

August 2025 National Newsletter



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.



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A message from our National President

Dear Members and Associates,

I would first like to say, I am honored and humbled to have been elected your next National President, 2025-2026. I feel blessed to be following a long line of amazing women, the Past National Presidents that have served before me. A big thank you to our most recent PNP, Rebecca (Becky) Stafford for a wonderful and successful National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A huge thank you to her, her Convention Chairs, Diana Rettig and Sue Otto and all their Chapter members serving as ambassadors. Wow, you ladies knocked it out of the park. The Convention was full of sisterhood, while the excellent training prepared all of us to be better at working our mission and serving Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. For those not able to attend we will work to provide the training online to share with all of you. Please know we are here to help you and your Chapter be successful. This is a great time to come together, learning the right procedures and following our governing documents to serve our mission as Blue Star Mothers. As always, we are stronger together! Keeping that in mind, help me to build our membership, grow our Chapters and reach out to more and more of our Military and Veterans in need. After all, the mission is much more important than any of us individually. Realizing the joy and friendships of the sisterhood is just the icing on the cake for me serving this great organization. Let's make our children proud as we fulfill our responsibilities and work our mission. Let's honor our history by following in the footsteps of those who served proudly before us.

President's Message continued

I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter full of great Convention information. I look forward to next month as we share some personal information about our new Board members and how we can help all of you become stronger as a Chapter.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns and of course feel free to call me or any of our NEB officers if you need help.

Love and Blessings to all,
Respectfully Yours in Service,
Karen

Karen Stillwell

National President 2025-2026

president@bluestarmothers.us

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President: Karen Stillwell – OH president@bluestarmothers.us

1st VP: Sonya Stowers – IL 1vp@bluestarmothers.us

2nd VP: Beth Bruening – MO 2vp@bluestarmothers.us

3rd VP Amy Jo Hutchinson – OH 3vp@bluestarmothers.us

4th VP: Karla Keller – MN - 4vp@bluestarmothers.us

Recording Secretary: Leslie Majocka – recsec@bluestarmothers.us

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

Treasurer: Jacqueline Ransom – MI -treas@bluestarmothers.us



Talent Search

Calling on all Members and Associates,

As we begin our new fiscal year we would like to hear from you how we can possibly utilize your talents. We know many of you have special skills that could help us grow our organization and make our processes even better. Please consider sending an email or message to the National President with any skill set or talent you feel could benefit our organization. We may be able to use them now or going forward.

No guarantees; only unlimited possibilities.

Teamwork makes the Dream Work!

Email Karen at president@bluestarmothers.us
with your ideas!

2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION



2025-2026 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD



NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT WITH PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS



2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION





A MESSAGE FROM THE 1ST VP

A Message from Your National 1st Vice President – Memberships and Officer Rosters!

It is an exciting time when we start a new fiscal year! A few reminders for you regarding Membership and Officer Rosters/Affiliation Agreements:

Membership – Membership renewals are due now if they have not been paid yet. September 1 is the deadline for renewing your membership. There is a grace period, but it is best if you go ahead and renew now if you have not already done so, thanks!

Officer Rosters/Affiliation Agreements (OR/AA) – Chapter elections are required to be held in August or September. There are a few things you can do to help make submitting your OR/AA for approval run more smoothly and quickly for your Chapter.

