



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

JANUARY 2026

National Executive Board

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– PA
recsec@bluestarmothers.us

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

Treasurer: Jacqueline Ransom – MI
treas@bluestarmothers.us



PNP Rebecca Stafford

pnpbecky@bluestarmothers.us

PNP Anne Parker Pro-Tem

pnpanne@bluestarmothers.us

PNP Carla Brodacki

pnpcarla@bluestarmothers.us

Chaplain Rebecca Stafford

chaplain@bluestarmothers.us

Parliamentarian Patti Elliott

parliamentarian@bluestarmothers.us

Dept. Of MI Linda Powers

president.deptmi@bluestarmothers.us

Dept. of OH President Barb Cook

president.deptoh@bluestarmothers.us

Dept. of MN President Sharon Sakro

president.deptmn@bluestarmothers.us

Table of contents

Presidents Message	2-3		
National Press Releases	4- 6	Chapter Reports	13-40
National 4 th VP message	7	Inspiration	41-42
FYI Standing Rules	8 -9		
Special New Shirt	10		
VAVS Message	11		
Blue Daisy	12		

KAREN STILLWELL NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Happy New Year Everyone and Welcome to 2026!

We hope everyone is doing well and you were able to enjoy some holiday time with family and friends.

The start of the new year has brought us a renewed hope of growing our organization to become bigger, better and stronger together. We hope to focus less on things that divide us and more on the bond that unites us. We have been promoting awareness through media press release, social media inspirations and a “storytelling campaign”. A huge thank you to Amy Zienta, our current Public Relations Chair on all her hard work throughout the holidays and now. We hope you have enjoyed reading and sharing our mission, our strength and our unwavering support of the Military. We have attached the two press releases already sent out this year. Help us help you by spreading the word. Together we will be United in Strength and Grace, supporting the Military, Veterans, Gold Star Mothers while supporting each other.

A big thank you to all of you who joined the financial training sessions so far this month. Wow, you have showed up strong and willing to learn. We appreciate your patience during the meetings while we admitted and confirmed over 225 members on the 10th and over 200 more on the 14th . We appreciate all the hard work from our Finance committee and the finance team that made this all come together. This was teamwork at its best! We will release additional information soon for the Quick books training on the morning of the 24th . The requirement for those financial officers



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONTINUED



who could not attend the other sessions will be sent out by the end of the month.

It is hard to believe the 2026 National Convention is a little over 6 months away. We are so excited to get you altogether again soon. For those who have followed our history, I am the first National President from Columbus, Ohio since 1954-1955 and the last time our city was chosen as a National Convention location was in 1956.

Our small town has expanded and grown to an exciting city. We are excited to share it with all of you. We hope you all can join us while we make Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. history together. The National Convention will start on July 27 , 2026 with early registration, followed by a Presidents reception that evening. We will end the Convention week on Friday, July 31, 2026 concluding the Convention with a banquet. Watch for the Chatter coming soon from the committee, They have been working hard on exciting plans for July 2026.

Looking forward to a great year of learning, serving and bonding together as Sisters and Supporters of our great organization. Our strength continues to be our love of the Military and our mission of service!

Respectfully Yours in Service and Sisterhood,
Karen
Karen Stillwell
National President 2025-2026



PRESS RELEASE



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.



This page contains press release content distributed by XPR Media. Members of the editorial and news staff of the USA TODAY Network were not involved in the creation of this content.

New Year, Renewed Mission: Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Expands Support for Military Families in 2026

EIN Presswire

Blue Star Mothers of America renews its mission in 2026, expanding support for military families, veterans, and Gold Star families nationwide.

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, January 1, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ — As the new year begins, Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. (BSMA) renews its commitment to supporting America's military, veterans, and Gold Star families through service, advocacy, and community engagement.

With over 6,000 members and more than 200 chapters nationwide, Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. is a Congressionally Chartered, non-partisan, non-political, and non-sectarian 501(c)(3) organization made up of mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, foster mothers, and female legal guardians of military members and veterans. United by service, these volunteers dedicate countless hours each year to ensuring military families know they are not alone.

"As we move into 2026, our mission remains steadfast — but our vision is growing," said Karen Stillwell, National President of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. "By expanding our membership and strengthening donor support, we can increase our impact and reach more military families, veterans, and Gold Star families who need support now more than ever."

Serving Veterans Through VA Voluntary Service (VAVS)

One of Blue Star Mothers of America's key national initiatives is participation in the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program. Through VAVS, members serve veterans across the country in:

1. More than 150 VA Medical Centers and Healthcare Systems
2. Over 475 Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs)

“

Together, we can ensure no military mother stands alone, no veteran is forgotten, and no Gold Star family is without support.”

— Karen Stillwell, National President, Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

Veterans from all eras — including World War II, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan — receive care within VA facilities. Many face ongoing physical, emotional, and mental health challenges. Blue Star Mothers volunteers provide comfort, compassion, and critical support to these heroes.

Each VA facility benefits from having a VAVS Representative, who recruits volunteers and coordinates donations to meet the specific needs of that facility. Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. continues to work toward placing a VAVS Representative in every VA Medical Center and Healthcare System nationwide.

Additional Ways to Serve in 2026

Beyond VA service, Blue Star Mothers chapters support the military community by:

1. Packing and shipping care packages to deployed service members
2. Volunteering at veteran events and local Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)
3. Supporting Gold Star families through remembrance, outreach, and community care
4. Participating in patriotic programs, ceremonies, and educational initiatives

Call to Action: Growing the Mission Together

As the needs of military families and veterans continue to grow, Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. is focused on expanding its reach through increased membership and donor support. Military mothers who are eligible are encouraged to join a local chapter or help establish one in their community. Supporters who believe in the mission are invited to contribute financially, enabling the organization to strengthen programs and expand services nationwide.

