

June 2025 National Newsletter

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

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Hello Sisters,

We are just six short weeks away from our 82nd National Convention! If you have not yet registered, please try to do so before July 1st. Not only will this give us a better idea of how many will be attending; but the price goes up as well. Early registration is \$165.00 for the Convention and an additional \$35.00 for the Big Dipper Fun Night. As of July 1, those will go up to \$175.00 for Convention, and \$45.00 for the Big Dipper Fun Night.

You can find the registration form on our website (<https://www.bluestarmothers.org/>) along with the Delegate, Sponsorship and Vendor forms.

The National Officers have put together some great breakout sessions; we have several wonderful speakers; and the Convention Chair & Co-Chair, along with their Chapters, have been working hard to ensure you enjoy your time in Wisconsin!

Election, Shining Star and our 501©3 donation information have been emailed out, so please get those forms back in as quickly as possible.

The proposed Finance Policy and 2025-2026 proposed budget have also been distributed. We ask that you review and provide your questions to our National Finance Chair, Julie Straw, so she can compile your questions/comments. Her email is financechair@bluestarmothers.us

Don't forget to purchase your **Convention Apparel!** Along with your t-shirt, there are many other items you can purchase using our Convention logo. The link is located within the online store tab, then click on the Spreadshirt link. Remember - using this logo and those listed below, all proceeds will go towards the Convention.

Together we are Stronger (new)
Be Kind, Have Patience, Give Grace
On Fridays We Wear Red
Red, White & Blue Star Mothers (new)

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



Memorial Day Weekend

We toured the Pentagon, went to Blue Star Mothers of America's founder Captain George H. Maines gravesite at Arlington, put rose petals in the memorial bowl at WIMSA for our sister Stacy and our Blue Daisies. We participated in the motorcycle ride for Rolling to Remember, a ride to remember POW/MIA, and a wreath was placed at the Tomb of the Unknown honor our Fallen.



PLEASE READ
IMPORTANT
NEWS

- **Online Store is OPEN!** Lots of items to purchase prior to National Convention!
- There are yearbooks missing from our inventory prior to 2003, if you have them please notify president@bluestarmothers.us
- Order your yearbook before June 30th to have it shipped to National Convention (no shipping cost to you). Order after July 1st to have your yearbook shipped to your home.
- In search of donation, or a contact to purchase from, a Coast Guard cover and a Space Force garrison hat for the Honor Our Children ceremony
- Watch for Convention Chatters to get all the updated information for this years National Convention



***All Books ordered by June 30th will be delivered FREE to Convention but you must pick up there or you will be charged shipping**



CAPTURE YOUR MEMORIES IN THIS YEAR'S 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
- 2 Enter your school's passcode:
101416260317183

treering

Regular price: **\$25.81**

*Does not include sales tax, if applicable

Create Custom Pages by: **June 15**



Create Custom Pages by June 15th if you want your Yearbook delivered FREE to Convention but you must pick up there or you will be charged shipping

treering



Add Photos

Add your favorite photos from your phone, computer, Instagram, Facebook, Google or Dropbox account, and have them printed in your copy of the yearbook.



Sign Books

Make your friends smile by sending them a message (can include a photo or sticker) that they can add to their custom pages or ask them to send you one!



Add Memories

Answer questions about your year and capture your very best moments. You can even include a photo to go along with them.



Design Your Page

Add all of your memories to your two free personal pages that will be printed in your unique copy of the yearbook. Need more room? You can add more pages!

**Create your custom pages yourself when ordering your yearbook

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101416260317183

Regular price: **\$25.81**

Create Custom Pages by:

June 15

Need help? Contact

www.treering.com/help



Spreadshirt Tips/Tricks



We have two spread shirt shops

*One for MEMBERS/ASSOCIATES ONLY
<https://blue-star-mothers-of-america.myspreadshop.com/>

*One for all of our supporters
<https://partner.spreadshirt.com/shop-area/1764374/shop>

YOU CAN CUSTOMIZE EACH DESIGN
Choose the item you would like
Click the pencil icon below the item **(See Red Arrow below),**



Click Customize on new screen **(Click orange arrow)**



From here, you can move the design any spot on the shirt or adjust the print size Click on Arrange Design **(Green Arrow)** (no charge)

You can add a design by clicking on designs from the left side **(teal arrow)** and add any design in our gallery, or text. (additional cost)



We have a video if you need any assistance

Then add to cart and check out. Hope to see you in your BSMA Swag at convention!!!!

Scan QR Code for instructional video on moving /adding/adjusting designs



From the Desk of

Anne Parker, VAVS Representative

Our Blue Star Moms have been so creative in the ways they connect with veterans. As we read the monthly reports, we are amazed and excited about what is happening across the country. We would like to share some of the creativity with you so your chapter can adapt it to your locations. **Remember that not all VA's are the same and you need to ask permission and find out local needs.**

We have chapters that, of course, volunteer and do activities in their local VA facilities but with their creativity it is exciting for the veterans and their families that accompany them to the appointments. With the summer months we have seen tables set up with local fruits and vegetables alongside the delicious popcorn machines. Packaged snacks are always a treat but perhaps bag up local produce. Contact your local markets/farms for donations that you can use. As moms we know that when we have younger children with us it can be stressful waiting and just sitting. Go visit the waiting areas with some coloring pages and a pack of 6 crayons for the kids. The veteran will be thankful that we remembered their child or grandchild.

Not every chapter has a VAVS Rep or live in close range to a VA facility. One of our local chapters had a great idea that is working for them.

