



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

October 2024

A message from our National President

Dear Sisters,

The second half of September and the first several weeks of October have been a bit of a whirlwind. Teresa Sumners and I had the privilege of attending Gold Star Mothers Day Weekend in DC, where we presented five of the Gold Star Mothers National Board Members with a banner honoring their hero.

October 4-6, I attended the Department of Ohio Convention

Congratulations to their new Board: President Barb Cook; 1VP Sherry Mikesell; 2VP Sherry Cullison; RecSec Angela Monroe; FinSec Marie Taylor; Treasurer Gretchen Schmitz.



Dept. of Ohio Convention National Executive Board Attendees:

Judy Dorsey/PNP, Jacqueline Ransom/3rd VP, Karen Stillwell/1st VP, Barb Cook/Dept. of OH President, Rebecca Stafford/National President, Amy Jo Hutchinson/Recording Secretary, Stacy Breithaupt/Treasurer

Contact Information for National Executive Board

President: Rebecca Stafford - MO
president@bluestarmothers.us

1st VP: Karen Stillwell - OH
1vp@bluestarmothers.us

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

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

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

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

Financial Secretary: Carrie Beck - FL
finsec@bluestarmothers.us

Treasurer: Stacy Breithaupt - MI
treas@bluestarmothers.us

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This past weekend, I attended the Department of Minnesota Convention

Congratulations to their new Board: President Jen Pecarina; 1VP Theresa Hawkinson; 2VP Tish Carlson; 3VP Mary Johnson; RecSec Pam McCabe; FinSec Karla Keller; Treasurer Jeanne Ullmer.

See their full page of Highlights from the Convention on page 42



Dept. of Minnesota Convention National Executive Board Attendees:

Lynn Feldman/PDP of Ohio, Sonya Kay/4th VP, Jen Pecarina/Dept of MN President, Rebecca Stafford/National President, Karla Keller/2nd VP

It is always great to attend the Department Conventions and have quality Sister time – thanks so much! I am looking forward to Michigan at the end of this month.

We are VERY close to signing the contract for our 2025 Convention so be watching for some Convention Chatter to start rolling out. I'm very excited about next year's Convention. Being a training year, we are taking a step back to my first Convention, 2016, and having actual breakout sessions. You will have the opportunity to select the sessions you wish to attend, then spend an hour + diving deep into how that job is performed at the National level and have quality Q&A to see how you can do better at the Chapter level. Don't forget, the Chapters can hold fundraisers to help offset the cost of sending their Delegates. I encourage each Chapter to send at least two members to soak up the training and bring information back to your Chapter.

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



Gold Star Mothers Day Weekend

September 27-29, 2024



American Gold Star Mothers Past President Pam Stemple, Current American Gold Star Mothers President and National Blue Star Mothers Parliamentarian Patti Elliott with National Blue Star Mothers of America President Rebecca Stafford on RED Friday



Gold Star Mother Nichole Chilton, Patti and Rebecca at the American Gold Star Mothers Banquet



Teresa Sumners/DC Rep and Rebecca ready for the banquet



During the banquet Rebecca had the honor of presenting these Gold Star Mothers with their service banners that they had previously not received.

Left to Right: Sherrie McGhee, Nichole Chilton, Patti Elliott, BSM President Rebecca Stafford, Rose Duval and Theresa Karlson.



Patti laying the wreath representing American Gold Star Mothers at Arlington National Cemetery

IT'S RENEWAL TIME/ Grace Period!!

Although our membership runs from September 1 through August 31, our renewal period begins June 1 each year. Within the next several weeks, you will be receiving an email with instructions to renew. For your convenience, we have noted several ways in which you can do this:

Option 1: Click the link provided in the email and pay online. **This is the easiest and quickest way to renew.** Once you submit your payment online, your profile is automatically updated with payment information and your expiration date will change to 08/31/2025. No waiting - done! **We do ask that you print your receipt and provide a copy to your Chapter for their records.**

Option 2: You may pay your Chapter and they can submit a Chapter Dues Renewal on your behalf. **This is also an easy way to renew your dues.** It will take a little longer than paying online by the time the Chapter and the National 1VP/National Financial Secretary process the renewal. Although this is done in a timely fashion, please remember, we have thousands of members renewing so things do slow down just a bit between June and August based upon how many choose this method of payment.

***Note to Chapters ~ please make sure your submissions are sent at least monthly.**

Option 3: Print the invoice and mail, along with your check, to the National Financial Secretary. While this is very much an option, it is the least recommended, simply for timing purposes. Once your invoice and payment make it through the mail to her PO Box, she then has to process, scan and email to the National 1VP. Please remember, both the National Financial Secretary and National 1VP are working very hard to get through all of their emails and processing procedures as quickly as possible. **So in a nutshell, this takes the longest to process.**

Renewal notices are automatically generated so you will receive one until your payment is posted and your profile is updated. If you choose option 2 or 3 above, please remember it takes longer to process and you may receive another renewal notice.

If you have **NEW** members joining, we highly recommend they join online. Again, this method is quicker; however, options 2 and 3 above are available as well. **Please use the new membership/associate and transfer forms posted on the website.**

Questions?? Please feel free to reach out to your National 1VP, I am happy to help you through the process. **More membership training coming soon!**

Yours in Service,

Karen Stillwell

National 1VP, 1vp@bluestarmothers.us



Treering 2023-2024 Yearbook Cover



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PURCHASE THE BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA 2023-2024 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 \$0.99.

To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook

Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

Go to: www.treering.com/validate

Enter your school's passcode:

101416260317183

Regular price: \$25.81



A



Online STORE

*New Items
Coming Soon*

- A. Travel Blanket with Embroidered Logo (58"x36") \$30
- B. Navy or Red, White, and Blue Umbrella with screenprint logo (42") \$20
- C. Laptop Sleeve with screenprint logo (17") \$25
- D. toiletry case with debossed logo (9"x10"x3-1/2") \$25
- E. Pom Beanie with Embroidered Logo \$20

B



C



D



E



We are pleased to announce we will be opening an online store platform similar to bonfire, but offers more variety of shirts, aprons, mugs, and more! The link will be found on our website under the online store tab!

Thank You
FOR SHOPPING WITH US

Online STORE BUNDLES

MISSION ESSENTIAL-\$50

LAPTOP SLEEVE (17")

2024 TOTE BAG

ORNAMENT

STRESS STAR

WINTER WONDERLAND-\$55

POM BEANIE

TRAVEL BLANKET (58"x36")

ORNAMENT

ON THE ROAD AGAIN-\$50

TOILETRY BAG (9"x10"x3-1/2")

UMBRELLA (42" COLOR OF YOUR CHOICE)

ORNAMENT

SALE ENDS DECEMBER 11TH

Thank You
FOR SHOPPING WITH US

From the desk of

Anne Parker, VAVS Representative



OPERATION HOLIDAY SALUTE

PLEASE JOIN

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

in Honoring Veterans in Hospice Care this season with Holiday cards.
Cards will be delivered to Veterans across the United States.

