



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

March 2025

A message from our National President

Dear Sisters,

As most of you have heard, we lost our Sweet Sister, and our most recent Past National President, Stacy Anders on Monday, March 10. Stacy has had a huge impact on our organization, and personally for many of our members. She will be deeply missed but always remembered.

Spring is just around the corner! For those of you, like me who LOVE the warmer temperatures, we have almost made it through winter ☺

The National Executive Board held their annual mid-year meeting February 21-23 in Pensacola, FL. While I was unable to attend, I guarantee the Board worked very hard. And don't be jealous, the weather was not good in Florida during that time; in fact, I think I was warmer back in MO!



Contact Information for National Executive Board

President: Rebecca Stafford – MO
president@bluestarmothers.us

1st VP: Karen Stillwell – OH
1vp@bluestermothers.us



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

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

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

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

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finsec@bluestarmothers.us

Treasurer: Stacy Breithaupt – MI
treas@bluestarmothers.us

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(National Presidents message continued)

I hope you continue to read the Convention Chatter, and you are as excited about Milwaukee as we are. Training should be great, and the Convention Committee continues to work very hard, ensuring everyone has a wonderful time.

Convention Registration is open, and you can find the form on our website (<https://www.bluestarmothers.org/>) along with the Delegate, Sponsorship and Vendor forms.

The Convention logo has been released as well so don't forget to purchase your **Convention Shirt!** You can find that within the online store tab, then click on the Spreadshirt link. All proceeds of this logo will go towards the Convention. We have several other logos that will also go towards Convention:

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

We love having this new platform that allows you to select your favorite products and add whichever logo you prefer. The turnaround time of your order is very quick as well, so shop often!

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



PLEASE READ IMPORTANT NEWS

- There are yearbooks missing from our inventory prior to 2003, if you have them please notify president@bluestarmothers.us
- The May newsletter will be a “Special Edition” dedicated to our Gold Star Mothers
- Information regarding the Yearbook is in this newsletter and what you can start submitting
- 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



2025 Yearbook

Please send all Yearbook photos to the email;

Yearbook@bluestarmothers.us by June 8th

Here's what you should send:

Recent Chapter group photos that are related to our Mission: Please send no more than 4-5 per chapter, include chapter state & number. There is no charge for this.

Send just one photo of your child, Active Duty or Veteran, include child's name, your name, chapter state & number.

Send Blue Daisies with name and chapter, not already sent to ZVP

Gold Star Mothers: Please send your name, name, rank and photo of your Hero

Blue Star Mothers who served: Please send photos of then and now

If you order a yearbook now it will be shipped to convention with no shipping charge but you must be there to pick up or have someone pick up for you.

Don't forget you get 2 free pages of your own personal photos in your yearbook!

More to come soon!



Any questions?

Please contact ZVP, Karla, at 651-470-8996 or email; yearbook@bluestarmothers.us

82nd Convention Blue Star Mothers of America



From the Desk of

Anne Parker, VAVS Representative



VAVS Notes to Keep!

So many times, we, on the VAVS team, are asked the same questions. I want to do something, but I don't know what, my time is so limited, I do not live near a VA facility???

We understand the frustration and the dilemma so here are some solutions.

Several years ago, the VA began a **Compassionate Contact Corps**. Several of our moms are working with this program. Yes, you do need to go through a background check, fingerprinting and training. This process is for the good of all concerned but once completed you connect

with a veteran and call to chat with on the phone. On the reports we see times vary from 20 minutes to longer. The connection the veteran feels is priceless, and you are making a difference.

It is true that not all VA facilities are in our immediate area and travel time can be an issue with family responsibilities. When you sit down with your VAVS Chief this can and should be discussed. How much time a month can you afford to give? Is it once or twice a month for a morning or afternoon shift? What areas are best suited for you so you want to go?

At the facilities there are programs also. Like holiday parties, bingo's, craft days, outside gardening, popcorn days and soon fresh vegetable and fruit tables and more. These programs are great for Occasional Volunteers that can include your chapter moms.

For chapter involvement it is a bonding experience that brings moms and veterans together. Everyone walks away feeling accomplished and good.

We are also asked how much work is it outside of the VA commitment? Good question. Your responsibility to the VAVS program is to send in one simple report monthly. We need to know how many hours, donations and if there are any issues. The report is easy and only once a month.

For more information, please visit the VAVS section on www.bluestarmothers.org. There is a training guide will give you complete information and you can also fill out the application to become a volunteer.

Please consider this volunteer opportunity to serve those who have served our country. Thank you.



OH 1, Vickie Daniels is at the Dayton VA Hospitals Creature Comfort Store



Blue Daisies



Stacy Anders CA26

Past National President 2021-2023

On March 10, 2025, Stacy lost her battle with cancer and
we all suffered a terrible loss.

Stacy was our most recent Past National President.
She loved life, her family, her heritage and Blue Star Mothers.
We mourn her loss, as we do all our Blue Daisies.
She will be missed and remembered by all who had
the pleasure of knowing her.