With your Amazon account you can make a Wish List. We usually use them for our own holidays, celebrations, kid's birthdays and more. This chapter has set up an Amazon Wish List for their VA facility. They spoke with the VA Chief and asked for a wish list and with their permission put it on their account. They kept it small and manageable to begin and through their own chapter Facebook page and outreach they spread the information. The donations are sent directly to the facility. If you do not have information on which VA facilities are near you, or which ones do not have a VAVS Rep please contact our National Rep., Anne Parker at vavs@bluestarmothers.us.

If your chapter has a program that has been successful with the VA please share it so others can use it as well. Thank you for what you do for our veterans.

Remember If your chapter has not donated sweatpants for the VAVS Convention Project there is plenty of time. You can order easily on the Walmart or Amazon Site.

The address to send to is:

Diana Rettig
7746 Hagemann Rd
Caledonia, WI 53108



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

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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

Adele F Adams
Alan Dale Simmons Sr.
Alan G. Pidgeon
Albert Colunga
Allen Brewer
Allen J. Ziffra
Alvin Duane Vales
André Gilliam
Andrew "Andy" Peterson
Andrew Aldeen Oakley
Andrew J. Shields
Angel Luis Manzueta
Arnulfo Trevino
Arthur "Artie" Muller
Arthur A. Benner
Arthur Hopkins
Arthur W. Broussard
Bernard J. Thebeau Jr.
Billie Charles Driver
Billy E Ramsey
Billy Floyd Cantrell Sr.
Billy Ray Edwards
Brad Winston Porter
Brandon Ray Sikes
Bruce Anthony Zeringue
Buddy Wayne Montanez Jr.
Burnell A. Bleisch
Calvin Michael Stratton
Carl Andrew (CA) Uder
Carl H Elliott
Carol Elaine Swanson
Charles Larry Davis
Christopher "Chris" Scott
Hopper
Christopher Mark
Coleman
Clara Costra
Clarence Hawkins Sr.
Clea Wilson
Cleo Chandler
Clifford Edwin Guard
Craig Allen Reynolds
Craig Charles Blakeley
Craig D. Lisk
Dale Stringer
Dallas Calvin Chaney
Daniel J. DeCrow
Danny Leroy McGrew
Darryl Duane De Gonia
Daryl Victor St. Arno
David Perez
David Wayne Johnson
David Willie Williams
Dean J. Campbell
Delmar Boston
Dennis J Lawrence II
Dennis J. Farr
Dennis William McGuire

DEVON L. WILLIAMS,
Donald Dean Teets
Donald E. Musak
Donald E. Nykiel
Donald Hoadley
Donald Kevin Dearlove, Sr
Donald R. Camunez
Eddie Clyde Rainey
Edward John Apanel
Edward Wayne Hicks
Efrén Alvarez
Elbert Barnette Reeves
Elsa Jordan
Emanuel Lee Hough
Emerald "Dixie" Knudson
Emile Bell
Erwin Robinson
Eugene Hickman
Floyd Earl Humphrey
Floyd Jones, Jr.
Francis "Frank" Hall
Francis "Frank" William
Entrup
Francis Hugo Uhing
Frank Charles Angelo
Frank Morris Kirk
Franklin Alvin Emsley
Fred Bernard Matthews
Frederick Carrino
Gail Richardson
Gary Wayne Korte
George "Skip" Edward
Johnson II
George Ransom Toler Jr.
George Wallace Tarbet
Gerald Perry Ford
Gerald Wayne Cooper
Glenn H. Hodak
Gregory Printy
Harry Hopkins
Haywood Lee Epperson
Herbert Grady Willis
Herman Fields, Jr
Herman J. Smith
Howard William Fischer
Ira Gail Glenn
James "Stanley" Mitchell
James Edward Johnson
James F Packard
James G. Loterbaugh
James Harold Turner
James Neal Crawford
James O. Poff
James Onsted
James Owen Haynes
James Robert Mitchell
James Salazar
James Stanley Mitchell
Jeffery Wayne

Worthington
Jeffrey Lynn Fillgrove
Jeremiah (Jerry) Lee
Thomas
Jeremy Eugene Martin
Jerry Lee Harper Sr
Jimmy Robinson
Joaquin Gonzalez
John De Camillo
John Floyd Grimme
John H. Goodwin
John O. Hough
John Paul Zook
John R Sanders Jr
John Russell "Russ"
McAfee
John Stephan Brown, Sr
John T. Gersman
John W. Gilliam, Jr.
Johnny Edward Hughes
Johnny Wayne Jasper
Jordan Bernell Benson
Jordan Lee Dodder
Joseph F. Beezhold
Joseph K. Murphy
Joseph Santiago
Joshua A W Curtis
Juan A. Rodriguez
Justin Dean Coleman
Kelly Earnest King
Kenneth Eugene Panter Sr.
Kenneth Lamar Vaughn
Kenneth Perryman
Lane Otis "Ottie" Tate
Larry Allan Degel
Larry Gene Wooten
Larry Herrera
Lawrence Edward Byrd Jr
Lawrence Curtis Anderson
Lawrence J. Owens
Leo Arthur Wolfe
Leonard G Arsenault
Lester Lee Glassburn
Louis Largesse
Louis Luntsford
Luther Grace
Manford Batts
Marciano Torres "Rocky"
Duron, Jr.
Marcus Lee Hagar Jr
Mark Lane Sebourm
Matthew Henry Cox
Melvin Metzger
Melvin Robert Owens
Merlin R. Schnell
Messler Gilchrist
Michael Aarone Wells
Michael Allen Hammett
Michael Anthony England

