



**BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.**

**November 2024**



**HONORING ALL WHO SERVED**

# **VETERANS DAY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



## A message from our National President

Dear Sisters,

As we commemorated Veteran's Day on November 11, our DC Representative, Teresa Sumners, along with my Patriotic Instructor, Veteran Leslie Majocka, Historian, Deb Waltz, and I were honored to attend the National recognition ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

The laying of the wreath is always a humbling experience and one for which I am very grateful. We also presented a check to Women in Military Service For America (WIMSA). This is a beautiful memorial recognizing and honoring our Sisters who served. If you are not familiar with them, please check out their website <https://womensmemorial.org/>. If you are one of our Military Veterans, please consider joining their great organization and sharing your story; YOU are part of our WIMSA history.

For this month's newsletter, I decided to feature our very own Sisters who have served, or are currently serving, in the military. I knew we had several but I was pleasantly surprised at the response I received when seeking out this information. THANK YOU, Sisters, for your service!

(Note: we may not have captured all of our Veterans, but we did our best)

Keep working the mission and collaborating with other Chapters ~ together, we are stronger!

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



Hello, my name is Becky Bowden and I served in the US Navy from 1973 to 1978. I joined the military for the GI Bill and somehow earned a husband as well. I served Marines from Paris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Sailors at Keflavik Naval Station, Iceland as a Hospital Corpsman and eventually attained HM2. I returned to college using the GI Bill and earned a BS in Physical Therapy. We have 2 sons, the older enlisted in the Ohio National Guard and the youngest enlisted in the US Marine Corps, has passed the 20 year mark, is intent on staying in 30 years and is stationed on Okinawa. I joined BSM shortly after a new chapter formed in our area. Both boys are married with two children each. My husband went on to serve 33 years in the US Navy Reserves with two deployments after completing 6 ½ years active duty. We now both work on our farm in Ohio producing hay, maple syrup, honey, jams, peanut brittle and beeswax. And I travel the world at every opportunity!



Hello, my name is Greta Moore and I served in the Army from 1979-2006

I joined the military straight out of college and served as a Lieutenant Colonel UH-60 Helicopter Maintenance Officer. I was stationed stateside (J-5 Northern Command, Peterson AFB), Korea (2 nd Aviation Battalion, 2 nd Infantry Division) and Germany (7/159 th Aviation Regiment) during my military career. I joined BSMA in 2019 when my son entered the Air Force. I have participated in many service projects to include Field of Honor, Wreaths for Vets, Gold Star Mothers Luncheon, served as an officer, VAVS representative, Blue to Gold Representative and many other activities. My son is currently on active duty serving as an F-16 Avionics Repairman. He is currently deployed and he and his wife are stationed at Shaw AFB. We have one other child, who is not military, and 1 grandchild.



Hello, my name is Nicole Lorenc, and I served in the US Air Force from 1984-1988

I joined the military straight out of high school and served as Inventory management specialist AFSC 645x0 E-4. I was stationed overseas at RAF Upper Heyford for 2 years, then came back stateside and was stationed at Charleston AFB for 2 years. I joined BSMA in 2019 when my youngest daughter entered the Air Force. She is currently active duty stationed in RAF Molesworth. My oldest daughter is a High School math/computer science teacher.



First picture me in Basic Training. Second my AF daughter and me this summer at the Jersey Shore





Hello, my name is SFC Dixie Thompson, US Army Retired, aka Sgt Dixie

I served in the Army from 1973-1995. I joined the military after some college and life experience. I served as a military policewoman (and traffic accident investigator), journalist, and military intelligence traffic analyst (and Chinese Mandarin linguist and cryptanalyst). I was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany; Vint Hill Farms, VA; Presidio of Monterey, CA; Ft Meade, MD; Camp Humphreys, Korea; Ft Lewis, WA; and Schofield Barracks, HI. I currently live in Paradise, NV, also known for the Strip of Las Vegas. I joined BSMA in 2019 when my son was stationed in Germany with the Army. He had previously served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Korea. He is still a few years away from retirement. I spend my time working with veteran support organizations and writing books for women veterans. My photos are from my time in Frankfurt working with German Polizei and from the I Am Not Invisible campaign which the VA ran a few years ago.



