



# Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

## May Newsletter

HONORING THEIR SERVICE



SUPPORTING OUR SISTERS

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The background of the entire page is a large, stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white. The flag is slightly wavy, giving it a sense of movement. In the bottom right corner, there is a small, white, lighthouse-like structure on a rocky cliff overlooking the ocean, with a smaller American flag flying nearby.

# KAREN STILLWELL NATIONAL PRESIDENT

As we welcome the month of May, we are reminded of the many meaningful holidays and observances that honor service, sacrifice, and family. From Mother's Day to Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day, this month gives us special opportunities to reflect on the courage of our military members and the strength of the families who support them every day.

To each of you, thank you for the countless hours of volunteerism, you continue to give so generously. Whether you have packed care packages, supported veterans, attended events, presented honor cords, written cards, organized donations, or simply offered encouragement to another military family, your dedication makes a lasting difference. Your compassion and commitment embody the true spirit of Blue Star Mothers, and our communities are stronger because of you.

As summer approaches, we also encourage everyone to begin registering for the National Convention in July.

Here is the link to the registration form: [Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc](#)

It will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow members, share ideas, celebrate accomplishments, and strengthen the bonds that unite us in service and support of our troops and veterans. We hope to see many new and familiar faces there as we come together once again. Be sure to read all the Convention Chatters being released. There is lots of great information being shared by the Convention Crew.

# KAREN STILLWELL NATIONAL PRESIDENT CONTINUED

As Memorial Day approaches, we pause to remember and honor our fallen heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We also hold close in our hearts our Gold Star Mothers and their families, whose strength, sacrifice and enduring love will never be forgotten. Their courage continues to inspire us all.

May this month bring moments of pride, remembrance, gratitude and joy to you and your families.

Thank you for all you do – this month and throughout the year.

With appreciation, love and patriotism,  
Respectfully Yours in Service,  
Karen Stillwell  
National President 2025-2026



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC



Office of the National President

President <i>Karen Stillwell</i> Ohio	First Vice President <i>Sonja Stowers</i> Illinois	Second Vice President <i>Robi Brazviag</i> Missouri	Third Vice President <i>Amy Jo Hardiman</i> Ohio	Fourth Vice President <i>Karla Keller</i> Minnesota	Recording Secretary <i>Leslie Magruder</i> Pennsylvania	Financial Secretary <i>Carrie Wallin Beck</i> Florida	Treasurer <i>Jacquelyn Ramsey</i> Michigan
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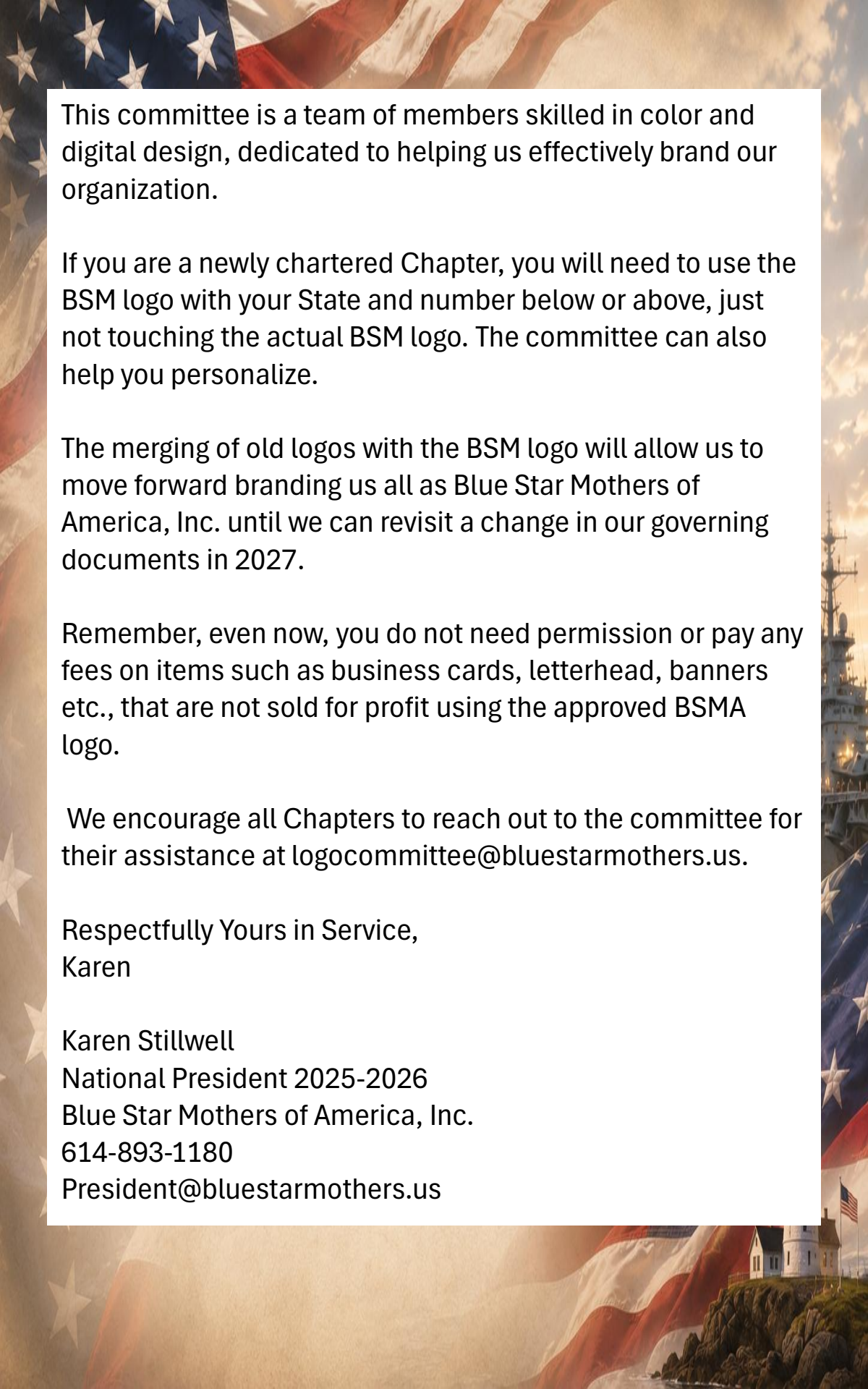
Hello Everyone,

We hope this message finds you well and continuing to advance our shared mission. We look forward to seeing you all in July at our National Convention as we come together to connect, collaborate and move our organization forward. As we continue aligning our organization with national standards, we recognize that updating and integrating logos is an important step in presenting a unified and professional identity. To support you through this process, we are pleased to introduce the Logo Integration Committee.