Michael Anthony Reed
Michael D. Dabolt
Michael Schutz
Michael Terry Lowrance
Michal Letrice Thompson
Mike Lee
Moses Scott
Mr. Kenneth Dunbar
Burgess
Nat Leroy Conway
Natividad Escobedo
Nayda Guijarro
Neil Ray Morton
Norman Broughton Sr
Norman James Davis
Omar Michael Carroll II
Paul J. Bary
Peter Jan Imkamp
Ralph L. Mourer
Ramon Nieto Garcia
Randolph Eugene Dresser
Jr.
Raymond E. Morgan
Raymundo J. Morales
Reginald Scott Croy
Richard Holmes Davies
Richard N. Oxendine
Richard Roby
Robert Buntton
Robert E. Jankowski
Robert Edward Rink
Robert Eugene Figman
Robert Frank Hearnas
Robert James Mengea
Robert Lee Jenks
Robert Michael Morse
Robert Smolik
Robert Thomas McCollum
Roger Alan Belt, Sr.
Roger Ernest Herrera Jr.
Roger Schreiner
Ronald (Ron) DeBauche
Ronald Stephen Depola
Roy B. Brown
Roy Blair "Pops" Brown
Roy King
Russell F Tucker
Ryan Kevin Miller
Samuel Earl Hines, Jr.
Samuel Joseph
McCullough
Shadrack Maynard
Overstreet
Shirley M. Graham
Stephen Don Lokken
Stephen S. "Doc" Page
Steven E. McCarthy
Steven Michael
Lemermeier

Steven R Whitehurst
Tavion Malichai Johnson
Terry Lee Gosney
Thomas Burch
Thomas Hinz
Thomas J. Palleva
Thomas J. Reagan
Thomas Kelly
Thomas L. Pindelski
Thomas Smashum
Tommy Dale Henderson
Tommy McReynolds
Troy Smith Knutson-
Collins
Vincent "Jim" Galuzzo Jr.
Virgil H. Gentry
Waldron Lee Johnson
Walter B. Grater
Walter F. Baxendale
Warren Hugh Thompson
Wesley Gene Ashley
Wilburn Cousins
William Eugene Hostetler
William Eugene Shrum, Sr
William Kemp "Bill"
Simmons
William Ragland
Willie Taylor
Alfio Murabito / Army
Reserve
Alfred Nadolny/ Army
Reserve
Andrew Otis Magafas
/Army Reserve
Benjamin G. Waddell Sr
/National Guard
Brian Barnes/National
Guard
Donald Richard Snow
/National Guard
Wayland "Poppie" Brown
/National Guard
William M. Veatch
/National Guard
Thomas O. (Mack)
McCarthy/Air National
Guard
Carl Ray Armstrong
/National Guard
Charles Richard "Chuck"
Helm /National Guard
Dennis Wylie Osgood, Jr.
/National Guard
Edward A. Lovell Jr.
/National Guard
Prophet Thoms Zachary
Gray/National Guard
Richard Allen Moore
/National Guard

Robert Brion "Snuffy"
Grinder/National Guard
William J. Synkowski
/National Guard
Charles G. Olinde/Army
Reserve
Charles M. Hughes, III
/Army Reserve
Charles William Roysie
/Army Reserve
Clifton Aaron McCarter
/Army Reserve
David "Mike" Thayer
/Army Reserve
David M, Taylor/Army
Reserve
Donald F. Ankabrandt
/Army Reserve
Donald Wayne Brydson
Army Reserve
Edward James Ponce
/Army Reserve
Henry Clay Emmerich
/Army Reserve
James D. Miller /Army
Reserve
John Dean Williams/Army
Reserve
John L. Robbert/Army
Reserve
Leon Whittaker/Army
Reserve
Leroy Wheatcraft/Army
Reserve
Michael Peter Boccarossa
/Army Reserve
Palmer Lefstead/Army
Reserve
Paul Michael Porohnavi
/Army Reserve
Philip Stephen O'Dell
/Army Reserve
Raymond Nathaniel Miller,
Sr. /Army Reserve
Ricky Terrence Wyche
/Army Reserve
Robert E. Wegner/Army
Reserve
Roy W. Plumlee/Army
Reserve
Sherman V. Black/Army
Reserve
Stephen T Walker/Army
Reserve
Steven Charles McGrath
/Army Reserve
William Austin Watson
/Army Reserve

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Army (cont)

William Edward Cole /Army Reserve
Woodrow Wilson Adams, Jr /Army Reserve
Robert Allen Harvell III /Marine Corps
Daniel Lewis Payne/Navy
Gregory John McCrimmon /Navy
Edwin E. Loving/Air Force
Woodrow Vance Drake /Air Force

Army Reserve

Doyle Wayne Stamps
Robert Lee Reynolds

Navy

Andre L. Adams
Arek John Baptiste
Djigounian
Baylor Austin Battles
Captain Allen Colby Brady
Carlos Espitia Jr.
Charles Edward Slater
Charles Eugene Norbert Rosene
Charles Pinyard
Charles Stephen Atchley
Charles Suhr
Christopher Morgan
Clifford Mecham
Connie G. Hypes
Curtis G. Crabtree
Dakota B. Collison
Daniel "Dan" Dlack
Don Lantrip
Donald Thadius Watson
Duane Ray Vance
Elbert W Whitley
Florence Louise Oest
Floyd W. Carter Jr.
Francis "Butch" Papanou
Frank Re
Frank Taylor Cross
Gale Thomas Evans
George Clifton Keeton
George Frederick Will
Gordon Albert Sonne
Gregory Dean Trytten
James Edwin Kesterson
James Harold Barber
James Lee Ruschmeier
James Louis Bennette
James N Nix
James R. "Jim" McCoy
James Sidney Blossman Jr
Jerry Lee Tegtmann
Jerry Mac Swan
Joel Andrew Atchison