"Together, we can ensure that no military mother stands alone, no veteran is forgotten, and no Gold Star family is left without support," President Stillwell added.

To learn more about Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., [find a local chapter](#), [volunteer](#), or [make a donation](#), visit www.bluestarmothers.org.

Amy Zienta
Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
public.relations@bluestarmothers.us
Visit us on social media:
[Facebook](#)

Legal Disclaimer:

EIN Presswire provides this news content "as is" without warranty of any kind. We do not accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy, content, images, videos, licenses, completeness, legality, or reliability of the information contained in this article. If you have any complaints or copyright issues related to this article, kindly contact the author above.



PRESS RELEASE

*Blue Star Mothers
of America, Inc.*

DAILY NEWS



Blue Star Mothers of America Urges Congress to Recognize National Blue Star Mothers Day

The organization calls on lawmakers to formally recognize military mothers and honor their service, sacrifice, and decades of national volunteer impact.

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, January 15, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.](#) is calling on members of Congress to support

“

Our sons and daughters serve—and so do we. A nationally recognized Blue Star Mothers Day honors the strength, resilience, and service of military mothers.”

Karen Stillwell, National President, Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

legislation formally designating February 1 as [Blue Star Mothers Day](#), a national day of recognition honoring the service, sacrifice, and enduring contributions of military mothers across the United States.

February 1 holds historic significance for military families. On that date in 1942, during World War II, 300 mothers gathered in Flint, Michigan, to support one another while their sons served overseas. That meeting marked the founding of Blue Star Mothers of America, an organization that has continued to serve military families for more than

eight decades.

Today, Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. operates over 200 chapters nationwide, representing thousands of military families and contributing millions of volunteer hours annually in support of service members, veterans, and their families.

“Our sons and daughters serve—and so do we,” said Karen Stillwell, National President of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. “A nationally recognized Blue Star Mothers Day honors the quiet strength, resilience, and service of military mothers while strengthening public appreciation for military families.”

Designating February 1 as Blue Star Mothers Day would provide an opportunity to formally recognize the sacrifices made by military mothers, encourage public appreciation of military families, highlight the ongoing volunteer service provided to veterans and communities, and strengthen national awareness and unity across the nation.

The proposed resolution is nonpartisan and carries no fiscal impact. It creates no new programs

PRESS RELEASE

*Blue Star Mothers
of America, Inc.*

DAILY NEWS

CONTINUED

and requires no funding, focusing solely on recognition and awareness. Support for military families remains a unifying issue that resonates across political lines.

Blue Star Mothers of America volunteers continue to serve communities every day by sending care packages to deployed service members, visiting veterans in VA medical centers, supporting homeless and wounded veterans, providing funeral honors for fallen heroes, and maintaining vital family support networks throughout the country.

The resolution encourages Americans to observe Blue Star Mothers Day on February 1 with appropriate activities and ceremonies and to support the work of local Blue Star Mothers chapters.

Blue Star Mothers of America respectfully urges U.S. Senators to sponsor and co-sponsor this resolution and help secure bipartisan support to officially recognize Blue Star Mothers Day. Military families deserve to be seen, honored, and supported—not only during times of conflict, but always.

For more information about Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., or to learn how to support this effort, visit www.bluestarmothers.org.

Amy Zienta
Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
public.relations@bluestarmothers.us
Visit us on social media:
[Facebook](#)

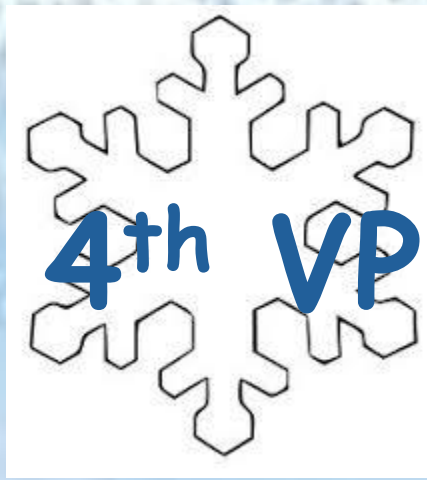


Official logo of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., a congressionally chartered nonprofit supporting military families, veterans, and Gold Star families nationwide.

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/883593670>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2026 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.



4th VP KARLA KELLER



**Compliance is
Now Past Due!**



The deadline for filing compliance for your Department, Chapter, or Auxiliary has now passed!

What does this mean? Your D/C/A is **STILL REQUIRED** to complete compliance **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, but now you are no longer in Good Standing. When you are not in Good Standing, you cannot receive funds from National (memberships due to you, grants, etc...). If your D/C/A needs a Letter of Good Standing for a donation or other need, we cannot provide it until you are back in Good Standing. If you do not have your compliance submissions complete by December 31, more steps may need to be taken. It is in your best interests to communicate with our N4VP and to get this done right away!

How do we know if we are in compliance? If your D/C/A has completed all components of compliance, and it is all approved, your board has received an email from the N4VP with the subject line:

CSN – Compliance is Complete!

Where CSN is your Chapter State and Number. If your board has not received this email from the N4VP, then your D/C/A has not completed all components of compliance!

What If the N1VP or the Financial Reviewer told me I was done? These important members of our Compliance Review Team may email you regarding your Officer Roster/Affiliation Agreement or your Financial Documents submitted with your Annual Report. They are only referring to those components of compliance that they are reviewing. The only member of the team who can let you know you are fully complete is the N4VP – until you hear it from her, you still have work to do!