Hello, my name is Yi Eubanks and I served in the U.S. Army from 1990-1994

I joined the military straight out of high school and ended up as E-4 Specialist. I served in Panama in Echo Co. 142nd Medical Battalion pretty much my entire enlistment period as a 92A, which was a Logistic Specialist. I started out as a Food Supply specialist but that job was consolidated to logistic specialist during my enlistment.

I became a Blue Star mom first when my daughter enlisted in 2014, she served 7 years also in the U.S. Army. I became a Blue Star mom the second time when my son also enlisted in 2018, he served 2 and half years, also in the U.S. Army.



Hello, my name is Rebecca Childress and I served in the Army from 1992-1997

I joined the military straight out of high school and served as a 95B/Military Police. I was stationed stateside and overseas throughout my military career, serving at Fort McClellan, AL, Camp Humphreys, Korea, and Fort Belvoir, VA. I joined BSMA in 2022 after both my sons entered the Army. My oldest is serving in Korea and my youngest is serving at Fort Cavazos, TX and is currently on a deployment. My husband is also an Army veteran and we've been married for 29 years after meeting in Korea. I have also served as a DoD civilian for 15 years with the last 5 at Headquarters Marine Corps at Quantico.



Hello, my name is Katie Heskett, and I served in the US Air Force from 1994-2002

Originally from Illinois, I joined the Air Force after teaching grade school for five years – quite possibly a wild whim, but it was one of the best decisions of my life by leading me into a career in healthcare as well as pairing me with an amazing fellow airman who would in time become my husband. Those early days of adapting to military norms created a whole new world for me and rooted my love of our country even deeper in my heart. Marching and saluting were worlds away from my classroom days as a teacher, and I loved so much about that formative and fulfilling chapter in my life. The youngest of ten children, I know that my parents always beamed with pride when sharing that their daughter wore combat boots! My Air Force career field was 4A0/Healthcare Management, and I held the rank of Staff Sergeant at the conclusion of my active duty service. I was stationed stateside throughout my military career, and my assigned bases were Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina and Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. Upon departing from the military, I didn't stay away long, returning as a DoD contractor for another five years at the same base as my final assignment.

As the mother of an airman, I'm thrilled to watch our son enjoying his own service in the Air Force. Joining my former Illinois BSM chapter in 2017 offered me a cherished network of committed and supportive fellow military moms, especially in those earliest days of missing our son as well as adjusting to the parent role that included all the worries and challenges that come with wearing the military mom hat! Our wonderful son – a crew chief - and his beautiful new wife are currently stationed in California, and we're thrilled for the adventures and opportunities our son's service are bringing to his life's journey. We've loved making visits to his duty stations through the years – a fun and nostalgic walk down memory lane from our own days in the service.

We are also the parents of a talented nurse, and we recently relocated from Illinois back to South Carolina, a state that has been dear to us since our first assignment at the start of my years of Air Force service. My new BSM chapter welcomed me as we settled in after our move, and I'm grateful for the blessings of Blue Star Mothers of America.



Hello, my name is Rhonda Hotard and I served in the Navy from 1988-1992

I joined the military about 2 years after high school and served as a 2nd class petty officer Electrician's Mate. I was stationed onboard the USS Canopus AS-34 in Kingsbay, GA for the majority of my time and that is where I met my husband who was also aboard the Canopus serving in a security capacity with the Marine Detachment. I became a Blue Star Mom when our Son Jordan followed his dad's footsteps (and grandfather) and joined the Marine Corps in 2014. He is now a Veteran and has completed his Bachelors degree from Southeastern Louisiana University. We also have a daughter who made us grandparents 4 months ago. Of all the titles I have had, I do think grandma is the BEST. We are a very proud military family having 4 veterans in the immediate circle and 3 generations of Marines.