- On your Officer Roster, **please use the official BSMA emails**. If you are not already using them please contact webmaster@bluestarmother.us for assistance setting those up. Please make sure all emails are spelled correctly so we can contact each officer, thanks!
- **Print a copy of the Affiliation Agreement** from the National website – This is found on the Chapter and Department Resources Tab, scroll down to just above the list of states, you will see a link to the 2025-2026 Affiliation Agreement Signature Page. Click that open and **print a copy to have at your elections meeting so everyone can sign it before they leave**. It is also on the Compliance Forms tab when you sign in using your Chapter log in credentials. This document was signed by the NEB on August 1, 2025 and Karen Stillwell is listed at the top as National President – use only this most recent document, all others are out of date and cannot be accepted.
- **On the AA**, be sure to **fill in your Chapter State and Number** on the line at the top, **have each officer sign on the appropriate office line on the right hand side** (some of the lines can be blank, you may not have a 2nd, 3rd, or 4th VP, the other 5 positions are required) and then **also have them print their name just below that line** (see the side the NEB has signed for examples), **be sure to date it on the line at the bottom**.
- **Confirm that all members nominated for an office have renewed their membership for the 2025-2026 fiscal year**. If they are on the OR/AA and have not renewed, your documents cannot be accepted and will need to be completed again. This is an easy thing to check and take care of before your elections!
- **Bank Signers Verification Letter** is a BSMA form found on the Compliance Forms tab when you log in using your Chapter log in credentials. This form has the Chapter President verify who the 3 required signers are on the bank accounts (1VP, finsec, treasurer). This form must also be attached to the OR along with the AA. Your Membership Chair must be one of these 3 officers!

If you have any questions, reach out and I will be glad to help you!

Sonya Stowers

BSMA NTVP 2025-2026

1vp@bluestarmothers.us





It's Compliance time again!

I know it's still summer, but it is also the beginning of the Compliance Season! Compliance Season runs **from September 1st through December 1st** each fiscal year so now is the time to start gathering your paperwork!

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 some of our Departments/Chapters/Auxiliaries have already started submitting some of their compliance documents. Well done!

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

Last year you received Compliance Training Emails, I hope you saved those for reference and sharing them with your compliance teams, especially with your financial officers this year. You can 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,
Karla Keller
National 4th VP – Compliance
4VP@bluestarmothers.us





Member & Associate APPLICATIONS



When providing Member or Associate Applications, please make sure to provide them the current application with the **PO BOX 880891, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34988** address. We are still receiving forwarded applications from the Illinois address and the forward will run out in a few days and applications sent to that address will not be received.



PayPal Announcement



When requesting donations for your chapter, please be sure to include your chapter's PayPal account information. Providing a QR code or another direct link to your chapter's payment page is highly recommended. Without this, donors may not specify the purpose of their contribution, and if they do not respond to follow-up emails, the donation will be applied as a general contribution to National. **If we are able to determine which chapter it goes to, you will be sent a check minus the fees National incurs.**



GAVEL CLUB REPORT

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., Gavel Club 2025 Report
The Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Gavel Club has a proud tradition that was started many years ago. Its membership is limited to Past National Presidents and our purpose is the promotion of fundraising for 501©3 VSOs and social activities.

Which brings us to the 2025 national convention. The Gavel Club chose Operation Surf as our charity this year. It is in memory of our late, Past National President Stacy Anders. We felt this was a fitting way to honor her legacy by donating to her project when she served as National President and supporting a wonderful cause at the same time.

In 2025, the gavel club took in \$453 for the Parcel Post, \$515.00 for the Silent Auction, \$319.00 in Donations for Operation Surf, for a total of \$1,287.00. We donated the entire \$1,287.00 to Operation Surf.

We would like to thank Mary Johnson for the table runner she donated to our silent auction and to Anita Wagner for the items she donated to our parcel post. Finally, we thank you, the membership, for your support in our efforts. It is deeply appreciated.



Calling all Chapters that have not applied for a Chapter Grant in the last two years!



We are closing out the current fiscal year with 8 grant slots still open ~ that's \$250 each that could assist an existing chapter with operational, program, or event fund-raising costs. We have the money in the national budget and chapters exist as our organization's "boots on the ground" to carry out our mission. Please look to see if your chapter couldn't use an extra \$250 to assist with a veteran or service related project. The application is included in this newsletter and on the BSMA website through the Financial quick-link.

If your grant is received and approved prior to August 31st, it will come out of FYE 08/31/2025 funds. If not received in an adequate time frame for processing, your grant will be included in the FYE 08/31/2026 grant allocations.

