM VETERANS WITH LAPEL PINS.

ON FRIDAY, JUNE 13, WE MET AT BURNT MILL BEACH TO PICK UP TRASH AROUND LAKE ARROWHEAD.

ON SUNDAY, JUNE 29, WE PARTICIPATED IN THE COMMUNITY JAM DAYS PICNIC. MOMS PROVIDED FACE PAINTING, PATRIOTIC WEARABLE TATTOOS, AND TOSS GAMES FOR THE KIDS. ON SATURDAY, JULY 5, MOMS MARCHED IN THE CRESTLINE JAM DAYS PARADE AND HAD A BOOTH AT THE STREET FAIR.



Rim High: Nadia, Tracy, Kaden Nicholson, Gabi, Alma



Rim High: Alma, Nadia, Mrs Rodriguez, Isaiah Rodriguez, Tracy, Gabi



Nadia, Marisela, and Lin cleaning the trail at Lake Arrowhead



Memorial Day Ceremony: Mickey, Denise, Bridgett, Nadia, Lin, Sandi, Brenda



Crestline Community Picnic: Mickey, Marisela, Denise, Nadia



Jam Days Booth: Alma, Tracy, Lin, Vicki, Brenda, Marisela, Lizzie



Jam Days Parade: Lin, Marisela, Sandi, Denise, , Tracy, Vicki

# OK 5

Broken Arrow OK5 has been blessed with partnering with Veteran Alliance Group of Cox Communications several times a year. They packed up 150 plus care packages late June in one afternoon for our July shipment. With 4 BA Moms making sure they had everything they needed to prepare and fill those boxes!

Our Community of support has been one of the reasons our chapter is so Blessed with donations to make these events happen! In 22 years, we've grown from 5 members to over 50 with registered moms, dads and associates! Not to mention the many volunteers that have come to help us with donations and their time, like Cox Communications employees.





# Lone Star Chapter, TX6



**Members Melody and Stacy took their families to welcome home Honor Flight Mission #59.**



**Packing care packages at our June meeting.**



**Celebrating Women Veterans Day  
June 12th is the anniversary  
of the Women's Armed Services  
Integration Act, which was signed  
into law on June 12, 1948, by  
President Harry S. Truman.**

## MI 178

Some of the Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI 178 were recently honored to attend the Opening Ceremony of the moving Vietnam Wall in Caro, MI on June 27th. The ceremony was well attended with many great speakers. Blue Star Mothers pictured are Lynne Tschirhart, Deb Robinson, Pat Rogers, Marcia Janik and Nic Stermer. It was a three-day event. Deb Robinson, our Gold Star Mother and widow of a Vietnam Veteran, read a poem by Joe Merchant, U.S. Army, Veteran entitled "Where Do We Find such Men" during the opening ceremony. Deb also played "Taps" at the end of the opening ceremony Friday and the closing ceremony on Sunday.



# OK 5



We are always blessed to have corporations come in to help us in whatever way they can. This particular group is Windstream/Kinetic and although it was a small group that came, they were a powerhouse! They helped us load up our July care packages to the postal truck, pack up 140 boxes, multiple letter packs

(including letters from their employees, one being a retired Colonel), made up multiple med packs and brought in donations and they are covering our shipping cost for August care packages!

We had 5 Blue Star members, 1 regular weekly volunteer, 2 Gold Star families and 10 Windstream/Kinetic employees on this venture!

(Some not pictured)



## Blue Star Mothers ROC NY8 July 2025



### **June Care Packages**

With the generous support of donations and hands to help set-up and pack, the Rochester NY BSM NY8 filled and mailed over 240 care packages on June 21st. These packages are going to service men and women stationed around the world and to Red Cross service centers in Europe, Asia and Africa supporting our troops.





# June 2025 PA 16



## Blue Star Mothers of Southwestern PA: June Highlights

June was a month of heartfelt connection and meaningful service for the Blue Star Mothers of Southwestern PA. We were honored to take part in the Navy Picnic, sharing moments of camaraderie and gratitude with those who have served.

We also had the privilege of joining a group of veterans for their Coffee with Veterans event—a space dedicated to open conversation, suicide prevention, and the power of listening. Our members offered support and hospitality, reinforcing the strength of community and shared understanding.