This committee has been formed to assist Chapters in merging any existing altered logos with the nationally approved design. Their goal is to ensure consistency while preserving the unique identity of each chapter. Whether you need guidance on design elements, formatting, or technical adjustments, the committee is available to help make the transition smooth and efficient.

The Logo Integration Committee will:

- Provide design support and recommendations
- Assist with combining local and national elements
- Ensure compliance with national branding guidelines
- Offer feedback and revisions as needed



This committee is a team of members skilled in color and digital design, dedicated to helping us effectively brand our organization.

If you are a newly chartered Chapter, you will need to use the BSM logo with your State and number below or above, just not touching the actual BSM logo. The committee can also help you personalize.

The merging of old logos with the BSM logo will allow us to move forward branding us all as Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. until we can revisit a change in our governing documents in 2027.

Remember, even now, you do not need permission or pay any fees on items such as business cards, letterhead, banners etc., that are not sold for profit using the approved BSMA logo.

We encourage all Chapters to reach out to the committee for their assistance at [logocommittee@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:logocommittee@bluestarmothers.us).

Respectfully Yours in Service,  
Karen

Karen Stillwell  
National President 2025-2026  
Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.  
614-893-1180  
[President@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:President@bluestarmothers.us)

The background of the entire page is a large, stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white. The flag is draped and appears to be waving. In the bottom right corner, there is a small, detailed illustration of a white lighthouse on a rocky cliff overlooking the ocean, with a small house next to it. The sky is a warm, golden color, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

# NATIONAL LOGO COMMITTEE

The National Board has created a Logo Committee as part of an organization-wide effort to strengthen our brand recognition and credibility through a more unified and professional visual identity. As chapters continue to grow and expand their outreach, having a consistent and recognizable brand helps the public, community partners, and supporters better identify and trust who we are.

This initiative encourages chapters to move toward a more uniform approach to logo design by featuring the National Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc logo as the central focal point. A stronger visual connection between chapters helps create consistency across the organization while still allowing room for local identity and pride to be represented.

The goal is not to remove individuality, but to strengthen unity throughout our organization. A recognizable and standardized visual presence supports fundraising efforts, improves public awareness, and reinforces the professionalism and credibility of our mission nationwide.

The Logo Committee is here to help guide chapters through this process. If your chapter would like assistance creating a new logo, updating an existing design, or if you have any questions regarding logo guidelines or approval, please contact the committee at [logocommitte@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:logocommitte@bluestarmothers.us)

All final redesigned logos should also be submitted to the Logo Committee for review before being forwarded for final National approval. We look forward to helping chapters create designs that honor both their local identity and our shared national mission.

# NATIONAL PRESS RELEASE



## Blue Star Mothers Encourage Community Support During Military Appreciation Month

*Communities are encouraged to engage through advocacy, volunteerism, and local events to support service members, veterans, and their families.*

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, May 1, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- As National Military

“

National Military Appreciation Month reminds us that supporting our troops also means supporting their families and communities who stand beside them every day”

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

Appreciation Month begins, [Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.](#) calls on communities across the country to come together in meaningful ways to support active duty service members, veterans, and their families. Founded in 1942, the organization continues its mission to support those who serve, honor those who have served, and never forget the families of the fallen.

National Military Appreciation Month is a time to recognize the sacrifices made by military families and to strengthen the connection between communities and those who serve. Blue Star Mothers of America encourages individuals, businesses, and organizations to take part in

advocacy efforts, volunteer initiatives, and local events that uplift and support the military community.

Advocacy plays a vital role in ensuring that service members and their families receive the resources and recognition they deserve. Communities can support by staying informed on military related issues, engaging with local and national representatives, and amplifying the voices of military families. Awareness and understanding create a stronger support system for those navigating military life.

Volunteerism remains at the heart of community impact. [Blue Star Mothers chapters](#) across the nation lead efforts such as assembling and shipping care packages, supporting veterans in local facilities, and partnering with community organizations to provide resources and comfort. Individuals are encouraged to join these efforts or organize their own service projects that benefit military families.

Local events throughout May provide opportunities to show appreciation and build connections.

# NATIONAL PRESS RELEASE CONTINUED

From recognition ceremonies and community gatherings to fundraising initiatives that support military focused programs, these events bring communities together in support of a shared mission. Participation not only honors service members but also fosters a sense of unity and gratitude.

"National Military Appreciation Month is a powerful reminder that support for our military extends beyond service members to their families and communities," said Karen Stillwell, National President of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. "Every act of kindness, every volunteer hour, and every effort to advocate for our military families helps strengthen the foundation of support they rely on."

Blue Star Mothers of America invites communities nationwide to take part in this important month by finding ways to give back, raise awareness, and stand in support of those who serve.

To learn more about Blue Star Mothers of America, find a local chapter, or discover ways to get involved, visit <https://www.bluestarmothers.org>.

About Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. is a national nonprofit organization founded in 1942. As a Congressionally chartered 501(c)(3), the organization is dedicated to supporting active duty service members, veterans, and their families. With over 6,000 members and nearly 200 chapters nationwide, Blue Star Mothers of America continues a legacy of service, support, and patriotism.

Amy Zienta

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

[public.relations@bluestarmothers.us](mailto: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.

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This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/909430288>

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# 2<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL PRESS RELEASE



## Blue Star Mothers Honor High School Seniors Entering Military Service

*National nonprofit recognizes graduating seniors entering military service with Military Graduation Honor Cords nationwide.*

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, May 8, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ – As graduation season begins across the nation, [Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.](#) proudly recognizes high school seniors who have chosen to enlist in the United States Armed Forces by presenting [Military Graduation Honor Cords](#) during local senior awards ceremonies. This meaningful tradition highlights the courage and commitment of young men and women who have chosen a path of service to their country.