1. Address your holiday cards to "Dear Hero" or "Dear Veteran"
2. Deliver your holiday cards to your local AGSM, Inc. Chapter
or

Mail your cards to:
American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
c/o Patti Elliott
275 Rudd Road
Youngsville, NC 27596

Please postmark by November 12th, 2024

For more information please visit AmericanGoldStarMothers.org





A note from your National Webmaster

As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure effective communication, I am asking all Chapter Presidents and members to double-check their chapter and personal profiles and verify that the email address listed is current and accurate.

Please take a moment to review the following:

1. **Personal Profile:** Ensure your email address is correct and up to date.
2. **Chapter Profile:** Confirm that the email address associated with your chapter is accurate and active.

Chapter Presidents and Membership Chairs – please check with your members to be sure they are receiving emails.

Having accurate contact information is essential for staying connected and receiving important updates. If any corrections are needed, please make them as soon as possible.

We also have an issue where many of the emails sent out by the webmaster are bouncing back, particularly for members using email providers such as AOL, Yahoo, Outlook, and Hotmail, etc. We want to ensure that everyone stays informed.

To help us resolve this issue, we ask that you:

1. **Check Your Spam/Junk Folders:** If you are using one of the affected email providers (AOL, Yahoo, Outlook, Hotmail, etc.), please check your spam or junk folder for our emails. Mark them as “Not Spam” to improve future deliverability.
2. **Whitelist Our Email Address:** If possible, add our sending email address (bsma@memberclicks-mail.net) to your contacts or safe senders list to prevent future issues.

By updating your email information and ensuring that our emails are recognized, we can improve communication across the organization.

If you do not know your personal login credentials for the National Website, please contact the Webmaster@bluestarmothers.us and that information can be sent to you with a temporary password that you will then be able to reset.

Chapter Presidents - If you do not know your Chapter login credentials, contact the Webmaster@bluestarmothers.us to have that reset and sent to you.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!



It's BSMA Compliance Season!!

It may feel like fall is in the air, but it is also Compliance Season! Compliance Season runs from September 1st through December 1st each fiscal year so we are right in the heart of it!

What is Compliance Season you might ask? Every Department, Chapter, and Auxiliary of Blue Star Mothers of America, Incorporated must submit compliance documents once each year and this is that time. This is a legal obligation, parts of which are required by the IRS and by our State governments and by BSMA. We ask for this documentation because we are required to have it!

So far so good! This year about half of our Departments/Chapters/Auxiliaries have already started submitting their compliance reports and documents. Well done!

We even have a handful of Chapters that have already submitted everything and it has all been approved – this is awesome! You will receive an email from me when that happens for you!



Now let's add you to the list of those with components submitted if you aren't already on it, start submitting your compliance today!

You have been receiving Compliance Training Emails over the last several weeks, I hope you have been saving those for reference and sharing them with your compliance teams, especially with your financial officers. Soon you will receive a summary/review document that contains all this in one email. You can also find the updated Compliance Guide on our National website.

Remember to log in using your Department/Chapter/Auxiliary log in information when you are completing compliance!

Remember to use the most recent forms available, including the most recent Affiliation Agreement signed by our current National Officers in early August right after Convention.

Remember that even if your Chapter closed during the last fiscal year, you still are required to complete many aspects of compliance in order to formally close your obligations to the IRS, to your State, and to BSMA, Inc.

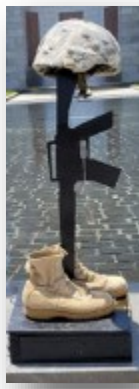
Remember that it does not matter how active your D/C/A is, everyone must complete compliance and it is due no later than December 1st every year.

Remember that submitted does not mean approved or accepted. All of our required compliance documents are reviewed by the N4VP, the N1VP, or the Financial Review Team. If you hear from one of these people, please respond as quickly as possible with the clarifications/corrections they have requested.

Everyone can help us get to 100% compliance – encourage your chapter Sisters along the way! Reach out anytime, I am here to help you!

Yours in Service,
Sonya Kay
National 4th VP – Compliance
4VP@bluestarmothers.us





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

Alfred Daniel McLean
Darrell Haney
Frances Moak Cole
Johnny R Morrow
Juan Medardo Biberos

Army

Acey Lester Lewis
Alberto Villarreal
Allen D. Westerman
Alvis Gene Johnson
Andrew George Jackson
Anthony Broude
Anthony Green
Ardella Annette Briggs
Aubrey "Papa Bear" Blue
Benny Rofulowitz
Bobby Gene Hammons
Bruce Daniel Crowe
Calvin James Bootsma
Caramel Lasheal Jones
Carl Timothy 'Tim' Davis
Carlton Dwayne Drakes
Cesar A Pinzon
Charles "Chuck" E Rudler
Charles "Chuck" Tidey
Charles Clifford Price
Charles Ottman
Charles Prescott Banghart
Charles R. McKain
Charles Sylvester Countryman
Christopher J. Cramblet
Clarence P Jenkins
Claude "Bruce" McTire
Clyde Brown
Cornie Ray Sneller
Dale Daniel Hagarty
Dale E. Fryman
Daniel Ray Claunch
Daniel Short
Danny Dudek
Danny Jay Hill
Danny Shea
David E Richard
David F. Edes
David Lee Scott
David Mark Turner
Dennis F. Regnier
Dennis Joseph Long
Diane E. Rapp
Donald Child
Donald Darrell Miller

Donald "Don" "Tommy"
Thomas Dobbins
Donald E. Welsch
Donald Higgins
Donald Lynn Rounds
Donald Shaffer
Donald "Skip" Matthews
Donald Smith
Donnie Driggers
Dylan Kyle Stevenson
Earl Clayton Gatlin Sr.
Eddy Cordero
Edward Howard Bowen
Edward Nauss
Edwin Henry Milford
Elbert L. Keefaurer
Elbert Lowery
Elvin G. Davis
Eudale Finn
Eugene Arthur Malliet
Everett C "Cliff" Grantham
Floyd R.M. Dolin
Fred Clemens
Frederick Carl Schneider Jr
Garfield McQueen, Jr
Gary Don Swearingin
Gary Edward Luck
George E. Graham Jr.
Gerald Eugene Fite
Gerald John Dandridge
Glenn Marvin Jennings
Gordon L. Seville
Gregory Murrell
Gregory R. Parks
Gregory Russell Sanders
Harkless Williamson
Harlan L. Bradford
Harold Ray Williams
Harry Lee Peterson
Helen Hall
Herbert Katz
Howard Chun
Howard Eugene Modrell
Hubert Leon Cates
James A. Ohrich
James Coleman
James Dougherty Jr
James Elbert Burney
James F. McArthur
James Franklin Burkett
James Leland Sills
James M Hayden
James Ronald Belt

