



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

NOVEMBER 2025

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NATIONAL PRESIDENT KAREN STILLWELL

Hello Everyone,

First, I would like to thank our members who have served and wish them Happy Veterans Day! Thank you all for your service, then and now! We truly appreciate every one of you.

Since you received last month's newsletter, we have all been very busy. I was able to attend a reception held in my honor by my Chapter in Worthington, Ohio. It was rewarding to be recognized for my years of service and to celebrate my new leadership role. A heartfelt thank you to my Chapter for organizing such a wonderful event. That same weekend was the Department of Ohio's Convention. It started off Friday evening with dinner and an evening full of sharing our whys. We had a beautiful memorial service, great speakers, elections, followed by an entertaining and successful Big Dipper "FUN" Night. And yes, we did "OH-IO". The following weekend was the Department of Minnesota Convention. It also started off with a wonderful dinner themed by the 40's. Let's just say there were a few Rosie the Riveters present. So fun, with delicious food provided by the family of the past Department President, Jen Pecarina. Minnesota also had a beautiful memorial service, followed by great speakers and their elections. Congratulations to the new officers of all our Department Boards. We look forward to a successful year ahead with each of you!

As we commemorated Veterans Day on November 11, 2025, our DC Representative, Teresa (TJ) Summers, along with our Patriotic Instructor, Jeanne Ullmer, Historian, Deb Waltz and I were honored to attend the National recognition ceremony at Arlington Cemetery. I was incredibly grateful and humbled by the whole experience. My son, Air Force Lt. Colonel Ryan Stillwell was my escort. He and I were invited to a breakfast at Patton Hall hosted by The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Doug Collins. We had the opportunity to connect with many different VSO's present for this special event. I then proceeded to the steps of the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier where I was privileged to witness President Trump lay a wreath. It is such a sacred place where we all show honor and respect. Following the President's wreath laying we headed into the amphitheater for a short program. The weather was bitterly cold, but the entire experience was heartwarming. The music and the speeches touched all our hearts and filled us with pride for our amazing country and for all those who have served and are serving to protect our freedom. I was so proud to see our flags carried in by our sisters, Jeanne and Deb.

After the amphitheater program, we all headed to the Tomb for the wreath laying for the VSOs.

The wreath laying is such a humbling experience and one for which I am eternally grateful. Having my son by my side made the experience truly unforgettable.

After laying the wreath we proceeded to a luncheon hosted by the National AMVETS Organization at the Women's Memorial. My husband Dennis, our son Ryan, TJ, Jeanne, Deb and I attended. While at the Women In Military Service Memorial (WIMSA), we presented a check for the beautiful memorial that recognizes and honors our Sisters who served. If you are not familiar with them, please check out their website <https://womensmemorial.org/>. If you are a female Veteran, you can join their organization and share your story.

Respectfully Yours in Service,

Karen

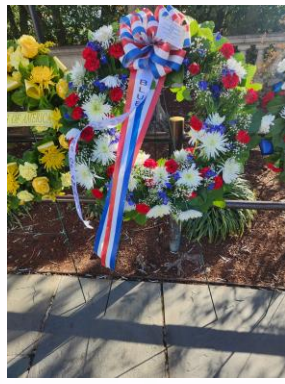
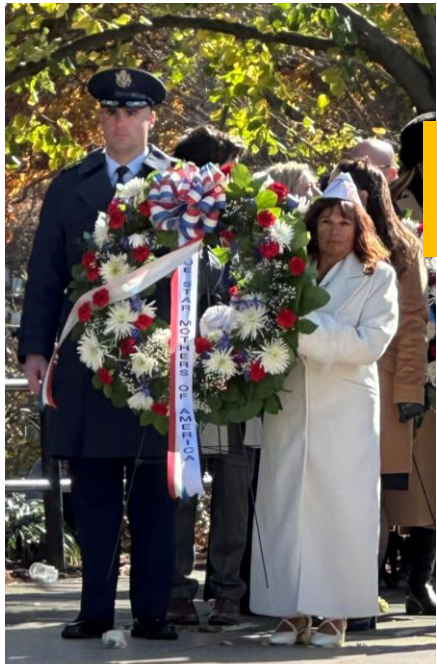
Karen Stillwell