John Cain Jr.,
John E Shaw
John Jackson Smith
John Lee Wilson III
John Leon Pittman
John R. Hobbs Jr.
John Whitaker
Joseph N Davis
Kenneth M. Houchins
Lee Austin Kelsoe
Leticia Ellinger
Linda R. A. Lackey
Linda R. Powell
Matthew "Matt" Robert Flaherty
Norbert Charles Spenner
Paul Christopher Steffensen
Ray Oscar Olsen
Richard A "Dick" Miller
Richard Dale Wilbur
Richard Daniel Woods
Robert H Mierzewski
Robert John Steinkle
Roger Dale Voyles
Ron Smith
Roy Jay Ricks
Seankese "Sean" Johnson
Stephen A Danforth
Stephen Gerald Bambauer
Theodore "Teddy" S. Kress
THOMAS D. REILLEY JR.
Thomas L Tierney
Thomas W Bankston
William Chaplin
William R. Love
William Ray Turner
Willie Cornell
John Frank Kujat/Air Force
William Joy/Air Force
Eric Owen Carter/Coast Guard
Darrell Paige Mathews /Navy Reserve
Don H. Clayton/Navy Reserve
Edward M. Guthrie/Navy Reserve
Francis Xavier Neuner /Navy Reserve
James Arthur Frantz/Navy Reserve
Robin Lee Von Hofen Navy/Navy Reserve
Navy Nurse Corps
Frank Testa
Marine Corps
Abel DeLeon

Adrian Ward Holloman
Alberto Garza
Anthony "Tony" Abruntilla
Arthur Dennis Mullikin, Sr.
Bernard Harper
Billy Battle
Billy Ray Amburgey
Brittany Marie Butler
Bruce Allen Heitz
Bruce Franklin Jarman
Chad Lee Bowling Jr.
Cody White
Daniel Calvin Hiscock
Daniel J. Scott Sr.
Daniel Ray Simpson
Danny Buck
David F. Nettles
David Lewis Fackrell
David Timothy "Tim" Davis
David William Hodson
Douglas Reed
Eugene Edward Jernigan
George B. Armbruster
George Mortela
Gregory Simpkins Sr.
Harold Edward Jordan Sr.
Ivan J. Hiller
James A. Fowler Jr
James Albert Romine Jr.
James Henry Vandever
James Komisar, Sr.
James Marlowe Mitchell
James Nelson Reeder
James Thomas "JT" Baker
Jerry Lee Ragsdale
Joe Windham
John Perry
John R. Schimpf, Jr
John S. Decker
John Timothy Wendt
Lawrence Eugene Henning
Mannie Fields Jr
Mark Ladieu Kincade
Michael Phillip Hartman
Myron "Ron" Strepka
Myron Wayne Brackett
Nathan George Duke
Nilsson Edward Eckstrom
Patrick Ronald Wright
Philip Klein
Rex Jarman Sr.
Richard Edward Carey
Robert Allen
Robert Burns Steele
Robert McCarley Jr.
Robert William Sanders
Rodney K. McGee
Ronald A. Jackson
Ronald Walter Patterson

Rudy G Chacon
Ryan Lucas Eller
Scott Preston Kirkland
Stephen Michael Verketis
Steve Von Wilson-Lovey
Stevie Ray Winters
Wayne Bushue
William Curtis Elks Jr.
William Joseph Teletchea
Allen S. Young/Air Force
Jose V. Chavarria/Air Force Reserve
Larry Michael Stephenson /Air Force Reserve
Timothy D. Konecny/Army National Guard/Army Reserve
Cedric E. Bruns/Marine Corps Reserve
Don Edmund Hazard/Marine Corps Reserve
Donald Glenn
Wear/Marine Corps Reserve
Frank Joseph Monica /Marine Corps Reserve
Mark Teddy Kresel/Marine Corps Reserve
Phillip Scott Reesing /Marine Corps Reserve
Robert Bruce/Marine Corps Reserve
Coast Guard
Eugene A. Prines
Francis Dale Remington
John Hiland Hopkins
Meagan Taylor Arant
Roger Chivers, Jr.
Air Force
Alfred Francis "Allen" Schram, Jr.
Antonio Barela
Benjamin Robert Reindl
Brady Ford Toole
Brett Patrick Piotrowicz
Bryan Decker
Carl Douglas Commenator
Carlo J. Marinaro
Charles F. Ledford
Charles Moody
Chester Lay Jr
Clinton E Graffam
Craig W. Palmer
Daniel J. Wissmann
Danny Duval
David Andrew Paynter
David W Cross
Dennis Mitchell Raikakos