My name is Jacqualene Keay and I served in the Army from 1988 to 1992

I was a 72L, and joining the Army was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I am the mother of a veteran and an active duty soldier. I am so proud of being a BLUE Star Mama! I have been involved in our local chapter for over two years. I share our mission with anyone who would listen. This is how I meet and recruit more Blue Star moms.





My name is Junnie Watson and I served in the Army from 1987-1991

I was stationed at Fort Campbell Kentucky and West Germany. I joined BSM in July 2018 when my son joined the Navy. He is now a veteran after serving 5 years.

I have a daughter she is not a veteran.

I also have two grandchildren.



Hello, my name is Mary Spurrell and I served in the US Army from 1980-1984

I joined the military straight out of high school and served as Specialist 4 91C. I was stationed stateside throughout my military career, serving at Ft Leonardwood, Ft Sam Houston and the 151st General Hospital in Saco Maine.

I joined BSMA in 2020 when my son entered the US Army. He is currently deployed to Korea. My husband is also an Army veteran having served during the Gulf War. Our oldest son is an Army Veteran. We also have a daughter and 8 grandchildren.



Hello, my name is Regina Cherf, I was active duty Air Force 1984 - 1988  
and US Air National Guard until 2022

I joined right after high school and was stationed at Keesler AFB (1986-1988), March AFB (1985 when it was an actual base) USAFA Colorado Springs 1985-1986 and the 144th FW in Fresno from 1988 until 2022. I was 17 years enlisted and 21 as an Officer.

I met my husband, Darrell, in the Air Force and our 3 children joined the Air Force. One Air National Guard (Cristianna) 144th FW Air Crew Life Support, one active duty (Elisabeth) Beale AFB, Network Intel and on to the Academy (Darrell John, DJ) currently stationed at Luke AFB as an F36 Instructor Pilot.



My marvelous USAF Family at my retirement!



My son taking my picture when I got a ride in an F16



My son graduating from USAFA with USAF  
mom, dad and grandpa



Me and my daughter Elisabeth at basic training

My name is Stacy Breithaupt (some know me as Stacy of Facebook)  
and I served in the Army from 1997-2006

I joined the military straight out of high school and served as both a Combat Medic and Emergency Medical Technician and deployed to Iraq in 2005-2006. In 2019 my youngest son joined the Army and I joined BSMA in 2022 when I moved back to my home state of Michigan. My complete Army story was recently written in Voices to Veterans and can be found at:

<https://davidegrogan.com/2024/10/specialist-stacy-breithaupt-u-s-army-treating-soldiers-and-detainees-a-combat-medics-story/>



Me and my Grandma Brooks at my going away party

See more photos of Stacy in the story that is linked

Hi I am Mary Sharp, I joined the Navy in 1990 and was on active duty until 1994

I enlisted as a Signalman (SM) but women still weren't allowed on a lot of ships, so I ended up working in base security as a military police officer (MA) and a K9 trainer. I am a mom of 3 and a memaw of 6.

I joined the Blue Star Mother's in 2019 when both my sons joined the military. I am now the proud mom of an Army veteran and a Navy veteran.



My name is Andrea Kerfeld and I served in the MN Army National Guard from 1999-2007. I completed my basic training at Ft. Leonardwood, MO and my AIT training at Ft. Huachuca, AZ. My MOS was an intelligence analyst. I joined the National Guard at the age of 17 and completed my basic training between my junior and senior years of high school. I come from a long line of veterans in my family and am very proud to have carried on the tradition. I became a Blue Star Mother in 2022 after my oldest daughter joined the MN National Guard. She is currently employed full time with the Guard.