From the Desk of Teresa Sumners, DC Representative

The BSMA is an Associate Member of the National Veterans Day Committee (NVDC) in Washington, D.C. This partnership allows us to participate in the Veterans Day and Memorial Day observances at Arlington National Cemetery. The NVDC is currently seeking artwork submissions for the Veterans Day poster and pin, which presents a fantastic opportunity for all of you artistic members! If you're interested in showcasing your work, the Veterans Administration and the NVDC have provided guidelines for submitting your artwork. Let's demonstrate our creativity and support for our veterans! I can't wait to see what you all come up with!

Calling all artists!

Here's your opportunity to show off your talent and use your artwork to honor Veterans. VA and the Veterans Day National Committee are now accepting entries for the 2025 Veterans Day Poster Contest. Submissions are due by 11:59 p.m.(EDT) on May 2, 2025.

This contest is open to all and your art should reflect this year's theme: **“Service to our Nation.”**

To ensure your submission meets the technical requirements, please review our [design submission guidelines](#) before engaging your creativity. Successful designs are very simple, with minimal imagery and verbiage.

To view examples of past winning submissions, visit [The Veterans Day Poster Gallery](#).

Submit electronic versions as jpg/jpeg images or PDF files to vetsday@va.gov, and cherie.parker@va.gov





**WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME NEW CHAPTERS TO
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED!**

Welcome to our newest chapter, WV 1, serving Mercer, Summers, Raleigh and Monroe Counties. The new board was installed, via Zoom, on February 27, 2025 and they have 6 members. Sending Best Wishes to all of them as they start this new venture!





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

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

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

Army National Guard

Gerald Lee Orr
Glen (Steven) Miller
Larry Edward Oxley
Richard James Ogden
Scott Collins

Army

Adeline P. Washington
Alan James Merklein
Alan Tabert
Angel Escobar
Arthur "Bernie" Crockarell
Barron Paul Chenevert
Barry Scott Cash
Benjamin Espinoza
Billy Joe Sammons
Bobby Tyner
Bradford Foster Smith
Bruce Robert Garney
Bryan E. Kovar
Byron K. Price
Byron Lenard Gardner
Byron Nelson
Calvin Banks
Calvin G. Cooper
Carroll Purdy
Cecil Henninger
Charles Anderson
Charles Arthur Reinert
Charles Arvie Celcer
Charles Brown
Charles Clyde Tolbert
Charles Edwin Oertwig
Charles M. McGraphth
Charles Willis
Clifford Page
Constance Lee McMahon
Cornelio Pastran
Daniel Kelly Bonawitz, Jr.
Daniel Nelson
Danny Glenn Neal
Danny Lawrence Goldman
Danny Paul Goforth
David A. Barnes
David Eugene Andrew
Busch
David M. Arnold
David Michael Shankel
David Nelson
David R. Carney
David Reed Ashby
David T. Notari
Dion M. McBride
Don Lamar Walker
Donald Henry Weber
Donald L. McGowan
Dorothy Jean Solick
E. Rick Gargus

Earnest R Covert

Edison Franklin

Edward P. Goretzke

Edward Pagan

Edwin Smelser

Elbert Lester Hoard

Elwood "Woody" Paul

Wertman

Eugene Bowman

Eugene Fred Garthwait

Floyd Higginbotham

Floyd Jones

Frances D Jackson

Frank A. McCurdy

Frank Charles Ulrich

Frank T. Brodzinski

Freddie D. Baker

Frederick W Kemen Jr

George K Ball, III

George L. Brock

George Lee Crum

George Lewis

George Warren West

Gerald "Jerry" McGinnis

Gerald Thomas Rudisill

Gergor W. Radin

Glen E. DeSpain

Gregory D. Thorpe

Gregory Lee

Grover Lines

Gurnie Edward Needham

III

Hal Edward Easley

Harold Benoit "Snort"

Nubles, Sr.

Harold E. Scherz

Harold Rushing

Harry G Marker

Henry Albert Thompson

Herbert Hardaway

Ira Eugene Ewing

Jack Luther Little

James 'Jimmy' Gordy

James Alford Sisk

James Arlando Marshall,

Jr.

James Burger

James Edward Eaton

James Edward Holland

James Fletcher Stamps, Jr

James Leonard "Wimpy"

Wimsatt

James Smith

James Stephens, Jr.

James Thomas

James Wesley Steven

Callahan

Joshua Zepeda

Jasper Lee Person

Jerry Lott

Jerry W. Miller

Joe Carl Smith

Joe Claud Fambrough

John Donald Cochran

John Nichols Jr

John Otis Williams

John Sidney Dailey

Johnathan Dean

Jonathan Frederick

Hoffman

Jose A. Ortega

Jose Avalos

Jose Perez-Suris

Joseph Bernard Fortman,

Jr.

Joseph H Ruggiero

Juderson Leslie Sr.

Jules Henry Ragnetti

Kenneth D. Clark

Kenneth Michael "Mike"

Pierce

Kevin Michael Leverett

Lane Ramsdell

Larry Butler

Larry Murphy

Lawrence Gerald Kirby

Lawrence Michael Jones

Lee Dixon Gorrell

Lee Edward Randle Sr.