Another highlight of the month was a spirited night at a Washington Wild Things Minor League Baseball game, where sisterhood flourished and our mission shined. It was a memorable evening of laughter, pride, and shared purpose.

We continued our tradition of recognizing local high school seniors who have chosen the path of military service. These courageous graduates were honored with patriotic cords and certificates of appreciation, celebrating their commitment and inspiring hearts throughout our region.

As we journey through the summer months, we remain grounded in celebration—of one another, our shared community, and the unwavering strength of our military families.

# Ohio True Blue #15

## busy with events and activities!

### Memorial Day Services



Ohio's True Blue 15 was honored to be a part of the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26th. By participating in this small way we honor and remember the brave men and women who served in the military. Following the parade, members attended the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the American Legion where Debby Wadham presented the Gold Star Mother's wreath while Theresa Daniel and Mary Evans presented the Blue Star Mother's wreath symbolizing remembrance and gratitude. Then of course, lunch after.



### Community Outreach



Ohio's True Blue 15 has started to place donation boxes in various businesses and organizations asking for items to be donated to that will be sent in our Adopt-a-Platoon packages.

### July 4th Veterans Appreciation Car Show



Ohio's True Blue 15 attended the July 4th Star Spangled Spectacular's Veterans Appreciation Car Show held at Fautrot Park in Lima. The Chapter had a tent set-up to sell Military Ducks, Military Mom Shirts as well as Military Welcome Signs. The Chapter also asked visitors to sign Christmas Cards that will be sent in our next Adopt-a-Platoon packages.



# TREASURE COAST BLUE STAR MOTHERS, FL11



**Treasure Coast Blue Star Mothers enjoyed a Mets baseball game where we were honored with singing the anthem and throwing the first pitch. Our children were recognized on the message board during the game. It was a great opportunity to share the mission.**



## **MN 16 - Pine City Blue Star Moms**

Summer actives are keeping everyone busy with their families. We have a few more parades on the horizon for July and August, including bringing our float to the Minnesota State Fair for Blue Star Moms from around the state to ride on during the Military Appreciation Day Parade in August.



We have welcomed a new member to our chapter and are looking forward to getting to know her and her family.



**Last years State Fair Photo of Minnesota Blue Star Mothers**

# YELLOW ROSE - TX20

July 2025

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



We were honored to participate in Military Night at the Frisco Rough Riders Baseball Game.



Chapter Social to welcome in Summer at Fortuna Winery.



Excited that we shipped over 20 pairs of sweatpants to VAVS at Convention. Love from TX20!



Thank you TX13 for inviting our Chapter to participate in the celebration of the Army's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

What a great event!



## FRISCO FREEDOM FEST - July 4th



The rain did not stop this group from celebrating July 4<sup>th</sup>, honoring our troops with letters and sharing about our mission.

Thank you to the City of Frisco for hosting us.





May/June

We participated at a Military Appreciation Dinner. The dinner was for veterans in the community that was hosted by the LWCC.



The Wall That Heals came to the Upstate. It was a privilege to see the replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that is located in Washington, D.C.

We had a Krispy Kreme/Groupraise Fundraiser. The funds will go to supplying the upcoming carepackages.





What an honor to be able to prepare meals for the guests at the Fisher House.

Grill masters - Pam One & Pam Two



We had a vendor/information table at the IGYSIX-Continue the Mission Benefit Ride.

Their goal is to raise awareness of Veteran Suicide and Veteran Homelessness and put an end to it. ;IGYSIX is a Veteran term used to indicate to those contemplating suicide that they are not alone, their brothers and sisters in arms have their back, their 6 O'Clock.



*"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." — William James, American philosopher and psychologist*



## Ohio Chapter 21

This month we had the honor of treating our Veterans in a local care facility as well as at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky to some Care Packages. This not only brightened their day but was a way to show our gratitude for their service.



July 26th we are holding the Wheels of Freedom Car show in Bellevue, Ohio. All proceeds benefit active-duty Service Members and Veterans.

We would love if you could stop by and say hello.