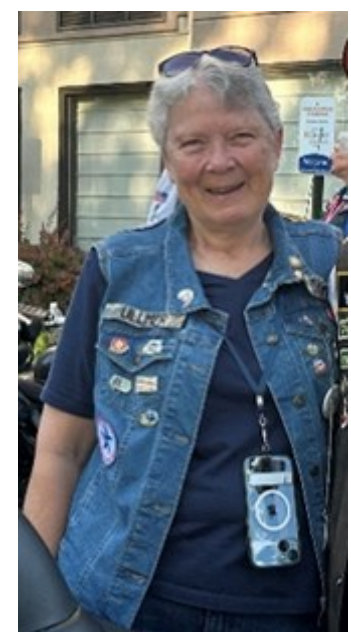
Hello, my name is Jeanne Ullmer, Women's Army Corps (WAC) from October 1973 until January 1978. I went to Tech School for a year after high school and then after going home for the summer and working my old summer job (Dairy Queen) I joined the Army. My brother who was away at Tech School received a postcard in the mail about joining the Army, sounded like a good idea, so I sent in the postcard and next thing I knew I was off to Fort McCellan, AL for basic training. Back in those days, basic training was segregated so it was women only. We wore skirts and nylons. For PT you had shorts under your wrap around skirt with white anklets. Different time for sure. After basic training I went to Fort Jackson, SC for Advanced Individual Training (AIT). I was going to be a clerk-typist, 71B and the AIT school was self-paced and since I had just finished Tech School for Clerical, I was done in 2 weeks. The Army had me go to a men's basic training company to work until I had orders for my next duty station. My orders came in February, and I was going to Fort Devens, MA. I was with the Army Security Agency. There I worked in the "drop office" where students that came in that were in the morse code school and didn't pass their tests would then be assigned to some other MOS at some other AIT schooling base.

During my time at Fort Devens, I transferred with the Captain I had been working for to a student school company and was the Company Clerk. In 1976, I reenlisted to go to Germany. There I was stationed at Field Station Augsburg, and I worked in the mailroom for a short time before I was transferred to Service Company as their Company Clerk.

After I got out of the service, I moved back home, got a job, got engaged to an Army Veteran whom I met when I was stationed in Germany, got married, moved to California where my husband was from and had a job as a police officer. I went to school on my GI Bill for a couple of years and raised our kids. We had two kids and decided it was time to move back to Minnesota (my home state) and we have been here for 40+ years.

I joined BSMA in 2006 when my son (Army-Military Police 25th Infantry Division Schofield Barracks, Hawaii) (yes, I visited him several times) was getting ready for his second deployment. He had already spent one deployment in Afghanistan. It was tough not having anyone to share or understand what I was experiencing. He is now a disabled combat veteran and he and his family live close by, which is wonderful. He has two children. I also have a daughter and her family that don't live too far from us. I have a total of 5 grandchildren, 3 boys and 2 girls.

I will conclude by saying that my experience in the military was mostly good. I do not regret it at all. I joined at the end of the Vietnam War, and it was certainly not a popular thing to do, especially for a woman. It took a long time for me to say to people that I was a Veteran, and I do still struggle with that, but the support of my Blue Star moms has made it a little easier.



Brenda Marcus

I joined the Army in March 1982. From 1983 to 1984 I was stationed in Germany as a cook. When I came home I entered the Army Reserve from 1984 to 1994. My job there was Supply Specialist and later Chemical.

I joined the Blue Star mothers in 2013 after my middle son joined the National Guard in 2012. He, his wife and 3 beautiful children(2 girls and 1 boy) live in MN and still very active NG and is a Supply NCO for a local unit. I do have 2 other sons that decided not to join . Very proud of my boys.



Hi, I am Lisa Kowatch, I served in the Navy (May 1983 -1987) as an EM3

In boot camp on my dream sheet I put overseas and stationed on a ship. January 1984 I was stationed on the USS Puget Sound Gaeta , Italy, my dream came true. Next 2 years the ship, which carried the Admiral of the 6th Fleet, toured the Mediterranean stopping in many ports, Spain, France, Italy, Israel till it was sent back to Norfolk Va.

I met my husband of 39 years on this ship. We have 3 sons , one is a business owner, one is a flight attendant and one an officer in the navy with 16 years in. 2 grandchildren and 2 wonderful daughter in laws.