Dennis O'Keith Jackson
Dexter Wendell Barlow
Donald C. Greenlaw
Donald William Bennett
Edward D. Hawkins
Eugene "Gene" Gary Gunderson
Forrest Daryl Ellis, MD
Frank A. Campagna
Frank L. Henrion
G.B. Glasgow
Gary Lee Eslinger
Gene Larry Morehead
George Larry Wiseman Sr
George Richard Barrie
Gordon Steven Rames
Gray Conway Hunt
Guy "Eldon" Willis
Harold "Hap" Arnold
Israel Richard Cox Jr.
Jacques J. Major
James Funk Sr
James H. Uldrich
James P. Boylan
James Richard Crumpton
Jim James
John Wesley Aubrey, III
Johnathan Kieth Spencer
Jon David Black
Jose Ruiz
Joseph Anthony Holden Jr
Kenneth August Peterson
Kenneth Eugene Brown
Kenneth Robert Brown
Larry Dale Weathers
Lawrence "Larry" Cook
Lawrence Alan Frey
Lawrence Holder, Sr.
Leroy Bellamy Jr.
Leslie Mitchell
Marc David Long
Mark Alan Herrington
Maurice Sylvester Dubois
Michael Ray Owens
Morgan Arthur Chaplin
Nicholas D'Ambrosia
Otis E. Davis
Patrick Espinoza
Patrick Kavanaugh
Paul Richard Yakes, Jr.
Peter C Moyer
Peter Charles Moyer
Ray Petersen
Raymond L. Tuma, Sr.
Raymond R. Opincarne
Richard Alan Szanyi
Richard C. Hanson II
Richard Hyden
Richard Ivan Bann

Richard J Scott
Richard Michael Seklecki
Robert Cauley
Robert E. Hale
Robert Lee "Pops" Miller
Rosario 'Al' Aloisio
Stephen Bert Clark
Stephen Vonn Mayfield
Steven Ray Stathas
Terry Lee Wallace
Terry Lynn Denton
Terry R. Bingham
Thomas Dellatore
Thomas Garner Hill
Vernon Hills Gross
Will Charles Carter
William Edwin "Bill" Wickles
William Larry Barrell
William Lee Johnson
Philip Ray Canterbury Sr./AF Reserve
Ralph A. Gamache/AF Reserve
Steven Foster Barkley/AF Reserve
Dennis P. "Denny" Johnson/Air National Guard
Harold Smith/Air National Guard
Richard Lee Mannes Air National Guard/Army Reserve
Air National Guard
Charles J. "Chuck" Winchester/Air Force Reserve
Jim Henry Sullivan, Jr./Army National Guard
Air Force Reserve
William Acheson Fulton, Jr.

Lake Erie Chapter MI 184

Receiving a Hershey's Heartwarming Heroes Grant, 16 year old Maddex Tarnowski partnered with the Chapter to provide support to veterans receiving care at the Lansing VA Clinic. Maddex is the son of Navy Veteran, RitaMarie Tarnowski. The Blue Star Mothers sewed canvas bags for the project. Then severely disabled adults from the Heartwood School in Mason used paint on their hands to decorate the bags. Although the adults are nonverbal, there were continuous sounds of laughter and joy as they could experience the painting texture. Then Maddex and friends/family threaded cord through the bags and filled them with daily items and treats that the Clinic suggested. Additionally, when the senior center learned about the project, some of the ladies made Frizzles to include in each bag. The purpose of Maddex's project was to show that everyone can make a difference and is valued. He included individuals that are rarely, if ever, asked to do service and make this project possible.



Disabled adults decorating the bags

Maddex Tarnowski working on threading the bags.



MI 184 Blue Star Mothers sewing canvas bags



Some of the Frizzles made by ladies at the senior center



The bags were received and appreciated by the veterans and staff at the Clinic.



OK 5



On Armed Forces Day we held our 18th annual Poker Run!
It was beautiful weather and everyone had a great time!!

Broken Warriors Ranch (an equine therapy ranch ran by veterans in Oklahoma) won the Largest Group in attendance award!

There was a tie for second:

Cowboys & Indians (Ok Army National Guard Unit)
918 Jeepers (BA Blue Star Mothers Supporters)





Blue Star Mothers of America Louisiana Chapter 1

News from the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women
June 2025



Memorial Day Garden of Flags



LA1 held its Memorial Day ceremony to begin its Garden of Flags event. Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs USAF Col. Charlton Meginley (Retired), Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser and Gold Star Mom Tobi Flair offer remarks during the ceremony.



300 retired, veteran and active military rucked the flags to the State Capitol.



LA1 sponsored the Memorial Day Garden of Flags for the 11th year in front of the State Capitol. The garden of 11,000 flags is a visible reminder to Louisiana residents, visitors from the U.S. and around the world to remember those who sacrificed their life for our country and its cause.



Gold Star Grandfather of Ashton Flair waits for the garden's completion. When the last flag was planted, he approached the garden, said a prayer and saluted the fallen.





BSM SOUTHWESTERN PA16 APRIL/MAY

The Blue Star Mothers of Southwestern PA have been on a mission these past two months, actively engaging in a whirlwind of events and activities that strengthen our community and support our troops. From heartfelt gatherings to impactful initiatives, our members have been making a difference every step of the way!

APRIL:

- D.A.R Tea & Reception
- Breakfast with HS Graduates
- Agent Orange Ceremony
- Night at the Races- *Chapter Fundraiser*
- Care Packaging Event
- Coffee With Veterans

MAY

- Communi-TEA
- Coffee With Veterans
- Avenue of Flags
- Armed Forces Day Echo Taps
- Blackhawk Golf Outing
- Bugles Across America
- Heroes Support Heroes Golf Outing
- American Legion Flag Placement
- Beaver Memorial Day Parade
- Butler Memorial Day Parade
- Butler VA Veterans Appreciation Day
- Family Freedom Festival
- Remembrance Week in Washington DC
- Over a dozen Graduation Cord Ceremonies



WE REMEMBER

Blue Star Mothers ROC NY8 June 2025



Veteran Women Coffee House and Origami for Good

The Rochester Blue Star Mothers supports the growing group of Veteran women at their monthly gatherings to share a meal, talk and on this night, practice some origami. On May 9th four members of the Origami for Good Club came to the Veteran Women Coffeehouse to share the craft of origami. The 10th graders go to Bishop Kearny High School in Irondequoit and one is the granddaughter of Blue Star Mother, Nancy Lopez. ORIGAMI FOR GOOD is a youth-run nonprofit that uses creativity and culture to celebrate Japanese heritage and spread joy, connection, and comfort to communities around the world. The girls handed out sheets of origami paper and helped the veterans make paper hearts. After dinner, everyone made paper crabs.