# WHEELS OF FREEDOM CAR SHOW

**BELLEVUE VFW**  
2001 E MAIN ST

**11AM TO 4PM**      **JULY 26**

ALL MAKES & MODELS WELCOME      VENDORS & FOOD TRUCKS, 50/50, RAFFLES

All proceeds benefit active-duty service members, foster patriotism, and provide support to veterans and veteran organizations.

Car Show Pre-Registration is \$15. or Day of the event Registration is \$20.

**CONTACT: AMY AT (419) 603-3470**

# MI 194

The Ottawa-North Kent Chapter worked with the city of Coopersville, Michigan Mayor, City Manager and Raap Signs to have this tribute and to our Veterans and Troops created and hung up in Veterans Park.

Pat Raap, owner of Raap Signs, contacted each of the Military branches to obtain permission to use the logos.

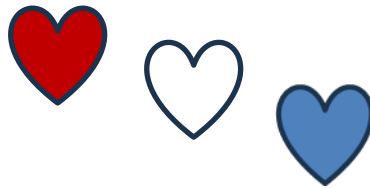


Attending the unveiling is Coopersville City Mayor; Ken Bush, owner of Raap Signs; Pat Raap, chapter members; President Trudy Wysocki, Jacqueline Ransom, Linda Maat, Nancy Vos and Laurie Lesiewicz.

# SC 8

## SAVE 22 In Myrtle Beach, SC

This morning Marine Veteran, Kyle Killinger, left Myrtle Beach, SC on the 4th day of his run, from Charleston, SC to Camp Lejeune, NC. Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina were there to cheer him on and thank him for his mission to end suicides in our Service Members and Veterans. One of our Moms, Aileen O'Rourke, who is a runner, ran the first mile with him, in her BSMCC t-shirt! If we stopped one person from taking their life, it was a success!





**June Events**

6/5 Center Point Church Care Package Event



6/7 Sun City Roseville-Vet-Patriot Club BBQ



6/9 Z Track Days

6/9 John Sax Memorial

6/12 Farewell to Debbie Konvalin

*Remembering Capt. John Sax and the crew of Swift 11*

Cpl. Richard P. Cox and Pl. Woodruff (Ltr.), T41101, Cow Chief  
 Cpl. Robert P. Longley, W. R. 10101, Cow Chief  
 Pl. 926 P41  
 Cpl. Scott D. Rousseau, Pl. Jackson, P4101, Cow Chief  
 Lt. Col. Tom A. Spickard, Pl. Marston, W4101, Cow Chief

6/9

6/13 Red Cross Operation Care Package



6/14 Red, White & Blue Bunco



6/24 General Meeting



OUR TVP, ALLISON, IS A  
ROCKSTAR AND JOINED IN  
ON THE RUCK!

# ARMY 250<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND 5K RUCK



WE JOINED OUR LOCAL ARMY RECRUITERS AND OUR LOCAL COLORADO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AS THEY HOSTED A 5K RUCK, IN CELEBRATION OF THE ARMY'S 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, WITH NEW RECRUITS!

WELCOME HOME  
CADE, BRADY  
AND JUSTIN!



## WESTERN SLOPE BLUE STAR MOTHERS CO8



OUR LOCAL COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD HONORED US BY GIVING US A RIDE IN THE BACK OF AN LMTV IN THE PARADE THIS YEAR!



### MILITARY PARENT SUMMIT



WE INVITED ANY MILITARY PARENT AS WELL AS NEARBY CHAPTERS FROM COLORADO AND UTAH



WE ATTENDED A LEARNING SESSION ON PTSD



WE MADE A PATRIOTIC CRAFT



WE PROVIDED DINNER TO OUR LOCAL VETERANS, AS A SERVICE PROJECT



# Fort Wayne Area Blue Star Mothers - Chapter IN8

Our Chapter had a slightly less busy month in July; none the less an exciting month. For 2 full days the Fort Wayne Air Show featured the US Air Force Thunderbirds at our own Fort Wayne Air National Guard Base, Home of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing.

We had a chance to meet lots of people from the greater Fort Wayne area; attendance estimates were 80,000 over 2 days. We had our booth set up and did lots of sharing our mission! Tattoos, pencils, post it note pads and other fun give aways!



