



NATIONAL BIG DIPPER AUXILIARY NEWSLETTER



December 2025



Happy Holidays



Dear Sisters,

As we enter this season of giving, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to every Blue Star Mother, Associate, volunteer, and supporter who has contributed to our mission. Because of you, we continue to provide assistance to families navigating the unexpected financial challenges that come with supporting our veterans and service members.

May this holiday season bring warmth, peace, and blessings to you and your loved ones.

Thank you for all you do.

Warm regards,
Connie M. Shuck
National Big Dipper President





Thank You!

The Big Dipper Auxiliary would like to express our gratitude to all who have supported us this year through our fundraisers. Your generosity makes a really big difference.



Big Dipper Fun Night at the
2025 National BSM Convention

Cookie Fundraiser



T-Shirt Sales

Quilt Squares & Auction



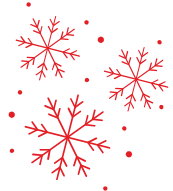
And so many others!



Why?


Whether you are new member or have been a member of the Big Dipper Auxiliary for many years, you might ask “**Why does Big Dipper have all these fundraising events?**” Here is the answer.

Within the Big Dipper Auxiliary, we have three objectives: the 3rd objective is to provide educational assistance.



What was once the educational assistance fund is now known as the Josephine Calenda Educational Award. (JCEA) The award was dedicated to Josephine Calenda after her many years of service to BSMA. She passed away in 1989 while holding the office of National Big Dipper President.

This award has benefited so many Active-Duty Service members, Veterans, Children, Grandchildren, and others. Fundraising is the only way we can do this. We thank each of you for helping in this mission.

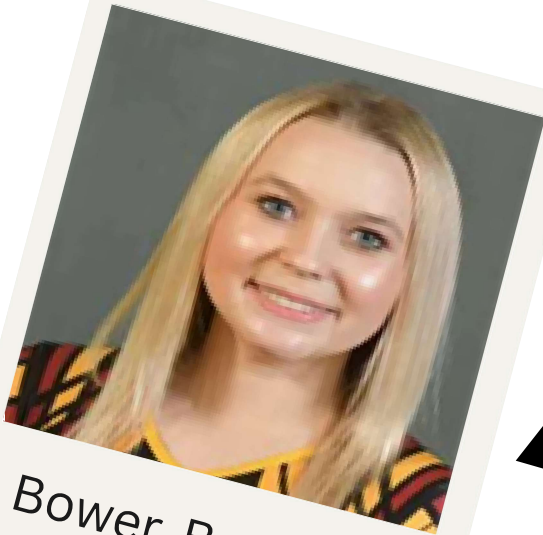




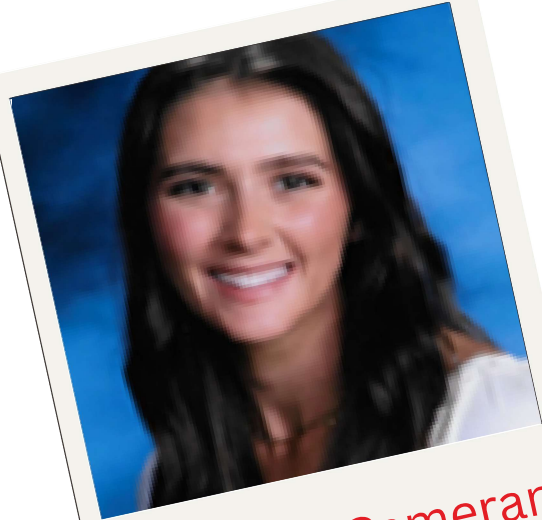
Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance (JCEA) Award

We are proud to announce the 2025 recipients of the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance (JCEA) Award. Listed below are some of the candidates recognized this year for their dedication and achievements.

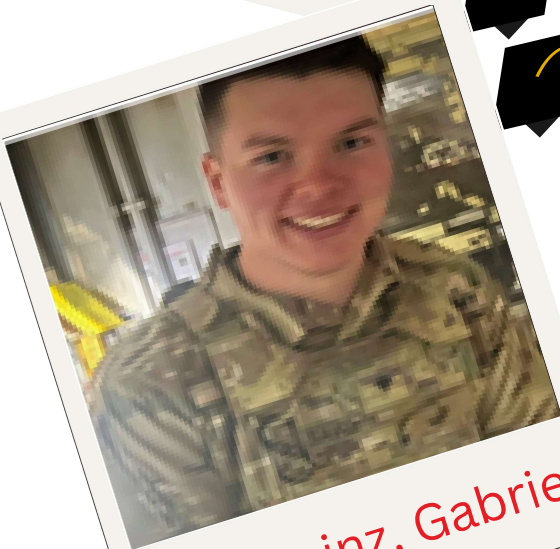
Not all recipients are pictured per their request.