My Dad was a Seebee in World War 2 ,wounded and received the Purple Heart.

He was the reason I enlisted.



Hello. My name is Pamela Graber and I served in the United States Air Force from 1993-2013

My AFSC was 906/4A0 Health Services Management. I was stateside throughout my military career serving at Scott AFB IL, Charleston AFB SC and then finishing my career at McGuire AFB NJ. During my time at McGuire I had a humanitarian effort in support of Haiti and two deployments in support of OIF/OEF; Ramstein Germany and Bagram Afghanistan both were CASF Missions.

I joined BSMA in August 2022 when my daughter became a contracted Cadet through the University of South Florida's AFROTC program her Junior year of college. She entered Active Duty July 2023 and is currently stationed at Holloman AFB NM with her fiancé. I have another daughter that is a current junior in college studying pre-veterinary medicine. And a bonus kid that is a senior in high school.

I would love to add that my daughter is 3rd Generation Military (3rd Gen Air Force on my side) and is the first to be an Officer on either side of the family tree. Her father and stepmother are also retired USAF.



My daughter at my daughter's college, USF Commissioning Ceremony. First Salute



A recent pic from a Veteran Ceremony

Hello, my name is Joan Glover, and I served in the US Air Force from June 1977 – August 1997.

I joined the military at 23 years old and served in various aspects of many Supply Squadrons, concluding my career on the Logistics Staff at Air Combat Command Headquarters, Langley AFB.

I was also a Training Instructor serving at Lackland AFB, TX, and a vocalist with the Air Force Entertainment Group, Tops in Blue, touring both the southern states installations and those in the Pacific Theater. In 1990, I deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of Desert Shield/Desert Storm. My husband is also a retired Air Force Veteran and an Associate Member of the Blue Star Mothers.

My 20-year career took me to Rhein-Main AB, Germany, Lackland AFB, TX, Luke AFB, AZ, Randolph AFB, TX, Lindsey Air Station, Germany, and Langley AFB, VA.

I joined the Blue Star Mothers in 2017 since my daughter, Julie, was already in the Air Force, having joined in 2008. She is now a Lt Colonel, stationed at Peterson AFB, CO. We have no grandchildren but two very rambunctious granddogs.

I'm currently the Recording Secretary of BSMA Lehigh Valley Chapter PA201. Proud to be a part of such a wonderful organization supporting all of our children serving in the military!



Hello, my name is Belinda Owens (Savage) and I served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1980-1989

I joined the military straight out of high school and served as Sergeant (SGT). I was stationed stateside throughout most of my military career, except for the one year in Japan, serving at Arlington, VA, Okinawa Japan, Camp Pendleton CA, finishing up in Kaneohe HI. I was raised in a military family my father was retired Air Force, I had 4 brothers (Army, Marines, Air Force, Army). I have 3 children, My son Troy is a Marine (15+ years/SSGT), My daughter Tracy is a school teacher, and my daughter Katherine is a Sergeant in the Army and serving as an MP in El Paso, TX.

I joined BSMA in 2022, after moving to Tennessee and learning about BSMA. We have 3 grandsons (Hayden, Ryan, and Sameul).

Note: My mother was so proud of me that when I was stationed in VA, she would tell everyone that I worked at the Pentagon. Well she was close I was just up the street. Another thing I was able to do was ride in the motorcade for the inauguration of President Reagan/VP George Bush.



Hello, my name is Alita Mahadocon and I served in the USAF from Jan 1990 - Jan 2010

I joined the military at the age of 21. I started out in Services which was originally food, lodging and mortuary. A few years later our squadron merged with fitness and recreation . I was stationed stateside most of my career with the exception of a short tour in Korea. I deployed 10 times throughout my career to Saudi, Kuwait, UAE, Mogadishu, and Italy. My favorite things I enjoyed most with my career was the traveling and the amazing people who I have crossed paths with. Most became family. I joined BSMA in 2022 a few years after my youngest son had entered the USAF. My son is currently deployed in Kuwait. I have one older son also. I am very proud of both of my boys