Jerry Ray Karriker
Jerome James Minnicks, Jr.
Jessie J. Stafford, Jr.
Jesus DeLuna
Jesus Hernandez
Jimmy Will Harkness
Joe McEnroe
Joel Wayne Cook
Joel William Brown
Johan De Ruiter Jr.
John C. Kobasco
John David Porter
John David Schrimpf, II
John Frank McCune
John Harper
John Joseph Roy
John "Johnny" M. Grant
John L. Fennig
John Louis Harrington
John Michael Everett
John Scott Blair
Johnny Carol Jones
Johnny Robert Brewster
Joseph Allen Pettet, Sr.
Joseph Anthony DeCurtis
Joseph Lawrence Bradley
Joseph Parker McCain Jr.
Joseph Perry Jourdan
Joseph Wilmer Voisine
Judith "Judy" E. Sandbothe
Keith B. Swartz
Kenneth G. LaRue
Kenneth Lee Boulware
Kenneth Moss
Kenneth Odell Sutton Sr
Kenneth Ray Haines
Kenneth Shaun Manning
Kent Thomas Watson
Larry Bazor
Larry Wayne Ayers
Larry Wright
Lawrence David Bush
Lawrence Gerling
Lawrence Thomas Miller
Leo A Yunker
Leonard McDonald
Leroy Joseph Schmoeller, Jr.
Lonnell Bellamy
Louis Bommelje
Maurice Lamont Ansley
Michael Edwin Wheeler
Michael Handley
Michael John Foster

Michael Preston Burgess
Michael R. Leech
Nathan Jacoby
Paul Ameny Jr
Paul Arbin Stephens
Paul E Franklin
Paul J. Andrade
Peter Ortiz
Quinton Jerome Williams
Ralph E. Bogar
Ralph Neinz Zappe
Ray A. Montgomery
Ray E. Manspeaker
Ray Harper
Raymond Garvels
Raymond Weldon Ueckert
Reginold Ferguson
Rene Torrez
Richard A Lang
Richard Allen Hendrickson
Richard G. Klassen
Richard Lee
Richard Martinez, Sr.
Robert A. Simpson
Robert Clinton Saunders
Robert H. Goldman
Robert Harold Pirtle
Robert Lee McCullam, Jr.
Robert Luciani
Robert Mackiewicz
Rodney Royal
Roger Clawson
Roger Orrin Dennis
Ronald Dean Burge
Ronald Horner
Ronald K. Westervelt Sr.
Ronald Ray Grasty
Roy Wayne Johnson
Ruben Santana
Sam Warren
Santiago Machuca
Stephen J. Emery
Stephen W Sturm
Tennis "Butch" Oliver Richardson, Jr
Terrance Laverne Henry
Terrence Michael Kaye Jr.
Theodore Price
Thomas Bruce Boyd
Thomas Clark McCracking Sr.
Thomas J Evans
Thomas Marzette Vivins

Thomas Pena
Thomas Tennant
Tomaso A. Santomauro
Tony Dominguez
Travis A. Boone
Vernon Mace
Victor Betancourt
Victor Lopez
Wayne Anthony Shields
Wayne L Kadar
Willard D. Strickland
William Artis Massie
William "Bill" Mitchell Huffmaster
William Billy Marcus Summers
William Chase Owens
William Edward Kemper
William H. "Bill" Gray Jr
William H. Haynes Jr.
William Hardin Hale
William L. Weaver
Willie Mathis
Willie Sneed
Winston D. Boyd
Wyatt T. Galloway
Kyle J. Lamphere/Marine
Lock D. Aldrich/Marine/Air Force
Guy Allen Berg/Navy

Army Reserves

James Timothy Killgo
Michael B Slifer/Marine Res

Navy

Allen Wayne Smith
Archie J. Boscardin
Arthur Hugh Still
Ben Santillan
Bertram Edwin Moody
Bruce McMillan Beeles
Burdett (Buzz) Rust
Carmen Whately
Charles L. White
Charles Perkins
Charles Warren Haskell Jr.
Charlie Wright
Chester E. Mason
Chester J. Szachor
Clyde Thompson, Sr.
Craig Steven Collins
Dale Allen Gullede
David B Anderson
David Gordon Adams

David Hinman Foust
Don H. Stancoff
Donald Bergman
Donald Loren Rhodes
Edd Angel
Edward Everett Shell
Edward Stiffler
Elmer W. Blanken
Floyd Harold Strader
Floyd Warter
Frank A. Preuss
Frank Comelis Coleman
Frank Gambaccini
Garrel Eagan
Gary Don Lytle
Gene Gregory
George H. Archer
Gerald D. Davis
Glenn Kennedy, Jr
Gordon L Smith
Hal Laverne Sr
Harold Eugene James
Harry Conrad Welter
Henry Hodges Minor
Henry Howard Simmons
J N Henderson
James Bernard Wiemann
James Caulder
James "Jamie" Carl Wain-scott
Joe Wilbur Holland
Joel Wayne Johnson
Joey Keith Gantt
John Christian Glimmerveen
John Gerard Heiderstadt
John "Happy" Halapchuk
John Puccio
Johnnie Macon Kent, Jr.
John Roger "Doc" Nagel
Jon Lynn Shepard
Joseph Richard Crutcher
Joseph Winship Mongold
Keith Parker Cowan
Lawrence Olan Plaster
Marcy L. Jamison
Mark Keven Franks
Mark Nathan Baker
Maurice Joseph Couture
Merle Leroy Jenkins
Michael "Mike" David Robinson
Michael "Mike" Herron



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Navy continued

Norman Cavis Hosking
Raymond Bruce Lenk
Raymond Petko
Rex Givens
Richard D. Kuhlman
Richard L Hyser
Richard Ventson Bennett
Robert Allen Brown
Robert G. Mark
Robert J. Woodburn II
Robert Joseph Malone
Robert W. Bishop
Robert W. Glover
Roger Patrick Watts
Romeo Villanueva Nacua
Ronald James Norwood
Roy O'Neal
Rusty Ann Curtis
Stanley Cooper
Stanley Hickok, Jr
Stanley Wells
Stephen Daine Dugan, Sr.
Steven T. Lucas
Sylvester Trowell
Ted Crum
Thomas Byers Doner
Thomas Edward Rossi
Tommy Ardell Large
Vincent Sylvester Bletch Jr.
Walter Weier
William A. Ethier
William Beachel Turner
William Hermosillo
William L. Blevins
William M. Putnam
William Robert Buck
Inocencio Delacruz Jr/Air Force
Warren Montgomery Scott/Air Force
John Herschel Webb/Coast Guard

Marine Corp

Alexander Nozka
Archie Hugh Lawson
Bob Dixon
Bradley Bert Fargerstrom
Cameron L. Britton
Charles B Wilson
Charles E. Rollins
Charles J Skewes Jr