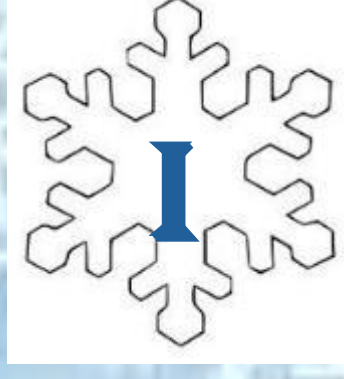
Why is this so important to complete? Compliance is a required part of doing business. National must be able to answer to authorities, such as the IRS, regarding the compliance of our entire organization, that cannot be done if our D/C/As are not in compliance. It puts us all at risk.

How can I find out what we are missing? Just email our N4VP at 4VP@bluestarmothers.us and she will be happy to help you with that information.



Remember, compliance is now PAST DUE and must be submitted ASAP! Reach out with any questions!





Standing Rules Submit Yearly

Attention all Departments and Chapters

- * While it is not required to have standing rules; it is required to submit them yearly for review.
- * Please follow the template attached below as your format; do not list rules already covered in our governing documents.
- * Standing Rules are only intended to cover information unique to your Chapter/Department.
- * Submit them to the National President and the Governing Documents Chair for their review at:

Govdocs@bluestarmothers.us and
President@bluestarmothers.us



BSMA Standing Rules Template

1. The Chapter Board consists of the required elected officers (Pres, 1VP, Rec Sec, Fin Sec and Treas.) and the three Past Chapter Presidents. While a 3VP is not required a Blue to Gold Liaison should be appointed annually by the Chapter President.
2. Each month our chapter will hold their monthly membership meeting at: (day, time and location to include the physical address), with the exception of (month) if applicable. If any changes, the members are to be notified via email.
3. If your Executive Board has a meeting separate from the monthly chapter meeting include the details here.
4. All chapter communication to members shall be via email. If a member is unable to access their email for any reason the member should notify Chapter President.
5. For social media guidelines please refer to *the Bylaws, Article XV, Electronic Communications, Social Media*. All members in good standing must have access to all chapter social media platforms.
6. If your chapter has any standing committees such as a packing committee or fundraising committee please list them there.
7. In case of unusual circumstances that affects officer attendance at a meeting please refer to the most recent addition of Robert's Rules of Order for guidance.
8. **Convention Protocol:** All members in good standing are eligible to attend the national convention. Please list here your selection process for delegates. Keep in mind the Chapter President/Executive Board does not choose the convention delegates. Convention delegates are expected to attend all sessions while at national convention. Delegates should provide a report to the chapter membership upon their return.
9. If your chapter has budgeted to cover delegate allowable expenses at convention please provide details here.
10. As a reminder our fiscal year ends August 31st of each year and compliance is due by December 1st. The chapter executive board meeting should be held as soon as possible for transition of officer positions and begin the compliance process.

THIS IS A TEMPLATE WHICH CAN BE EXPANDED AS LONG AS YOUR RULES DO NOT CONFLICT WITH NATIONAL GOVERNING DOCUMENTS.





America celebrates 250 years of independence—a historic milestone honoring courage, sacrifice, and the enduring spirit of our nation.

Our 250 Anniversary apparel was created to commemorate this once-in-a-generation moment. Designed with timeless patriotism in mind, each piece honors the men and women who have defended our freedoms and the values that unite us as Americans. Please see our supporter page to order one for your loved one or share with other BSMA SUPPORTERS.




SHOP HERE Member/Associates (LOGO Wear)
<https://blue-star-mothers-of-america.myspreadshop.com/>



SHOP HERE for SUPPORTER WEAR:

[Blue Star Mothers of America Inc | Spreadshop](#)

Reminder, you can move/resize the designs around, add designs from our gallery, add names, etc. Just use the CUSTOMIZE  tool on the screen.



Several Different Styles - See Below how to change up design



Front



Back

Click Customize Button 

Click Customize box under design

To move designs from the front to the back

Click on ARRANGE DESINGS under the color on the right hand of the screen. Drag and drop designs.

To move RESIZE or MOVE

Choose the location and click on the design to move around or resize..

To Add designs or text

click the box on left DESIGNS or TEXT add your choice.

[Blue Star Mothers of America Inc | Spreadshop](#)





Thank you to our VAVS Rep. Nikki Smith for sharing this information with us.

The purpose of the National Salute to Veteran Patients Program is to:

- ▣ pay tribute and express appreciation to Veterans.
- ▣ increase community awareness of the role of the VA medical center.
- ▣ encourage citizens to visit hospitalized Veterans and to become involved as volunteers.

The week of February 14 each year is your opportunity to say thank you to a special group of men and women, the more than 9 million Veterans of the U.S. armed services who are cared for in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliary, and nursing homes. During the National Salute, VA invites individuals, Veterans groups, military personnel, civic organizations, businesses, schools, local media, celebrities and sports stars to participate in a variety of activities at the VA medical centers. The activities and events include special ward visits and valentine distributions; photo opportunities; school essay contests; special recreation activities and Veteran recognition programs.

Although Blue Star Mothers show their appreciation all year long this is a dedicated week to Salute Veteran Patients. Along with the many Valentine Cards that our VAVS and their chapters bring to the facilities this is an excellent week to

go the extra mile. And, with local communities participating this is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our BSMA organization.

Discuss with your chapters how you can participate, call the VAVS office and ask them what activities they already have planned and how you can participate. Perhaps join in with another organization and work alongside each other.

If you are a chapter without a VAVS Rep you can still participate. Call the nearest

VA facility and ask how you can participate – drop off signed Valentine Cards from your chapter – perhaps there is an item on their Wishlist that you can send through amazon.com or Walmart.com

If you are a chapter that does this, please let Carol Sanchez know so she can add it to her information. Csanches75@hotmail.com

The other day I thanked a veteran for his service as he walked near me, and he turned to me and said – “I did it for you”! Let us now do it for them.