My Retirement 2010



Feb 2020 his basic graduation



November 2024

Hello, my name is Major (Ret.) Cheri L. Rumler

I was proud to be 'a lifer' and served 20 yrs. 2 months and 15 days in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps Reserves AMEDD.. My interest in the Army was spirited by my father, a WWII Pacific Theatre Vet. When I received word that I was selected, as a presidential appointee, thanks to Pres. Ronald Reagan, I asked my Dad for his blessing, to which he gave. Unfortunately, he didn't live long enough to witness my commissioning ceremony, as a 2LT. on 2 Apr. 1983 at the War Memorial Center in Milwaukee, WI. I was 27 yo at the time and had graduated with an A.D. in Nursing in 1980 and spent not quite 3 years gaining civilian experience. I joined the 452nd General Hospital in Milwaukee, WI the following weekend after my commissioning ceremony. From Wisconsin, I then joined a 100 Bed Station Hospital in Wilmington, DE for all 9 mos, until moving to Southern California, where I joined the 458th M.A.S. H. in Garden Grove, CA. I was mobilized with my unit and 2 other medical units and assigned to the 129th EVAC Hospital out of San Diego, CA. to see e in 'Operation Desert Shield-Desert Storm' in '90-'91 and was stationed in Cement Saudi Arabia and Dubai United Arab Emirates. I lived through 9 out of 11 nights of 'scud attacks', in Cement City and wore my MOPP Suit daily with my gas mask secured in its case around my waist. For medical reasons, I was medavac'd stateside out of the Middle East, then to Germany and then all the way back to California where I was in 'MED HOLD' status at Ft. Ord, CA at Silas B. Hayes Army Medical Center for my ortho care. I had to be relocated to Letterman Army Medical Center for continuation of my ortho care and to be closer to Oak Knoll Naval Hospital, in Oakland, CA for my maternity care, as I needed an OB-GYN Geneticist and became a study case for the U.S. Navy, while an in-patient on the maternity floor, given my exposure to the 'Pyridostigmine Bromide (17 pills of the anti-nerve agent taken under orders)) and the deployment immunizations that I had taken at Ft. Ord, before deployment overseas. The first pregnancy test, was 'negative', when it should have read 'positive' and it wasn't until, I got to Dubai, UAE. and that I requested a second pregnancy test at Min al-Had AFB, whereby my suspicions proved true, thus the reason for having to be emergency medavac'd out and returned stateside. According to the VA in D.C., I am the only known documented military person, who was pregnant and sent in support of 'Operation Desert Shield-Desert Storm'. in February of 1991 and returned to drill status at my home unit in Dec. of 1991, after completing my medical/maternity leave. My unit then became the 349th General Hospital HUM (Hospital Unit Medical), and later I went on a 3 yr. AGR (Active Guard and Reserve) tour with the 349th HUS (Hospital Unit Surgical) in Irvine, CA from Aug. 1995-Aug. 1998, after my second pregnancy. I performed the duties in the S-2 shop, as a 'Training Officer' working daily with the Pentagon and the ATRRS computerized system to send Enlisteds and Officers for their military schools throughout the U.S. Upon completion of that tour I finished out the few remaining years with the 7214th IMSU, in Garden Grove, CA., doing physical and out-processing exams and profiles, until June 15, 2003, when I retired. I am currently the Commander of American Legion Post 27 and President of the South Milwaukee Veterans Council, I am a life-long member of the Catholic War Veterans Post 672- Queen of Peace and its delegate to the M.C.V.A., Inc. (Milwaukee County Veterans Assoc., Inc.), where we help to support the War Memorial Center and its credo 'To Serve the Dead by Honoring the Living', as well as, being a member of VCRT (Veterans Community Relations Team) where we focus on supporting the veteran community and the legacy of Gen. Douglas Mac Arthur, and a life-long member of the 452nd General Hospital Alumni Assoc. Though I may be a retired Nurse-Officer and one, who took seriously the importance of being a 'patient advocate', I now take great pride in acting, as an advocate for other Veterans, but I am not a Veterans' Service Officer. When I'm not attending my veterans' organization meetings or babysitting my 2 grandchildren, Jonathan 5 yo and Ensley, 19 mos., I have enjoyed taking time out of my busy schedule to participate in my BSMA, Ch 2 of Wisconsin meetings, since 2021. I am the proud mother of 2 Army Brat daughters, Ashley, 33 yo and Nicole, 30 yo. Ashley is a Probation-Parole Officer Supervisor for the State of WI and is married to Johnnie, an awesome St. Francis Cop. As for Nicole, she is a former active duty Army Infantry Officer and currently is a Captain in the MI (Military Intelligence) Corp. She is now on a 9 mos. deployment tour in Poland and we are looking forward to welcoming her home next July of 2025. As I did, during my entire military career, I wear my Dad's dog tags with mine. Now both sets of our dog tags are worn with Nicole's, for 'good luck'!