Blue Star Mothers chapters across the country partner with local high schools to take part in graduation and awards ceremonies, where they publicly honor student enlistees in front of their peers, families, and communities. These presentations serve as a visible symbol of appreciation and respect for the sacrifices these students are preparing to make.

Military Graduation Honor Cords are awarded to seniors who have committed to serve in a branch of the United States Armed Forces following graduation. Each presentation is accompanied by a brief message from Blue Star Mothers that acknowledges the significance of their decision and assures them that they have the support of a nationwide community behind them.

In addition to recognizing the enlistees, Blue Star Mothers of America extends support to their families, particularly their mothers, who are beginning their own journey as military parents. Chapters often use these opportunities to connect with families and provide information about available resources, support networks, and local chapter involvement.

"Honoring these young men and women at such an important milestone is a privilege," said Karen Stillwell, National President of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. "Their decision to serve



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

# PRESS RELEASE CONTINUED

“

Their decision to serve reflects courage, dedication, and a commitment to protecting the freedoms we all cherish.”

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

reflects strength, dedication, and a deep sense of purpose. We stand beside them and their families as they begin this journey.”

The Military Graduation Honor Cord program continues to grow each year as more schools welcome participation from Blue Star Mothers chapters. Through these efforts, the organization strengthens community awareness and fosters a deeper appreciation for those who choose to serve.

Blue Star Mothers of America invites schools, families, and community members to support student enlistees by recognizing their commitment and celebrating their achievements. These moments of recognition not only honor the individual but also inspire communities to stand united in support of the military.

To learn more about Blue Star Mothers of America, [find a local chapter](#), or connect with a chapter participating in Military Graduation Honor Cord presentations, visit <https://www.bluestarmothers.org>.

About Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

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

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This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/911128781>

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# SONYA STOWERS

## 1vp MESSAGE

### **IT'S RENEWAL TIME!!**

Although our membership year 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 the 2026-2027 fiscal year. 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 dues payment online, your profile is automatically updated with your payment information and your new expiration date of 08/31/2027. 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 Submission for your renewal. 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 National 1VP/National Financial Secretary process the renewal. Although this is done in timely manner, please remember we have thousands of members renewing so things do slow down 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 in 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 it to the National 1VP, then she has to process as well. Please remember that both the National Financial Secretary and the 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 after you have paid your Chapter or mailed your check/invoice.

If you have **NEW** members joining, we highly recommend they join online. Again, this method is quicker and more streamlined. However, options 2 and 3 are available as well. New member joining after June 1 will have an expiration date of 08/31/2027.

Questions?? Please feel free to reach out to your National 1VP, I am happy to help you through the process.

In Sisterhood and Service,  
Sonya Stowers  
National 1VP, 1VP@bluestarmothers.us

# Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes??

- Does your Chapter/Dept/Aux have New Officers since your elections last fall?
- Did you change your C/D/A meeting location or time?

If you answered “**Yes**” to either of these questions you are **required** to submit those changes to National immediately!

## New Officers?

- Submit a new **Chapter/Dept/Aux Officer Roster** via your chapter profile on the website, just like you did for your Annual Compliance, fill in all officers but use “**Pro Tem**” for the newly appointed/elected officers
  - Remove the old and attach the new “Affiliation Agreement”
  - Remove the old and attach the new “Bank Verification Letter” if your 1VP, Financial Secretary or Treasurer changed. If these positions did not change, do not remove the old one, leave it as it stands.

## New Chapter Meeting Location or Time??

- Submit a new **Chapter Information Form** via your chapter profile on the website, just like you did for compliance.

**Any questions contact**

**4VP@bluestarmothers.us**



Each year at convention we join our forces with our nationwide Blue Star Moms to collect items for a local VA where convention is held. The response has grown over the years and has been amazing. Thank you All.

For 2026 convention in Columbus, Ohio this year our donations have changed and will reach far more veterans in a new and exciting way. Thank you to our Ohio Sisters who are stepping up to help with the process.

Our National VAVS Representative, Anne Parker, is asking all chapters to participate in the VAVS National Convention Project.

A. The chapters whose state and chapter name start with the letter "M" (Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota and Missouri) are asked to donate Walmart gift cards (\$25 or any quantity) which will be presented to the Columbus VA Medical Center.

The gift cards can either be brought to the Convention or mailed (by July 20) to:  
Deb Waltz, VA Representative  
1151 Oxley Road  
Columbus, OH 43212

B. All other chapters are asked to donate dark colored sweatpants, with pockets (sizes L, XL, 2XL or 3XL) that will be donated to the Central Ohio Veterans Stand Down, which holds an annual event providing services and opportunities to our Central Ohio veterans.

You can ship the sweatpants if you want! Please send them (by July 20) to:

Cummins: Sales & Service  
Attn: Stand Down  
4000 Lyman Drive  
Hilliard, OH 43026

We will pack the sweatpants that are brought to the Convention during our first day of Convention, and we will meet the Stand Down's executive director, Dan Willis!

If you are not able to attend convention your chapter can still participate and help us with this annual project.

VAVS Rep Anne Parker, [vavs.bluestarmothers.us](https://vavs.bluestarmothers.us), will be holding a Zoom Meeting on Sunday, 5/17 for anyone who would like updates on the program, interested in learning about VAVS or just curious! All welcomed. Check your emails for the zoom link and times. Hope to see you there.

# BETH BRUENING 2vp MESSAGE



HONORING THEIR SERVICE.

## PRESERVING THEIR LEGACY.

★ YOUR HERO. OUR HERITAGE. FOREVER REMEMBERED. ★

It's time to start preparing our Yearbook—

*we need your help!*



### BLUE STAR MOTHER MEMBERS

★ PLEASE SEND IN PICTURES  
OF YOUR HERO(ES)

*to be included in the Yearbook.*



Share a photo of your son,  
daughter, or loved one  
who is currently serving,  
has served, or  
made the ultimate sacrifice.



### CHAPTERS

★ PLEASE SEND IN  
**3-4 PICTURES**  
TO REPRESENT YOUR CHAPTER



Photos may include chapter events,  
service projects, meetings,  
member involvement,  
or community activities.