With a sad heart, our Chapter CA14 gained a Blue Daisy on Christmas Day. Martha Johnson, passed away on Dec. 25, 2025 in the early morning - She was 72 years old. Her son said she waited for Christmas day, because this was her favorite holiday She has been a member of our chapter since 2007. Her son, Ben Johnson, is still serving for over 20 years, in the Army National Guard here in California. She loved being in our chapter and was very good at raising money for our Care Package Postage. We had a program called "Sponsor A Box" and boy could she get people to donate and was very proud of this. I think she still holds that record.





Thanks to all the support from our great community, Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI 178 was able to pack and send out 69 boxes for our Military men and women who are deployed or can't make it home for Christmas this year. Meijer in Bad Axe is always so accommodating to us when we get in line with carts full of items. We also want to thank Knights by Cafe 53 for letting us use your great space to pack and supplying a delicious lunch for us all. We hope we spread Christmas cheer to all our heroes.



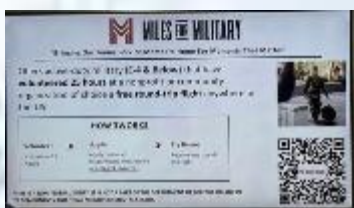


NNJ6 held their annual Beefsteak and Tricky Tray fundraiser in September. It was a delicious meal and fun time. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year, in addition to selling our t-shirts at town festivals, also during the month of September.



Bring a Hero Home for the Holidays!
Buffet dinner hosted by the Knights of Columbus
Friday, November 7 @ 6:00 pm
St. Pius X gymnasium, Montville
Join us for a buffet dinner fundraiser to help junior enlisted service members afford travel home for Christmas.
100% of proceeds is used to support our troops!
Tickets \$45, contact Mark Hanson, 319-270-9610 or markhanson0925@gmail.com

Bring a Hero Home for Christmas
Walter J Barrett 4th Degree Honorary Dinner
St. Pius X Gymnasium, Montville
Friday, November 7, 2025 6:00pm
Tickets: \$45
Profits will be used to pay partial or full fares for an E5 below service man home for Christmas.



During the months of October and November, donations were made to Operation Paperback and Miles for Military.



★ Ohio True Blue #15 wraps up 2025 with Annual Events! ★

Wreaths Across America Community Event



Blue Star members (from left) Gretchen Schmitz, Debby Wadham, Mary Evans and Amy Cooper braved the frigid temperatures to participate in the nationwide ceremony of Wreaths Across America event at the Shawnee Cemetery held on on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025. The members assisted with laying over 620 wreaths in the local cemetery.



SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER!



After a brief monthly meeting, the members of True Blue 15 celebrated the holidays with a luncheon followed by games and a chance to get caught up with each other. Pictured (front row, from left) Mary Evans, Kay Sellers, Gretchen Schmitz and Betty Wharton. Back row (from left) our guest, Tami Flogle, Karen High, Vickie Peters-Wells, Debby Wadham and Amy Cooper.

BELOW: President Gretchen Schmitz presents Associate Member Mary Evans with an **Appreciation Service Award** for going above and beyond with helping to promote our Chapter with creating flyers, newsletters and assisting with social media posts.



Members Betty Wharton and Debby Wadham delivered Christmas gifts that our chapter donated to be given to residents at the CareCore at Lima Nursing Home. The two also handle bingo games quarterly at the nursing home.

Betty and Debby also shipped off the over 500 Christmas cards our chapter signed to give to the residents at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky, Ohio.



LAKE ARROWHEAD, CALIFORNIA
RIMBLUESTARMOMS.ORG CHAPTER 25

VOLUME 11: WINTER 2026 PG 2



On Saturday December 27th, four of our Rim Blue Star Moms and one of our dads, participated in the America 250 Rose Parade Float Decorating day in Irwindale. We partnered with the DAR ladies to decorate the background of the float titled "Soaring Onward Together". Participants included Denise and Michael Wilmeth, Marisela Granados, Lin Kotichas and Jeff, and Nadia Phillips.





Nebraska Chapter 2 & Gold Star MOMS, along with Motorcycle Veterans group served Holiday Lunch to Veterans @ Victory Park in Lincoln, Ne on Dec. 18th



Nebraska Chapter 2 helped lay wreaths for Wreaths Across America. December 2025





Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter PA16

- Volunteered: Robin's Home event benefiting women Veterans and their children
- Presented: Red, white and blue graduation honor cords at 15 high school assemblies
- Participated: 2 Memorial Day parades
- Volunteered: Placed flags at multiple cemeteries in advance of Memorial Day
- Hosted: Guest speaker - Robert Morris University Center for Veterans and Military Families
- Meeting fun: Potato Bar dinner followed by Bead Bar craft project
- Volunteered and donated raffle baskets: Heroes Supporting Heroes Fundraiser
- Volunteered: Day of Hope and Smiles Shepherd's Heart Veteran's Home
- Hosted: Night at the Races event
- Volunteered: Honor Flight Pittsburgh
- Hosted: Guest speaker - Researching Veterans in your Family - Reuschel Research
- Volunteered and donated raffle baskets: Annual Armed Forces Golf Outing





Lone Star Chapter, TX6



TX6 member, Stacy Wynette, was invited to sing the National Anthem at the National Medal of Honor Museum, for the Winter 2025 Maverick Battalion Commissioning Ceremony.



TX6 was able to donate Christmas presents to the patients at the North Texas VA Hospital in Bonham, TX.