TREASURE COAST BLUE STAR MOTHERS, FL11



Honor flight reception
Treasure Coast Blue Star Mothers welcomed home our Veterans and thanked them for their service, as they returned from their well-deserved Southeast Florida Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. 🇺🇸
It's one of our favorite events.



Our chapter was the recipient at a local Music Bingo event. Our community really stands behind us and some of our members are well connected. We're grateful.





Lone Star Chapter, TX6



TX6 members were busy Memorial Day weekend ensuring our country's fallen heroes are never forgotten.



Volunteers placed flags at Memorial Park.



Shelley and Melody attending Memorial service in McKinney, TX.



Greeting Veterans at two restaurants in Plano, TX.



Betty and Ann read names at Sunset Memorial in Plano, TX.



Flag crew enjoying a hard earned breakfast after picking up flags.



On May 18, **NJ6** participated in New Jersey's annual Vet Fest, in Wayne. We sold T-shirts as a chapter fundraiser. The festival is held as a fundraiser with proceeds going to homeless veterans. It includes food trucks, vendors, and live music all day long.







TN 4 had a very successful Motorcycle ride fundraiser. Each biker had a BBQ meal as well as a chance to win one of 40 door prizes.



YELLOW ROSE - TX20

June 2025

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



May was a busy month and June is just as full!



We were honored to partner with St. Thomas Aquinas Cemetery in Pilot Point to set out flags for Memorial Day weekend. We visited all Veteran's gravesites to pause for a moment of reflection for their service, say their name so they will never be forgotten and place a handmade TX20 token on their headstones.

Thank you to our placement and retrieval teams for your service.



We love it when our care packages make it to their final destinations, and we get to see smiling faces!!



The Fisco Independent School District honored 30 graduating seniors that are pursuing their academics at a military institution or enlisting directly into the military. TX20 presented each graduate with a service specific challenge coin at this Military Night Recognition.



TX20 sponsored a wreath at the American Legion - The Colony Memorial Day event. Our President was honored to display the Navy wreath representing one of the branches of the Armed Forces.



The Rotary Club of Frisco invited TX20 to speak at their meeting to share our mission of support, honor and serve.

FORT WAYNE AREA BLUE STAR MOTHERS – Chapter IN8

We had the great privilege of lighting the Annual Memorial Day Weekend Watch Fire at our local National Veterans Shrine and Museum and participating in the Annual Memorial Day Parade.

Care Packages have been packed and shipped with homemade cookies and brownies and other yummy stuff!

We've been out and about in the community with our information table to local craft fairs, Veterans info fairs and our local San Diego Padres affiliate baseball team Fort Wayne Tin Caps Military Appreciation game.



WESTERN SLOPE BLUE STAR MOTHERS CO8



REMEMBER & HONOR



MEMORIAL DAY REMBERENCE CEREMONY AND BLUE STAR MEMORIAL UNVEILING



WE STARTED MEMORIAL DAY OFF BY TAKING PART IN THE WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF WESTERN COLORADO.

WE WERE THEN HONORED TO TAKE PART IN THE UNVEILING OF TWO BLUE STAR MEMORIALS, ONE AT THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL CEMETERY AND AT THE OTHER AT OUR LOCAL MILITARY ONE SOURCE BUILDING

POW*MIA CHAIR OF HONOR DEDICATION



WE WERE HONORED TO HELP THE STEADFAST VALOR FOUNDATION AND OUR LOCAL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM, THE GRAND JUNCTION JACKALOPES, DEDICATE A POW*MIA CHAIR AT SUPLIZIO FIELD. WE ALSO HANDED OUT SWAG TO OUR VETERANS WHO GOT TO ATTEND THE EVENT FOR FREE

VIETNAM VETERAN WELCOME HOME PINNING CEREMONY

USO SNACK DONATION



WE RECEIVED A DONATION TO TAKE SNACKS TO THE USO AT THE DENVER MEPS



WELCOME HOME CODY!



WE PARTNERED WITH THE STEADFAST VALOR FOUNDATION AND WELCOMED HOME OUR VIETNAM VETERANS IN RIFLE, COLORADO, WITH A PINNING CEREMONY

June
2025
NM2



Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers



June 14, 2025, and Flag Day

**Patty Paul 3rd VP
Media & Public Relations**



MC & Host of the NM State Luncheon. May 17, 2025

Author, Lena Andrews via Zoom, elegantly spoke on the true courage of women of the United States during one of the most dangerous times. WWII.

Valiant Women.
BRAVE women winning the war abroad and at home.



Moms, Morale and More who filled the Gap of the 1940s.