★ ★ SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO  
**YEARBOOK@BLUESTARMOTHERS.US**  
**NO LATER THAN JUNE 10TH**

★ ★ CONTACT ★ ★  
**BETH BRUENING**  
2VP@BLUESTARMOTHERS.US  
636-875-4914

*WITH ANY QUESTIONS*



★ IT'S NOT TOO LATE ★

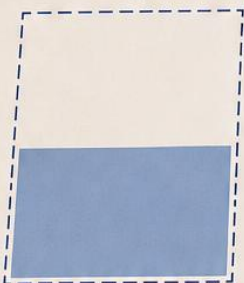
# WE STILL HAVE A FEW SPOTS LEFT

★ ★ — TO PLACE AN ADD IN THE — ★ ★

# YEARBOOK!

★ Show your support. ★ Celebrate our students. ★ Be part of the memories!

**1/4 PAGE**



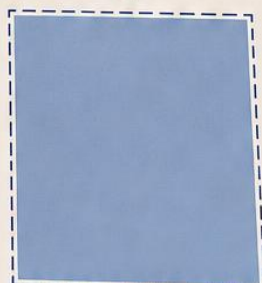
**\$25**

**1/2 PAGE**



**\$50**

**FULL PAGE**



**\$100**

★ SPACES ARE LIMITED - DON'T MISS OUT! ★

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!**



SEND YOUR AD TO  
**YEARBOOK@BLUESTARMOTHERS.US**  
WE WILL SEND YOU AN INVOICE



CONTACT **BETH BRUENING**  
**2VP@BLUESTARMOTHERS.US**



★ ALL PROCEEDS ARE DONATED TO UNSUPPORTED VA HOSPITALS ★

TOGETHER, WE SUPPORT. TOGETHER, WE HONOR.



# 6TH ANNUAL MILES FOR OUR VETERANS

IF THESE BOOTS COULD TALK



Its Not to late  
Donate to the 2026 Presidents Project

★ 2026 NATIONAL PRESIDENTS PROJECT ★



Shirt Sales will be open from **Friday, May 22** through **Sunday, June 14** – Memorial Day Weekend through Flag Day!



PURCHASE A SHIRT THEN ORGANIZE A GROUP OF CHAPTER MEMBERS TO WALK TOGETHER.



SEND A GROUP PICTURE TO [2VP@BLUESTARMOTHERS.US](mailto:2VP@BLUESTARMOTHERS.US) TO BE DISPLAYED AT OUR NATIONAL CONVENTION.



GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENTS PROJECT EVEN IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.



## 3rd & Goal FOUNDATION

### 3RD & GOAL

Founded in 2011 by Brady Quinn, the son of a Vietnam War veteran, the 3rd & Goal Foundation is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of veterans in need through its three pillars: Operation Home, Operation Education, and Operation Joy.



The President's Project patches are available in the BSMA Online Store  
For questions please contact Sonya at [pcpsonya.il6@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:pcpsonya.il6@bluestarmothers.us)  
or Beth at [president.mo4@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president.mo4@bluestarmothers.us)

NATIONAL PRESIDENT KAREN  
and your Sisters in

IL6 ★ IL1 ★ MO5 ★ MO4 ★ LA7 ★ LA1



# Blue Daisies

MEMBERS WHO WE HAVE LOST  
★ THIS MONTH ★



*Forever  
in our  
Hearts*



**CAROL SILK**  
★ CA 07 ★

They were the heart of our mission,  
the strength of our sisterhood,  
and a light that will forever shine in our hearts.



HONOR ★ RESPECT ★ REMEMBER  
*One Mission. One Voice. One Nation.*

OH ★ 32



OH32 REPRESENTING  
"RED FRIDAYS" &  
PURPLE UP FOR OUR  
NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE 2026



### UPCOMING EVENT

OUR CHAPTER HELD  
ITS FIRST NOT YOUR AVERAGE  
EUCHRE TOURNAMENT  
WE HAD A FEW TURN OUT  
FOR THIS EVENT AND  
EVERYONE HAD A GREAT TIME.



North/South OH32 - 2026



Ohio North/South 2026  
First Time Attendees



RAFFLES





This past weekend PA12 hosted our very first and biggest fundraiser we ever did. On Saturday we had 250 people come out to our gun bingo where they were able to win guns, money, and baskets while enjoying a great day to benefit our worthy cause. The money raised with this event is going to support our Community Day where we will be sending buses of veterans to DC on Honor Flight to give them the recognition they deserve. We are very excited about this project and the amount of support it is getting within our community.



MA ★ 01

May



OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES  
AT GILLETTE STADIUM



Nonperishables donated to  
Northampton VA Veteran Food Pantry



Books collected for Month of the Military  
Child & gifted to Marine Corps Family  
Children

**MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER 1**





Our community is continuously blessing us with donations throughout this time. Wal-Mart is supporting as usual and on May 1 we were blessed with grants at two Re-Grand openings. We have been blessed by other Wal-Mart grants over the past month as well through Spark Good.

The most memorable moment of April was that our President was honored to be present as a Gold Star Family Tribute Chopper was returned to its "family".

The Arles Ness chopper was purchased and the memorial design was created for Cody Carver (age 19~1st Bat, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd BCT, 3rd Infantry, out of Ft Benning, GA~KIA 10/30/07 in Salman Pak, Iraq) by his mother and father (Darrel Carver Vietnam Veteran), after dad passed the chopper was sold by a family member and it was left out in the weather until a friend of the family felt led to purchase it and put it in his garage. Then he decided to sell it and another family friend, a Soldier, saw it on Market Place, with Cody's mama's blessing, he purchased it and the plan was to bring it back (as close as possible) to its original state to keep the memory of Cody alive as his parents intended.

Thanks to a wish submission and acceptance with Soldiers Wish, the restoration of the Carver Chopper was completed in 33 weeks at Tulsa Tech ~BA Campus by their '25-'26 Motorcycle shop and Collision Students under strict supervision of their instructors, there were other donors that participated in the restoration as well.

The Tribute Chopper will be on display at different events held by our Chapter, and many other car/bike shows and Veteran Events, where Cody's story will be represented and told in memory of his, his dad's and others' ultimate sacrifice. It is even possible you may see 1Sgt taking it on a ride in honor of All Military Servicemen and women.