Wreaths Across America





JANUARY 2026



Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers



DECEMBER 13, 2025, WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA- SANTA FE NATIONAL CEMETERY.



NM2 wishes our sister NM6 chapter, Happy 19th Birthday! Congratulations!

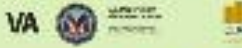


DECEMBER 17, 2025 – OPERATION COOKIE DROP AT KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE

800 DOZEN COOKIES FOR ACTIVE MILITARY NOT GRANTED LEAVE FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.

THANK YOU TO NM2 MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE GENEROUS DONATION OF COOKIES!

DECEMBER 2017, CLOTHING DRIVE AT RAYMOND G MURPHY VA HOSPITAL. MEMBERS CONTRIBUTED OVER 100 ARTICLES OF CLOTHING FOR MALE AND FEMALE VETERANS.



NM2 honors and remembers the service of the two fallen US soldiers who were killed in an ambush by Islamic State on December 13, 2025, in Palmyra, Syria. We say their name to never forget their heroic service and bravery. Sgt. Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar and Sgt. William Nathaniel Howard. Rest in eternal peace.



UP Next for NM2

- February 1st - Blue Star Mother's Day and Freedom Day
- February- 9th-14th National Salute to Veterans Week
- March 21- Packing for deployed troops
- March 29 – National Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony and Reception hosted by NM2.



CA-10 DECEMBER EVENTS



CHRISTMAS TREE GIVE-AWAYS

12/5 - 12/6/25

CVBSM partnered up with Christmas Trees for Soldiers for two days to participate in the 11th annual "Thanks With A Tree" Christmas tree giveaway to provide free Christmas trees to military families. It was heartwarming to see the happy families receive their trees. We helped to get the word out to the public as to the need for more donations and helped count and unload the trees.

PEARL HARBOR CEREMONY

12/7/25

CVBSM was honored to participate in a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony remembering the 2,403 American Service members and civilians who lost their lives. One of our own members has a father who was a Pearl Harbor survivor. Her Army veteran husband had the opportunity to share that story.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

12/13/25

Saturday morning we had BSMs at 3 different cemeteries volunteering at this event: Clovis Cemetery, Redbanks Cemetery, and Academy Cemetery. Our 2nd VP attended the Redbanks ceremony, our Treasurer attended the ceremony at Academy, and our President, Past President, and many other members attended at Clovis.



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

12/12 - 12/14/25

BSMs also celebrated the holidays at a few Christmas parties. First we had the Family Christmas Party at the 144th Fighter Wing, then we had a combined Christmas party with the VFW and American Legion, and last we participated in "Here Comes Santa." The last two events we enjoyed at our Clovis Veteran's Memorial District.





Blue Star Moms, Houston Area Chapter TX2 sold 125 wreaths that were placed at Houston National Cemetery as part of Wreaths Across America Houston Project. There were also several other wreaths placed at other cemeteries as part of the National Wreaths Across America.





Blue Star Mothers ROC NY8 January 2026



Wreaths Across America Webster NY

The Rochester Blue Star Mothers participated in Wreaths Across America at the Webster Union Cemetery on Sunday, December 13th where over 2100 Veterans were honored and remembered with wreaths on their graves.

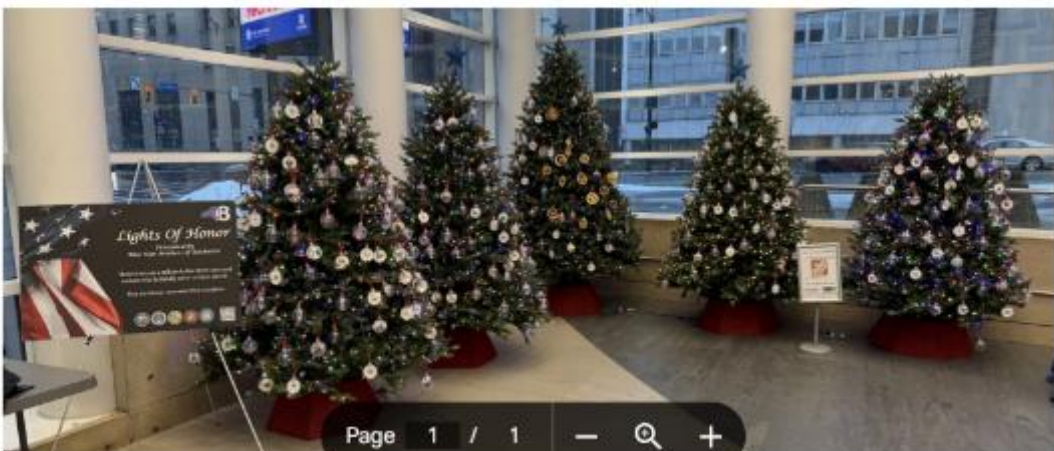


Holiday Sandwich Platters for Veteran Facilities

Once again the Rochester Blue Star Mothers provided sandwich platters, cookies and chips for a holiday meal to over 150 veterans at eight different veteran housing facilities in the Monroe County and the Batavia area. This has been a holiday tradition since 2019. The BSM elves delivering the meals and thanking the veterans for their service and wishing them all the best were Lara Whitney, Nancy Lopez, and Sue Louis.

Lights of Honor

On Sunday, December 7th the Rochester Blue Star Mothers hosted the annual Lights of Honor event at the Blue Cross Arena in downtown Rochester. This event honors service members past and present with the hanging of an ornament containing their picture and name. The ornaments hung honor the military branches, remembering wars and conflicts, and military medals and awards. What started as one tree eight years ago has grown to **FIVE** trees to hold the nearly 1100 ornaments. This truly is a community event with a local high school choir, Fife and Drum Corps and a junior cadet group lead by veteran and BSM Kathy Quiñones with a welcome by BSM NY8 President, Amy VanDerwerken. Event organizer BSM Jeanne Ristau.