National President 2025-2026



2025 NATIONAL VETERANS DAY

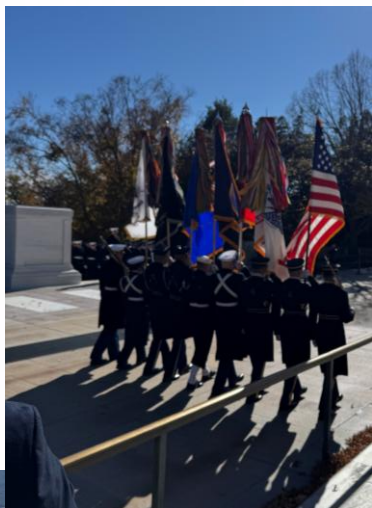
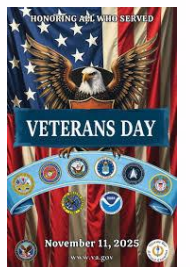
National recognition ceremony at Arlington Cemetery



Lt. Colonel Ryan Stillwell



Secretary of Veteran Affairs Doug Collins
National President Karen Stillwell
Lt. Colonel Ryan Stillwell



After laying the wreath we proceeded to a luncheon hosted by the National AMVETS Organization at the Women's Memorial. WIMSA



Amvets National Commander Paul Shipley



President Of WIMSA Phyllis Wilson



Air Force Lt. Colonel Ryan Stillwell



**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
FROM NATIONAL PRESIDENT
KAREN STILLWELL**

EXCITING NEWS!

I am happy to announce we have set next years National Convention date and location. It will be in Columbus, Ohio starting Monday, July 27th and ending on Friday, July 31st after the banquet. Be on the lookout for a Convention chatter. The Convention chairs will be sending information soon so you can book your rooms and start planning for a fantastic Convention week. We hope to have all Chapters represented there.

Respectfully Yours in Service,

Karen

Karen Stillwell

National President 2025-2026





**Compliance
Due Date
December 1st!**

All Departments , Chapters and Auxiliaries (D/C/A) are required to complete their compliance by December 1st to remain 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 National 4VP and to get this done right away! 4VP@bluestarmothers.us

Why is this so important to complete? Compliance is a required part of doing business. You are part of this 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 do we know if we are in compliance? If your D/C/A has completed all components of compliance, your board has received an email from the National 4VP with the subject line: Chapter XYZ Compliance is Complete!

The IRS closes its website down from the middle of December into the new year. You must submit your 990 to them prior to their shut down so it is best to complete this during our compliance open period so you can get your "Accepted" form from them to turn in!

PLEASE email 4VP, Karla, with any questions!



Jacqueline Ransom National Treasurer

New to the BSMA online store!

This Sport-Tek® jacket is made with quiet 100% polyester fabric that is water-repellent to help keep you dry even in rainy weather.

While the polyester fabric is designed to block wind, the jersey lining and mesh insets provide breathability.

Other features of the jacket are:

- Hood with adjustable drawcord
- Self-fabric side panels
- Open pockets at side seams
- Raglan sleeves
- Mesh inserts at gussets
- Articulated elbows
- Half elastic, half self-fabric cuffs
- Open hem with adjustable drawcord

This jacket is available in Royal blue with the BSMA logo embroidered on it.

They are available in sizes Xsmall to 6Xlarge, (please keep in mind that these are uni-sex sizes). The price is \$50.00.

Please note: The delivery date is approximately November 20, so look for them in the online store on the 20th or shortly after.



25% ACTUAL SIZE



[Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc](#)
Click the link to login to the online
store to order



PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR 2025-2026

JEANNE ULLMER



I am honored to have been asked to be the National Patriotic Instructor for Blue Star Mothers.