# OH ★ 32



**PRESIDENT KATHY TRACY  
SPEAKING AT THE KAPPA  
CHAPTER OF DELTA KAPPA  
GAMMA MARCH 2026  
LUNCHEON**



**UPCOMING EVENTS  
NOT YOUR AVERAGE  
EUCHRE TOURNAMENT  
STARS & STRIDES  
MEMORIAL WALK**

**NOT Your Standard EUCHRE TOURNAMENT!**  
Get ready for a high-energy, last-mum-standing style Euchre Competition where strategy meets luck - and all stars change every round!

**How It Works:**

- No partner needed - partners are randomly assigned
- 4 fast-paced games (21 minutes each)
- New partner every round
- 10 every player for 10 minutes

**Details & Registration:**  
AMVETS Post 1194  
417 W. Eppy St., Norton, OH 43206

**Entry Fee:** \$10

- Register via QR Code or at the door
- Limited to the FIRST 60 players!

**What You Can Win:**

- Cash Prizes for Top 2 Players
- 20+ Gift Prizes
- \$5000 Drawing

**Pre-Register Now!**

**Hosted by Blue Star Mothers Ohio Chapter 32**

House Rules will be provided at check-in  
REGISTRATION STARTING AT 1:30 PM  
TOURNAMENT BEING AT 2:00 PM

**FIRST EVER PUZZLE MANIA  
GREAT SUCCESS, & FUN FOR ALL!**



**STARS & STRIDES  
HONOR WALK  
BLUE STAR MOTHERS  
CHAPTER 32**

**MAY 16, 2026**

STEPPING STONES PARK  
10000 N. State, Independence, OH

Activities begin at 1:00 PM & Walk begins at 2:00 PM

- FACE PAINTING • PUN GAMES •
- TRAIL BLAZE IN SUPPORT OF OUR ALLIED MILITARY PERSONNEL

ADULT \$20 • CHILDREN \$10 • 100  
FAMILY PASS (Adults 18+) only \$50  
VEHICLES \$15

4 YEARS & UNDER FREE • (Must be accompanied by \$2000 event T-shirt)

Some items will be donated for memory of those who have served and have earned.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS CONTACT:  
FLORIAN@BLUESTARMOTHERS.ORG



This nation will remain the land of the free  
only so long as it is the home of the brave  
**REMEMBER AND HONOR**





VOLUME 12: SPRING PAGE 2



LAKE ARROWHEAD, CALIFORNIA  
CHAPTER 25

On Wednesday, April 15, our Rim Blue Star Moms installed more Hometown Hero Banners in our mountain community. Our installers were Ace Tree Service of Sacramento. We retired Elliott Chan's banner after he served 7 years in the Marines. Sebastian Gonzales' banner was moved to the pole next to his buddy, Adam Diaz. He has been serving in the Navy for 7 years and will be getting a new banner to replace the one that is worn. We installed Gabby Whitten-Shingleton's banner next to her husband, William Shingleton's banner. They are both serving in the Space Force. We replaced Trevor Win's Gold Star Banner as it has worn down due to the weather. It was a perfect day to honor our Hometown Heroes! On Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> we joined the Rim Vets for their Annual Fishing Derby at Lake Arrowhead. We brought some yummy donuts to share with the vets while they fished. A great time was had by all!



FROM LEFT: DENISE, NADIA, BRENDA, GARY, ALMA AND BRENDA F



FROM LEFT: JOSH, OLIVER AND GABY WHITTEN



BANNER INSTALLER MIGUEL MONTALVO



REPLACED TREVOR WIN'S GOLD STAR BANNER



FROM LEFT: ANN, BRENDA R, CYNTHIA, A VET, DANA, SANDI AND ALMA



VETS ENJOYING THEIR FISHING DERBY



FROM LEFT: DANA, ALMA, LIN, SANDI, AND CYNTHIA



NE ★ 02

Happy Mother's Day  
To Military Moms



Nebraska Chapter 2  
hosted Our  
Community Salutes  
ceremony on April  
22nd to recognize  
and honor 90 high  
school seniors from  
40 different cities in  
Nebraska who  
enlisted in the  
military...



Channel 8 News KLKN TV Lincoln  
3d · 🌐  
"What is so impressive, at this young age, they are making this commitment to do what others would not even consider."



Blue Star Moms celebrate 90 high school seniors who decided to enlist this year



Nebraska Chapter 2  
collected & donated  
hygiene items to  
Nebraska National  
Guard





This is our 5th year hosting a community wide event to celebrate our High School Seniors who have chosen enlistment after Graduation.



With the help from our City of Fruita Mayor, our School Superintendent and our awesome Recruiters we welcomed, congratulated and introduced most of the Western Slope High School Seniors to the community!



We helped our local Patriot Guard Riders, at the Quarterly Honors Ceremony

# Western Slope Blue Star Mothers CO8



The City of Fruita, Colorado issued a proclamation stating this years Military Bound High School Graduate Day as April 25, 2026



We helped our local One Source at their annual Silkies Hike.

We helped our local High Schools at each of their Senior Award Events, introducing and honoring our Military Bound Seniors!



TX ★ 06



# Lone Star Chapter, TX6



TX6 members came together to learn how to assemble Grab and Go Bags



Then we showed Richardson Altrusa how to put the bags together on their KAN Day.

Thank you Altrusa!

Grab and Go bags went to Fisher House at the Dallas VA. Jeffery gave us the history and a tour of the impressive 21 room home located on the campus of VA North Texas Health Care System in Dallas.



TX 6 was proud to support Betty Matthews as she received a community service award from DAR-Mary Shirley McGuire chapter. She does so much for her community and veterans!





May Newsletter Blue Star Moms  
Houston Area Chapter TX2  
Our March guest speaker was Scott DiMasi, director of Wreaths Across America – Houston Project. We also received a donation of this beautiful, patriotic handmade quilt from Navy mom Diana Dennis. We will be selling raffle tickets for the quilt. We were also honored to have Priscila Young| Mrs. Texas UCA 26 as a guest at our meeting.

Our April guest speaker was Shelita Magee, Chief, VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement. She talked about different volunteer opportunities at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston.



On April 13 in spite of the torrential rains, 80 Girl Scouts, 64 adults/leaders and 6 BSMs packed 337 CASES of GS cookies! It was a great day!