Chuck Gang

Dana E Mitchell
David F. Miller
David Kelly Price
Donald Lee Mason
Dustin Ryan Rister
Freddie Hendrix
Gary Kaiser
Gerald "Gerry" Emerson
Gerald L. Miller
James Allen Weeks
James Zevelo
Jedadiah John Boone
Jimmie R. Johnson
John Orlando Smith
Joseph Durham
Juan Ramos Castor
Junior Moak Albritton
Ken Santor
Larry Allen Bruffy, Jr.
Lonny Murl Livingston
Louis Victor Forgione
Lloyd Allen Todd Jr.
Mario D Wilkins
Melvin Dale Midkiff
Michael T. Caruso
Nathan Douglas Farley
Orville Allen Hutchison
Paul Mark O'Toole
Ramon V Silvacoll
Raphael Lennox Henry
Richard Andrew Crook
Robert Earl Severe
Robert Eugene Francis
Ronald Macumber
Roy Orson Johnson
Rudy C. Vigil
Sean 'Lucky' Luchtman
Timothy M. Huffman
Vernal Titus
William Hitzemann
Willis "Bill" John Williams Jr.
David Henry Hunt/Air Force
James Edward Johnston/
Army Reserve
John G. Atteberry/Navy

Coast Guard

Dean Eagle
John D. Skipper Jr.
Paul J. Tulleners
Ronald S Duncan
Roy Edward Paul Sr

Coast Guard

Alan Deloy Massey
Allen Vance Johnson
Alton Burley Conerly Jr.
Alvin Cripe
Arthur Lloyd Riley
Bennett Hodge Jr.
Bill Matney
Billie G. Mobley
Billy Bob Lane
Bruce L. Johnson
Carl David Hempe
Charles John "Chuck" Blowers
Christopher Thomas Wilson
Clarence L. Wilber
Dale Dantzic
Dan Thomas Gray
Daniel Alan Lewis
David Joseph Storey
David L. Good
David Lee Nimrod
David Neal Williams II
Donald Gerald Devine, Jr
Earl Edward Walker
Francis "Frank" Marczyk
Frank Lyman Ruby
Gary James Machovina
Graham Anthony Rogers
Harry Scott Pate
Horace Greene
Howard Edward Bartlett
Jack Thomas Reese
James Albert Kaufman
James Arthur Terry
James Francis Bauer II
James Franklin Whalen, Jr.
James M. Farmer
James S Hoefener
Jerry Wallace McNeal
Jim King
John William Keabler
Johnny Gentry
Jon Dennis Welder
Joseph John Lewis
Joseph John Marzec Jr.
Joseph Phillip Wojtal
Kenneth Ray Bays
Kenneth Ray Caudle
Kenneth Wayne Glass
Kenneth Wendell Peartree
Kermit Ellis Jones
Kevin Brion

Kevin Patrick Collins

Larry Donald Wagner
Larry Price Aulgur
Lawrence R. Carey
Lemuel Hood
Mark Damion Skerrett
Marshall Lloyd Akins
Mary Ann Thatcher
Melvin Anderson
Michael Doggett
Michael Keith Patrick. Jr.
Michael Merdith Moreland
Michael Wayne Pina
Ned Marion Sanders
Otis C. Lampkins Jr.
Pedro Navejar
Reginald Richmond
Richard Carl Giles
Robert "Bob" LeBlanc
Robert Dermont
Robert E. Hemberger
Robert Henry Butler
Robert Leedy
Robert Louis Gibson
Roger Charles Hallada
Ronald Lee Bartlett
Scott A. Gilmore
Stephen Burgus
Steven Lamont Grace
Steven Roy Sigman
Thomas Allen Holley
Thomas Earl Snyder
Thomas Edward McKinney
Thomas M. Rourke
Thomas Vane Higgins II
Venneth Jerome McDonald, Sr.
Wayne Arthur Brown
Will H. Lehman
William Frederick Fischer
William H. Ballard III
William Kosanke
William Mark Hayes
Daniel B. Webb/Army
Christopher Thomas Greene/Army
Dennis John Latour/Army
Joseph D. Duncan/Army
Sherman Walter Ludwig/
Army

Branch Unknown

Holly Charette Ride

Blue Daisies



Sharon (Sherry) Kramer
MI 178

Past Department of Michigan President

Sharon was ill this past year. Being ill, did not stop Sherry from leading us and participating in our chapter activities whenever she could.

Sherry will be missed by all her Blue Star Sisters.

WELCOME

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

Welcome to our newest chapter, NC 18. The new board was installed, via zoom, on September 16th and they have nine members. Sending best wishes to all of them as they start this new venture!



OH 1

On Monday, Sept. 16, Vicki Daniel and Anita Wagner were honored to represent OH1 and witness the dedication of the statue of President Abraham Lincoln at the Dayton VA Center. The statue depicts Lincoln signing the legislation that established a network of national facilities to care for Civil War soldiers. President Abraham Lincoln made a promise in 1865 to "...care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan..." and he signed the legislation to establish a system of soldier's homes to care for veterans. The Dayton Soldier's Home was one of the three initially authorized and it is known today as the Dayton VA Medical Center. Spirit of Freedom Chapter OH1 of Blue Star Mothers of America is proud to be an Ambassador Sponsor of this monument. Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. continues to carry on President Lincoln's mission to care for our veterans and their families.





North Central PA 12



PA 12 has been very busy supporting our military community:

- We were honored to be present at the Dedication Ceremony of the Purple Heart Memorial at the Lycoming County Veterans Memorial Park.
- We held our annual Patriot 5 K Color Run/Walk with the 327th Quartermaster Battalion Family Readiness Group.
- We supported all of the riders on the 9/11 Memorial Ride.
- We installed this year's Officers and enjoyed a wonderful picnic with our members and their families.
- We hosted a booth for Military Appreciation Day at the Bloomsburg Fair.





Ohio BSM True Blue 15

★ Welcome to Our New Board! ★

Ohio True Blue Chapter 15 installed our board members for the 2024-2025 service year. Their dedication truly makes a difference in the lives of many. We are grateful for their dedication to supporting military families, veterans, and the community. Their commitment and passion play a crucial role in making a positive impact.

Looking forward to a great year! Congratulations ladies!!



L-R:

Gretchen Schmitz/President

Karen High/Vice President

Deanna Theis/Treasurer

Vicki Peters-Wills/Financial
Secretary

Debby Wadham/ Recording
Secretary



We also have two new alternates
with us in this year of service.

Mary Evans/Alternate Patriotic
Instructor

Theresa Daniels/Alternate
Chaplain.



After meetings we often do crafts. We recently created tumbler designs. Keeps our ladies busy bonding, while we chat about things. Great to support one another.

We recently got to take a boat cruise and had dinner on the water.

Board Elections entailed a fun pool party afterwards.

Always making great memories together.





The Treasure Valley Blue Star Mothers of Idaho – ID3 had a two-part mission in September for our Homeless Veterans.

Our newly Elected Board for 2024-2025 is: Christine Boyd – President, Cheryl Miller – 1st Vice President, Christy McCabe – 2nd Vice President, Jennifer Michon – Financial Secretary, Lori VanLeewen – Treasurer and Deena Gardiner – Recording Secretary



On Sept 21st, we packed 250 Cinch Sacks with beanie caps, socks, gloves, comb, deodorant, lotion, shampoo, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, flossers, Kleenex, Girl Scout Cookies, and plenty of snacks.