*US Air Force Thunderbirds*



*Our Saturday Booth Set Up*



*Sky Writers*



*Michelle and Kierstin*



*Jackie and Jonie at our Booth on Sunday*



*KC Flight Formation Team*

# BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



## JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

### Upcoming Events

**2025 Chapter  
Family Picnic**  
July 15<sup>th</sup>

**2025 National  
Convention**  
July 28<sup>th</sup>-Aug 1<sup>st</sup>

**Brewer's Walk**  
July 19<sup>th</sup>  
**Irreverent  
Warriors MKE  
Hike**  
August 16<sup>th</sup>

**Tunnel to Towers  
Walk**  
August 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Racine Festival  
Stand Down**  
September 13<sup>th</sup>

**WI Realtor  
Military Ball**  
October 18<sup>th</sup>



While we didn't hold a formal meeting in June, our members stayed active and connected through sisterhood, service, and planning. We kicked off the month with a casual gathering filled with appetizers, drinks, and laughter, and spent time assembling gift bags for our upcoming convention.



Our chapter also participated in a variety of meaningful events throughout the month. We held a successful fundraiser at MKE Burger in Franklin, WI, and had the privilege of welcoming home Veterans from their Honor Flight, which was made even more special by a surprise Vietnam Pinning Ceremony. Members volunteered at Camp Hometown Heroes, tying yellow ribbons on trees in honor of fallen heroes, and supported the Wisconsin Veterans Picnic at Boland Hall. Behind the scenes, much of our energy went into preparing for the National Convention at the end of July. We are proud and excited to host our fellow Blue Star Sisters. We can't wait to welcome you to Milwaukee!



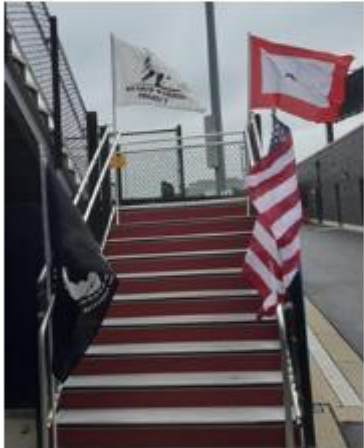


## Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6

IL6 looks forward to Wounded Warrior Project Soldier Ride Chicago every year! We get to be "moms" for all of these warriors, they get

to be our "kids" for the day, and we all take that in and let it happen! We welcome them "home" with flags and cheering as they finish their 3 day ride, we pose for photos with them and all the flags as they entered the stadium, we lunch together and provide desserts, then in a new twist this year, we got to be the fans as they played softball against local first responders! What an inspiration they all are!!

No pics, we served desserts at our host VFW's fish fry, always fun to be there with our Veterans, their family, and their friends!





## BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PA201

Our Chapter participated in a Flag Day celebration in Bethlehem, PA on June 14 at the Musikfest Café at Steel Stacks. This was the 18th annual event sponsored by Embassy Bank. The Allentown Band, America's oldest concert band established in 1828 performed a concert from 1:30-3 pm. Attendees included Honored Veterans and Active Military. This was an outstanding opportunity for our Chapter to share information regarding our organization while honoring all military past and present.

FLAG DAY 06/14/25



Second VP, Ellen Bernstein came upon an lovely fountain on her vacation travels to Florida with her husband in June. This Blue Star fountain was located in North Carolina and is part of the Blue Star Memorial Highway. It was created by the Garden Clubs of District XII and North Carolina Inc. What a gem to find while on vacation, don't you think?



This group of Girl Scouts from Troop 21820, Jericho Service Unit, Pipersville PA under the leadership of Helen Atkinson has donated cookies for our military care packages for the last 2 years.





# Blue Star Mothers of America Louisiana Chapter 1

News from the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women  
July 2025



## Retiring the Memorial Day Garden of Flags



LA1 thanks our supporters for helping to respectfully retire the Garden of Flags.



## LA1 and LA7 Sister Support Memorial Garden of Flags



LA1 members Dora Sanford, Tabitha Tynes, Karen Byrd, Shawn King and Denise Singleton provide snacks to the For Our Fallen ruckers.