President Kathy Baker visiting with Veteran



Geaux Seven BSM visited La. War Veterans Home



Debbie Prudome visiting with Veteran



Getting ready for Bingo



Sandy Stockwell visiting with Veteran

Geaux 7 BSM welcoming home Honor Flight Veterans coming in from DC



Kathy, Renee New Member and Dena



Pinning of new member at our April Meeting



Babette at our booth for the Community Salute



Geaux Seven Chapter Blue Star Mothers



Students getting ready to be recognized



Proud Families



Students after being honored

Army Recruiters





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

### San Francisco East Bay Chapter 101 April 2026 Events

April 8: Last month, we moved out of the public storage facility that we have been renting for over 20 years to store our care package items and all our supplies. The new location is an office building and provides more amenities such as a meeting room, a breakroom, bathrooms, and a space to assemble care packages – much nicer and comfortable! We held our April meeting there with a potluck to inaugurate our new place. Our monthly meetings will still be regularly held at the Veterans Memorial Building in Danville, CA.

April 22: Fundraising Dinner at Virtue+Vice restaurant in Danville, CA. The restaurant hosts fundraising dinners every Wednesday where volunteers from a local nonprofit organization become the servers for the night, and 10% of all sales and 100% of tips go directly to support the organization. Our Chapter was the participating organization on April 22 and eight of our Blue Star Moms did a great job as servers that night. Many of our members, local veterans, and friends came to dine and support our Chapter. And together, we raised \$3,589! We also met two women with children serving in the military who were interested in joining our Chapter.



*Now that is how it's done - Blue Star Moms serving with big smiles all night!!! Cheers!*



PA ★ 201



**BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF THE  
LEHIGH VALLEY PA201**



**Connecting with community**

Our Blue Star Mothers Spring Bingo was a wonderful success, with over 130 people joining in the fun! Guests enjoyed an afternoon filled with excitement as they played for a variety of prizes, including cash and gift baskets.

There was plenty of great food to enjoy, and the event created a warm, welcoming space for our community to come together. It was a great opportunity to connect, have fun, and show support for our active duty service members and veterans.

Our members also participated in a Veteran Outreach program which aims to connect veterans and their family with VA benefits, healthcare, education and employment resources





NM 6's small (in numbers but not in heart) chapter was once again very busy in the last month. Several members had the great pleasure of attending the **Semi quicentennial Celebration** hosted by NM 1 in Farmington. It was a delightful day of fellowship, good food, and learning. The "torch" was handed over to NM 6 to host next year's gathering of our state's Blue Star-Patriot Moms (and dads). NM 6 members continue to support the Northern New Mexico Honor Flights—at the Car Show fundraiser and as a guardian for this year's trip to DC. NM 6 also joined in a community project cleaning up a local cemetery; it was organized by the VFW Post 9676. Additionally, members are currently working with local businesses and the Los Lunas Invested in Veterans Events organization preparing for the upcoming 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Los Lunas (NM) Heroes Run (June 6). NM 6 will have a booth for information as well as refreshments for the runners and walkers. Looking forward to what the next month has for NM 6!



★★★PROUD★★★  
**MILITARY MOM**  
 MOST PEOPLE  
 NEVER MEET THEIR  
**HEROES**  
 ★I RAISED MINE★





LOUISIANA CHAPTER 1

# RED, ROCK & Blue

★ 2026 ★

★ ★ Support through Service ★ ★



**TO THE MOMS**  
THE WARRIOR MOMS,  
THE BLUE STAR MOMS,  
THE GOLD STAR MOMS,  
THE MOMS WHO WEAR  
TWO SETS OF SHOES BECAUSE THEIR SPOUSE  
IS AWAY DEFENDING OUR NATION,  
AND TO ALL OF THE MOMS  
WHO SUPPORT THESE MOMS.  
**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!**



Veterans Day Parade

We had some very talented quilters who spent 2 days plus many extra hours making these beautiful quilts for the "Quilters Celebrate America" event. This project will be honoring local Veterans and active military personal.



Veterans Standown



Very Honored to be a part of The Wreaths Across America, Very cold January removing the wreaths



We packed and shipped 72 care packages





The Blue Star and Gold Star Mothers Luncheon, held on April 26 at the beautiful Hidden Valley Golf Club in Norco, CA, was truly a spectacular and heartfelt celebration filled with honor, love, and lasting memories. This special occasion marked the 15th Anniversary of Blue Star Mothers H.O.M.E. CA30, bringing together mothers, supporters, and community members for an unforgettable afternoon of unity and appreciation.





Thumb Chapter MI 178 will take a break from their fundraising dinners from May to September. In the interim the Chapter will be walking in Memorial Day Parades, July Fourth Parade, working in the Bad Axe Veterans Park cleaning out the flowerbeds, trimming up necessary shrubs and perennial flowers. We will also have a picnic honoring our Veterans in July. We will continue with our monthly meetings. Some of us will attend the National Convention in July. If allowed, we will send packages out to our Troops in summer.





**Veterans Park** The Thumb Chapter MI 178 Blue Star Mothers keep the Veterans Memorial Park in downtown Bad Axe cleaned up and take care of the shrubbery, planting perennials, annuals, and update with seasonal décor for spring, summer, fall, winter. We all do what we can to help out when we have a workday scheduled at the park. Here's a picture of spring flowers along with a heartrending statue.



TX ★ 20

# YELLOW ROSE - TX20

May 2026

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



Happy  
Birthday  
TX20!



Celebrating all that TX20 has accomplished in 2 years! Our Chapter is strong and active and we can't wait to see what the future holds for the Yellow Roses!



## Yellow Roses Partnering Together!



A huge shoutout to the Grapevine Elks Lodge #2483 for hosting an epic patriotic party in honor of our Heroes in April. At the event, the Grapevine Elks #2483 Veteran's Committee presented Yellow Rose TX20 with patriotic pillows, which will be donated to the Dallas VA Hospital.



TX20 and our friends from the American Legion - Post 21 in The Colony rally together to pack 50 care packages for a deployed sailor.