Hello, my name is Beth Soelzer and I served 28 years in the Army National Guard from 1996-2024

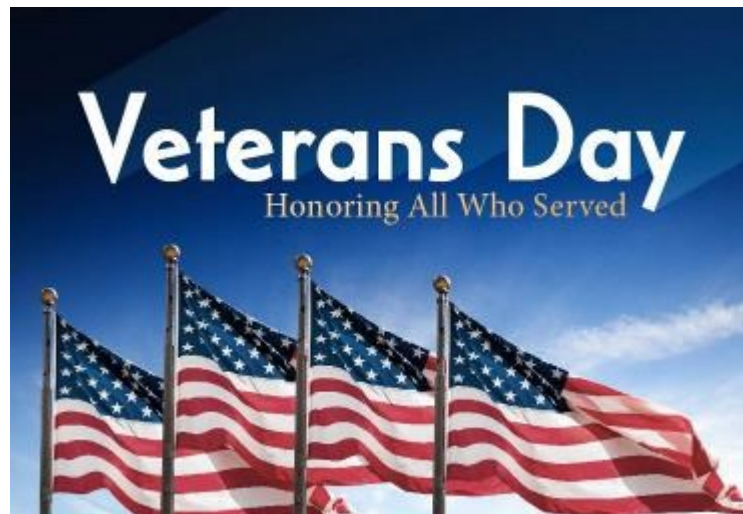
I enlisted in the military when I was 17 and attended Basic Training between my Junior and Senior Year with my best friend. I enlisted as an E-1 Private Crane Operator and was assigned to the 842nd Engineer Company out of Spearfish, SD. During my first enlistment I was nominated for Officer Candidate School and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Engineer Officer. After receiving my commission, I was assigned as a Platoon Leader in the 947th Engineer Company in Pueblo, CO. During my time with the Colorado Army National Guard, I served in several different positions at the Company, Battalion, and State Headquarters levels as a full-time guardsman. I deployed to Ramadi, Iraq, as a Company Executive Officer in 2005-2006 and again as a Company Commander in 2009-2010. I spent the last 12 years of my Military career with the California Army National Guard. I worked full-time in the Facilities and Engineering Directorate, supporting the facilities of the CAARNG soldiers. I also deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, from 2020-2021. I retired as a Lieutenant Colonel this past June 2024, after 28 years. I have been supported by my husband of 24 years, Joshua, who is also a veteran, and my three boys, Austin (24), Christian (21), and Caleb (19). I joined BSMA a few months ago, in 2024, when my son, Austin, entered the Army. He is a Second Lieutenant stationed at Fort Hunter Liggett, CA.