Lee Pease

Leroy Becker

Lester Lee Bryant

Lionel Parker

Luther J. Gross

Marion James "Jim" Failor

Marion Roy Gilmore

Mark D. Weems

Mark Edward Rees II

Martin E. Johnson

Michael DeLand

Michael Francis McCartan

Michael James Moran

Michael Thomas Conklin

Mordical Trotter

Neil William Tibbets

Nicholas Tassone

Olmeda Bernal Ledezma

Patrick Donald Savin

Patrick Sean McWain

Patsy Lorine Shipman

Paul D Knowles

Paul Senan

Peggy Ann Jones

Percy Brouillette Jr.

Peter Lewis Rozman

Phyllis Ergermeier

Porcha L. Beard

Rafael Y Montez, III

Ralph Screni

Regino S. Carrasco

Ricardo "Richard" Antonio Wesley G. Ellis

Esquivel

Richard Arnold Strautman

Richard Earl Edenfield

Richard Ladner

Richard Monroe Powers

Sr.

Richard Paul Grant

Robert D. Edwards

Robert Earl Manuel

Robert G. Cloudis Sr.

Robert Henry Lewis

Robert Huey Stephens

Robert Joseph Peters

Robert Lee Parks

Robert Olquin

Robert Park

Robert Randall

Robert W. Ebert

Rodney Richard Fedell

Rodolfo Garza, Jr.

Roger A. Riemann

Roger David Johnson

Roger Wehmeyer

Roland E. Doyle

Ronald "Gator" I. Milliet,

Sr.

Ronald I Milliet, Sr.

Ronald Lewis Cook

Ruben Pecina

Salandra A. Butler

Sammy Allen Savage

Sammy Len Mouser

Samuel Rowlett

Scott Allen Humphrey

Sidney Ray Sison

Terry Allen Webb

Terry Ellis Lewis

Terry Lloyd Davis

Thomas Alvin Williams

Thomas D. Darnley

Thomas D. Williams

Thomas Gordon

Thomas Lee Krantz

Timothy "TR" Large

Timothy James Smith

Timothy R. Large

Timothy Wayne Carl

Todd Matthew Scott

Tony Simpkins

Tracy Lockett

Troy Antonio Brinson Sr

Victor M Rosario

Victor Wayne Aderhold

W. T. Pete Whaley

Waldo R. Clock

Wallace William Moon

Walter Grant Allegar

Wayne A. Ahrndt

William Alton Walborn

William Alonzo

William Frederick

Brinkman Jr.

William H James, V

William Luther Babb

William R Lemaster

William Rivera-Vazquez

William Wesley Elliott

Willie Andrew Robinson

Willie Lee Ellis Jr.

Daniel Arlen Lee/Air Force

Pierson

Arthur E.

Kallikoski/Marines

Lee Wiggins

Leora Carter/Marine Res

Lester Landrum Jr

Andrew Gregory/Navy Res

Michael Anthony Haines

Michael Edward Canavan

Michael James Green

Neil A. Spouse

Paul Haskel "Papa" Bullard

Randy Montgomery

Raymond Jay Hewitt

Richard "Dick" Carl Spink

Richard A. Stratton

Richard Orville Thomas

Richard Terry Poor

Robert D. Burgess

Robert Eugene Parsons

Robert Flowers

Robert Lee Marner

Robert Winston Bennett Jr

Roger Charles Prince

Charles Alfred Lockwood

Charles Carlos Steng Jr.

Charles Russell Lieux

Clifford L. Strawder

David James Gifford

David John Boos, Sr.

David Lee Ramey

David M Emmons

Del Meyer

Donald James Hudson

Douglas C. Smith

Edgar Barron Powell

Emlen C Heidelbaugh

Frank Menchaca

Frank Sanford Brown

Frederick Allen Winstead

Gail Ann Avery

Gary Parker

Gary Parks

George Edward Harris

Griffin McCoy

Herbert T Harris II

Howard Stanley Anesgart

James Donald "Jim"

Blankenship

James Earl Austin

James Franklin "Frank" Burton, JR.

John Charles Maimone

John Henry Erb

Joseph Daniel Dwyer

John C Doan

Lebert Lewis, Jr.

Lee Wiggins

Leora Carter/Marine Res

Lester Landrum Jr

Andrew Gregory/Navy Res

Michael Anthony Haines

Michael Edward Canavan

Michael James Green

Neil A. Spouse

Paul Haskel "Papa" Bullard

Randy Montgomery

Raymond Jay Hewitt

Richard "Dick" Carl Spink

Richard A. Stratton

Richard Orville Thomas

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Frederick Allen Winstead

Gail Ann Avery

Gary Parker

Gary Parks

George Edward Harris

Griffin McCoy

Herbert T Harris II

Howard Stanley Anesgart

James Donald "Jim"