What an incredible few weeks for TN4! It kicked off with the life-changing gift of hearing aid amplifiers being presented at the State Veterans home in Knoxville, then it was off to help with a project with frontline gardens for the Ben Atchley vet home, bringing much joy to those who have given so much. Before we knew it the Annual Motorcycle charity ride was here, a testament of the power of community and compassion. Many thanks to our biggest supporter, our local VFW, for their unwavering dedication. It is always a lot of hard work but there are always many laughs and a profound sense of community and purpose.





On April 16, 2026, Blue Star Mothers TX22 had the honor of helping host the Our Community Salutes event for Greater Austin area high school seniors entering military service. Laura McClain, TX22 President, gave a Blue Star Mother presentation. TX22 members assisted the enlistees in pinning their mothers with the Blue Star Mother pin. We also handed out "Military Mom" survivor kits to all the mothers! It was a wonderful evening honoring the Class of 2026 and their families.





**BLUE STAR MOMS**  
OF THE SOUTHWEST VALLEY



The Wall That Heals  
←



City of Surprise VetFest. Met up with some of the VSO vendors, shook many hands of Vietnam Vets and enjoyed networking.



KSCW Radio Interview

Fulfilling our Mission, one event at a time.



Military Induction Ceremony

570 new inductees attended.

AZ4 was a co-sponsor, folded programs and set up a beautiful display booth to provide information to the new military moms



**AZ4 April/May 2026 Events**

Summary:

**April**

-City of Surprise held a hugely successful VetFest that was very well attended. The replica of the Vietnam Wall That Heals was set up at the adjoining park where people laid flowers and paid tribute to their combat buddies, friends and family members. It was both somber and moving to see and experience. While at the Festival, two Blue Star Moms shook Veterans hands, networked with VSO booths that were set up, and handed out information about who we are and what we do.

-Chapter AZ4 was asked to conduct a radio interview for the local radio station KSCW in Sun City West, where one of our Blue Star Moms shared her experience as a military mom and thanked her community for their incredible support of the Blue Star Moms and all our beloved Veterans as well as our Active-Duty Military.

**May**

-Several members of Chapter AZ4 worked at the Military Induction Ceremony held in Glendale where 570 new inductees and their families experienced their first of many military ceremonies as these very fine young men and women committed their lives to protecting the freedoms of our great country. AZ4 set up an information booth, folded programs, and spoke with new military mamas letting them know they were not alone in their new endeavor.

-Several Blue Star Moms assisted two women who held a "Patriotic Garage Sale" with all proceeds earned going to Veteran Service Organizations. Every item sold was donated by a local community. The fundraiser was a tremendous success thanks to all the help from AZ4 members!





Many of our members and associates attended the Minnesota Department's Spring State Convention. Representatives from Bravo Zulu House and Tunnels for Towers gave heartfelt presentations, and our chapter decided to donate \$1,000 to Bravo Zulu House in support of their first ever trauma-informed home for female veterans.

Red, white and blue honor cords have been donated to three area high schools for the students who have committed to military service. They will wear these at their high school graduations. We have been invited by the Mora High School to present their cords in person at their Military Recognition Day Ceremony coming up near the end of May.

Our annual Garage Sale fundraiser was again a lot of fun and attracted a lot of shoppers! A robin had her nest nearby and we managed to sneak a peek at her eggs!





MN7 celebrated 20 years as a chapter. We were honored to have our first chapter president attend and speak about how our chapter was started. We had two charter members attend, a former member, along with family and friends. Several of our moms spoke about what it meant to be part of this chapter and our two charter members spoke about their why for being part of this chapter/organization for 20 years.

A couple of chapter members volunteered to do the "Coffee Cart" at the Minneapolis VA during their patient appreciation week. Several members volunteered to do BINGO, and we donated snacks to the VA for Movie Night.

Our Chapter continues to do meals at the Fisher House.

The CEB had fun making Mother's Day Cards for our chapter members and others.

Our chapter selected our Shining Star - Tracey DeMorett and are proud that Tracey was selected as the Department of Minnesota Shining Star too.

Volunteered at the Veteran Food Pantry.



Our Chapter was honored to receive a Certificate from MACV (Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans) for having the "Most Impact Project Volunteer Hours" for our Holiday Bags for Veterans living in transitional MACV housing.



# DEPT. ★ MN



Department Spring Meeting in April and was hosted by MN 7. We were happy to have our National President with us. Every Minnesota chapter was represented. We had speakers from Ship Thrifty and Bravo Zulu House, we had singing, trivia, education and great raffle baskets.



Our Department President Project this year was gift cards for the Minneapolis Fisher House. We were able to donate \$1650.00 in gift cards.



Our Department Shining Star was announced. Tracey DeMorett MN7.



Some of our Past and Present Department Presidents along with our National President.





# Blue Star Mothers ROC NY8 May 2026



## NY State Gold Star Mothers Convention



Several Rochester Blue Star Mothers at-tended the April 17th Gold Star Mothers

Memorial Service. The names of all ser-vice members killed in action with family members present names , branch and date of death were read as the family members placed a yellow rose in a vase and a light on a gold star was lite. Gold Star Mother, Dorothy Reid is the NY State Gold Star Mother President and she presided over the service. Blue Star Mothers assisted with the Convention



## Happy 15th Birthday to the Rochester Blue Star Mothers NY8

The Rochester Blue Star Mothers NY8 chapter was chartered in April 2011 with 6 mothers and has grown to a membership of 35 mothers/ grandmothers and over 40 Associate members. Our Lights of Honor celebration of Veterans past and present has grown from one tree to 3 trees decorated with ornaments . Annually we host Gold Star Family Day, our community baby shower has grown with more babies each year and we have partnered with Spencerport American Legion to host our annual Army Navy Game Fundraiser. We know annually pack and mail over 400 care packages to deployed service members. We have plans to participate in our county's Community Salute to high school seniors graduating and joining the military.





Tulsa and Sapulpa chapters from Oklahoma welcomed our local graduating high school seniors as they swore in during the Our Community Salutes event.