Bower, Brooklyn



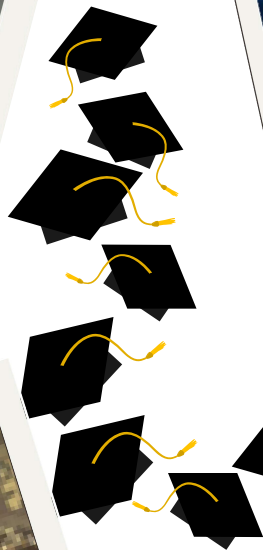
Changet, Cameran

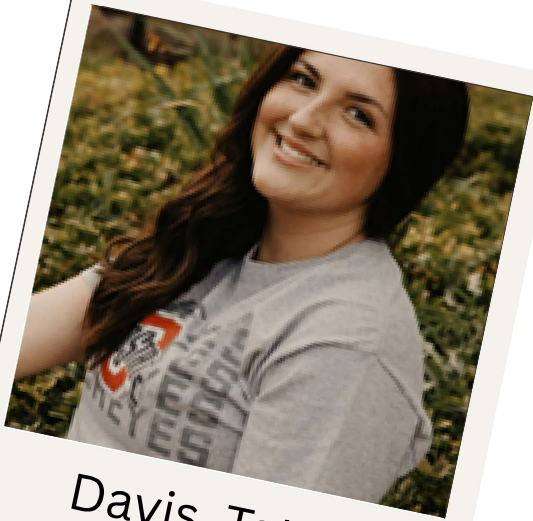


Cruz Sainz, Gabriel



Dandridge, Blaise D.





Davis, Tatum



Gourley, Brady



Lonsberry, Jacob



Lonsberry, Logan



Mena, Matthew



Merki, Grace



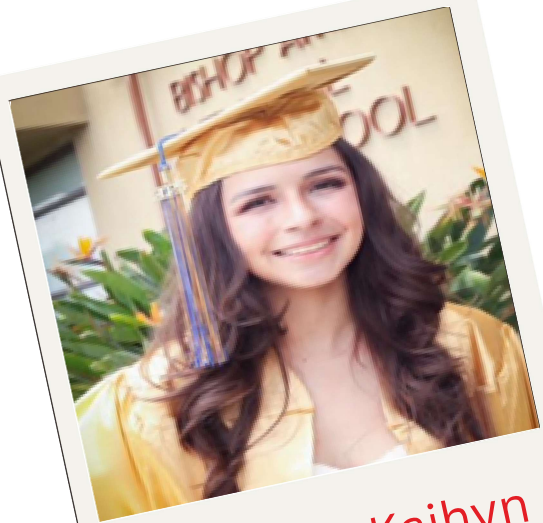
Mysyk, Rebecca



Nonwine, Allison



Sen, Cadence Marie



Siqueiros, Kaihyn



Stern, Gustav



Williams, Brandon

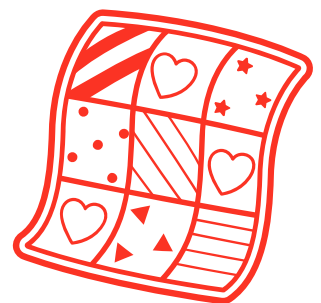
How can I help raise funds for JCEA?

Join the Fun and purchase a Quilt Square!

The quilts are always a big hit at convention. They are beautiful and each square is made with love by our Blue Star Sisters.

Quilt blocks are now available for \$20.00 per square.

This year's theme is Patriotic.
For more information or to reserve
your square, please contact
Mylessia Quillen.
at mylessia@ymail.com





Do you know someone who is eligible?

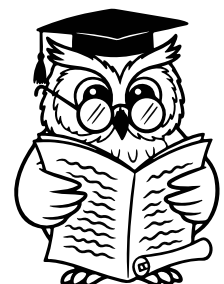
Josephine Calenda Educational Award (JCEA)
Applications will be available by email after the New Year.

ELIGIBILITY/LIMITATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE AWARD

Applicant must meet one or more of the following eligibility requirements:

- Active-Duty U.S. Military, National Guard, Reserve Member;
- Retired U.S. Military member or Veteran;
- Blue Star Mother of America, Inc. member in good standing;
- Spouse of Active-Duty U.S. Military or Veteran;
- Child or Grandchildren of Active-Duty U.S. Military or Veteran;
- Child or Grandchildren of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. member in good standing or Blue Daisy.

If you are interested, please contact Penni Holmes at
1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us or
President.bd@bluestarmothers.us.





LOOKING FOR SOME PATRIOTIC BLING?

The National Big Dipper Store is now open! Be sure to check out our available items, including pins, earrings, and other merchandise.

Copy & past the link to place an order.
<https://forms.gle/L2XCfo63RfJUdNMb8>

What does it mean?

I was sent an email after the October Big Dipper Newsletter regarding acronyms. I thought publishing the commonly used acronyms found in the BSM of America Governing Documents might be a good idea.



National Level		Chapter Level	
BSMA	Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.	CEB	Chapter Executive Board
NEB	National Executive Board	CP	Chapter President
NP	National President	1VP	Chapter 1 st Vice Persident
N1VP	National 1st Vice President	2VP	Chapter 2 nd Vice President
N2VP	National 2 nd Vice President	3VP	Chapter 3 rd Vice President
N3VP	National 3 rd Vice President	4VP	Chapter 4 th Vice Persident
N4VP	National 4 th Vice President	CFS	Chapter Financial Secretary
NFC	National Financial Commitee	CRS	Chapter Recording Secretary
NFS	National Financial Secretary	CFC	Chapter Financial Committee
NRS	National Recording Secretary	Others	
NT	National Treasure	VAVS	Veteran Affairs Volunteer Service
NGC	National Grievance Committee	WM	Webmaster
PNP	Past National President	Please see the National Webpage for Department Acronyms	

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc

Contact the Big Dipper Board

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