Gloria 1st VP places US flags on graves at Santa Fe National Cemetery for

Memorial Day Wreath at Santa Fe National Cemetery



Kirtland AFB Fiesta Air Show. Soaring over the Sandia Mountains May 31st & June 1st, 2025

**JET NOISE THE
SOUND OF FREEDOM!**

MN 16



This year, we donated red, white and blue Honor Cords for high school seniors who have enlisted in the military, to wear at their graduation. Mora High School held a ceremonial Swearing-in Ceremony and invited members of our chapter to present the honor cords to the 7 young men who have committed to serve their country! It was quite an honor to attend and thank them in person. Other schools that we donated honor cords to included: Rush City, Pine City and Braham. We are hoping to expand the list of high schools next year.

A veteran who was at the Mora ceremony mentioned his family's Blue Star Flag after our presentation, so after the ceremony, we took some time to visit the Kanabec Veterans Memorial in town to see his family's Blue Star Flag (in which one of the 3 stars changed to Gold) and talk to him more about his service and his family's service.



So far this summer, we have participated in a couple of parades including the Pine City Memorial Day Parade which made its way to Birchwood Cemetery for a Memorial Day Ceremony and the Braham Appreciation Day Parade. More parades are on the agenda for the summer!





BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PA201

April, May and June have been quite busy for Chapter PA201. In April we hosted a BINGO event. Chapter activities in May included a Veteran's Outreach Event, a car show event and Memorial Day event. In June our Chapter came together to pack care packages for shipment to deployed military personnel and lastly, participated in a Flag Day event on June 14.

BINGO, Anyone??!! On April 27 a BINGO fundraising event was held to raise funds for our Chapter's military support activities. There were regular BINGO and themed BINGO games, for example a flag, star and full card. Also a basket raffle provided another opportunity for attendees to take home a prize. This event was a great success.



Individuals from our Chapter participated in a local Veteran's Outreach Event held on May 3 in Northampton PA



A Memorial Day event held May 24-26 at Steelstacks in Bethlehem PA provided our Chapter with an outreach opportunity while remembering those in the military who gave the last full measure for our Country.

Donations provided by local churches, a local bank, Girl Scouts, a community college, our moms and families were included in care packages sent to deployed military personnel. Our moms, dads and even an active duty young man on leave helped packed over 100 boxes.



Wheels on the Canal took place on May 18. Monies raised from the registration fees from this classic car show benefited our Blue Star Moms Chapter and also Mission 22.

MN11, St Paul Blue Star Mothers had a busy May. We celebrated Mother's Day a few days early with dinner at Oliver's Restaurant in Shoreview, MN.

Our chapter was given 70 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies and we were able to donate them to the Mpls VA.

We participated in Memorial Day Weekend activities. Several chapter members and friends helped out at the Department of MN- Honored Always fundraiser at Fort Snelling National Cemetery on Saturday morning. Two of our members, Karla Keller and Denise Guerra were in Washington DC with 17 other Blue Star Mothers from throughout the nation to support our Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Wives. While in Washington the group toured the Pentagon, attended ceremonies at the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial and WIMSA (Women in Military Service for America), participated in the Rolling to Remember Ride and attended the National Memorial Day Service at Arlington Cemetery. Our own Karla Keller and National President Rebecca Stafford presented a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

On Memorial Day, our chapter member Donna Cain-Eichers represented the Dept. of MN Blue Star Mothers by presenting a wreath at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery Memorial Service.



May 2025

**VFW Post 4647
 Dinner**



**Sgt Nicole
 Gee Boots &
 BBQ Birthday
 Bash**



**Placer Vets
 Stand Down**



**Texas
 Roadhouse
 Fundraiser**

Z2 Track Days



**KNCI Country
 in the Park**



**Sac Valley
 National
 Cemetery**

**East Lawn
 Cemetery**



Save Mart Donates to **BLUE STAR** at **COUNTRY** 10. Fall Fest



MI 178



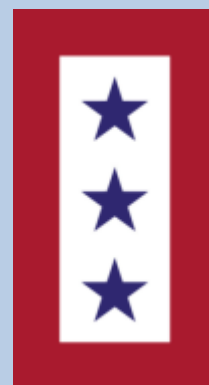
Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI 178 were at Memorial parade and Ceremony in Bad Axe. Pictured are Lynne Tschirhart, Deb Robinson, Grace Rosenthal, June Young, Nic Stermer, Debbie Decker, Linda Elandt, Brighetta Little, Marcia Janik, Pat Rogers and Sally Koehn.

Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI 178 packed up boxes to send to our Troops for "Operation Red, White and Blue" on June 9th. Included in the boxes were personal hygiene items, snacks, and other necessary items our Troops need. A big thank you to The Franklin Inn for letting us pack our boxes there.

Pictured are: 1st row Sinda Golem, Sally Koehn, Debbie Decker, Grace Rosenthal, Linda Elandt, Julie Hund, Pat Rogers. 2nd row Dolores Bumhoffer, Sherry LaLonde, and Lynne Tschirhart.



In the Veterans Park in Bad Axe is a little flower area planted in honor of our beloved Sherry Kramer, who passed away last year. We miss her so much.





We continue to make 3 meals a month at the Fisher House, and we were honored to celebrate the Minneapolis VA Fisher House's 14th anniversary.



We celebrated our 19th anniversary as a chapter in April.

We assisted at MAC-V with putting together their swag bags for their Salute to Service Women Golf Classic.



Volunteered to help with BINGO at the Mpls VA. Sharon was the caller that evening and we had a packed house.

Volunteered at the Ruck Life (23rd Veteran) event in Duluth, MN.



Volunteered at the VA Pop-Up Pantry

Participated in Memorial Day wreath laying at local cemeteries.