On September 28th, we handed out our Cinch Sacks and fleece ponchos at the Homeless Veterans Stand Down at Boise VA





Lone Star Chapter, TX6



We held our annual Gold Star Lunch honoring local Gold Star Families. We visit with them and hear stories about their loved ones.

Each year we read the names of the fallen that have been entrusted to us to ensure they never forgotten.



2024-2025
Executive Board
President-Ann Cordero
1st Vice President-JB Owen
Financial Secretary-Charla Fletcher
Treasurer-Shelley Smith
Recording Secretary-Betty Matthews
(not picture)

Upcoming Events

October 19-Monthly meeting
October 26-Harley Davidson Event
November 9-Richardson Flag Program
November 11-Veterans Day, Greet Veterans at
Poor Richard's and Red Truck, Plano
November 16-Richardson Flag Program
December 14- Wreaths Across America



REMEMBER



FALLEN WARRIORS
MEMORIAL

HONOR



TX18-Spring
Creek Area
BSM



RESPECT





Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers



SEPTEMBER 29, 2024, NATIONAL GSM DAY!



FALLEN HEROES CEREMONY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

SANTA FE NATIONAL CEMETERY
42 UNCLAIMED VETERANS WERE LAID TO REST,
NM2 BLUE AND GOLD STAR MOTHERS HONORED THESE HEROES
FOR THEIR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE TO OUR NATION.



POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY -NEW MEXICO VETERANS MEMORIAL



WELCOME NEW NAVY MOM



MELISSA!

ON THE AGENDA FOR NM2
OCTOBER 4TH FUNDRAISER AT WEAMS GALLERY
OCTOBER 9TH QTR CON VAVS
OCTOBER 9TH, 5TH ANN. FOR FISHER HOUSE # 85
OCTOBER 12 DRIVE-THRU
OCTOBER 18TH STAND DOWN
OCTOBER 19TH GENERAL MEETING -HIGH TEA
OCTOBER 26-NATIONAL DAY OF THE DEPLOYED

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024
GOLD STAR MOTHER MARKER
DAVID WESTFALL VIETNAM
VETERANS MEMORIAL
ANGEL FIRE, NM WAS PLACED.



NM2 EXECUTIVE BOARD 2024-2025

PRESIDENT-MARLAINE

1ST VP -GLORIA

2ND VP-ROSEMARY

3RD VP-PATTY

4TH VP-KATHY

SECRETARY-STACEY

TREASURE-ANITA (NOT PICTURED)

FIN SEC-LISA (NOT PICTURED)



SEPTEMBER 10, NM STATE FAIR
"MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY"

THANK YOU CARDS SIGNED FOR DEPLOYED TROOPS



SEPTEMBER 28, DRIVE-THRU DONATION DAY



ROCHESTER 2024 STAND DOWN



The Rochester Blue Star Moms served lunch to the 342 Veterans who attend the Stand Down on 9/13/2024. Along with serving lunch, NY8 handed out personal care supplies to Veterans.



Military Appreciation Day at Stokoe Farms

On Sunday September 13th the Rochester Blue Star Mothers NY8 along with CompeerCORPS, The Vet Center, The Red Cross, The VA, The Veterans Outreach Center, and Before Last Call hosted military families with cider and donuts in the large barn while providing information about services and programs for area veterans, military service members and their families.



Gold Star Family Sunday

On Sunday, September 29th, the Rochester Blue Star Mothers NY8 hosted a remembrance and honor ceremony for Gold Star Families at the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument. Each Gold Star Family in attendance was presented with a yellow rose after their loved ones name was read. Various community groups participate in this ceremony including the Patriot Guard Riders of New York and the Gates Keystone Police Pipes & Drums. NY8 Chaplain Mary Anne Zani read a prayer at the Monument. Special thanks to Glenn Peck, Volunteer Photographer, who took individual portraits of the Gold Star Families at the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument holding their loved ones photo.



YELLOW ROSE - TX20

October 2024



BSMA Yellow Rose TX20



TX20 participated in North Texas Giving Day. This is a special day dedicated to non-profits. It offers Donors an opportunity to support causes near and dear to their hearts. Being a new Chapter, the funds raised will help us initiate valuable programs within our community. We are so thankful for the generosity of our Donors.



VFW

Members and Associate Members working the Frisco Oktoberfest with the Frisco VFW

TX20 attended a Gold Star Brunch hosted by our sisters at TX6. It was a lovely morning spent honoring Gold Star Families and their Fallen Heroes. Thank you to TX6 for the invitation to attend.

September 14th - Richardson, TX



Planning for the big Kickoff to the Toys for Tots Drive at Omni PGA Frisco

♥ YELLOW ROSE IN ACTION ♥

September Events

- Sept 10 Little Elm Veterans Committee
- Sept 14 Blue to Gold Brunch hosted by TX6
- Sept 16 Frisco American Legion Meeting
- Sept 17 Celina American Legion Meeting
- Sept 19 North Texas Giving Day
- Sept 19 Frisco VFW Auxiliary Bunco Social
- Sept 22 American Legion POW/MIA Sunset Vigil
- Sept 29 Toys for Tots Support for Local Hospitals

October Events

- Oct 5 Toys for Tots Planning Meeting
- Oct 5 Assisting Frisco VFW at Frisco's Oktoberfest
- Oct 14 B1 Bank Care Box Packing Party
- Oct 16 Hilton Care Box Packing Party
- Oct 17 Toys for Tots Kick Off Event

Members at AL POW/MIA Sunset Vigil in The Colony at Lake Lewisville



Making Connections in our Community!



Some SERIOUS Bunco FUN with friends from Frisco VFW Auxiliary



Financial Reconciliation Committee doing our internal Chapter Audit before we start work on Compliance.





Southwestern Pennsylvania

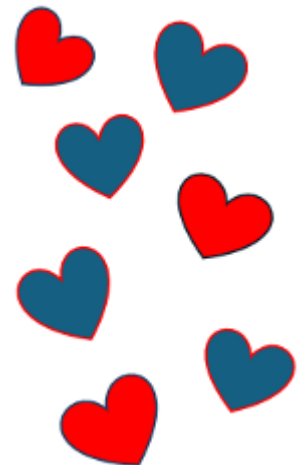
Chapter PA16

- Dinner at Smokey Bones restaurant, a community partner who placed a collection box for care package items
- Supported Heroes Supporting Heroes' efforts to collect donations for flood victims in Tennessee
- Hosted information table at Veterans Breakfast Club event
- Sent birthday cards to 100-year old Veteran
- Assisted Am Vets with cleaning out space
- Gearing up for next shipment of Care Packages
- Held officer elections for 2024-2025 program year
- Attended POW MIA Vigil Candlelight Ceremony hosted by Vietnam Veterans of Pittsburgh
- Participated in the 171st Airlift Wing Family Day
- Participated in Suicide Prevention Seminar at the 316th Base
- Hosted information table at Beaver County Muster
- Donated to local campuses for their student Veterans rooms
- Donated supplies to Veterans Leadership Program
- Attended 9-11 Remembrance Event
- Attended fundraiser hosted by Heroes Supporting Heroes
- Attended Crescent Twp. Community Day - Community partners gathered notes of support for holiday cards we will distribute in care packages.



