

May 2025 National Newsletter

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

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Hello Sisters,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Mother's Day. I know for many of us, we were not able to spend that time with our Hero but please know, you were not alone. All of you raised amazing children who are serving and protecting our country, so be proud and soak up those little moments when they happen.

Several of your National Board Officers, along with many CA Moms, and one from Idaho, attended the Celebration of Life of our Past National President, Stacy Anders, on Friday, May 16; and I know many of you were there in spirit. It was definitely a reminder of how short life can be and how quickly someone can be gone. I beg each of you to find the good in others within our organization and try to be accepting of our differences. Coming to the table and respecting the thoughts and ideas of others, with our mission in mind, is what has kept this organization moving forward for the past 83 years. Don't let your Chapter fall apart because you can't see eye to eye with others. Our motto this year is "Together We Are Stronger". We are the foundation for our Military Children, whether active duty, National Guard or now a Veteran. They deserve the best, so let's give the best of ourselves. We don't need drama in this organization.

A couple of reminders.....Convention 2025 Registration is open! 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 Big Dipper Fun Night. You can find the form on our website (<https://www.bluestarmothers.org>) along with the Delegate, Sponsorship and Vendor forms. The Convention Committee is continuing to work hard to ensure you feel welcome and enjoy your time in Wisconsin; we hope to bring you a great Convention experience!

Election and Shining Star information will be emailed out soon, so please be watching for those forms.

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



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
- Information regarding the Yearbook is in this newsletter and what you should start submitting **** DEADLINE IS JUST A FEW WEEKS AWAY!!**
- 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





*Available in our
Online Store*

\$5.00 plus shipping
All proceeds support the
VAVS Program

\$5.00 plus shipping
All proceeds support the
National President's Project



The 2025 Yearbook Needs Your Photos

Please send all Yearbook photos to; Yearbook@bluestarmothers.us
by June 8th at the latest

****Deadline is just weeks away****

Here's what you should send, and I always reply within a day or two that I have received your submission:

- ❖ 4-5 Chapter photos, **include chapter state & number**. There is no charge to have these in the yearbook
- ❖ **One photo** of each of your currently serving or veteran children with their name, rank if you wish, your name and your chapter state & number
- ❖ **Blue Daisies:** photo with name and chapter, **if not already sent to 2VP**
- ❖ **Gold Star Mothers:** Please send your name, your chapter state & number, your Hero's name, rank and photo.
- ❖ **Blue Star Mothers who served:** Please send your name, chapter state & number with photos of then and now

***** If you order a yearbook prior to June 30th it will be shipped to convention with no shipping charge.** You must be at convention to pick it up or arrange to have someone pick it up for you. If we need to ship it to you, shipping charges will be applied.

Orders placed after July 15th will be shipped directly to your home address.

***** Don't forget you can customize your own yearbook with 2 FREE pages of your personal photos, this needs to be done by June 15th if you want the free shipping to convention. You do this yourself when ordering your yearbook.**

Do not send your custom pages to 2VP.

Any questions?

Please contact 2VP, Karla, at 651-470-8996 or email
yearbook@bluestarmothers.us

HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE VA HOSPITAL FUND
BY PLACING AN AD IN THE
2024-2025 YEARBOOK

Is there something your chapter or department
would like to share in the yearbook?

Design your own ad and send it to


YEARBOOK@BLUESTARMOTHERS.US

****PROCEDURE FOR PAYMENT HAS CHANGED!****

Send your ad to yearbook@bluestarmothers.us along
with the email address of where to send an "invoice for
payment" to. Invoice is to be paid within 72 hours.
Ad space is open to members, associates and businesses.

**SPACE IS LIMITED
AND FILLED ON A
FIRST PAID, FIRST
SERVED BASIS**

Deadline is June 8th!

FULL PAGE \$100.00		1/4 PAGE \$25.00
		1/2 PAGE \$50.00

ANY QUESTIONS? Please contact 2VP, Karla, at 651-470-8996 or
email; yearbook@bluestarmothers.us

**100% OF THE MONIES COLLECTED GOES
TO THE UNSUPPORTED VA HOSPITALS**

***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

Regular price: **\$25.81**

*Does not include sales tax, if applicable

Create Custom Pages by: **June 15**

treering



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

To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook

Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

1 Go to: www.treering.com/validate

2 Enter your school's passcode:
101416260317183

Regular price: **\$25.81**

Create Custom Pages by:

June 15

Need help? Contact

www.treering.com/help



I want to introduce myself, as your **National 3rd VP-Pro Tem, Mary Johnson.**

I have been an active member of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. since 2007. My son, Thomas joined the Army in 2006. My other son, Kristopher enlisted in the Navy 6 months later! Thomas had a 15 month deployment to northern Iraq in 2008-2009, then an 18 month deployment to Guantanamo Bay. His last duty station was at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in New Hampshire. He died while active duty in 2013 and I became a Gold Star Mother. My son, Kristopher, was a Seabee and had a 9 month deployment to Okinawa and a 13 month deployment to Bahrain. Kristopher became a veteran in 2012.

I have held various roles in my original chapter, MN8. When it closed, I transferred to MN7. My favorite project started when I was in MN8. The chapter provided reading glasses at the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans Stand Downs. The stand downs have changed and we see fewer truly homeless vets. The Department of Minnesota has taken over this project. I now enjoy helping cook a meal monthly at our local Fisher House with MN7.

I served as the recording secretary on the Department of Minnesota Board and then as the Department of Minnesota President from 2012-2014 and I am currently the Department of Minnesota's 3rd VP.

I am honored to have been asked to serve on the National Executive Board.



2025 President's Project supporting The Freedom 13 Miles For Our Veterans - If These Boots Could Talk Virtual 5K



Sponsorships are complete! Thank you to all of our 2025 sponsoring Departments and Chapters!!