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Navy Reserves

Heather Lynn	Kenneth Joseph Oldham	Charles Joseph Colombo Sr.	Leslie Steven Rudnick	William Russell
Lockhart	Larry Andrea Buchanan	Charles Martin Henry	Loyd A. Wariner	Eastwood Jr.
Terrell Moreman	Lee Morin Araiza	Craig Thomas	Mark Samuel Campana	Yves Capel
Lewis	Mark Anthony	Durham	Martha A. Ullom	Ralph Chrismar
Jimmie Hosford	Stinson	Daniel John Coles	Mary Vigil Gomez	Jr./Army
Gorham, Sr.	Michael A. Boffo	David Lee Wilson	Michael Andrew	William E.
<u>Marine Corp</u>	Michael Brenford	David P Spellen	Couch II	Rabon/Army
Adam Ray Barela	Kitchen	Dena Paciorek	Michael R. Luna	Paul E. Gilbert/Army
Adrian "Richard"	Michael Vincent	Donald Calvin	Michael T. Caton	NG
Pearson, Sr.	Patrick Lee Shelley Jr.	Crupper	Nikola Lambov	Thomas "Tom" Phillip
Alfred Joseph Vadney	Phillip Kenne	Donald J. Anseeuw	Dimitrov Sr	Flannery/Army NG
Alvin V Wilder Sr,	Randy Lee Hebert	Donald L. Enke	Otis Pickens	George Kevlin
Armando Lopez-	Richard Blaine	Donald R. Dolph	Paul A Brewer	Davis/Army/Coast
Dominguez	Browne	Donald R. Zarate	Paul Martin Kirk	Guard
Charles Joseph	Roger Clinton	Doyle Wayne	Peter Stephen	Robert J.
Wentworth	Morrow	Andrews	Kacsak	Diehl/Marines
Charles Thomas	Rufus Pearce Maness	Eric P. Bell	Phillip Joseph Paschal	Eugene Morton
Meyers	Ryan A. Schultz	Ernest Edward Reedy III	Ray/Marines/Navy	Ray/Navy
Clarence Leroy	Samuel Cleo Diller	Everett Rudolph	Edmond William	Dosch/Navy
Funkhouser	Sue Ann Alcala	Brister	Richard "Rich"	Richard Wayne
Claude Johnston, III	Thomas Duane	Floyd Marshel	"Paddy" George	Thomas/Navy
Clifton Harold Major	Duncan	Gary Baker	Padberg	<u>Air Force Reserves</u>
Craig L. Spencer	Virgil Cieplowski	Gary Culverhouse	Richard Larson	Karen Lee Campbell
Daniel P Harle	Walter "Abb" Sandall	Harry Edwin Barr	Robert Bruce Tilley	<u>Air National Guard</u>
Darryl Phillips Gilland	Walter Harry Drury	Henry Jackson Miller	Robert Charles	Liberato "Libby" Baca
Donald Mrozinski	William T Young	James Clayton	Wright	William Frederick
Donald Ray Foster Jr.	Willie Paul Locke, Jr.	Shreeves	Robert J Zohlmann	Kelsay/Army
Donald Stowers Sr.	Alfonso Limas/Army	James Franklin Tripp	Robert Phillip Roof	Reserves
Ernest Jay Dicks	National Guard	James Monroe Hollis	Robert Raymond	<u>Womens Air Corp</u>
Ezra 'Walley' Carter	<u>Coast Guard</u>	Rifley	Rifley	Spencer Ray Overturf
Frank Jaramillo	Adam Anthony	James R. Patterson	Lucille Turigliatto	Stanley Duane
Franklin Wharton Jr.	Naranjo	Jason P. Roscow	Gleason	
Gary Taylor Gilmore	Brett Bonner	Jasper Davis	Stanley Glenn	
James Fredrick	Matthew Wayne	Jerry Huff	Harrison	
Wilson	Ruby	Jesse Frank Brown	Thomas George	
Jeremiah "OB"	<u>Air Force</u>	Joe Perez Jr.	Medford	
Joseph O'Brien	Alvin Leonard Penny	John Christopher	Virgil Rodgers	
Jesse Laverne	Anthony Gonzalez	Flanagan	Waymon	
Thomas, Jr.	Arthur Benjamin	John Robert Wilson	Montgomery	
John V. Lambert	Kent	John William Bogle	Wilbert McComb	
Jose "Benny"	Bernard W Haynes	Jr.	William "Mac"	
Montano	Bobby Ray Souden	John William White	MacKenzie Caulley	
Jose Pena Cervantes	Carl Ross Dever	Kenneth Paul Morse	William Emmett	
Karen F (Shrader)	Charles C. Murphy	Kenneth R. Rush	"Bill" Marshall	
Carroll	Charles Edward Olds	Larry E Embry	William John Van	
		Larry Hart Adams	Ostrand	

FL 10



Ocala Blue Star Mothers offering our crafts at the Winter Wonderland at the World Equestrian Center. Pictured is Debbie O'Rourke, one of our chapter crafters.