## May 2026 Newsletter

Highlighting CA7  
April 2026 Activities



### New Members

Liza Allen, Ana Padierna and Laurie Dyson



### Cootie Fundraiser

Supporting our Veteran Groups



### Stand Down

Supporting the Sacramento County Stand Down



### Recognizing our Military Children

Such sweet resilient grandsons and granddaughters



### Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser

Fabulous Fundraiser – Over 160 Meals Served

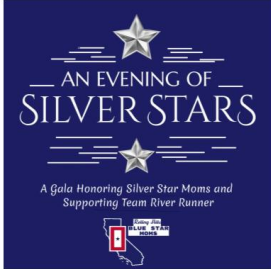


Attending Services for local Military Sons and Daughters and Supporting their Mothers and Family





## April Happenings



*Fundraiser gala honoring SILVER STAR families and raising funds for Team River Runner—a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide all active duty, veterans and their families an opportunity to find health, healing, community purpose, and new challenges through adventure and adaptive paddle sports!*

**Rolling Hills Blue Star Moms CA-27**  
[www.rollinghillsbluestarmoms.org](http://www.rollinghillsbluestarmoms.org)





### Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Clean-Up May 9, 2026

NV3 Moms joined fellow veterans organizations, JR. ROTC students, and community volunteers for a full day of service at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial. Activities included: Painting, Weeding, Scrubbing memorial areas, Beautification projects Preparing for Memorial Day observances This day reflected the power of service, remembrance, and unity in honoring our nation's heroes.



May 23, 2026 - Flag Placement: Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery Fernley, NV Volunteer Time: 8:30 AM Volunteers are needed to place flags on veterans' graves in preparation for Memorial Day.



### May General Meeting Highlights May 5, 2026

Truckee Meadows NV3 held our May General Meeting and proudly welcomed new member Stephanie with a special welcome packet and chapter banner. We were also honored to welcome potential new member Gloria. Gloria's son was recently deployed, and at his encouragement, she reached out to Blue Star Mothers for support, friendship, and community. Our chapter continues to grow as we support military families through shared experiences, service, and patriotism.



### May 23, 2026 - Summer Salute Event

Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, NV Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM NV3 will host an information booth and will be selling Bunco tickets.

Presented by Nevada Car Coalition

**MAY 23 2026**

ROGUE TO SUSPENSIVE - CHECK BY 7:00AM TO ROGUE

- Electric power windows
- Flooded craft trailers, military vehicles
- Sales of products and services
- Music
- Vehicle lifts
- Military History
- Military Homecoming
- Unaccompanied service for fallen vets

**\$40** FREE ADMISSION TO THE VENUE

SAVE THE DATE! Registration Opens January 18th Limited to the First 500 Entries \*NO CASH OFFERS PLEASE\*

REGISTER AT NEVADACARCOALITION.COM

Contact: Dennis 530-338-2389 or Allen 775-982-1247



**BLUE STAR  
MOTHERS  
SE WI 2**



**MAY 2026  
NEWSLETTER**

**Upcoming  
Events**

**May 2026  
Chapter Meeting**  
May 19<sup>th</sup>

**Field of Flags**  
May 21<sup>st</sup>

**Union Grove  
Memorial Day  
Service**  
May 24<sup>th</sup>

**Honor Flight**  
May 30<sup>th</sup>

**Purse/Jewelry  
Fundraiser**  
June 6<sup>th</sup>

**Camp Hometown  
Heroes Yellow  
Ribbon**  
June 10<sup>th</sup>

**Honor Flight**  
June 20<sup>th</sup>

**Volunteer @  
Boland Hall  
Family Picnic**  
July 11<sup>th</sup>

**Wreaths Across  
America**  
December 19<sup>th</sup>

Spring has certainly kept our chapter busy, and as always, we continue to be inspired by the dedication of our members. At our April chapter meeting, we had an incredible turnout with 24 members, 2 Associate Members, and 4 guests in attendance. We were especially excited to welcome three prospective new Blue Star Moms, all with children currently serving on active duty. It is always meaningful to see our chapter continue to grow with moms who understand firsthand the pride and sacrifice that comes with military service.

We were also honored to welcome a special guest from our local 128th Air Refueling Wing. She shared insight into her role and spoke with us about some of the experiences and challenges her unit is currently facing overseas. We sincerely appreciate her time, service, and willingness to connect with our chapter.

Since our last newsletter, members of our chapter have participated in several meaningful events and volunteer opportunities, including:

- Attending the April 2026 Veterans Treatment Court Graduation
- Attending the War Memorial Center's "Chat with the General" event
- Supporting our local active-duty troops through donations and outreach efforts
- Honoring and helping present the **Veteran of the Year Award** to Sister Sarge

Together, we continue to fulfill our mission of supporting our troops, veterans, and military families.





On April 18 and May 4, the **Gateway Blue Star Mothers and Associates** came together to help assemble flags that will be part of the September Flags of Valor STL Display at Art Hill in Forest Park.

Working in teams of three to four, volunteers carefully completed several steps to prepare each flag for display. This included attaching the flags to poles, adding clips for the memorial dog tags, placing memorial stickers, and rolling each flag so it would be ready to be beautifully displayed in September.

Thank you to our Heart of Illinois Blue Star Mothers and Central Mo chapter members for driving out and volunteering along with us. It was wonderful to see our sisters supporting such an amazing cause with us.



**To the moms who carry the weight of love, sacrifice, and strength every single day — this is for you**

**To the Warrior Moms, the Blue Star Moms, the Gold Star Moms, and the brave spouses holding families together while loved ones serve our nation: your courage does not go unnoticed.**

**You stand strong through distance, uncertainty, and sacrifice with unwavering faith and resilience.**

**You are the quiet heroes behind the heroes.**

**The hearts that keep hope alive.**

**The hands that comfort, pray, support, and never give up.**

**This Mother's Day, we honor not only the love you give your children, but also the strength you give our country.**

**May you be surrounded by gratitude, pride, and love today and always.**

**Happy Mother's Day to all the extraordinary moms who serve through sacrifice, love through distance, and inspire through strength.**





BLUE STAR MOTHERS  
— ★ OF AMERICA ★ —

*United by Love.  
Strengthened by Service.  
Connected as Sisters. ♡*

★  
WE ARE MOTHERS WHO LOVE,  
SUPPORT, AND HONOR OUR  
CHILDREN WHO SERVE.



HONORING OUR SERVICE MEMBERS. ★ SUPPORTING THEIR MISSIONS. ★ STRENGTHENING OUR SISTERHOOD.



★ *One Star. One Purpose. One Sisterhood.* ★

— BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA —  
★