LA7 Tish Gerard and LA1 Ava Grace visit before the Memorial Garden of Flags Ceremony.



## Neighbors Way Tuition Assistance Awards Breakfast



Denise Singleton, left, was the guest speaker for the Neighbors Federal Credit Union Tuition Assistance Awards Breakfast in May. Also pictured are Brett Reynolds, Senior Vice President of Marketing; Betty Mujica-Milano, Community Outreach Coordinator; and LA1 member Natalie Truax

JULY 2025



Rio Grande Valley  
**Blue Star Mothers**

NM2

HONOR FLIGHT OF NORTHERN  
NEW MEXICO  
Thank you for your Service!  
WELCOME HOME!



June 13, 2025, Support

WORKING THE MISSION!  
PACKING CARE PACKAGES FOR DEPLOYED TROOPS 6/21/2025  
425 CARE PACKAGES MAILED.



Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Moms bid Farewell to Colonel Power  
Welcome Colonel Secret  
Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
377<sup>th</sup> AB Wing



2025 Camaro Car show at Hooters

- 7/4 The National Ringing of the Bell with The Navy League
- 7/5 Camaro Car Show of NM benefitting RGV NM2
- 7/19 General Meeting, VSOs gift giving day,  
Second Annual Battle of the Branches Blood Drive
- 7/28-8/2 National Convention Milwaukee, WI
- 8/7 Acknowledgement of National Purple Heart Day
- 8/16 EB Elections – NM Veterans Memorial Park
- 9/9 Military Day at the NM State Fair
- 10/18 Mardi Gras in NM – Fundraiser hosted by NM2 -Marriott Pyramid



Register day of event. Cash-only! \$30  
Setup from 9am-10am

**4TH ANNUAL TRUE  
SOLDIERS GENEVIT  
CAR SHOW**

100% OF BENEFITS  
GO TO BLUE STAR  
MOTHERS

July 5th, 2025  
Hooters West  
1000 Avenida de  
Las Americas  
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Interested in being a  
sponsor or vendor?  
Please call 305-750-5709  
Visit us on Facebook and Instagram



We were thrilled to have William W. Niemann, known as Bill, as our guest speaker to discuss his book, "Fire Storm Showing." Bill is a first-time author and the husband of Margaret Niemann, a member of VA4. He is a retired lieutenant and former assistant fire marshal in Virginia and was one of the first 150 paramedics in the Commonwealth. During the meeting, he shared some of his experiences, including his 17 years of service in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, from which he retired as a Flotilla Commander. Bill also autographed copies of his book, purchased at the meeting. "Fire Storm Showing" is available for purchase on Amazon, and Bill is generously donating a portion of the proceeds from book sales to the VA4 Chapter.



Natalie Foley was named the June Most Valuable Star Recruiter for signing up two new members.



The humid, HOT! Temps did not prevent us from walking in support of the BSMA President's Project. Join us in Prayer for all the states that are dealing with the floods and fires. EXCITED! CONVENTION 2025!!!



It was a fun outing at the Fredericksburg Nat baseball game with amazing fireworks after the game

VA4 Members tour the Gari Melcher Home and Studio



The Fourth in Fredericksburg Children's Roll N' Stroll is a favorite event we are excited to host for the community. It is only possible with sponsors like the Kiwanis of Fredericksburg and the Federal Navy Credit Union. Much gratitude to Bill Michaels from Thunder 104.5 for serving as our Emcee, the Fredericksburg Police Department for escorting the Roll, and Team RWB Fredericksburg serving as our road guards. A fantastic turnout and a beautiful sight of children displaying their patriotic spirit during the Children's Roll N' Stroll. We would like to give a huge thank you to our judges, April Peterson of River Rock Outfitters, Deborah Franks of MANARC, and Sally Cooney Anderson of the Fredericksburg Host Lions Club. They selected the winners but mentioned so many awesome decorated bikes, wagons, strollers, and costumes, and made the selection difficult. We are grateful to Urban Air for donating the prizes for the Best Adult and child patriotic costume and Best decorated bicycle/wagon/stroller.

*Hope you all had a  
safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup>!*



*happy*  
**4<sup>TH</sup>  
OF** *July*