Soaring Eagle Blue Star Moms

CA22 is Alive and well in NE California



Our amazing community is very supportive of our chapter and we are able to have these:



Fundraisers

Potato Bake



Craft Fair



Care Packages



Parades

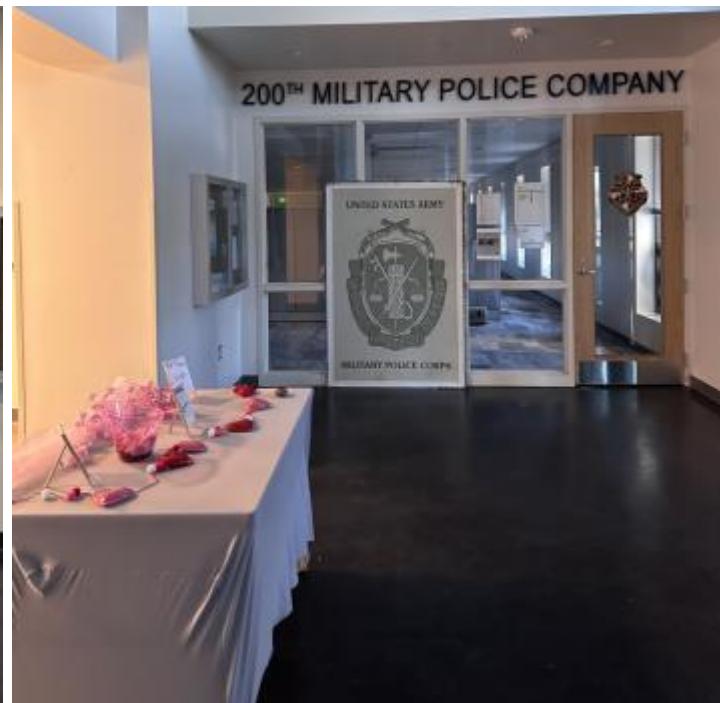




MD 3



Volunteer Brunch for Freedom Pantry. This project is providing food, diapers, and wipes for Maryland Army National Guard Families in need. MD3 loves supporting this project.



MI Thumb Chapter 178

The Blue Star Mothers of MI 178 had a great turnout for the February meatloaf dinner at the Port Austin American Legion Post #499. The weather was frigid and roads were icy but our community supported our mission.



So YUMMY!



OUR RIM BLUE STAR MOMS INSTALLED 5 HOMETOWN HERO BANNERS ON FEBRUARY 4, 2025. THE MOMS PRESENT WERE PRESIDENT TRACY WILLIAMS, 2VP NADIA PHILLIPS, FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BANNER CHAIR ALMA DIAZ, RECORDING SECRETARY BRENDA SHINGLETON, AND TREASURER SANDI DEMARCO. JOSH SNYDER, OWNER OF BIG TOP TREE COMPANY, INSTALLED OUR BANNERS FREE OF CHARGE. HIS ASSISTANT WAS JOHN. BANNERS WERE CREATED BY NEU ART STUDIO IN RIM FOREST. THE RECIPIENTS WERE AS FOLLOWS: 1) ANDREW NEWMAN, NAVY, IN CRESTLINE IN FRONT OF THE MCDONALDS. HIS BANNER WAS DAMAGED DURING SNOWMAGEDDON SO WE REPLACED IT. 2) WILLIAM SHINGLETON, SPACE FORCE (1ST ONE FROM THIS BRANCH), IN BLUE JAY IN FRONT OF COLDWELL BANKER. WILLIAM IS STATIONED IN COLORADO SPRINGS. HIS PARENTS, BRENDA AND RICK SHINGLETON WERE PRESENT FOR THE INSTALLATION. 3) JULIA HILL, NAVY, IN THE JENSEN'S PARKING LOT. SHE IS STATIONED IN MISSISSIPPI. WE TOOK DOWN MICHAEL LEE'S BANNER IN THAT SPOT. HIS MOTHER, JENNIFER LEE, WAS PRESENT. SHE WAS A FORMER RIM BLUE STAR MOM. WE THANKED HER FOR HIS SERVICE. 4) DAVID GRANADOS, MARINE, IN BLUE JAY IN FRONT OF BLUE JAY BURGER. DAVID IS STATIONED AT CAMP LEJEUNE IN NORTH CAROLINA. 5) KEVIN FUSILIER, AIR FORCE, IN CEDAR GLEN IN FRONT OF THE GAS STATION. KEVIN IS STATIONED IN MONTEREY. HIS WIFE, KATIE, YOUNG SON, FRANK, AND MOTHER-IN-LAW, JULIE, WERE PRESENT.

#1



#2



#3



#4



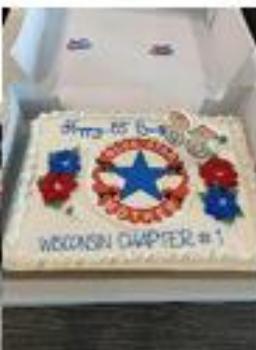
#5



Blue Star Moms WI Chapter 1



Our second packing for a unit in need of wet wipes for personal care. Total of 70+ cases sent!



Wisconsin Veteran's Village
Celebrating our 83rd Birthday!



We ran a Pampered Chef Fundraiser with the help of member Teri. We raised enough for a donation of a new Blender to Vets & Friends for use in feeding Veterans two meals every week! We also were able to donate kitchen items to Wisconsin Veterans Village for use in their Community Center.



Crafting continues for shows and convention!



SUPPORTING ACTIVE DUTY,
VETERANS, AND
MILITARY FAMILIES

www.BlueStarMothersFL11.org

Treasure Coast Blue Star Mothers has adopted a group of a dozen veterans at a local senior facility, Lynmoore at Lawnwood. Every month we provide a little token to show we care.