Email completed applications to: FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us



Chapter Grant Program Summary (Annual maximum set by Approved Budget)



- Eligibility:** New and Existing chapters.
- Amount:** \$250 grant.
- Purpose:** Assist in offsetting chapter start-up expenses, or upcoming program/event or operational expenses.
- Frequency:** May apply/receive a grant only once every two fiscal years.
- Requirements:**
- 1) Complete and submit Grant Application Form to the Finance Committee (via FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us).
 - 2) If awarded, provide a report and pictures documenting the use of the grant funds (for other than start-up expenses.) **NOTE: Use of grant funds must match the purpose described in the application.**



Thank you everyone who sent sweatpants to Wisconsin for the Annual Donation Drive for the local VA facility! The event was a huge success with over 1,000 sweatpants sent in. The pants are now in many VA facilities across the area. Once again, Blue Star Moms rose to the challenge.

The VAVS Program needs YOU! The need for volunteers across the nation is huge. Each hour of service to a veteran can make a huge difference in their life. With so many new and different ways to volunteer it allows you a choice of how you serve and fill a passion you have.

If your chapter does not have a Representative donations can still be sent to a facility. If you need assistance on what facility please email, vavs.deputy@bluestarmothers.us to help locate one.

After the donation is sent please email again with what was donated and the approximate dollar value.

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA

VAVS

WHO WE ARE

The volunteers are from chapters who step up to spend time in our VA facilities. They serve as volunteers to help fill the gaps that allow the staff to concentrate on the care of our veterans.

WHAT

Volunteerism can vary from facility to facility. Some of our most popular projects are:

- Serving as Ambassadors

- Serving as Escort to help move veterans around the facility

- Work the coffee cart

- Assist with seasonal projects

HOW CAN YOU HELP

- Become a VAVS Rep/Deputy

- Work with your chapter to provide requested donations

- Visit VAVS section of www.bluestarmothers.org to review the information
- Ask..



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Anne Parker - vavs@bluestarmothers.us

Doreen Berggren - vavs.deputy@bluestarmothers.us

BSMA Mentor Program

Do you know who your mentor is? Do you know why you have a mentor?

Do you know what your mentor can do for you?

Every chapter in the organization has a mentor assigned to them! The newest chapters and the oldest chapters, all have a mentor! The mentor is generally a member of the organization that has been in the organization for over 3 years, has a good knowledge of the governing documents and knows who to reach out to if chapters have questions

they do not know the answer to. If you do not know who your mentor is, ask your chapter president or email me, Denise, the mentor chair at

mentor.chair@bluestarmothers.us

The mentor is the mentor for all members of your chapter, not just the president and not just the chapter board. You are all welcome to reach out to the mentor if you have questions about the organization and governing documents. The mentors can give your chapter ideas on fundraising, mission related events, member retention and member recruitment! The mentor committee recommends that the mentor's name and contact information is listed at the bottom of their meeting agenda every month!


Please reach out to me if you have questions about the mentor program or if you are interested in becoming a mentor. Denise Guerra, MN11

mentor.chair@bluestarmothers.us

Blue Daisies

This page is dedicated to honoring the memory of our beloved sisters who are no longer with us.

If you experience the loss of a sister, please remember to notify our 1st Vice President 2nd VP and Chaplain so we may pay proper tribute



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.