Sandy Stockwell, Trudy Dupuy and Tish Gerald at registration desk



Christmas Stockings - 60 of the 120 stockings were handed out to inpatients at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Healthcare System medical center in New Orleans by Blue Star Mothers and medical center administrators.



Paula Gebhart and her husband placing wreaths



Sandy Stockwell and Trudy Dupuy working the registration desk at the Louisiana National Cemetery



LA. National Cemetery program tent is full



Louisiana National Cemetery wreath laying



Sandy Stockwell and Kayla Pagel placing wreaths at Port Hudson National Cemetery

Port Hudson National Cemetery wreath laying



Pam Davis and husband picking up wreaths at the Port Hudson National Cemetery



LA National Cemetery program





We picked up over 800 packages of jerky that was donated through the Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's Jerky for Troops! We will be including these in our up coming care packages!

We delivered 35 homemade stockings filled with crossword books, word search books, toiletry items, deck of cards, games, socks, letters from 5th graders and Christmas cards to our local VA Hospital's Community Living Center



Western Slope Blue Star Mothers CO8



We welcomed home many of our community members over the holiday break!





YELLOW ROSE - TX20

January 2026

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



Yellow Roses Supporting Wreaths Across America



Kicking off 2026!





News from NH1

NH1 has had a very busy year end! From Trunk or Treat with our NH National Guard families up to our Wreaths for Boscawen event in December!

We are so grateful to Bass Pro of Hooksett, NH and Cabela's in Scarborough Maine who together gathered over 300 bags of Jerky for the Troops! We partnered with Operation Care for Troops, and the jerky came just in time for the Holiday packing event.

The members have been hosting the Heroes Christmas Trees around the state. This has been a tradition since 2006. Each year it grows. This Heroes Christmas Tree is at the NH National Guard Armory in Manchester, NH.

We have just wrapped up our Wreaths for Boscawen at our NH State Veterans Cemetery. This event always brings in numerous volunteers. The Blue Star Mothers, together with our Gold Star Mothers gather the afternoon before in support of our Gold Star Families. We were honored to have Gov. Kelly Ayotte joined in the wreath laying event. This is a huge event with over 1,000 volunteers coming to help lay the wreaths. Our wreaths are made for us in Franklin, NH and are always beautiful.

This year we were awarded a very special certificate from the State Survivor Outreach provider in recognition of our support to the Gold Star families. On Jan. 3rd volunteers arrived to help clean up the cemetery.

NH1 looks forward to a very wonderful 2026!

National Guard Trunk or Treat



Bass Pro in Hooksett, NH





This month has been quieter, but the mission continues.

In December/January we prepared another three meals at the Fisher House.

A member of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, which awarded us the grant for Fisher House meals, joined us in preparing one of the meals. It was valuable for her to see our work and share in the experience we enjoy each month.



Several chapter members assisted at the CDCE with their Holiday Wishes Program. We did everything from accepting and cataloging the gifts that were donated by the staff at the VA, to bagging them up to be delivered for distribution to families in need during the holidays. We helped with setting up their giving tree and we packed holiday bags for all those that were going to be at the hospital during the holidays.



We had members who also volunteered at the Veteran Food Pantry at the VA.





Happy New Year! We are off to a fantastic start with a generous donation from the First Citizens Charitable Foundation (Mora Branch of First Citizens Bank). We are truly honored to be selected for this support. The First Citizens Charitable Foundation is committed to supporting nonprofit organizations that make a meaningful impact in areas such as financial education, community development, and essential human services. Through grant funding, the foundation helps strengthen local programs that improve quality of life and promote long-term community wellbeing.



SAN MATEO COUNTY BLUE STAR MOTHERS CA15

A spark has helped CA 15 of San Mateo County, California with the many activities that we have been doing. New and several former members have joined our chapter, bringing their enthusiasm, ideas and skills to guide us in fulfilling plans for the future.

What we've been doing:

- ▣ Recently CA15 with the local Elks and Lions Clubs filled and prepared packages to be sent to our deployed troops.
- ▣ Tote bags were also packed to be given to local veterans in San Mateo County.
- ▣ We have also started a project to make no sew blankets for our local veterans. Warm fleece blankets are just the right size to be used on wheelchairs or on a bed.

Working together to cut a blanket; Financial Secretary Brenda Ternullo and San Mateo County Patriot of the Year, Surayna Spicer. Jackie Belli, Debbie Smyser, Surayna Spicer, Brenda Ternullo, and Janice Key showing the blankets.

This will be an ongoing project!



A fundraising Karaoke Event was held to raise funds for our club. There were many talented singers that entertained us.

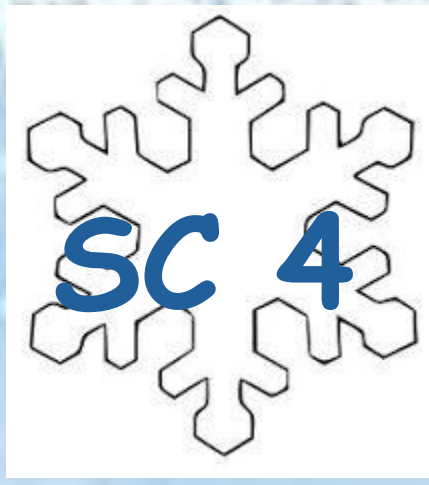


A silent auction provided many delightful baskets for all.



The activities for 2025 ended with the laying of wreaths at Golden Gate National Cemetery.