Happy 20th Birthday to Blue Star Moms Houston TX-2

We celebrated our 20th birthday in grand style! We had great fun and fellowship! Ronda San Filipo thanked our outgoing Past President with a heartfelt thanks. Dianne Rives, Past President, gave a beautiful speech recapping the beginning and how our chapter has grown over these 20 years. One of the founding members was able to attend and share her stories of motivation for starting a chapter in our area. We honored Jodie Eakins as our Blue Star Mom of the year! Congratulations Jodie! We also thank Jennifer Sheridan for creating a beautiful charcuterie spread for us.



Western Slope Blue Star Mothers

CO8

Stars and Stripes BBQ Fest



This was the Stars and Stripes BBQ Fest's inaugural event and they donated 50% of the proceeds to the The Rocky Mountain Folds of Honor. Helping to raise life changing scholarship funds for the spouses and children of America's fallen or disabled military and America's first Responders.

We had a booth and got to speak to several military moms!

We Welcomed Home Zakary



We helped send off new recruits



Ohio Buckeyes Chapter OH 26



Installation of Kathy Root
our new Financial Secretary
by Pat Pell



We had the honor of participating in the Gold Star Families Monument dedication ceremony on September 29 In Lorain County, Ohio.



A few of our members were able to attend the Department of Ohio Convention. Kathy Root and Molly Clark presented the flowers during the memorial service. Pat Pell was awarded the "Shining Star" award for her many contributions to our chapter and the greater Blue Star Mothers organization. We're so grateful for her many years of service and her expertise.



MN 11 St. Paul Blue Star Mothers



Karla and Debbie had a Blue Star Mothers information table at the Army National Guard, 334th Brigade, Engineer Battalion, Family Day. They connected with the Heroes, their families and other resource providers to collaborate with. Mothers who were present were very interested in how they can get involved.



Donna from our chapter and Jeanne from MN7 presented the Marine Flag and Marine Cover for the Honoring our Children program at the Department of MN Fall Convention



Karla/PDP and Dept. Chaplain assisted the Dept. 3VP Mary, from MN7, with the Memorial Service during the Dept Fall Convention



During the September VA4 meeting, we had the honor of hosting David Gurskey, Director of Corporate Partnerships at Purple Heart Homes, as our distinguished guest speaker. He passionately described how Purple Heart Homes ensures that elderly and disabled Veterans of America have a secure and convenient place to live. Teresa Sumners, the VA4 President, proudly presented a Blue Star Mothers of America coin to David Gurskey, a veteran.



Margaret Niemann, VA4 POW/MIA FLAG Bearer, assertively pinned the flag to commemorate POW/MIA Day with assistance from Barb DiMiceli.



Faye Mohler was recognized as VA4's inaugural Most Valuable Star Recruiter (MVS) and was awarded a certificate and Stars and Stripes decor from Teresa (TJ) Sumners and Mary Kulesa.



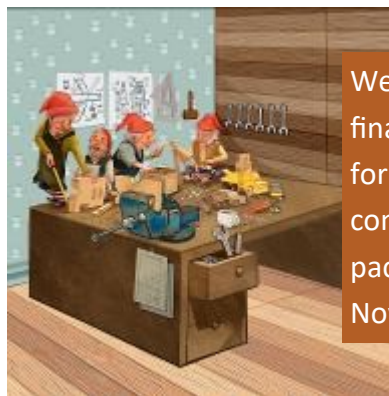
We are actively recruiting new members and recently welcomed Brenda Atkinson, with support from Natalie Foley and Catherine Elson.



Burrous Snellings of the Knights of Columbus, Fr. Wattey Assembly 2888, invited VA4 to speak about the Blue Star Mothers Mission at their September meeting. We graciously accepted, and Mary Kulesa and TJ Sumners handled the presentation, with Debbie Snellings joining us. Their members had prepared 500 beautiful hand-stamped cards for our deployed service members' care packages.



In October, Alex and Lorena Ahmadi, owners of Sedona Taphouse, presented a check from their Monday Charity Night for \$1,027 to Mary Beth Algert, Mary Kulesa, TJ Sumners, and Catherine Elson.



We are busy elves finalizing preparations for our holiday community care packing event on November 2, 2024.



Central MO Blue Star Mothers

Craft Day! We gathered and had a great time making the center pieces for the Veterans Home in Mexico, MO. We had a blast and found some of us need extra help in crafting.



**Serving dinner at the Fisher House in
Columbia, MO**

Our members enjoy cooking for the residents of the Fisher House in Columbia, MO. It's an honor to help families of Veterans who are in the Harry S. Truman Veterans Hospital.

Dea Coffman, Becky Stafford, and Alethea Tennill



Got Your Back Fishing Tournament Osage Beach, MO

Each year Al Whitiker VFW Post 6514. helps sponsor a fishing tournament for any Veteran. They arrive on Monday and have two full days of fun at Lake of the Ozarks, MO. at no expense. Blue Star Moms helped with cooking and serving.



Dorothy Hampton & Sue Sanders had the privilege of meeting the oldest and the Veteran at the tournament. Left to right -Tim (youngest), Dorothy Hampton, Lloyd (oldest) Sue Sanders.

2024-2025 Chapter MO5 Board Members
Alethea Tennil - President
Sue Sanders - 1st VP
Treasurer - Jennifer Blume
Financial Secretary - Dea Coffman
Recording Secretary- Dorothy Hampton

Blue Star Moms of California - East Bay Chapter 101: SEPTEMBER 2024 EVENTS



We packed and shipped 1,012 care packages in fiscal year 2024. That is 44% more from the previous year!

September 11 - 9/11 Remembrance at the All Wars Memorial at Oak Hill Park, hosted by City of Danville. People stopped by our table and we got to talk to them about Blue Star Moms and what we do for our active duty military and veterans.



September 14 - National "Salute the Troops" Day at Harley Davidson in Martinez, CA. Our Chapter was invited to speak at the event and was the recipient of the proceeds from the raffle of a cool custom made lamp made of motorcycle spare parts. We also got some care package items and cash donations.



September 18 - End of Summer Potluck. We had a wonderful potluck as we always do every year at the end of summer. Thanks Jaci Beering for hosting it! Sorry, no pictures as everyone was busy having so much fun that no one remembered to take even one shot!



September 28-29 - Community Presbyterian Church Serve Day. Our Chapter guided the church volunteers as they helped us pack items for the care packages and create cards for the troops. It was a huge success!



