



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

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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 county. 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.

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Fiscal Year 2023-2024, each newsletter from now on will be those from the previous month.

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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. McGraph
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
Loren Freeman Johnson
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 Tibbetts
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 Screnci
Regino S. Carrasco
Ricardo "Richard" Antonio
Esquivel
Richard Arnold Strautman
Richard Earl Edenfield
Richard Ladner
Richard Monroe Powers
Sr.
Richard Paul Grant
Robert D. Edwards
Robert Earl Manuel
Robert G. Clowdis 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. Ahnrdt
Wesley G. Ellis
William Albert 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
Arthur E.
Kalliokoski/Marines
Leora Carter/Marine Res
Andrew Gregory/Navy Res
Army Reserve
James Wright
McKenna Marie Nichols
William Adas/Navy
Womens Army Corp
Marjorie Bone
Navy
Alfred D. Delfo
Allen William Flath, Jr.
Alvin Lee McDonald
Alvin Samples, Sr
Amos Gantt, Jr
Amos Goldsberry Jr
Arthur Burke Jr.
Brenda Sue Landrum
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.
James Fredrick Burbank
James Jackman Jr.
Jesse Ray Fields
John C Doan
John Charles Maimone
John Henry Erb
Joseph Daniel Dwyer
Kenneth Basil Meadows
Kimberly Dawn
Vanderpool
Lawrence Raymond
Pierson
Lebert Lewis, Jr.
Lee Wiggins
Lester Landrum Jr
Michael Anthony Haines
Michael Edward Canavan
Michael James Green
Neil A. Sprouse
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
Roland Lawrence Steele
Ronald H. Thiry
Ronald Hooper
Ronald Kay Barnard
Ronald Lee Ellis
Ruth Frances Astroth
Samuel C. Allerton
Scott D Campbell
Scott Robert Dix
Stanley Lee Smith
Teddy Gene Henry
Thomas Edward Myers
Thomas H. Allen Jr
Thomas Nichols
Todd Slinkard
Virgil Lee Wilson, Jr.
Willard A. Braswell
William Durboraw Jr
William Henry Cottle Jr
William Krueger
Miguel Santos Aguilar,
Jr./Air Force



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Navy Reserves

Heather Lynn Lockhart
Terrell Moreman
Lewis
Jimmie Hosford
Gorham, Sr.

Marine Corp

Adam Ray Barela
Adrian "Richard" Pearson, Sr.

Alfred Joseph Vadney Jr.

Alvin V Wilder Sr,
Armando Lopez-Dominguez

Charles Joseph Wentworth

Charles Thomas Meyers

Clarence Leroy Funkhouser

Claude Johnston, III
Clifton Harold Major

Craig L. Spencer

Daniel P Harle

Darryl Phillips Gilland

Donald Mrozinski

Donald Ray Foster Jr.

Donald Stowers Sr.

Ernest Jay Dicks

Ezra 'Walley' Carter

Frank Jaramillo

Franklin Wharton Jr.

Gary Taylor Gilmore

James Fredrick Wilson

Jeremiah "OB"

Joseph O'Brien

Jesse Laverne

Thomas, Jr.

John V. Lambert

Jose "Benny"

Montano

Jose Pena Cervantes

Karen F (Shrader)

Carroll

Kenneth Joseph

Oldham

Larry Andrea

Buchanan

Lee Morin Araiza

Mark Anthony

Stinson

Michael A. Boffo

Michael Brenford

Kitchen

Michael Vincent

Patrick Lee Shelley

Phillip Kenne

Randy Lee Hebert

Richard Blaine

Browne

Roger Clinton

Morrow

Rufus Pearce Maness

Ryan A. Schultz

Samuel Cleo Diller

Sue Ann Alcalá

Thomas Duane

Duncan

Virgil Cieplowski

Walter "Abb" Sandall

Walter Harry Drury

William T Young

Willie Paul Locke, Jr.

Alfonso Limas/Army

National Guard

Coast Guard

Adam Anthony

Naranjo

Brett Bonner

Matthew Wayne

Ruby

Air Force

Alvin Leonard Penny

Anthony Gonzalez

Arthur Benjamin

Kent

Bernard W Haynes

Bobby Ray Souden

Carl Ross Dever

Charles C. Murphy

Charles Edward Olds

Charles Joseph

Colombo Sr.