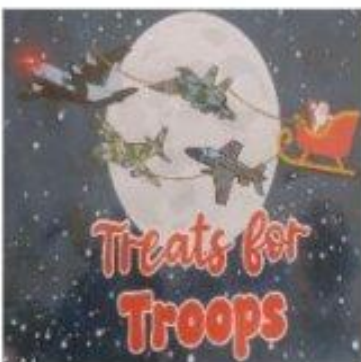




Dec '25/ Jan '26



The last two months of the year 2025 our chapter has been busy. From tree decorating, handing out hot cocoa, operation christmas blessing, wreaths across america, veteran food basket, a christmas party, and the last packout for 2025, we are looking forward to what the new year of 2026 will bring.





Blue Star Mothers of America Louisiana Chapter 1

News from the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women
January 2026



Wreaths Across America 2025

LA1 sponsored the Baton Rouge National Cemetery for Wreaths Across America.
Over 4,000 wreaths were placed on the graves of Louisiana's heroes.



Veterans Day 2025

Lake Sherwood Village



LA1 member Christy Landry's father received the Louisiana Honor Medal during the Lake Sherwood ceremony.

Hometown Hero Banners



St. Alphonsus Liguori Veterans Mass

Walker Parade



Hammond Rec Department Veterans Luncheon



Gonzales Ceremony



Pontheatoula Parade

Jingle and Mingle 2025

LA1 celebrated Christmas cheer with a Jingle and Mingle social during the Christmas Season





Annual Holiday Party held on Sunday, January 4, 2026:

Celebrating sisterhood, service, and smiles! Our Blue Star Mothers came together in beautiful harmony at our Annual Holiday Party, sharing delicious food and desserts, exchanging gifts, and filling the room with laughter and joy. It was extra special to welcome new moms into our circle as we celebrated the season, our bonds, and the love we share for our service members. What a heartwarming and unforgettable day!



Legends Live Forever Groundbreaking Ceremony held on Thursday, January 15, 2026:

Our Blue Star Mothers, Gold Star Mothers, city officials, and the community stood together with **Legends Live Forever** at the Groundbreaking Ceremony held at Central Park in Rancho Cucamonga, California. This memorial, in partnership with the Woody Williams Foundation, marks the beginning of a deeply meaningful journey, one dedicated to honoring our Gold Star Families and remembering the loved ones who remain forever in our hearts and with us every day.





**BLUE STAR
MOTHERS
SE WI 2**



**JANUARY
2026
NEWSLETTER**

**Upcoming
Events**



**January 2026
Chapter Meeting
January 20th**

**February 2026
Chapter Meeting
February 17th**

**Cooking Class
Fundraiser
April 6th**

**Volunteer @
Boland Hall
Family Picnic
July 11th**



Our December meeting brought together 33 members and 2 associate members for an evening of connection and planning mixed with a little holiday spirit.

During the meeting, we shared updates, reviewed upcoming events, and reflected on the many activities that took place in recent months. Members also took time to share personal updates about their service members, which we call our collective "why" for joining our Blue Star Mothers of America Chapter. Plans, goals, and shared tasks for the months ahead were discussed, all while enjoying a bit of holiday cheer and our cherished Patriotic Gift Exchange.

Pictured below is a group photo from our December meeting along with moments from our annual Flower Workshop Fundraiser, held just days before Christmas.





SACRAMENTO
BLUE STAR
Moms

CA7
Newsletter
January 2026



December Events

12/1 Storage
Work on Raffle
Baskets



12/2 Christmas
Stocking



12/6 Moose For
Troops

12/7 SBSM Lisa
Guest
Bartending @
Jan's Lounge

JAN'S LOUNGE
GUEST BARTENDER
LISA
DECEMBER 7
NOON-3PM
\$5 DRINK SPECIAL
**WOO-
WOO!**
ALL TIPS GO TO
BLUE STAR MOMS



*This
IS WHERE
FRIENDS
BECOME
family*



12/9 Tanner
Rubio USMC

12/11 Holiday
Party



12/13 Wreaths
Across America

12/14 Fair Oaks
VFW Childrens
Christmas
Party



12/19 Moose
Dinner

12/30 5th
Tuesday
Breakfast



www.SacramentoBlueStarMoms.org



SacramentoBlueStarMoms



IOWA STAR

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

President.ia1@bluestarmother.us

Moms on a Mission

www.bluestarmothersofiowa.com

Blue Star Mothers of Iowa Are “Moms on a Mission”

The Blue Star Mothers of America – Iowa Chapter shared heartfelt messages of gratitude, remembrance, and celebration during the holiday season. They honored their Chapter President and Blue Star Mom, Lisa Wilson, on her December 31 birthday, thanking her for her leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to supporting service members, veterans, and communities across Iowa.

On Christmas Day, the chapter extended warm wishes to service members serving at home and abroad, their families, veterans, and the communities and state of Iowa that support their mission. The message emphasized pride, love, and gratitude from Blue Star Families, while also honoring the memory of Sgt. William Nathaniel “Nate” Howard, Sgt. Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, and civilian interpreter Ayed Mansoor Sakat, who were killed in action on December 13, 2025. The chapter invited the public to send cards and letters in remembrance and support.

The chapter also participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery, braving frigid and snowy conditions to honor fallen heroes. Vice President April Conway presented the Gold Star Wreath to the Hummel family, while fellow Blue Star Moms placed the Blue Star wreath at the War on Terrorism Monument. The event reflected their deep sense of duty and appreciation for veterans, with gratitude extended to all volunteers who ensured every headstone and marker was honored with a wreath.