Blue Level - IL6

Red Level - IL1, DPOH, OH32, OH26, CA30, OH2, MO4, and PA16

All Others Sponsors - FL10, NY4, LA1, CA10, MN7, DPMN, VA5, LA7, OH3, NM2, WI2, OH21, MN1, TN4, OH59, MN11, FL11, OH57, TX4, OK1, MO5, WI1, OK11, MN13, OH15, TX20, VA4, OH9, CA25, and AZ4

We appreciate your amazing generosity and support!! Thanks to all of you we have already raised **\$8050** before we even start registrations and donations!!

Next up, registrations!! The link to purchase shirts will open Friday, May 23 and will remain open until Saturday, June 14. This virtual 5K can be done anywhere with anyone and is open to the public so be sure to share the shirt link with all your family, friends, and community supporters! The link will be emailed to our full membership and will be on social media - watch for it soon!

We will also take donations from Friday, May 23 through Monday, July 28. A link will be available at the same time as the shirt link, then contact president.IL6@bluestarmothers.us for more information on how to donate or to make a larger donation anytime!

As we have in the past, a Facebook page will be created for you to share your photos of your walk in your area. Those photos will be put together into a slideshow at Convention so be sure to watch for details about where to share your photos coming soon!

From the Desk of

Anne Parker, VAVS Representative

This is a very busy time of year for all of our chapters and moms. Schools are about to begin summer vacation, graduations, celebrations and more in our personal lives. Not to mention how busy the chapters are preparing for convention, last minute fundraisers, sending care packages and so much more.

But even with being so busy our moms and chapters continue to do amazing work and volunteerism for our veterans. As the VAVS team reads the monthly reports we are seeing so many hours being spent at the VA, the donations are creative, impressive and much appreciated. Each donation is necessary and helping our veterans get through another day.

With that being said, I would like to share what two of our chapters, from different parts of our country have done. This may spark an idea for you or help your chapter create an event.

Buckeye Military Moms – OH9 takes the opportunities of current events and holidays to bring joy to their local VA and veterans. With Earth Day recently they created an event where they had their table with magazines, mugs, snacks and more. This gives them a one-on-one time with a veteran as they come to the table. Great job ladies on making a connection with the veterans!



Yellow Rose- TX 20 purchased “no sew” blanket kits and a student group made these beauties.. It took approximately 1 hour to make (tie) each blanket. When preparing an event for your VA think outside the box and include another organization. It helps build a great community for our veterans.



With convention coming up please remember to have your chapter send in the sweatpants donations for the Wisconsin VA project. Using sales on Amazon or Walmart will make it affordable and easy to send direct to our convention chair.

Please send your sweatpants donation to:

Convention Chair
Diana Rettig
7746 Hagemann Rd
Caledonia, WI 53108

Thank you for all you do for our veterans.



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

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

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

National Guard

James (Jamie) Olen Dillon
Jim Richardson
Sheann Taylor, Sr
Steven Ray Englebright
Francis Dean Wehr/Army Reserves
Arnold "Pete" Ford

Army

Abel Gomez Perez
Alan G. Pidgeon
Alan Paul Montanus
Albert Becker
Alfred J. Wilmes
Alfred John Lueckenhoff
Allen Lamar Rudolph
Alpha Zenon Sanchez
Alton A Rock Jr
Andrew "Rusty" Percy Moss, Jr.
Angelo G. Julien, Jr
Antonio L. Payne
Arthur J. Mulholland
Berlon Eugene "Gene" Self
Billy Joe Hamm
Billy L. Willmore
Billy Martin
Bobby Allen Christie
Bradley Withrow
Brett Aaron Shipp
Bruce William Rogers
Charles A. Miller, Jr.
Charles H. Fortner
Charles Leroy Gordon
Charles Robert Milam
Charles S. Taylor
Charles York
Chester Stanley Powlowski
Christopher C. McPherson
Christopher David Salmons
Christopher J. Meek
Clarence Pete Dixon
Clark R. Cook
Claude Nolan Whittle
Clayton E. Cobb
Clifford Hull
Clifton Riley Ausbrooks
Cole A. Ashcraft
Dana Gregg Peterson
Daniel J. DeCrow
Daniel Virgil Soughers
Danny Herion Sr.
Danny Scott Mclunkin
David Aaron Denton
David Cory Vierwinden
David Earl Roberson
David M Odman
David McMillion

David R. (Doc) Berger
Dennis Whitmer
Devere F Spencer
Dwayne Zettergren
Donald Barton Emigh
Donald Eugene Sailors
Donald F. Clark
Donald Frank Weaver
Donald Joe Tomlinson
Dwain Eugene Pangle
Dwayne Reeves
Edvin F. Franco
Edwin Bladimir Avalos
Eli Holsinger Sr.
Elmer Solidum
Emerald "Dixie" Knudson
Eric D. King
Eugene Cantua
Eugene Greening
Felix 'The Cat' Lopez
Francisco Gonzalez
Frank Eugene Miller
Frank Foster
Frank Trevino
Fred Bishop
Freddie Anthonia Winters
Gary Garcia
Gary M "Kicker" Seeley Sr
Gary Oliver Adams
George Edward Flowers Jr.
George Henry Johnson
George Ray Farmer
Gerald Thomas Hipp
Gerald Wray
Gilbert Medina
Harry Leonard Cornelious
Bestland, Sr.
Henry Croskey
Henry D. Vlietstra
Henry James Hofferek
Henry William Areheart
Howard Simon Schneider
Howard William Fischer
Jack E. Worthington, Jr.
Jack Lee Davis, Jr.
James "Stanley" Mitchell
James Alfred Marquez
James Allen Fouk
James Allen Woodward Jr.
James Archer
James Chevalier
James Clifton "JC" Wilson JR
James Edward Blankenship
James Joseph Maulsby
James O. Scott Jr
James Onsted
James Ralph Briggs