Pictured are some of the treats we have provided in the last few months. We are grateful to one of our members who has taken the lead and is passionate about the project.





Lone Star Chapter, TX6

Member Recognition



Betty Matthews, has received recognition from Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion of First Armored Division at Fort Bliss. She has sent over 6000 stockings in the last 10 years to our service members!



Kay Pruitt is also a member of Elks Lodge 2114 and received approval for a Beacon and Gratitude Grant for \$8500 to be used for local Gold Star Families!



Annual Lunch at Chocolate Angel

Upcoming Events
3/15 March Meeting
4/5 Packing with Altrusa





Responding to an Urgent Local Need

The Rochester Blue Star Mothers with a number of community partners responded to an urgent need for National Guard Service Members mobilized to support missions in NY. Urgently needed were personal hygiene kits. In less than 5 days the personal hygiene supplies for 150 service members were assembled and packed. The generous community partners included the American Red Cross, Com-peerCORPS, Veterans Upward Bound, The Sunny Mike Foundation, Eagle Star Housing, Veterans Outreach Center, Richards House, Warrior Salute, One Soldier at a Time, Aranov Ethan DDS, and Blue Star Mothers NY8.



Supporting the VA Food Pantry



can take home some much needed food items.

Each month Blue Star Mothers bring food items to the monthly chapter business meeting to support the VA Food Pantries. The pantry needs canned foods such as chicken, tuna, vegetables, and fruit along with pasta, sauce, peanut butter, oatmeal, cereal, and reusable shopping bags so that when Veterans are at the VA they

We had a booth at the
Non-Profit Mission Fair



We made St Patrick's
Gnomes and Wreaths



Western Slope CO8

We delivered Valentine Cards and
donated 15 pairs of sweatpants to our
local VA Hospital



We packed over 50 care packages
to send to two bases with the
American Red Cross



Sending off New Recruits



MN 16 Pine City Blue Star Mothers

After a short winter break, we are starting to ramp up our schedule again with our annual Luncheon and Bake Sale fundraising event on March 22nd at the Spring Craft Show held in Braham, MN.

Quite a few of our members and associates attended the Minnesota Department Spring Meeting held at the end of February, which coincided with the Department of Minnesota's 20th Anniversary! Especially moving, was the presentation given by Susie Bjorklund, the Executive Director of Freedom Farm MN, about their therapeutic riding program for veterans. (Which, at our March Meeting, our chapter members unanimously approved a donation to this amazing program!) All attendees had a great time, enjoyed the speakers, the sessions, and of course all the fun of getting together with other Blue Star Sisters!



Some of MN 16 Chapter Members and associates



Tish with speaker Susie Bjorklund

St Paul Blue Star Mothers MN11



The St Paul Blue Star Mothers attended the Dept. of MN's Spring Meeting. We celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Department of Minnesota Blue Star Mothers



Donna was the very deserving recipient of this year's Shining Star for our chapter.



Always nice to have our National President with us!



To raise funds for our chapter, we work at Sal's Meat Raffle twice a month. Some of this month's volunteers were Lynn, Karla and Marilyn.



Happy St. Patrick's Day

OK5 Broken Arrow Blue Star Mothers



We have partnered with the Tulsa Warrior Hockey Club to send care packages to the OK Army National Guard deployed this year. A member of the Tulsa Warriors is with this unit. They brought along the Oklahoma Thunderbird Academy to help out (a National Guard Youth Program located in Pryor, OK for at risk teens who spend 22 weeks in classes and challenges to enrich their future lives). On this day Gold Star mother and father of Christopher Garcia joined us.

Chris was supposed to be with his brothers and sisters in arms on this mission.



Broken Arrow Blue Star Mothers held their first "Love in Service" Valentines Party. We invited the veterans of the Broken Arrow Veteran Center, Eagle Ops and BA City Council Veterans to attend. Represented in this photo is a Blue Star Dad, a Blue Star Mother and her veteran husband. We had 8 veterans in attendance. We had a Photo Booth where photos could be taken with our surprise guest, Mrs. Oklahoma American, we played the Newlywed game with 4 couples and had plenty of food and fun.



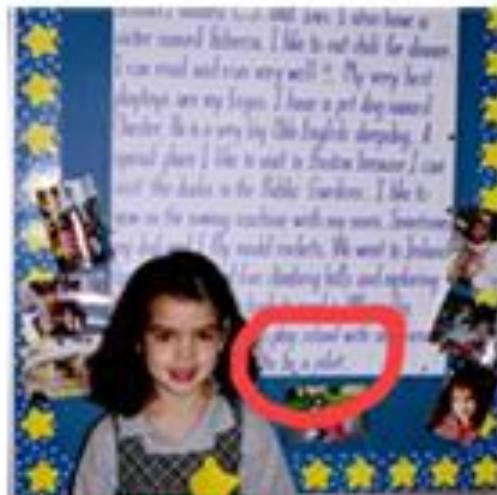
Rogers County Blue Star Mothers President Penni and VP Rebecca met for tea with Broken Arrow President Lisa to discuss working together at future events.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PA201

FEMALE PILOTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Captain Cecilia Eado, Daughter of Mariann Davies, (BSM PA201 sister), set her sights as a young girl on becoming a pilot (See photo below). She selected a military path, joining the US Marines 5 years ago. "CC", as she is referred to by her Squadron, may not have known that within her selected career path only 7% of airline pilots around the world are women. However, she and another female in her Squadron, Captain Nicole Csizma, are making their mark in aviation by creating opportunities for civilian female pilots to have a sampling of military fighter pilot life.