Fallen Veterans August 2025

United States Army

Mark Allen Dodge Army/ Navy

Joel Leon Thomas

Edward Carr

Bennie Lewis Davis

Peggy Sue Tucker

Vernon Lee Scott

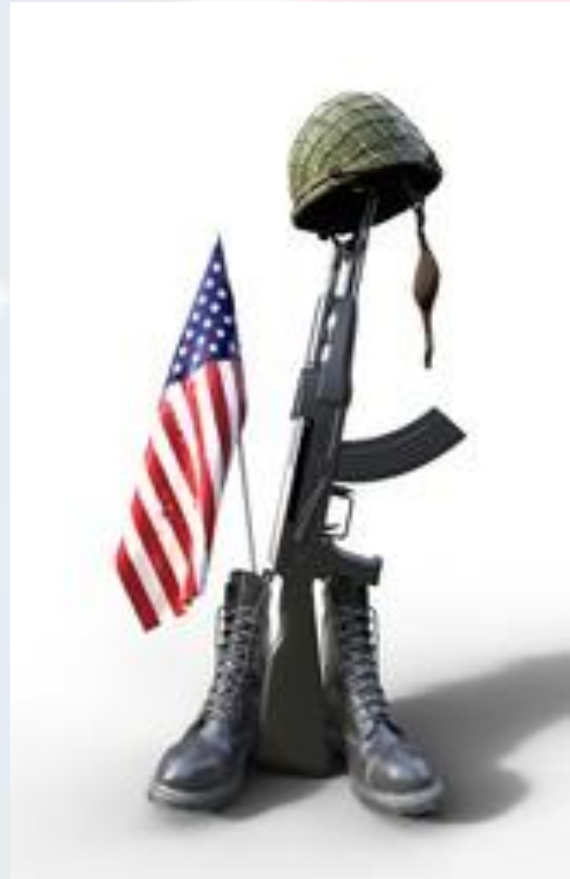
Joseph Rogers Calabria


Richard Samuel Spiker

Edward Margavich

Patrick Murphy

Robert Williams





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Fallen Veterans August 2025

United States Navy

Mark Allen Dodge Navy/ Army

George Chrysler

John Wayne Quaid

James Ansley

United States Air Force

Thomas Madden

United States Marine Corp.

Alex Bedoya

Augustin Reyna

Dustin Allen Ridenhour

Brett L. Dishon



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

**Irreverent
Warriors MKE
Hike**
August 16th

**August Chapter
Meeting**
August 19th

Honor Flight
September 6th

**Racine Festival
Stand Down**
September 13th

**September
Chapter Meeting**
September 16th

**WI Realtor
Military Ball**
October 18th

**Cooking Class
Fundraiser**
November 3rd



Celebrating Service, Sisterhood, and Success in Milwaukee

August was a month to remember as our Chapter proudly co-hosted the 82nd National Convention right here in Milwaukee, alongside our sisters in Chapter 1. This gathering brought together Blue Star Mothers from across the country for an inspiring week of learning, connection, and celebration.



At this year's convention we had 14 members in attendance; our Chapter President who served as a convention co-host, and 13 members who volunteered as "Convention Ambassadors" offering warm welcomes and helping ensure the event ran smoothly. Many were attending convention for the 1st time. Over the course of the convention, we gained new ideas and inspiration for our mission, heard presentations from Wreaths Across America, Fisher House, and Shop Thrifty. We took a memorable "field trip" (with five buses and over 200 members) to the Wisconsin War Memorial, enjoyed the lighthearted fun of the Big Dipper "Slumber Party" and closed the week in style at the Convention Banquet. While the schedule was full, the real highlight was the bonding of Blue Star Mothers Sisterhood, making new friends, sharing stories, laughter, and encouragement that will carry us forward into the year ahead.





- July Events**
- 7/2 TroopATHon Packing Event
 - 7/4 Roseville 4th of July Parade
 - Storage Work Days
 - 7/12 Packing Event
 - 7/20 Handels Ice Cream Day
 - 7/24 Red Robin Fundraiser
 - 7/25 Troops Receiving Packages
 - 7/31 Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight



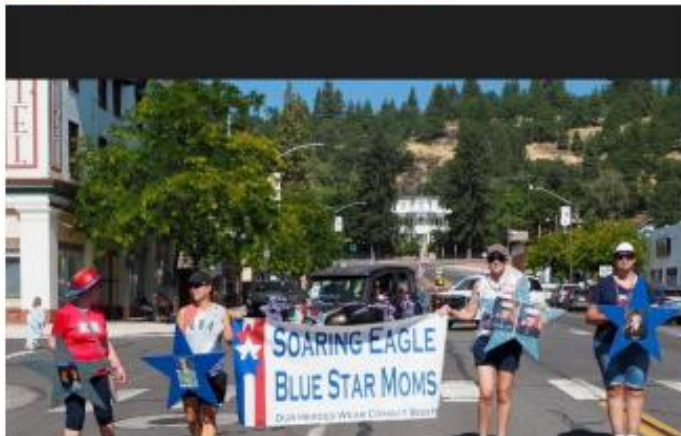
CA 22 Soaring Eagles Newsletter August 2025



We passed out goodie bags to Veterans at our Stand Down



We enjoyed Milwaukee



We walked in our Fair Parade



THANK YOU

FOR ATTENDING THE GAME!