James Robert E. Strickley
James Ronald Wilson
James S. Harris
James Stanley Mitchell
Jay Douglas Sanders
Jeffery L. Ikkirk
Jeffery Wayne Worthington
Jeremiah Williamson
Gidding
Jerry Lynn Clark
Jesse Lee Maynard, Jr.
Jim Harrell Jr
Jimmy Doyle Byrum
Jo Ann Speigel
Jo Ann Speigel
John A. Pelham
John Burch Jr.
John D. Mortensen
John E. Walker, Sr.
John Edward Yerger
John Elden Edwards
John H. Bundy
John J. Rooney
John McConnell
Johnny Lee Alderman
Johnny Marion Catledge
Johnny Wilburn Savage, Jr.
Jose Duenez, Jr.
Jose Lopez
Joseph "Eddie" Boswell
Joseph Angerami
Joseph Elmer Romero
Joseph Francis Glenn
Joseph K. Murphy
Joseph M. Ontiveros
Joseph Macias
Julian Gonzalez
Kelly Earnest King
Kenneth Allen Williams
Kenneth Earl Renn Sr.
Kenneth Norman Buzzell
Kenneth R. Burbank
Kenneth William Kretzinger II
Larry Allen Jones
Larry Bonds
Larry D. Carfield
Larry Dwayne White
Larry Knapp
Larry Lee Bovard
Laurence Anthony Neubauer
Lawrence A. Lombard
Lawrence Paul Geiger
Lee Roy Cox
Leo V. Downey
Lewis Don Kelly
Lonnie Eugene Martin

Louis A Elmore
Louis Arthur Wallace
Luther Grace
Mark William Thayer III
Melvin O. Stubinger
Michael Anthony Snowden
Michael Joseph Pisciotta
Michael Terry Lowrance
Michael Thompson
Michael W Freeman
Micheal John Padgett
Milton E. Naprstek
Mose Edward Wiley Jr.
Napoleon Winchell Cotton
Nelson D Yates
Nicholas C. Funk
Norris Eugene Lowe
Orville "Red" Earney
Orville Eugene Leisure
Oscar Blaine Peterson
Oscar Ree Adams
Ozane Turner
Paul Bradford
Peter Jan Imkamp
Preston Lee Martin
Ralph H Anderson
Ramon G. Perez
Raymond E. Paulhus
Raymond Katzdorn
Reginald Keith McCutcheon
Richard E. Ayres
Richard Esparza
Richard Kim Teer
Richard L. Goins
Richard Lee Schiska
Richard Leslie Buffum
Richard W Green
Ricky Terrence Wyche
Rio "Dan" Slaugh
Robert "Fugi" Stewart
Robert Channon
Robert David Roeder
Robert Kaulukukui
Robert Lee Byerley
Robert Milton Cowart
Robert Paul Tallerdy
Robert Spralding
Robert Thomas McCollum
Robert Walker
Robert Weldon Shafer
Roberto Pineda Villegas
Rocky Wayne Fox
Rodney Glenn Price
Roger Lee Sprouse
Ronald C. Kimbrow, Sr.
Ronald D. 'Packy' Henderson

Ronald Joseph Birdsong
Ronald Stephen Depola
Ronnie J. Bennett
Rory Alexander Dunn
Roy B. Brown
Roy Dale Taff
Roy Edward Farrow
Roy Smithson
Samuel Vela
Sanford Gordon Roy
Shirley M. Graham
Stanley J. Harpole
Stanley Jerome Carter
Stanley Ray Brown
Stephen Donald Pellegrini
Stephen Mattson
Stephen Ray Yerby "Steve"
Stephen Young Akinlotan
Steven Michael Lemermeier
Terry L. Root
Terry W Kaiser
Theodore F. Aaron
Thomas Avery Waters
Thomas Lee Krantz
Thomas Moore Baughman
Thomas Patrick Callaghan Jr.
Trevor K Danials
Troy Leon "Hoot" Webb
Tyson Quink
Ulmont C. Nanton
Ulysses Lynaum
Vaughn P. Drake Jr,
Vernon Knecht
Victor James Stephens
Walter Baker
Walter Coleman Mathis
Wayne Calvin Blacker
Wilbur Davis
Wilfred Nelson Lagasse
William "Bill" Frank
Ashdown Hackler Sr.
William "Bill" LeRoy Dixon
William "Bill" Teska
William "Russ" Fischer
William B Smith
William Buddy Phillips
William E. Davis, Jr.
William Oatha Sinnett
William Peck
William Thomas Hatch
Willie Ray Krahn
Willis D. McCleery
Willis Dean McCleery
Wilson Barnes Jr.
Troy Smith Knutson-
Collins
Victor "Vic" Klindt

David D. Duncan/NG
Jake Aaron Monk/NG
Milton F. Barr/NG
Robert Leroy Pitts/NG
Robert Paxton Miller/NG
Russell Neesmith/NG
Arnold "Pete" Ford/NG
Thomas Ray Edwards/NG
Albert Lipsey/Reserves
Andrew Joseph Lacombe/Reserves
Charles Lewis Donovan/Reserves
Charles Swearngen/Reserves
Clifton Aaron McCarter/Reserves
Clyde Gupta/Reserves
David Andrew Bennett/Reserves
Dr. Charles Alvin Kline/Reserves
Edward James Ponce/Reserves
Gary Lee Anderson
George Jerry Skinner/Reserves
James Lawrence Jr/Reserves
John Andrew Marshall/Reserves
John Francis Jablonski/Reserves
John Herbert/Reserves
John Mills Jr/Reserves
Joseph Laufer/Reserves
Justin E. Snider/Reserves
Natale Pat Mangio/Reserves
Richard T. Lloyd Sr./Reserves
Robert "Bob" William White Jr./Reserves
Robert William Sprung, Sr/Reserves
Ronald Eugene Holsinger/Reserves
Ronald Richard Mindak/Reserves
Ryan H. Mabe/Reserves
Terry Wayne Gibbs/Reserves
Stacy Meminger Jr/Reserves
Howard Don Wages/Marines
Robert M. Kneeland/Marines