CC sees a path to her future career

CC and her best friend, Nicole met with the 99's and spoke to them about military aviation, their fighter squadron, the F-35 Fighter Jet, and support for women in aviation. The civilian pilots had the opportunity to try on fighter pilot gear and get "up close and personal" with a F-35 fighter jet. The meeting at the base in Miramar demonstrated that these amazing female pilots not only share airspace but an extraordinary passion for flying!!

(The meeting of these female pilots was broadcasted on a local station in 2024 and can be viewed through the following link on-line.)

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbcساندیego.com%2Fvideos%2Ffemale-pilots-at-mcas-miramar-inspire-women-to-pursue-aviation-careers%2F3645791%2F&data=05%7C02%7C%70d64b59f8d184c0b5b7208dd4caf9834%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638751039231793478%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJfBX0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlyOitwlJjAuMDAwMCisIiAiOjXaW4zMiIsIkFOjoiTWFpbGlsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZXyrQ7ZBApYiuEO3b0gFSZeLdZmVok8G%2FAfQHLh2tuE%3D&reserved=0>

Captains Eado and Csizma fly F-35 fighter jets which are the most advanced and powerful aircraft to be flown. Captain Eado feels that she has the coolest job in the world. The job to her is more fun than work. She and Captain Csizma are the only two female fighter pilots in their Squadron.

In 2024 CC and Nicole hosted a group of young civilian female pilots from the San Diego 99's Aviation Club on base at Miramar. This Chapter of the 99's is the largest in the world with approximately 200 members. The 99's were founded by Amelia Earhart in 1929 with 99 members, hence the name of the group. These women were the first to break into the aviation arena which was dominated by men at that time.



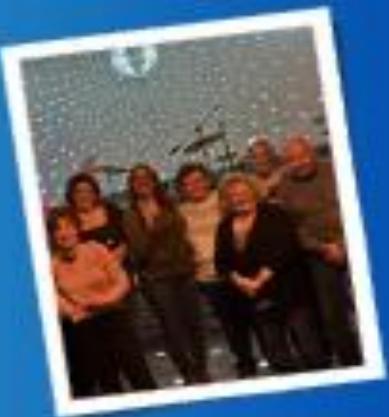
CC in her happy place behind the throttle of a F-35 Fighter Jet



Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL 6th Annual Battle of the Branches Chili Cook Off was a huge success!

Surpassing last year's event by a great deal, we were thrilled to have 3 amazing winners, shown here with their trophies. Our sponsors – Apex Health Services [a Level 4 We Honor Veterans program!] and FXI are both fantastic supporters of our Chapter. Apex sent 50 many staff and volunteers to support us on event day (shown in photo), including two chili competitors, a silent auction basket, so many bids, and lots of support to our competitors, we are blessed to have them as an ongoing support of our efforts! Our CBSM team turned out in force to make things happen, we got a photo of almost all of us! Our competitors received a fun tea towel, shown here by our fantastic financial team. We had a great event and are already planning for next year!





The chapter has been actively engaged in a variety of events recently:

Participated in Salute Week activities in collaboration with the VA.



Hosted a chapter gathering for Dancing Queen.

Organized a highly successful care package event, with supplies sent to several locations overseas.



Engaged with the local 303rd Army Reserve unit through a meaningful speaking event.

Attended the Butler, PA Veteran Social, fostering community connections.



YELLOW ROSE - TX20

March 2025



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



Giving x100 is a local non-profit organization that is made up of gentlemen with a philanthropic desire to help.

The organization "gifts" monetary funds to deserving non-profit organizations that are doing good in the community. TX20 was honored to receive this \$2,300 donation to our Chapter.



Chapter Meeting



Packing for the Troops



We had a fabulous meeting in March with members, associate members and a HS volunteer group. Following the meeting we packed 50 treat bags filled with Girl Scout Cookies, coffee and sugar, plus pocket flags and notes of encouragement.



We are excited to share that our chapter sponsored the pocket constitutions for our newest military recruits at Dallas MEPS. This is a joint opportunity between the Dallas area BSM Chapters.

Dept. of MN Celebrates 20 Years!



Current Dept. Executive Board



Current and Past Dept. Presidents



We had a great weekend together, sharing stories, hearing about how our first chapter and Dept. started, wonderful speakers and sister time. From dinner Friday night to saying our "see you later's" we enjoyed our time together.



Above: A few gifts our Dept. has received over the years



Our current Dept. Chapter Presidents



Left:
National President,
Rebecca, hanging
out with a couple
of our guests



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

Blue Star Moms of California - East Bay Chapter 101

January - February 2025 Events

January 9 and February 12 General Meetings - The new 2025 Officers took their oaths of office. We had to do it in two separate meetings as some of the new officers were not present at the first meeting. Our Chapter is so fortunate to have members take active roles on our Board.