Our chapter MD3 got invited for Military Spotlight Organization for Baltimore Orioles. MD3 had a wonderful time at the Baltimore Orioles game 7/13/25. Our 7242 VFW partnership Veterans and Active Duty attended as well. They may of had a rain delay and lost the game, however it was a wonderful experience for us all.





Ohio Chapter 21

Before our July meeting, members of Lake Erie Shores Blue Star Mothers - OH21 took time to walk the parking lot in honor of the Fallen 13. It was a meaningful way to reflect and enjoy the fresh air together while remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



On Saturday July 26th our Chapter hosted the first annual Wheels of Freedom Car Show.





Blue Star Mothers of America Louisiana Chapter 1

News from the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women
August 2025



BINGO at The Claiborne



LA1 hosted a July 4th BINGO social for the veteran residents of The Claiborne. The event also included a special moment to recognize Pat and Bob Schilling—both LA1 members and residents of The Claiborne—for their faithful service and years of dedicated involvement with the organization.

LA1 Outreach

Rotary



Memorial Day Valor Gallery



LARCA



Women Veterans Symposium



MACARA



Army 250th Birthday



LA1 shared the mission of Blue Star Mothers with several organizations. Natalie Truax spoke to the St. George Rotary Club and the Military Assistance Community Resource Alliance. Denise Singleton was the guest speaker for the Louisiana Rural Letter Carriers Association and the Memorial Day Valor Gallery. Dora Sanford and Karen Bird represented LA1 at the Women Veterans Symposium, while Amy Baralt, Tabatha Tynes, and Linda and Gary Taylor attended the U.S. Army 250th Birthday Block Party.

Red, Rock and Blue



LA1 manned concessions and provided operational support for our annual Red, Rock and Blue softball tournament fund raiser. Sunny Senft, Robin Maggio and Dora Sanford prepare to cool down the drinks for the hot and thirsty participants. Thanks to Shawn King for organizing LA1 operations!

2025 Convention



LA1 was well represented at the 2025 National Convention in Milwaukee, WI. Christie Landry participated in the Honor our Children procession. LA1 delegates were Dora Sanford, Sunny Senft, Denise Singleton, Christie Landry and Natalie Truax. The delegates also participated in the Miles for our Veterans 5K.



Blue Star Mothers of the High Country NC 10



Josh Ock, left, and Eamon Wilson return a volley at close range.

Pickleball tournament supports local organization

ZACH COLEMAN
zcolem@highcountry.com

BOONY — The Blue Star Mothers of the High Country hosted the “Thinking for Me Military” pickleball tournament on Saturday at The Summit pickleball courts with plenty of fast-paced action to support a good cause.

Fifty-three players with various pickleball skill levels competed in eight different rounds of mixed doubles action in two different sessions on Saturday.

The first session featured 23 advanced pickleball players (4.0+ or 3.5+), while the other session catered to beginners and intermediate players.

According to Shannon Cox, a double event, hosted by them, had been scheduled to take place in Waynesboro last November, but was cancelled due to Hurricane Helene. “We are just happy that we were able to move it here in Boone and do sort of a make-up date here this autumn,” said Cox. “It’s our first time here in Boone at The Summit, and they’ve been great working



Pickleball players clockwise from back right, Heath Swanson, Tracie Swanson, Chris Hoffer and Carl Tika—dig each other after a match in the 4.0+ division of the Thinking for Me Military tournament on Saturday.

with us and helping us get it together.” All proceeds from the event went directly to support The Blue Star Mothers of

the High Country, which is a non-profit

See PICKLEBALL, B3



Blue Star Mothers Massachusetts Chapter 1



LPD Color Guard



Kim Smith & Wanda Scott



Blue Star Mothers & Laurelwood Garden Club Members
Julie Palioca & Tisha Schiavetti



Claire Freda Blue Star Mother
& Gold Star Wife



State Representative Natalie Higgins

Blue Star Mothers MA Chapter 1



LHS Chorus

Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker Dedication Ceremony



SC #4

July
2025

July has been an exciting month for our chapter.