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Army (cont)

Diane Y. Hankins/Women's Army Corp
Thomas J Spencer/Navy

Army Reserve

Bob Torino
Mollie Mae Branch
Newell Murphy, Jr
William C. Wefel

Army Air Corp

Frank J Tedone/Air Force

Navy

Al Fulkerson
Albert J. Huffman
Arek John Baptiste
Djigounian
Austin Virgil Owen
Barney A Horton Jr
Bobby John Bullard
Cameron Logan James
Charles "Charlie" Robert Wiggins
Charles F. Rivers
Charles Henry Cruse
Clifford L Krampe
Clyde P. Chaffin
Conrad Jose Washington Bey
David C Ascher
David Walter Lewis
Deanna Herrera
Deborah Moreland
Denman Edward Byram
Denzel Elijah Miller
Donald Greg Blanchard
Donald Lee Giffin
Edison "Frank" Johnson
EM2 James Trail
Fred Eugene Mallott
Fredrick Clarence Rice Jr
Gary K Compton
Gary Prather
George A. Grasse
George Norton
George Washington Madison
Gerald "Jerry" Allan Peterson
Gerald Edward Brown
Gerald Patton
Glenn Ewing Dutro
Gregory J. Yeske
Harry Dean Carney
Herndon Blake "Weedy"
Wederstrandt Jr
Jack Beebe
Jack Humphrey Fitzhugh,

Sr.
Jack Shale Wood
James D Morris
James Feltz, Sr
James Frank Kalivoda
James Klautd
James Ladoucer
James R. "Jim" McCoy
James Shelby Simmons
James Steven Hartley
James Thomas McGrath
Jeffrey "Jeff" Mark Davis
Jerry Lee Williams
Joe Robert Brewer
John A. Fratzel
John E. Morton
John Ferrin Johnston
John Fitzgerald
John Franklin Flower
John M Willis
John Petrunyak Jr
John Raymond Howley
John Winston Badger
Joseph Franklin Pannell
Leo Roy Fiegel
Lloyd Alvin Allgood
Lynda Rose Leggett
Lysle Thomas Roberts
Marcine Crawford Jr.
Mark D. Powell
Mark Miller
Marvin Freddie Hough
Marvin Philip Sektnan
Maryann Mila Rees
Matt John Ripatti
Matthew Thomas Murphy
Michael Hall
Montriel Taveon Gregory
Murrell Rex Wilson
Myron Bohannan
Neil Daniel Frye
Paul A. Marchessault
Philip J Argentio
Rafael Montelongo
Richard James Collingwood
Richard Steven Vanderburg
Robert "Button" Edward Page
Robert Allen Powell
Robert "Bob" J Wagner Jr.
Robert Glenn Wagner
Robert James Tarantino
Robert Rhett Lax
Robert William Schlichter
Roger Cecil Dudley
Ronald Arthur Shoop
Ronald L Pratt

Ronnie Leon Cloe
Shawn Berryman
Stephen Dean Stolworthy
Stephen Lynn Borden
Steven P. Herbert
Steven Robert "Steve" Jones
Sylvester La Duca
Terry Bowman
Walter Thompson
Warren D. Mako
Wiley Burton Richardson, Jr.
Wilfredo Fernandez
William Bradford Ballinger, Jr.
William Joseph Workman
William Shayka
Tommy David Hilbern
James Robert Rehm/Air Force
Richard Paul Smith/Air Force
Thomas John Estes/Air Force
Robert Ernest Clements/Army NG
Douglas J Salter Sr./Army Reserve
James R. Johnson/Army Reserve
Oris E. Petri Jr./Coast Guard
Dale Warrington Lord-Haas Jr./Navy Reserve
Elbert Alden Hale/Navy Reserve
Frank Lamar Pearson, Jr./Navy Reserve
William L. Christian/Navy Reserve

Marine Corp

Micheal E. Moore
Adrian Quesnot
Alexander Sneider
Ann Marie Denslow
Benjamin Samuel Standridge
Bobby Cox
Brandon Kyle Smith
Bruce Ivan Manney
Bryan Mercurio
Carl Dean Daggett
Charles Benjamin Cook
Charles David Levy
Charles LeBlanc
Charles Levy
Charles Micheal Whitten
Charles R. Williams

Charles William Hansen
Christopher David Price
Clarence Smith
Danny "Dan" Warren
David F. Turner
Dennis Lee Dunlap
Dennis Wayne Schmidt, Sr.
Donald Inskip, Sr.
Douglas Reed
Drew Tyler Mobley
Dwight Archie Sells
Elfego Aranda Jr
Eric B Phelps
Everett L. Davis, Jr.
Floyd Lumel Peters
Freddie Jack Sims
Garry Stratton
Gary F. Rieken
Gerald David Johnson
Glenn Patrick Hayes
Grant J. Candies
Gregory Allen Felzien
Gregory Simpkins Sr.
Harold D. Reed
Helio Armando Garcia III
Hollis Thurston Dunn
Howard Franklin Woodward
Jack Maggard
Jacob Benton Batton Jr.
Jacob Tafoya
James "Jim" Boles
James Belleville
James Finnerty
James Howard Chandler Sr.
James J Hartman
James Lloyd
James Snyder
Jeffrey Ryan Valluzzi
Jerry D Wooten
Jerry Dean Wellner
John Cletus Davis
John Daniel Terselic
John E Colby Jr
John E. Edwinston Jr.
John Hargis Steele
John Snyder
Joseph "Joe" Koole
Larry Allen Kibbie
Lee Limon
Lew Bloomfield
Lewis James Kollmeyer
Marvin T. Dunn, Jr.
Matthew Seamon
Nicholas Turner
Paul Balzarini
Paul Edward Newman
Ralph Meredith Rasch III