February 22 Give Veterans a Smile Program
Local dentists provide pro-bono oral health care to underserved Veterans. Our Chapter volunteers at this event every year.



February 25 Care Package Boxing and Mailing
60 packages were boxed and mailed out. Included in the package were sweet note cards with the donated Girl Scout cookies.



February 27, 18th Annual Gold Star Honor & Remembrance at the Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco - Our Chapter presented a donation check to Gen. Rocco, CEO of the Marines Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)(3) dedicated to serving all branches of the armed services with the core mission to honor the legacy of military service through its programs. We have been attending this event since its first year.



MI 197 was recently celebrated at a Saginaw Spirit hockey game. Happy to say the Spirit won!





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

We continue to have members volunteer at the VA Pop-Up Pantry.



Alicia Bigelbach was our chapter and the Department of Minnesota Shining Star recipient.



Many chapter members attended the Department of Minnesota Spring Meeting – celebrating 20 years as a department which was held on March 1st.



Our chapter extends condolences to the family and friends of our Blue Star sister and Past National President – Stacy.



Like flowers pressed between the pages of a book, beautiful memories are ours to keep. – Melvina Young



Blue Star Mothers of America

Louisiana Chapter 1

News from the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women

March 2025



**Celebrating Mardi Gras
Through Socks of Love
with the Residents of the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Home**



Promoting the Mission



LAI continues to promote the Blue Star Mothers mission throughout the community. Denise Singleton, above, presents to the MACRA non-profit networking group. In the photo on the left, Denise and Karen Byrd support LAI's Melissa Singletary's Books for Boots non-profit at the VFW Post 36893 Chili Cookoff. Melissa had an information tent at the event to share the mission of Books for Boots as well as Blue Star Mothers.

SACRAMENTO BLUE STAR Moms

CA7
Newsletter
March 2025

Activities

Sweetheart Bunco

**Placer County
Veterans Monument**

**Marine Memorial
Reception**

**Sun City Patriots
& Veterans**

**Founding Forward
Awards**

Storage Workdays



SacramentoBlueStarMoms
www.SacramentoBlueStarMoms.org



Buckeye Military Moms OH #9

Warming the chill of Winter @VA



*ONG Family
Readiness Groups*



125+ We Care Packages





BLUE STAR MOTHERS
FREDERICKSBURG CHAPTER VA4



Last month, we welcomed a new member, Lisa Kennedy. Our March 15, 2025, meeting was productive as we planned for future events. We have seen that the Most Valuable Star Recruiter Program (MVSRP) has helped to increase our membership. The March MVSRP was awarded to Debby Krieter, who earned fifteen points.



Members enjoyed good food and shared some laughs after the meeting! Teresa Summers and Mary Kulesa attended a Veterans Growing America networking event. Veterans Growing America (VGA) empowers military-connected entrepreneurs by providing opportunities for business growth, community support, and personal development. Veterans, active-duty members, military spouses, and their families may sell their products at the retail location in Woodbridge.



What is significant about March 29th? It commemorates the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Vietnam on March 29, 1973. This date also marks the disestablishment of the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. VA4 will recognize Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29th with a ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery. We will honor the names of family members who have fallen in the Vietnam War, lay roses at the headstones of Vietnam veterans, and express our gratitude while welcoming home our Vietnam heroes.



The Department of Veterans Affairs Fredericksburg Health Care Center officially opened its doors on February 28, 2025. The opening ceremony included remarks from dignitaries and a ribbon-cutting event. This facility is the largest state-of-the-art center in the country, with a capacity to serve 35,000 veterans. Services for our veterans will begin March 3, 2025. It was an honor to participate in such a significant celebration. We would like to express our gratitude to our VA4 members who represented us: Teresa Summers, Mary Kulesa, Rebecca Childress, Apryl Simmons and her husband, Faye Mohler, CCL Bill Holt, Lundy and Ron Maxwell, Roberta Simpson, and Linda Struebing. VA4 members had the opportunity to have a photo with Virginia Senator Tim Kaine.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



MARCH 2025

NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

March 2025 Meeting

March 18th

Honor Flights

April 26th, May 17th
& June 14th

Milaegers Farmer's Market

May 18th & July
20th

2025 National Convention

July 28th-Aug 1st

WI Realtor Military Ball

October 18, 2025

At our February 2025 meeting we had a visit from a long-time Member and an Associate Member. At this meeting we discussed past events, opportunities to volunteer as a group, shared news and offered each other support.

Pictured below are some of our past events recapping the great events we have attended. We look forward to the coming months with plenty of activities and events for all! We are especially looking forward to this year's convention in Wisconsin!



MAY THE ROAD RISE TO MEET YOU,
MAY THE WIND BE ALWAYS AT YOUR BACK.
MAY THE SUN SHINE WARM UPON YOUR FACE,
THE RAINS FALL SOFT UPON YOUR FIELDS.
AND UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN,
MAY GOD HOLD YOU IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.

IRISH
BLESSING