We started the week of the 4th off by participating at the Greenville Drive Independence Day/Military Appreciation event. We watched a baseball game and enjoyed fireworks while reaching out with our chapter information to those that attended.



Christmas in July was our chosen theme.



We participated at the Greenville Triumph soccer game with a table to provide information to those that attended. A veteran, whose son is deployed, participated as Santa to promote our Christmas In July.

We were able to provide doughnuts to a Veteran's Coffee House at a local church.



During half-time of the soccer game, our chapter was recognized on the field and presented with an award by Greenville Triumph and College Hunks Hauling Junk and Moving.





BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PA201

Blue Star Mothers of the Lehigh Valley, Chapter PA201 was selected as the "Philling the Need" charity for the month of August by the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs, a minor league baseball team of the Philadelphia Phillies. Fans in attendance at games during the month of August were encouraged to donate items in support of our Fall shipment of care packages to deployed military personnel. Monetary donations were also welcomed.



Moms from our Blue Star Chapter were in attendance the weekend of August 8-10 to receive donations and speak with ballgame attendees about events we organize/ sponsor and the support we provide to deployed military personnel and local Veterans. This event has proved to be a great success for the first 3 games our members supported. Three more home games will be attended by our members the weekend of August 22-24 where additional donations will be gathered and information regarding the important role our organization fills locally will be shared with attendees.



AUGUST 2025

NM2



Rio Grande Valley
Blue Star Mothers



AUGUST 7,
2025

MEMORIAL SERVICE AND CELEBRATION OF LIFE

ASSOCIATE, LAWRENCE "LARRY" SEELEY

WITH LOVING MEMORY, WE REMEMBER USA, PURPLE HEART VETERAN AND ASSOCIATE LARRY SEELEY WHO WENT TO BE WITH THE LORD ON JUNE 28, 2025. A HEROIC VETERAN AND SOUL WHO RECEIVED THE PURPLE HEART AND HELD MEMBERSHIP IN THE PRESTIGIOUS MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, AND ALSO A VALUABLE ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY BLUE STAR MOTHERS NM2. LARRY NEVER MISSED A PACKING OR A WELCOME HOME AND HE ALWAYS REQUESTED TO HOLD THE POW/MIA FLAG. NM2 LOVINGLY WITH RESPECT, HOSTED THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LARRY ON JULY 18, 2025 AT THE NM VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK.



NOVEMBER 6, 1948 – JUNE 28, 2025

OUR CONDOLESCENCES TO HIS SON, BRENT AND FAMILY OF NORTH CAROLINA. THANK YOU TO OUR ASSOCIATE, DOROTHY BOSSARD FOR COORDINATING THE MEMORIAL SERVICE.

JULY 28-AUGUST 2, 2025 - FIVE MEMBERS OF NM2 ATTENDED THE NATIONAL BLUE STAR MOTHER OF AMERICA CONVENTION. CAROL, GLORIA, LISA, KATHY AND MARLAINE.

AUGUST 16, 2025 – ELECTIONS FOR EB -NM2

AUGUST 23-24, 2025 "PISTONS FOR PATRIOTS" CAR SHOW, NM STATE FAIR GROUNDS

SEPTEMBER 9, 2025, "MILITARY AND VETERANS DAY AT THE NM STATE FAIR@ EXPO NEW MEXICO

SEPTEMBER 13, 2025, GOLD STAR MOTHERS OF NM PICNIC AT THE NM VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 "FORGOTTEN HEROES" MEMORIAL SERVICE AT SANTA FE NATIONAL CEMETERY

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025 "FALL FEST AT KIRTLAND AFB - HARDIN FIELD "OKTOBERFEST BEER GARDEN" MILITARY CELEBRATION.