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

**Board & Brush
Fundraiser**
October 21st

**Veterans Treatment
Court**
October 21st @ 3pm

Honor Flight
November 2nd @ 7pm

**Fleece Tie Blankets
with American Legion**
November 3rd

MKE Burger Fundraiser
November 4th

Veterans Day Parade
November 9th

**Cooking Class
Fundraiser**
November 14th @ 6pm

At our September meeting we installed our new 2024-2025 Board Officers and Appointed Officers (pictured below). Additionally, 2 new members were sworn in. During our meeting we discussed past & upcoming events, members shared news & updates on family. Our host, the American Legion, shared updates on upcoming events to be held at their location. It was a great night of sisterhood.



On September 29th our chapter held the 3rd annual Gold Star Luminary Ceremony to express our gratitude, love and reverence towards Gold Star Mothers. This event was attended by members, family, friends, the community and 3 Gold Star Families.



Pictured below are some of the great events from the past month. We welcomed home Veterans at the airport after their Honor Flights, attended the Racine County Stand Down event for Veterans where we were honored to pin 28 Vietnam Era Veterans with the Vietnam War 50th Commemoration Lapel Pin, attended the annual Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin banquet, the burial of WW2 Airman SSgt. Ralph H Bode whose body was accounted for in late 2023, and showed our creativity creating glass nightlights.





Blue Star Mothers of America Louisiana 1

News from the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women
October 2024

Southeastern Louisiana University Military Housing Book Nook Donation

LA1 was asked, along with Books for Boots and Odins Sons VC Blackwater Krewe LA, to create a reading nook in the new Southeastern Louisiana Military Housing. Only one of four in the nation, this special housing unit serves military students, veterans or those whose parents are veterans. The special housing unit provides space for military affiliated students to get to know one another and support each other while enrolled. LA1 was proud to partner with the university and other groups to create a space for reading and entertainment in the housing facility.



Jeeping for Our Vets

LA1 member Gretchen Varnell organized the Jeeping for Our Vets event to raise funds for our Wreaths Across America program and honor the work of the Patriot Guard Riders. Several members attended the event and helped register jeeps and supported the remote control jeep obstacle course. Nearly \$13,000 was raised to support the Wreaths Across America event this December.

Honoring our Veterans and our Gold Stars

LA1 participated in several events during September to honor those who have given their lives for our country. On Sept. 28, several LA1 members attended the wreath ceremony for the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Wall – a replica of the original Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall – in Walker, La. LA1 gifted veterans with pins and presented a wreath in honor of the fallen.



On Sept. 29, LA1 members joined the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs and LA7 in honoring our Gold Star Families on Gold Star Family Day. During the ceremony LA1 presented a wreath to honor the Gold Star Families and their sacrifices. After the ceremony, LA1 shared a picnic lunch and a time of fellowship with the Gold Star Families.



MN 7

Decorated a Tree of Valor at Haven for Heroes-part of the A Walk to Honor An Honor to Walk - The Nicole Burnham Veteran Suicide Awareness Walk



Attended the Kim's Family 18th Annual Appreciation Day Picnic and Program to honor Korean War Veterans



Continued to volunteer doing:

- *BINGO at the VA*
- *Pop Up Food Pantry - Minneapolis VA*
- *Fisher House Meal Preparation and Clean Up*



Several chapter members attended the MN Fall Convention, and four chapter members were elected to the Department Executive Board.

Having some sister time, the night before the business of Convention!

Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley, AZ4



Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley AZ4

September/October 2024 Events

It has been a time of transition for our chapter. We have two new board members and returning board members all transitioning into their new positions. In between getting a new Executive Board in place, the chapter has accomplished a lot in the past couple of months.

September featured:

Air Force 77th Birthday Flag Raising
VAVs Meeting

American Legion Spaghetti Dinner
Memorial Garden work

Painting curbs with Vets
Blue Star Memorial Marker Meeting
American Legion Meet and Greet
Patriot's Ball Registration Desk duty

It's already shaping up to be a busy October which has featured:

Navy Ball Planning meeting
VAVs meeting

Navy Ball Registration Desk duty
Navy 249th Bday Flag raising
Storage locker assessment
Creating comprehensive packing list

Other October highlights that are upcoming include:

Glendale Standup for our Vets
Collection of newborn clothing for a baby shower through VAVs Mom/Baby program

Our chapter is working on a membership drive, they created new member welcome bags, the chapter updated our website and we continue to work on the developing calendar of events for November-which is one of the busiest months for all military organizations.

It's been a great start to the new year!



Air Force Flag Raising and Navy Flag Raising in Litchfield Park where our chapter was chartered.



Handing over the Gavel to the new President, Luana



Jennie and Luana at the Navy Ball



New Member Welcome Bags



The Memorial Garden in the city of Litchfield

Chapter IN8 - Fort Wayne Area Blue Star Mothers

Our chapter has had a busy summer and fall. We've had promotional booths at Fort Wayne Tin Caps Military Appreciation Game, at the 293rd Army National Guard Base Family Day, and helped with games and refreshments at the 122nd Air National Guard Base Halloween Party. We eagerly anticipate attending an upcoming Drill Weekend with the 122nd to speak with the service members about Blue Star Mothers. We hosted our 16th Annual Military Appreciation Golf Outing in September. 112 golfers, and a dozen volunteers along with the staff at Coyote Creek made our day a lot of fun! The Golf Outing is our only fund raiser and this year saw an increase of nearly \$1,000 to \$8500 profit which will go a long way in providing Veteran support in Fort Wayne and our surrounding counties.



Tin Caps Military Appreciation Game



122nd Air National Guard Halloween Party



Michelle & Kierstin - Halloween Party Helpers - Karen & John

Golf Outing Volunteers

IOWA★STAR

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

www.bluestarmothersofiowa.com

JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2024

bluestarmothersia1@gmail.com

2024 "Hot Rods for Heroes" Car Show a Huge Success!



What a fantastic turnout for the 4th annual **Hot Rods for Heroes** Car Show benefitting Blue Star Moms of Iowa. Thank you to all the volunteers for showing up and showing out, whether in person or behind the scenes. Many moms shared posts, baked goodies, and collected donations to help make this day a success.



There wouldn't be a car show without cars, and there were 125 entries this year. When the day was over, more than \$5,000 was donated to our Care Package Project.

Blue Star Mothers of Iowa Sponsor Quilts of Valor

In February, our chapter proudly committed to sponsoring eight Quilts of Valor, a symbol of gratitude and recognition for the brave men and women who have served our nation. With the presentation of these final two quilts, we have successfully completed our 2024 sponsorship. It has been an immense honor to contribute to this meaningful cause, and we stand united in our commitment to continue supporting this noble program in the future, as a testament to our unwavering respect and appreciation for our veterans.

John Foster, nominated by his son Kevin, is the recipient of the seventh quilt.



John enlisted in the Iowa National Guard at age 16 in 1948 before transitioning to the U.S. Navy, where he trained as an Aviation Machinist Mate. His military career spanned numerous assignments, including Guam, Vietnam (1965-1966), and naval bases across the U.S., as well as service aboard several ships such as the USS Bexar and USS Canberra. After various roles, including naval recruiter and language training in Vietnamese, John retired in 1968 as a Lieutenant Commander, a Mustang officer who rose from enlisted ranks. In civilian life, he co-owned an auto parts store, taught in Arizona, and worked as a gunsmith.