A December 13, 2025 press release from Governor Kim Reynolds announced that two Iowa Army National Guard soldiers and one U.S. civilian were killed, and three additional Guard members were wounded, during an enemy attack in Palmyra, Syria, while conducting a key leader engagement as part of ongoing counter-ISIS and counter-terrorism operations. The wounded soldiers were evacuated for medical treatment, and all names were withheld in accordance with Department of War notification and privacy policies. Governor Reynolds and Iowa National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen Osborn expressed deep condolences, emphasized support for the families of the fallen and wounded, and asked Iowans to unite in prayer. The release also noted that approximately 1,800 Iowa Army National Guard soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, deployed to the Middle East in late May 2025 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

December 13, 2025-A message from April Conway, Vice President of the Blue Star Mothers of Iowa
It is with a very heavy heart that we send out our love and support to the Iowa families impacted by the events in Syria today.

To the families who have suffered the unimaginable loss of their loved ones, we are here for you. We are holding you in our hearts and prayers. To the families of those wounded, we are here for you. We are lifting you up and praying strength for you and your loved ones. To the families of ALL Iowa deployed, we are here for you. As Blue Star families we all feel the impact of this tragedy.

At this time the Blue Star Mothers of America - Iowa Chapter ask everyone to come together and hold these families up in their most difficult moments but we are also asking that everyone give them the privacy and respect they need at this time.

As always, the Iowa BSMoms are here to support you and one another. Please contact our page privately should you need support.

With love & respect,
April Conway
Vice President of the Blue Star Mothers of Iowa.



Scan to watch our end of year recap



Iowa National Guard Sgts. William Nathaniel Howard and Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar were killed in an attack in Syria Dec. 13, 2025. (Photo via Iowa National Guard)



Please send your cards and letters to:

Blue Star Mothers of America - Iowa Chapter
P.O. Box 751
Johnston, IA 50131

Or you can drop them off at the following:

Iowa Gold Star Military Museum
7105 NW 20th Ave in Johnston

HeartBeats
2141 Grand Ave in Des Moines





Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County NM6

December was a blur of holiday family time with a few Blue Star Mother events mixed in. Some new members will be joining NM6 this year, so that is a great way to start 2026! Plans are already in the works now to continue working with the local high school AJROTC units, to support the NNM Honor Flight (2026), to welcome home troops at the airport, to work with our veteran organizations and the VA Hospital, and to pack some boxes full of goodies and love for deployed. Here's to a great new year!





**CARE PACKAGE
THANK YOU!**





Gateway Blue Star Mothers
Newsletter
January 2026 Vol. 5

During the holidays, Fort Leonard Wood shuts down, allowing those who serve to travel home and spend time with their loved ones. GBSM Moms answered the call—working overnight at our local airport to feed, direct, and help load these men and women with snacks to carry them on their journey home. We are honored to support those who serve.



- 2026 Events in the Works**
- 22 strong – September
 - Golf-A-Ganza - April
 - Fags of Valor Assembly – April
 - Quarter Auction - May
 - Corn hole Tournament – June
 - 4th of July 250th Anniversary - July
 - Flags of Valor – September
 - Gold Star Mother's Day - September
 - Meat Bingo – October/November
 - Christmas Tree Decorating
 - Wreaths Across America – December
 - Christmas Cookie Boxes



Rolling Hills
Blue Star Moms - CA 27



WAA Wreath Laying



Gift giving at Mather Veteran's Village



Santa Con - Mather Vet Hospital - Canned Food Drive and Pub Crawl



Annual RHBSM Christmas Event



Always Collecting Donations



Honoring a Local Fallen Hero

rollinghillshbluestarmoms.org



"We are You" You are "We"

We are all Moms to some of the MOST Amazing people , Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coasties, and Guardsmen, yet we ARE ALL THE SAME.

We all feel the pride the day our heroes sign on the line and take the oath, yet we cry, and we worry

We all feel that pride when we watch as they graduate basic, and AIT, yet we cry, and we worry

We all feel that pride & Fear the first time they call and let us know they are heading out for their first, second or third deployment. We Cry and We worry

We all feel that pride that our child has chosen to be that 1% yet we Cry and We worry

We celebrate promotions, and achievements and offer encouragement to get thru the setbacks or defeats or troubles

We worry and Cry when we don't hear from our heroes and then we cry and worry when we do.

We worry, we pray, we wait for their call, text or letter. We wake up in the middle of the night and wonder where they are, what they are doing and Are they OKAY!

We are sometimes Moms of kids just getting started in the military , some have more than 20 years' experience, some of us are veterans, some have veterans.

We encourage each other, we lend advice if we have useful tips,

We share stories and love to hear about your hero because they are ours now too.

We are care package warriors

We proudly wear our nation's colors and tear up Every time the National Anthem is played.

We stand United, in the happiest of times and during the scariest. So, you are Never ALONE !

We are always here, and You are missed when you are not.

We are often the strongest women most will ever know and at times the most vulnerable.

"We are You" You are "We"

I guarantee whatever you think you are going through or you are feeling someone in this group has been through it.

Proud Mom of an awesome Army Veteran !
Beth Bruening





**OUR MISSION.
OUR PROMISE. OUR HEART.**



WE ARE MOTHERS


STEPMOTHERS, GRANDMOTHERS, FOSTER
MOTHERS & FEMALE LEGAL GUARDIANS

Who have children serving in the military, Guard or
Reserves, or who are VETERANS.



**WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND OUR CHILDREN
WHILE PROMOTING PATRIOTISM,
AND WE WILL NEVER, EVER FORSAKE OUR TROOPS,
OUR VETERANS, OR THE FAMILIES OF OUR FALLEN HEROES.**

6,000+ MEMBERS | 200+ CHAPTERS | NATIONWIDE

*Together, we serve, sacrifice, remember, and support.
Everyday. In big ways and small.* 



#BlueStarMothers