Reginald Walker
Richard Allen Novak
Richard Ashley
Robert "Rocky"
Marciaante
Robert Anderson
Robert Lee Kornegay
Ronald G. DeCoste
Ronnie Daniel Staley
Ronny Howard Norris
Roy Lee Kronenberg
Russell Emery Steele
Samuel C. Abrams
Sinclair Anderson, Jr
Thomas Joseph Fariss
Tommy James McCoy
Tommy Lamar Ward
Tori "Shell" Jackson
Vernelle L Mickelson
Victor Thomas
Walter H. Baggett
William H. Mitchell
William Pope
Willie Shipman Jr.
Wylie R. McIntosh
Zeak Jerome Starr
Villanueva
Bill Throckmorton/Air Force Reserves
Bruce P. Bousquet/Army Reserves
John D. Baker/Marine Res
Jose Antonio Munoz/Marine Res
Robert J. Hagen/Marine Reserves
Charles Balfour Jack/Navy
Michael William Phillips/Navy

Marine Corp Reserve

Michael Dwain Ray
Coast Guard
Douglas Jannusch
Frank Allard
Jack P. Van Camp
Richard Luckett
Stephen L. Davenport
Steven D. Gensel

Air Force

Tom McNish
Aaron D. Fariior
Allen Thomas Snyder
Andrew Michael Kubiak
Anthony Lyon Lombard
Arthur R. Meacham, III
Bernard Pylon
Bill Brown
Billy J. Mitchell Jr
Billy Skidmore

Brandon Goodmiller
Charles Ramstetter
Charles Winnett
Clarence Wickman
Dale Leon Lambeth
Dale Martin Jones
Daryl Lebron Mobley Sr.
David Hanaway, Sr.
David William Child
Dennis Askins
Dennis Busenbark
Donald Chester Rierison
Donald Leroy Chirnsdon
Douglas William Henry
Earnest Hugh Wilbanks
Edmond "Ed" Ellsworth
Elmer James Waterman
Evan Alfred Richards
Fabian Roman
Fernando Galaviz Villa
Fred Beebe
G. Lance Miner
Gary Ellis
Gary Proctor
Geneva McConnell
George Edward Abbott
George Ray Black
George Richard Barrie
Gerald R Sonderman
Grandville Harris
Harold Ellis Dollar
Henry Amateur Plouffe
Henry Farrell Jackson
James H. Helton
James Teats
Jerry Fields
Jesse Caviness
Jimmy McManus
John Carder
John Franklin (Frank) Williamson Jr.
Johnathan Christopher Whitman
Joseph Allen DeJarnette
Joseph Stanley Swain
Kelly Robert Cannon
Kenneth Aulanda Everett
Kenneth Gordon Hosking
Lane Sherrill Gilbert, Jr
Larry E Denman
Larry Van Dikeman
Lawrence "Larry" Cook
Lawrence Bruce Turnbull
Leland "Lee" Larson
Leonard Glenn Reinke
Mark Howard Robinson,
Sr.



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

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

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

Air Force (cont)

- Mark Steven Frans
- Martin Alfred Bosemer
- Michael Bondurant
- Michael Joseph Dreimiller
- Michael O Roszell
- Mitchell Jay Sayre, Jr.
- Neal C. Jurney
- Norman "Norm" Ivan Nelson
- Orbie Gene Robertson
- Pete G. Solis
- Randal Root
- Rayburn Wiley Prettyman
- Richard Douglas Wells
- Richard Elmore 'Dick' Dean
- Richard L Larson
- Robert "Bob" Nelson Chandler
- Robert Escar Midkiff Jr
- Rodger Odell Moore
- Rodgers Lee Crump Jr
- Rodney Hopper Albers
- Roger Stipe
- Ronald "Cowboy" Iniguez
- Ronald W Gatton
- Sharon Ann Hayes
- Stephen Bert Clark
- Steve Thornhill
- Steven Dedinas
- Tavish B. Beck
- Thomas Allen Giese
- Thomas Louis Eide
- Ward Louis Monroe
- William Eugene Mobley
- William Homer "Bill" Smith
- William Robert "Bill" Purviance, Jr.
- Charles John "Chuck" Svoboda
- Bert Harold
- Zimmerman/AF Reserves
- David Dale Sharp/AF Reserves
- Donald L. Simmons/AF Reserves
- Douglas Arthur Decker/AF Reserves
- Thomas L Allen/AF Reserves
- Christian Whitmore/Air NG
- Leonard "Lenny" Uller/Air NG
- Theodore "Teddy" Parent/Air NG

Billy Palmertree/Army NG

Air Force Reserves

Paul Vernon Cagle

Air National Guard

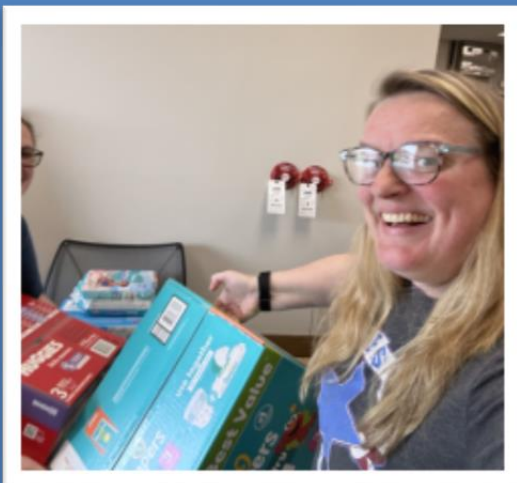
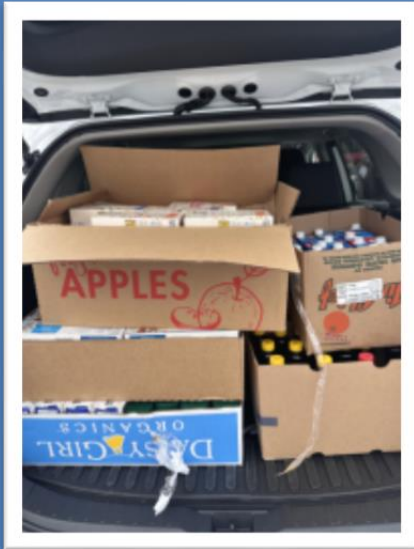
Chad Lee Blow

Robert Allen Sluder





MD3 donated a significant amount of non-perishable foods for Freedom Pantry National Guard again. Families that have food insecurities. In addition we were present for Resource Fair. Lots of VSO tables so National Guard families can get more information on what is available for them.