St. Paul Blue Star Mothers MN 11 August Newsletter



Karla, Lynn, Benita, Donna,
Kathy and Debbie

Left: Chapter photo
of our walk for
President's Project
"Miles for our
Veterans"

Right: A couple local
activities in
Milwaukee, WI



Kathy, Karla,
Debbie, Donna
and Denise had
a great time at
National
Convention!



Denise and Tony delivered sweat pants from convention to
Tomah VA Hospital and William S Middleton Memorial
Veterans Hospital in Madison, WI



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

Blue Star Moms of California - East Bay Chapter 101

June-July 2025 Events



Care Package - 120 care packages boxed and sent to our deployed troops in June and July.



We have shipped 1,017 care packages to date this fiscal year!

June 14 - Army 250th Birthday

Celebration at Camp Parks - The Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, known as Camp Parks, serves more than 20,000 Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers. Our Chapter members participated in the celebration and received generous cash donations from the attendees.



Fourth of July Parade - The Town of Danville 4th of July parade/Coldwell Banker BBQ is one of our top favorite events. We had 8 moms and 3 dads who walked in the parade. After the parade, our local Coldwell Banker branch held a BBQ and our Chapter had a table at their event where we received cash donations.



July 10 - Pinole Rotary Club - Their members collected items and assembled care packages on behalf of our Chapter during one of their meetings where we also gave a presentation about the Blue Star Mothers organization.

MI178 Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter

Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter #178 had their annual summer picnic July 30th. It was fun, a little windy with some rain at Waterworks Park in Harbor Beach. We had a great turnout from our local service organizations in the Thumb who we wanted to thank for always supporting our Chapters Mission. The Mothers supplied the meal. We thank the grill masters for working so hard on the hamburgers and hot dogs.



MN Chapter 16

Pine City Blue Star Moms

With a couple parades under our belts and a couple more to go, we are extremely grateful to the Associate Members of our Chapter who took the time to make much needed repairs to our float! It looked spectacular in the Pine County Fair Parade in Pine City, MN. Along with the spruced up float, we had the honor of having three Veterans ride on the float during this parade! Josh and Jade, sons of two of our members and Wally, an Associate member and Josh and Jade, sons of Angie and Tish.



August 26th, the float will once again be carrying members and associates of the Blue Star Mothers from across the state at the Minnesota State Fair's Military Appreciation Day parade.



WESTERN SLOPE BLUE STAR MOTHERS COB



OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS WE HAVE BEEN SHIPPING OUT A LOT OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



YELLOW ROSE - TX20

August 2025

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



Chapter meeting in full force! Packed meeting, we had to go grab chairs!



Our Moms attended the 250th Army Birthday in June in Waxahachie. Congressman Jake Ellzey was so touched that the Blue Star Mothers were there in attendance that he personalized a "Letter of Recognition" for each of our Yellow Roses. Everyone was presented with their letters at the meeting.



Post-meeting, TX20 completed the "Miles For Our Veterans" walk; the fundraising initiative from our National President. Post-walk, we enjoyed food & fellowship (and cooled off from the TX heat) at The Derbyshire.

NATIONAL CONVENTION



TX20 represented at BSMA National Convention. They enjoyed reconnecting with friends, making new connections, learning everything BSM, packing sweatpants for the VA, have a blast at the pajama party for Big Dipper, voting on important matters and having **FUN** all along the way!



3
SHINING
STAR
recognitions

August 2025 CA-10 Events



Summer Events for Central Valley Blue Star Moms of Fresno, CA. We pinned new members to our chapter, welcomed home a Vetrean, shipped summer unit boxes to active duty military, provided dinner for veterans, welcomed new mom's at the Airman Commissioning Ceremony, and attended BSM National Convention.