Charles Martin Henry

Craig Thomas

Durham

Daniel John Coles

David Lee Wilson

David P Spellen

Dena Paciorek

Donald Calvin

Crupper

Donald J. Anseeuw

Donald L. Enke

Donald R. Dolph

Donald R. Zarate

Doyle Wayne

Andrews

Eric P. Bell

Ernest Edward Reedy III

Everett Rudolph

Brister

Floyd Marshal

Gary Baker

Gary Culverhouse

Harry Edwin Barr

Henry Jackson Miller

James Clayton

Shreeves

James Franklin Tripp

James Monroe Hollis

James R. Patterson

Jason P. Roscow

Jasper Davis

Jerry Huff

Jesse Frank Brown

Joe Perez Jr.

John Christopher

Flanagan

John Robert Wilson

John William Bogle

Jr.

John William White

Jr.

Kenneth Paul Morse

Kenneth R. Rush

Larry E Embry

Larry Hart Adams

Leslie Steven Rudnick

Loyd A. Wariner

Mark Samuel

Campana

Martha A. Ullom

Mary Vigil Gomez

Michael Andrew

Couch II

Michael R. Luna

Michael T. Caton

Nikola Lambov

Dimitrov Sr

Otis Pickens

Paul A Brewer

Paul Martin Kirk

Peter Stephen

Kascsak

Phillip Joseph Paschal

Will

Richard "Rich"

"Paddy" George

Padberg

Richard Larson

Robert Bruce Tilley

Robert Charles

Wright

Robert J Zohlmann

Robert Phillip Roof

Robert Raymond

Rifley

Spencer Ray Overturf

Stanley Duane

Gleason

Stanley Glenn

Harrison

Thomas George

Medford

Virgil Rodgers

Waymon

Montgomery

Wilbert McComb

William "Mac"

MacKenzie Caulley

William Emmett

"Bill" Marshall

William John Van

Ostrand

William Russell

Eastwood Jr.

Yves Capel

Ralph Chrismer

Jr./Army

William E.

Rabon/Army

Paul E. Gilbert/Army

NG

Thomas "Tom" Phillip

Flannery/Army NG

George Kevlin

Davis/Army/Coast

Guard

Robert J.

Diehl/Marines

Eugene Morton

Ray/Marines/Navy

Edmond William

Dosch/Navy

Richard Wayne

Thomas/Navy

Air Force Reserves

Karen Lee Campbell

Air National Guard

Liberato "Libby" Baca

William Frederick

Kelsay/Army

Reserves

Womens Air Corp

Lucille Turigliatto

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



"Fill a Boot" for Honor Flight

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



Fundraisers

Potato Bake

Craft Fair



Parades

Care Packages





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.



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!

TREASURE COAST BLUE STAR MOTHERS, FL11

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, CompeerCORPS, Veterans Upward Bound, The Sunny Mike Foundation, Eagle Star Housing, Veterans Outreach Center, Richards House, Warrior Salute, One Soldier at a Time, Aronov Ethan DDS, and Blue Star Mothers NY8.



Supporting the VA Food Pantry



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

can take home some much needed food items.

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 Brahm, 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.



Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6 4th 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



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 3693 Chili Cookoff. Melissa had an information tent at the event to share the mission of Books for Boots as well as Blue Star Mothers.

Activities

Sweetheart Bunco

**Placer County
Veterans Monument**

**Marine Memorial
Reception**

**Sun City Patriots
& Veterans**

**Founding Forward
Awards**

Storage Workdays





Buckeye Military Moms OH #9

Warming the chill of Winter @VA



**ONG Family
Readiness Groups**



125+ We Care Packages



*Sharing valentines
and appreciation
@VA*





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 Sumners, Mary Kulesa, Rebecca Childress, April Simmons and her husband, Faye Mohler, COL 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.



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 (MVSRR) has helped to increase our membership. The March MVSRR was awarded to Debby Krieger, who earned fifteen points.



Members enjoyed good food and shared some laughs after the meeting! Teresa Sumners 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.



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