LA 7

LA 7 Memorial Day Ceremony at Blackwater United Methodist Church



Attend the Denham Springs Memorial Day Ceremony



Sandy Stockwell, Kathy Baker, Janice "Bunny" Walters and our Gold Star Mother Carol Bass attended the Denham Springs Memorial Day Ceremony



OTC Sports hosted an "Operation We Care" and collected letters and care package items for our troops overseas during their baseball tournament May 24-25. We received lots of letters from the baseball players and our totes were full of snacks for our care packages.



Participated in the Birthday of Mr. Willie, a WWII Army Veteran, turned 102 at the assisted living facility. We presented a quilt donated by a Quilt of Valor group to Mr Willie for his dedicated service..



Buckeye Military Moms OH #9



With our Veterans

*In our schools
112 Students
recognized at 21
schools*



*In the
community*



Join us for an Open House

Buckeye Military Moms Chapter 9

Thursday, June 12, 2025
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Sharon Memorial Hall
122 East Dublin, Greenlee Room

**@ the Hall
Open House**





Ohio Chapter 21

🇺🇸 Lake Erie Shores Blue Star Mothers had the privilege of packing 100 care packages to send to our brave soldiers overseas. 💙 📦



☁️ 🌸 Rain or shine, we serve! 🌸 ☁️

Lake Erie Shores Blue Star Mothers braved the rain, wind, and chilly temps to make sure the southeast corner of Bellevue Central Park looked absolutely beautiful!



🇺🇸 This Memorial Day, Lake Erie Shores Blue Star Mothers were honored to participate in the Bellevue Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, and also in the Fremont Ceremony, where we placed a wreath in remembrance of those who gave their lives in service to our country.





Blue Star Moms of California - East Bay Chapter 101

May 2025 Events

May 17 – Walk of Honor – Our Chapter has supported this fundraising walk for many years now. The walk is in honor of loved ones who have served our country. The Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley is one of the beneficiaries of the funds raised.



May 17 – Recruit Recognition and Swearing-In Ceremony – One of our Chapter's favorite events sponsored by the Veterans Memorial Building and the Town of Danville. Local high school recruits representing all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces were presented certificates of recognition from local public officials and military officers.



May 26 – Memorial Day – Our Chapter attended several ceremonies during the day; a) at the Memorial Park organized by the City of San Ramon; b) Town of Danville hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley; the Mt. Diablo beacon lighting at the Veterans Memorial Building in the evening.



IOWA STAR

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

www.bluestarmothersofiowa.com

MAY-JUNE 2025

bluestarmothersia1@gmail.com

Blue Star Mothers of Iowa Are “Moms on a Mission” with our #2500in2025 Care Package Campaign!

We have officially kicked off our 2025 care package campaign with a bold goal: send 2,500... make that 2,700 care packages (!) to Iowa service members deployed overseas or away from loved ones during the holidays. Using the campaign hashtag #2500in2025, we're rallying support across the state to make sure our troops feel remembered, appreciated, and connected—one box at a time.

We have been out in the community recently at Memorial Day at the Iowa Gold Star Museum and Military Family Night at the Iowa Cubs raising awareness and collecting support for this year's effort. Behind the scenes, we've been assembling laundry kits, sorting supplies, and gathering as Blue Star Moms do... working hard and lifting each other up.

Follow our progress and get involved by visiting the Blue Star Mothers of Iowa Facebook page, where we also share updates on the Iowa National Guard's current deployment and highlight community support for our military families. ♥





Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6

Spring brings lots of events for IL6! We hosted our annual Gold and Blue Star Parents Brunch at Mission BBQ. Serving breakfast at the Hines VA Fisher House is one of our favorite things to do! We are honored to have participated in the first ever in Illinois Our Community Salutes recognition of high school seniors enlisting in the military – students from 3 counties came together at Cantigny Park's First Division Museum to be honored; we gave them each a patriotic graduation cord and thanked them for choosing to serve. We served desserts to Veterans and their friends and families at our VFW Fish Fry. Supporting the Oh Baby – Veterans Baby Shower is another favorite, this year we provided children's books for the baskets. We have been hard at work on the Miles For Our Veterans – If These Boots Could Talk Virtual 5K for the BSMA President's Project, The Freedom 13. We thank you all for your support and making this project a big success!



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

**MKE Burger
Fundraiser**
June 30th

**Camp Hometown
Heroes**
July 1st

**WI Veterans
Picnic**
July 12th

**Milaegers
Farmer's Market**
July 20th

**2025 National
Convention**
July 28th-Aug 1st

Brewer's Walk
July 19th
**Irreverent
Warriors MKE
Hike**
August 16th

**Tunnel to Towers
Walk**
August 2nd

**Racine Festival
Stand Down**
September 13th

**WI Realtor
Military Ball**
October 18th

Our May meeting was a wonderful success, with 30 members, 1 associate member, and 4 guests joining us for a night of connection, updates, and community. We shared a great meal, discussed chapter business, highlighted upcoming events, and celebrated personal milestones together.

As we step into summer, our calendar is packed with meaningful opportunities to serve and connect — and the biggest highlight of all is just around the corner: our National Convention, happening right here in Milwaukee, WI! We're so proud to host this exciting event and look forward to showcasing our chapter and our city to all of our Blue Star Sisters.



Pictured in this month's newsletter are snapshots from recent events we've proudly attended and participated in: our May Chapter Meeting, Field of Flags, Memorial Day Ceremony at Southern WI Veterans Cemetery in Union Grove, Mimosa Fundraiser, and Cooking with Class Fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who helped make these moments possible.





14
JUNE

Flag Day



Happy
Father's Day

AC Creations

to all the
military
dads.