Blue Star Mothers ROC NY8 Sept 2024-Aug 2025 The Year In Review



April 2025

Begun in 2011 with few interruptions, NY8 has held an annual community baby shower for military and veteran families. Showering them with supplies and baby care essentials.



Care Packages; Nearly 500 care packages were filled and sent around the world to Service Members

NY8 served lunch to over 320 veterans at the annual Rochester Stand Down in Sept 2024



NY8 hosted a remembrance & honor ceremony for Gold Star Families on Gold Star Sunday Sept 2024



NY8 with other agencies provided cider and donuts at Military Appreciation Day at Stoke Farms



For the 11th year, NY8 invited the community to the Lights of Honor ceremony which has grown to decorating two Christmas trees with over 600 ornaments containing pictures of service members.

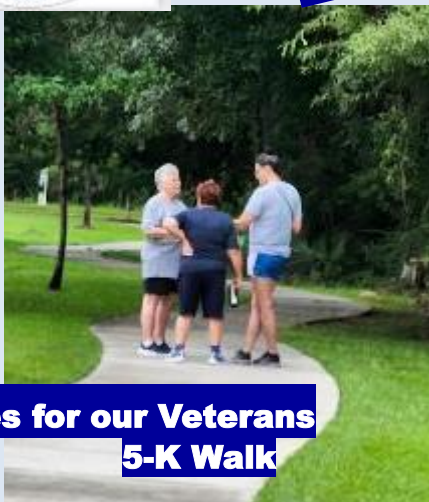
- Support the VA Food Pantry
- Annually provide holiday meals to 6 Veteran housing facilities



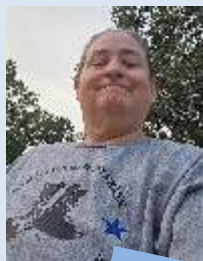
LA Geaux 7 Blue Star Moms



**National Convention:
Ann Berkins, Kathy Baker, Trudy
Dupuy and Sandy Stockwell**



**Miles for our Veterans
5-K Walk**



**Sandy and Ann
with our Geaux 7
mentor
Ann Parker**

**Sandy and Ann at
the Banquet**



**Pajama Party Fun
at the Big Dipper**



Broken Arrow OK5



Tulsa Warrior Hockey

Club Past President, Donnie Buerig, gave us a brief description of how they came about, then turned it over to the President, Chad Olson, for the check presentation.

Chris Dunn, Founder of The Broken Warrior Ranch

Buckeye Military Moms OH #9



In the Community

Scarves for Central Ohio Stand Down



National Convention!



Chapter members along with a couple family members volunteered at the National Wheelchair Games that were held in Minnesota in July.



National President's 5K – it was a hot and humid night, but we made it!



Along with members from MN13, chapter members assisted at the Tribute for the Troops Concert event and enjoyed listening to Rockie Lynne and honoring Gold Star Families.

Delicious meals made for the guests at the Minneapolis Fisher House.



Honored our Chapter Blue Daisy at National

Chapter attendees at Convention



Attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and toured the new MACV apartment building for Veterans.



Department of Minnesota



Department of Minnesota members at the War Memorial.



Minnesota moms attended a Brewers game.



: Amy Kellerhuis & right Jeanne Ullmer, Department's two Veteran members who attended convention.



Department of Minnesota attendees all dressed up for the banquet.



IL6



Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers IL6

What a busy month! We walked our BSMA President's Project Miles For Our Veterans – If These Boots Could Talk Virtual 5K: We participated in and spoke at The 11th Annual National Gathering of American Indians Veterans – Stories Told and Untold: We served breakfast at our Fisher House: We attended BSMA National Convention in Milwaukee: We elected our 2025-2026 Chapter Executive Board



From left to right: Treasurer Mary, FinSec Heather, RecSec Sue, TYP Colleen, and new President Becky.

After 6 years as Chapter President, Sonya passed the gavel to Becky. We look forward to Becky's leadership and that of our whole CEB!





Military Mom Bond

The instinctive understood love and friendship which binds complete strangers that are universally connected by the heart.