Hey, my name is Debbie Rasmussen

I served in the Navy ('71-'76) as a Corpsman...[we were Corpswaves back then]

I joined the Navy after struggling to pay for college and work 2 jobs, at least with Navy I would get college money in the end. Women back then could only enlist for 3 yrs. I was living in West Palm Beach when I joined and went to boot camp in Bainbridge MD in February...needless to say it was insane cold. I went to Corps school in Great Lakes, IL. My first duty station was the hospital at Camp Lejeune where I thought I would spend the rest of my enlistment. After less than a yr, I was told to pack up and in 2 weeks I was being transferred to a clinic in Athens Greece. (The needs of the service) I finished my enlistment there and had received a "Dear John" letter. I reenlisted for 25 months to go to the hospital in Rota, Spain. I met my husband, who was also in the Navy and stationed on a ship dry docked there. We have been married 48 yrs and have 2 daughters and a son. Our son enlisted in the Navy after he finished high school. He served 20 yrs in aviation and retired 5 yrs ago. We have 5 grandchildren. We will have a great granddaughter in March. I helped start our chapter in 2011. I have so appreciated the sisters that helped make my son's many deployments to unknown places bearable for me. I could not have kept my sanity without their help, they are all very special to me because they always understood.



Hello, My name is Jo Ann Monson and I served in the Army Reserves from 1983 to 2003

I joined the military my senior year and left for basic training after graduation. I had basic at Ft Jackson, South Carolina and school at Ft Lee Virginia. I was stationed in Minnesota in Willmar, Camp Ripley and Arden Hills. I was station in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I had training at Ft McCellan Alabama, Washington, Pennsylvania, Ft McCoy Wisconsin, Colorado and Texas. I joined BDMA in 2024 when my son entered the Air Force. He completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base and is currently still there for Security Forces Tech school. I have 3 other children and 5 grandchildren.



# *Thank You* VETERANS

**The following are Blue Star Mothers who have served in the Military but whom we were unable to obtain additional information from. We are very proud of all our Sisters who have served and have raised the next generation of heroes!**

Rhonda Ziehl, Air Force from 4/1988-11/1992 as a Law Enforcement Bomb Dog Handler

Jeanne Gallagher, I served in the U.S. Army from 1975 to 1996

Laura Rose Udem, US Navy veteran 1981-1982

Karen Bolles, US Navy 1984 - 1994

Lorraine Timmerman, Army from 10/1990 - 07/1996

Mary Roat, US Navy from 1981 - 2012

Tiffany J Robertson, United States Army Reserve, 1992-2000

Lisa Hartford, USAF, 1995-2001

Kristine Wirgau, Army 1974 - 1977

Teresa Bullock, Army 1979-1982. I currently work as a civilian in the Department of defense with the Army

Tammara (Tammy) Richard, Army / Army Reserve from 1988-1994

Nina Porter, I served in the USAF 1976 thru 1981

Dawn-Marie Cuddy, Army Combat Medic Vet, Nov1989-Nov1997

Constance Werthe, Air Force from 1999-2001 and Army from 2005-2015

MSGT Connie F. Owens, (1975-2007) USAF Retired

Kathleen Johnson, USMC from 1985-1989

Roberta (Bobbie) Ganley, I served in the USAF 1976 - 1982

Cheyenne Bart, I served in the US Navy from 1994-1997

Lynette Ristau, USAF Sgt 1989-1993

Amy B. Kellerhuis, US Army Reserve/National Guard (started in Reserve, switched to Guard) 1992-1996



*Thank You*  
**VETERANS**

Andrea Fountain, USAF 1997-2002

Betty Leach, retired Air Force and served from 1979 to 1994

Chris Decker, Army Veteran

Kathleen Heskett, United States Air Force (active duty) 1994-2002

Cynthia Leblo, United States Army, Tennessee National Guard component. I am a Master Sergeant and joined in 2004. I am still serving.

Carolyn Rinehart, US Navy from 03/1988 until 03/ 1991

Liliana Ramos, USAF and ANG. I have an active duty retirement after serving from 1975-2008

Patricia Gore, US Air Force 1987 - 1997

Susanna M Nurick, USAF 1979 -1987

Carrie Malpica, US Navy 1991-1995

Laura Rothballer, Army Reserve 1988-1995

Stephanie Cole, Army Veteran, 1993-1996

Mayri Hebert, U.S. Army Veteran, Served April 16, 1975 - October 13, 1978