NORTH CENTRAL PA 12



- BSM PA 12 packed 48 care packages with love for our deployed Military.
- We were honored to be able to support Paul Mills, Sgt. at Arms for the Sons of the American Legion Post 1 in his recent homeless veterans awareness campaign Operation Help in which Mr. Mills camped out in front of American Legion Post 1 for three days during January. Mr. Mills raised funds through community support and was able to present a check to the American Rescue Workers along with a donation from the Blue Star Mothers.
- Our chapter, along with Heroes and Horses, were honored recipients of a very generous donation from Wallis Run Rod and Gun Club, as a result of the proceeds of their 6th Annual Squirrel Hunt on February 22, 2025. Words cannot express how much this means to our Chapter and how it will allow us to support our military and veterans.
- Thank you to the Miele Group for their generous contribution to Operation Help, an organization created to bring awareness to veteran homelessness in our area. We appreciate the Miele Group's continued support of veterans in our community

NE2 Heartland M*O*M*S

Nebraska Chapter 2 hosted "Our Community Salutes" on April 23rd to honor high school graduates enlisting in the military



FL 10



Pictured is our member, Audrey Dewey, presenting a branch challenge coin and a certificate to a JROTC cadet at a local high school. We also gave his mom a letter about our organization and a pin. Our county does not allow us to do cords, so we were pleased to be invited into the school to do the special award. We honored eight students that night - four going active duty and four going into the National Guard.



CA30 celebrated our 13th Annual Gold and Blue Star Mother's Day Luncheon on April 27th. 14 Gold Star Mothers, 24 Blue Star Mothers and several guests enjoyed a day of laughter, tears, and love as we lifted up our Gold Star sisters. The Inland Empire Chapter of American Gold Star Mothers was presented with a Recognition Certificate from the County of Riverside for 15 years of service to the community.



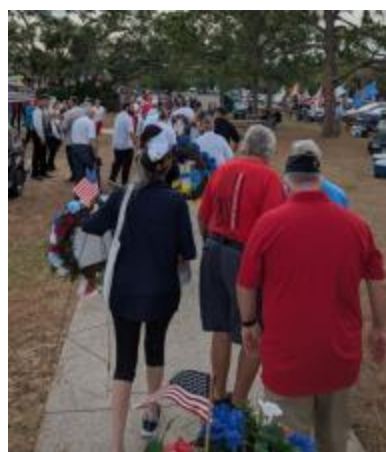
TREASURE COAST BLUE STAR MOTHERS, FL11



Treasure Coast Blue Star Mothers were recipients at a recent Wine Tasting event. Had a great night hanging out with some awesome Military Moms at our FUNdraiser.



Treasure Coast Blue Star Mothers hosted a recruiting event. Our informational meeting was a success! Looking forward to our growing chapter. We are grateful for our Members and Associate Members, who make a positive impact in the lives of our Military Service Members and Veterans.



It was truly an honor to represent Treasure Coast Blue Star Mothers FL 11 and take part in the wreath laying ceremony at the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall. It was a humbling experience to pay tribute to those who served and sacrificed. Grateful for the opportunity to stand in remembrance and respect alongside so many others.



Lone Star Chapter, TX6



We were honored to join Blue Star Mothers from all over Texas at the State Capitol for Senate Resolution SR456 honoring Texas Chapters of Blue Star Mothers of America. It was introduced by Senators Bob Hall and Angela Paxton. We are very grateful for the recognition of all our Texas Blue Star Mothers!



Ann received an award for Volunteer of the Year from the VA Hospital in Bonham, Texas.



Betty, Melody, Charla, and Shelley represented TX6 at the USO Style Salute to Veterans in McKinney, TX.



MAY IS NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH!

HONORING, REMEMBERING, AND RECOGNIZING ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL: THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY AND ALL WHO SERVE NOW, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN DEFENSE OF OUR FREEDOM.

THANK YOU, FOR YOUR SERVICE & SACRIFICE

WREATHS *across* AMERICA



FOR NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH, OUR RIM BLUE STAR MOMS SHOWED OUR APPRECIATION IN SEVERAL WAYS. ON SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH, WE VOLUNTEERED AT THE RIM VETS ANNUAL FISHING DERBY. WE HELPED WITH BREAKFAST AND SPENT TIME WITH THE VETS. WE PRESENTED 4 VIETNAM VETERAN COMMEMORATIVE PINS AND ONE WIDOWED SPOUSE'S PIN IN HONOR OF THE DAR ARROWHEAD VALLEY CHAPTER IN REDLANDS. AT OUR MONTHLY MEETING, WE PACKED 24 CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR ACTIVE DUTY AND VETERAN SERVICE MEMBERS. NOTES FROM LAKE ARROWHEAD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THANK YOU CARDS FROM THE DAR ARROWHEAD VALLEY CHAPTER WERE INCLUDED WITH SNACKS AND TOILETRIES.



The 2025 Rochester Blue Star Mothers Baby Shower

The 2025 annual Military Baby Shower theme was you are my sunshine and that sunshine was showered on 15 families this year. Thank you to all the community donors, the volunteers and the Webster American Legion, for helping us with this event! We appreciate you all.



Western Slope Blue Star Mothers CO8



This is our 4th year hosting a community wide event to celebrate our High School Seniors who have enlisted after Graduation.



The City of Fruita, Colorado issued a proclamation stating this years Military Bound High School Graduate Day as April 26, 2025

With the help from our City of Fruita Mayor, our School Superintendent and our awesome recruiters we welcomed, congratulated and introduced most of the Western Slope High School Seniors to the community!