Shelby Pedersen, nominated by her husband Jason, is the recipient of the eighth quilt.

Shelby enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 2002, completing boot camp at Naval Station Great Lakes and training at Little Creek Naval Base as a Master-at-Arms (MA), specializing in law enforcement and force protection. She was first assigned to Naval Station Everett in Washington, serving for three years before deploying to NSA Bahrain during Operation Iraqi Freedom with Naval Security Forces. Upon returning to the U.S., Shelby was stationed at Naval Station Norfolk. She concluded her Navy career in 2007 with the rank of Petty Officer 2nd Class.

*John and Shelby, we hope these beautiful quilts bring you much comfort.
We will always be grateful for your service to our country.*

DAR Donates Items



These ladies have once again outdone themselves with a significant donation to our annual Care Package Project! We sincerely appreciate their generous support each year.

And thank you to our Vice President, **Jana Jones**, for attending the September DAR meeting and sharing more about Blue Star Moms of Iowa with these precious ladies.

September Service Project



Our chapter gathered clothing and personal items to donate to the Des Moines Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Two of our members were also able to volunteer in person.

Featuring services such as employment assistance, clothing, medical and dental, VA claims & benefits assistance, shelter, legal assistance, groceries, and haircuts, Des Moines HVS has assisted homeless veterans for over 25 years. Approximately 800 veterans and their families, along with approximately 600 homeless civilians, are served each year.

Blue Star Mothers



President
Lisa Wilson

Vice President
Jana Jones

Recording Secretary
Kim Vernon

Financial Secretary
Leigh Tomich

Treasurer
Jannelle Chase-Kennedy

The Blue Star Mothers of Iowa is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization devoted to supporting our Military Forces, our Veterans, and their Families.




CHICAGOLAND BLUE STAR MOTHERS

STEEL vs. MADISON | SATURDAY, JANUARY 25 | 7:05 PM



SCAN QR CODE TO PURCHASE

USE OFFER CODE: BLUESTAR25

- Join us for a night of family fun and fundraising on Military Appreciation Night with the Chicago Steel!
- Cheer on the Steel while supporting our Charity of the Game - CHICAGOLAND BLUE STAR MOTHERS!

SPECIAL OFFER

\$15 WHITE ZONE TICKET

\$5 from every ticket purchased will benefit CHICAGOLAND BLUE STAR MOTHERS



For more information, contact Scott Holey at 800-997-2122 or email info@chicagosteelhockeyteam.com

855-51-STEEL | CHICAGOSTEELHOCKEYTEAM.COM



Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6 Care Package Collection Drive for Deployed Troops



Please donate to help us fill boxes for deployed troops!

Items Needed:

- Microwave Popcorn
- Small Tissue Packs
- Pain Relief Medication Packets
- Antacids
- AA or AAA Alkaline Batteries
- Hand Warmers
- Hot Cider Drink Packets
- Starlight Mints
- Tic-Tacs/Altoids
- Small puzzle books
- Protein Bars
- Small Toothpaste
- Small Toothbrush
- Energy Chews
- Dental Floss
- Lip Balm
- Cough Drops
- Protein Powder Packets
- Lens Cleaning Wipes
- Individually Wrapped Snack (Cookies, Crackers, or Trail Mix)
- UNO or other Card Games

Amazon Wish List— Scan QR code with your camera phone.



- Items are needed by November 1, 2024, for timely shipment.
- Thanks in advance for your support!
- For questions, please contact: president.il6@bluestarmothers.us

Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6

Proudly serving the Chicagoland area since 2016!

Just happened – Dessert Night at the VFW Fish Fry! We take desserts to the fish fry to offer up as a thank you to the VFW and our Veterans and their families and friends!

Right now – it is care package collection time! We are gathering items to work with OSOT America to send care packages to troops serving overseas. This great organization is right by us and we are proud to partner with them!

Coming Soon – Chicago Steel Military Appreciation Night where we have been named the Charity of the Game! If you are going to be in Chicagoland on January 25th – because who doesn't want to come here in the throes of winter, right?!?! – please come join us for this fantastic game! The Steel are in the USHL, the only Tier 1 junior hockey league, players are 16-20 years old. In the 2024 NHL Draft 49 USHL players were selected, including two Steel players in the First Round, one being the first overall pick! There is a pre-game game too, featuring the Chicago Warriors! This team is the military Veterans team of the Chicago Blackhawks and is part of the USA Disable Hockey Program to give Veterans who have been injured or disabled in the course of their service the opportunity to play hockey in an environment suited their needs. Both games are so much fun – come on over!

Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana Geaux, LA 7

Denhams Springs Fall Festival our Geaux 7 Booth



At the Festival we took donations for Care Packages to send to our deployed military overseas, sold red white and blue jewelry and scarfs. We displayed our Military Hero Banners which we place in three cities for the month of November.



Past President Trudy Dupuy with the Mayor of Central, LA and Mayor of Walker, LA at the Traveling Viet Nam Wall event



Gold Star Family Day



Louisiana Chapter 1 and Chapter 7 at the Gold Star Family Day, which took place at Louisiana's State Capitol in Baton Rouge, honoring our families that lost a loved one



Wolf Creek Blue Star Mothers, CA53

In August our chapter was invited to the first home high-school football game in Greenville, CA. We were called out onto the football field to stand with our local American Legion Post #568 during the National Anthem. Our chapter was recognized as well as our active duty and Veteran children.



Department of Minnesota



I'm honored to have been elected as the Department of Minnesota President for 2024-2025.

I look forward to working with my board officers and the entire Department of Minnesota members to work the mission of Blue Star Mothers of America, Incorporated



2024-2025 Dept. of MN Board: Treasurer Jeanne Ullmer; 2VP Tish Carlson; Recording Sec. Pam McCabe; President Jen Pecarina; 1VP Theresa Hawkinson; 3VP Mary Johnson and Financial Sec. Karla Keller

One of our speakers was Zach Johnson, Purple Heart recipient, from "Roger Up" He shared his

story with us and Chapter MN 16 gave a generous donation of \$1500 to support his mission of supporting our Veterans and First Responders.

We collected gently used sneakers for a fundraiser from "Got Sneakers." It's an easy way to earn a little money for tennis shoes that are just taking up space in our closets.



Friday night sisterhood dinner



Sorting through Dog Tags and pairing them up with their information cards we received from "We Will Remember" Read more about Connor (16 Years old) and his mission to not have our past fallen heroes forgotten.

www.wewillremember.us



Sonya/National 4VP, Rebecca/National President and Karla/National 2VP and Dept Chaplain having some fun

“There is something
so special in the early leaves
drifting from the trees—as if
we are all to be allowed
a chance to peel, to refresh,
to start again.”

— RUTH AHMED



***Everyone wants to be the sun to brighten up someone's life.
Why not be the moon to shine on someone's darkest hour?***