Lt. Penman (Army) administered the Oath of Enlistment to the new recruits and we followed up with a family picnic!

Honoring our Grads at each of their school awards events



We attended a Yellow Ribbon Event for one of our National Guard Units and had a chance to meet with other chapters in Colorado!



Blue Star Mothers



Of The Upstate

SC #4

We are Blue Star Mothers of the Upstate SC#4. We are located in the upstate of South Carolina. With the restructure of the chapter, creating a logo and website, things have been busy. For the month of April we were able to participate at an event and have our yearly girl scout cookie pack out.



Spring Fair Vendor Event - collected donations and provided information about the chapter.



April 2025 Girl Scout Cookie Packout

We packed girl scout cookies to send to the deployed and active duty soldiers. A fun time to come together to enjoy working for a good cause.

HAPPY

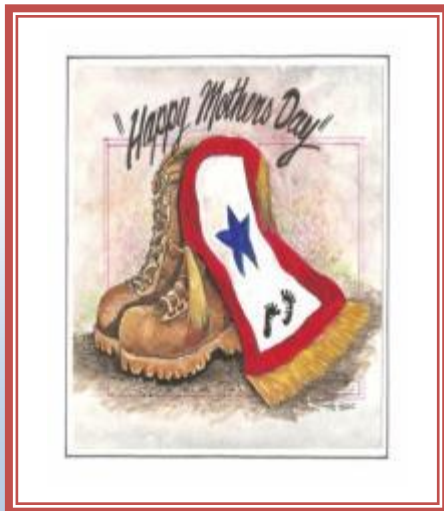
Mother's Day

May 2025 CA-10 Events



Spring Events for Central Valley Blue Star Moms of Fresno, CA. We helped retire flags, honored Vietnam Veterans, welcomed home Honor Flight, Military Night baseball game, Clovis Rodeo Parade float, and celebrated the 20th birthday of CA-10 as Blue Star Moms.





Military Appreciation Month is observed in May to honor and recognize the contributions and sacrifices of current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces. It includes several significant observations such as Memorial Day and Armed Forces Day, Run for the Wall, and Military Spouse appreciation Day.

The Month of May is Military Appreciation Month, and it encourages public appreciation for Military Service. Thank you to all who have served and families who make the sacrifices.

June 21st, RGV NM2 is packing of over 425 care packages and the Neck Cooler committee under the direction of Army Mom Erika Hughes has been busy completing neck coolers for our deployed troops in hot climates. Missing in photograph are Lisa Childress, Carolyn Donnell, & Margy Privett.



Next up for NM2 in May ... Mom's Morale & More Luncheon, "The Vitalant Women of the 1940's." Memorial Day & Fiesta Air Show at Kirtland AFB, May 31 and June 1st.

On May 3rd, four of Rio Grande Valley NM2 members served as food attendees at the 1st annual Military Child Banquet at Kirtland AFB.



The Military Child of today is tomorrow's Military Leaders! Congratulations!

April 29 our Chapter had a booth set up at the Denham Springs Spring Market selling our patriotic items and distributing brochures about our Chapter.



Soldiers received our Care Packages



Pinning of our new member Kayla Pagel



Pinning new members Jennifer Summers and Brooke McGee



SLVHCS VAVS Representative, Ann Berkins, and Deputy, Sunny Senft attended the volunteer appreciation luncheon and are pictured with Derrick Spears



Veterans Day at the State Capitol honoring Korean War veterans for 75th Anniversary of Conflict



Governor Jeff Landry



Kathy Baker and Kayla Pagel with dignitaries

Department of Ohio

I am thrilled to share the highlights from our recent North/South conference, which proved to be an incredibly rewarding experience for all involved.

On Friday night, we gathered together in a warm and welcoming environment, taking the time to get to know each other a little better. It was a heartwarming evening filled with shared stories and emotions with many tears shed as we reflected on our unique journey as a military mom. The understanding and support we found in one another were truly powerful, reminding us of all of the profound reasons why we come together.

We were honored to have a couple of great speakers. TJ from The Fallen Outdoors, who inspired us with the insight on what they do for our Veterans. This is my president's project. Additionally, we had an informative session on FMLA for our military families, which provided valuable information for those navigating these important issues.

Throughout the conference, we engaged in several breakout sessions that fostered connection and learning. Our silent auction and brown bag event saw excellent participation, with all proceeds generously contributed to the Department of Ohio Big Dipper Auxiliary.

As we move forward, I am excited about my President's Project and the positive impact we can continue to make together. Thank you to everyone who can contribute to make this conference a success. Your dedication and passion are what make our organization so special.

The Department of Ohio board is looking forward to the Department of Ohio's convention which will be held in Columbus, Ohio at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, October 17th, 18th, and 19th. More information will be coming out late summer.



Thank you for your continued support and dedication to BSM,
Barb Cook
President, Department of Ohio



YELLOW ROSE - TX20



May 2025

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

Happy 1st Birthday TX20!



So excited for all the things we have accomplished in 365 days!

Current Members:
25 Moms/13 Associates

Attended Patriotic Events: 17
Fundraiser/Donation Drives: 8
Social Outings: 7
Community Outreach: 17
Care Packing Events: 8

Attended National Convention
Created Rosy Report Newsletter
Collected 400+ bags of jerky
Collected 300 Pocket Flags
Created a Chapter website



Yellow Rose was so excited to visit the Ft. Worth VA Clinic with our friends from Healthy Heroes. We didn't come empty handed, together we donated 25 lap blankets for the Veterans that visit this facility. Great connections were made at the VA!



When the American Legion calls, you show up with signs! We were so honored to welcome home 56 Veterans from a Dallas Lovefield Honor Flight. 2 of those Veterans were from AL Post 21 in The Colony. What an honor and a privilege to wave flags and thank them for their service.



The Texas State Senate recognized TX BSMA Chapters with a resolution celebrating Blue Star Mothers of America. Our TX20 Representatives also had the opportunity to meet fellow Blue Star Mothers from Chapters across our great state of TX.

100 Boxes



TX20 and Frisco VFW Post 8273 partnered together for VFW's annual Day of Service.

We packed 100 care packages to send to our military.





March 2025

**Packing
Event**

**DEA Maltz
Challenge**

April 2025

**Walk of
Honor**

**5th Tuesday
Dinner**



For several years in Spring, the Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI 178 have been diligently working at Hicks Veterans Memorial Park . Pictured is one of the beautiful flowering shrubs in the park. The park will be aesthetically pleasing for the Huron County Memorial Parade in Bad Axe, MI.
Stay tuned for more pictures as the summer approaches.



Buckeye Military Moms OH #9



Earth Day @VA


PURPLE UP!
for military kids



*Purple up!
North South
Conference*



125+ We Care Packages



MI 197 moms selling baked goods at the maple syrup festival in Shepherd, Mi. Classic cars and music on a beautiful Saturday afternoon!



MN 16



The Pine City Blue Star Moms held our annual Garage Sale Fundraiser on Saturday, May 3rd! The annual event draws “regulars” every year who look forward to seeing what treasures they can find for themselves, and we have a little bit of fun, as well. Not only do our Blue Star Moms donate items, but people from all over the community donate, as well – so a variety of items is always guaranteed.

Memorial Day we participate in the Pine City Memorial Day Parade through the city and ending at Birchwood Cemetery, and concludes with a Veterans Memorial presentation. Other parades on our agenda are the Braham Appreciation Day Parade in June, the Hinkley Corn & Clover Parade in July, the Pine County Parade in August and the Minnesota State Fair’s Military Appreciation Day parade in August.



Blue Star Moms of California - East Bay Chapter 101

April - May 2025 Events

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



♥ Care package donations! ♥

April 19 - Walmart Drop Zone

We received about 10 full grocery carts of care package items and also generous cash donations. More importantly, it was wonderful connecting with the community and hearing about their support for our troops and a great opportunity for us to talk about the Blue Star Moms organization and what we do.



May 10 - Mom's Day Out at McGrail Winery

We celebrated Mother's Day with wine tasting and a sumptuous buffet of appetizers and desserts on a beautiful sunny day in Livermore wine country. Thanks to our member Catarina who works at the winery for putting this together. It was a wonderful camaraderie as we shared stories of our military children and our families.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

**May 2025
Meeting**
May 20th

Honor Flights
May 17th & June
14th

**Milaegers
Farmer's Market**
May 18th & July
20th

Field of Flags
May 21st

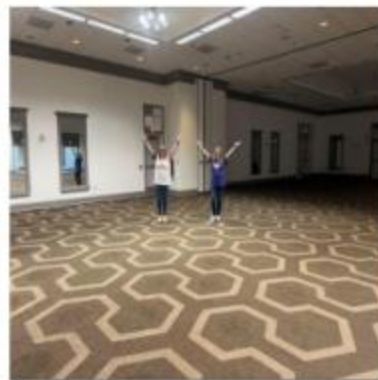
**Memorial Day
Ceremony**
May 25th @ 11am

**Cooking Class
Fundraiser**
June 2nd

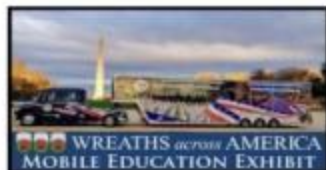
**Camp Hometown
Heroes**
July 1st

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

This month's newsletter we are dedicating as a "countdown" to the 82nd Annual Blue Star Mothers of America Convention in MILWAUKEE! We can't wait to welcome everyone to our beautiful state.



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING AMERICA'S HEROES!



WREATHS across AMERICA

WWW.WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.ORG

THE WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA'S
MOBILE EDUCATION EXHIBIT
VISITS MILWAUKEE, WI!

JULY 28 & 29, 2025
10 A.M. - 4 P.M.
BOTH DAYS

FOUR POINTS SHERATON
5311 S HOWELL AVE.
MILWAUKEE, WI

The Exhibit represents the TEACH pillar of the Wreaths Across America mission, sharing information about the veterans and those who serve our country, and how everyone can play a part in remembering and honoring them.

Exciting news that Wreaths Across America's Mobile Education Exhibit will be in Milwaukee during convention!





Blue Star Mothers of America Louisiana Chapter 1

News from the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women May 2025



Our Community Salutes



LA1 held its annual Our Community Salutes program to honor the commitment of Baton Rouge area graduating high school seniors to enlist in the armed forces. Eighty students and their families attended. LA1 member Robin Maggio addressed the attendees, describing what it means to be a Blue Star Mother.

Veterans Day at the Louisiana State Capitol



LA1 members Dora Sanford, Pat Schilling and Natalie Truax attended the Veterans Day at the Louisiana State Capitol. LA1 spent the day spreading awareness of our mission. Dora, Pat, Natalie and members of LA7 were honored to take a picture with Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry. Dora and Natalie also visited with Secretary of Veterans Affairs Col. Charlton Meginley.

USMC Promotion



Travis Horner, Marine son of LA1 mother Denise Singleton, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va.

Honoring Our Gold Stars



LA1 and LA7 honored the life and service of Amite native Baylor Austin Battles. Baylor was a member of the US Navy stationed in King's Bay, Ga. LA1 and LA7 will continue to support his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.



Military Kids Program



LA1 member Amy Baralt represented Blue Star Mothers at the Military Kids Program at the Manning Family Children's Hospital in New Orleans. The event gave military families an opportunity to connect with a number of Veteran Service Organizations.

Welcoming Honor Flight



LA1 member Denise Singleton joins VA2, VA4 and VA5 Blue Star Mothers to greet the Old Dominion Honor Flight at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va.



Memorial Day 2025

Sacrifices Remembered, Heroes Honored.



MEMORIAL
DAY