My name is Jeanne Ullmer, and I am a Veteran of the Army (Women's Army Corps). I live in Minnesota and have been married to my Army Veteran husband for 46 years. We have two children and 5 grandchildren. My son gave me the title of Blue Star Mother. He served in the Army with the 25th Infantry Division out of Scholfield Barracks, HI as an MP (Military Police) and was deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq.

I have been a member of Blue Star Mothers for almost 20 years. I am a charter member of my chapter (MN7) and have held just about every position on my Chapter Board and our Department of Minnesota Board. I have been a chapter mentor since the program started and have been the grievance chair and nominations chair, and I am the current National Webmaster.

I just had the privilege to attend the National Veterans Day ceremonies in Washington, DC with our National President and Historian.

Patriotism is love for or devotion to one's country.



NATIONAL HISTORIAN 2025-2026

DEBORAH (DEB) CASTLE WALTZ



I joined Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. (BSMA), Buckeye Military Mom OH 9, Columbus O-H in 2009. This is the year my son finished his Naval career. On the veteran side now, I am still committed to BSMA like many of you,

Sam and I have been married 52 years. Our grown adults - daughter, Sara (Tom) and son, Adam (Amy). We have 3 precious grandchildren that live in NYC. I ❤️ NY

I was asked by Stacy Anders to serve as National Historian in her second term as President, and Rebecca Stafford for both of her terms and now for Karen Stillwell. It has and continues to be an honor to follow in the footsteps of those who proceeded me! This position allows me to attend events and deepens my commitment to BSMA. Veterans Day at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, witnessing the laying of the wreath at the Tomb, proudly carrying our flag at the "Parade of Colors", attending the BSMA check presentation at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial (WIMSA) and then the week in WDC for Memorial Day events.

In addition to National Historian I serve at the Ohio Mentor Chair, Ohio Blue to Gold Liaison, and the VAVS Rep for Chapter 9. I also serve as a Committee Member for our Central Ohio Stand Down.

Thank you all for your dedication to BSMA!
Deb



Fundraising & Grants Chair

KARI FRYE



Hello! My name is Kari Frye. It is an honor to be appointed as the Fundraising & Grants Chair. I am committed to developing donor relationships as a means to procure grants, goods & services, and sponsorship donations. With strategic planning, the goal is to alleviate costs for our organization as well as to help promote the Blue Star Mothers, Inc. name out there in the public eye.

I am currently the president of Chapter PA 16 in Southwestern Pennsylvania. I have also served as the chapter's Recording Secretary and 2VP.

I have a beautiful blended family. My oldest son, Jacob, is an Army Veteran. He and his wife, Megan, have blessed us with Archer, our first grandson who is only 2 weeks old. My youngest son, Chase, works in the gas well industry. My bonus children are Aubrey, who is a school teacher and Cameron, who is an insurance analyst.

My husband, Lee, is a business manager for UPS. While a "Jill of all trades" my main life's work is that of a farmer. I live on, own and operate Foxtrot Farms. We raise beef cattle and have the sweetest donkeys and pigs as pets.

I am looking forward to seeing the blessings of this next year unfold!





☀ Meet Amy Zienta

National Public Relations Chair – Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

President – Lake Erie Shores OH21

Financial Secretary – Big Dipper Auxiliary of Ohio

Married to the love of her life, Steve, Amy Zienta is a proud wife, mother of six (all married but one), and grandmother of four beautiful grandchildren. Family is at the heart of everything she does, whether it's planning gatherings, spending time together, or creating memories that last a lifetime.

Amy comes from a proud military family — her father, Mike Garcia, served in the U.S. Navy from 1966–1970 during the Vietnam era. Continuing that legacy, her son, Brody, serves in the U.S. Army (Airborne) and is currently stationed in Italy. Though they talk almost daily, Amy says, “There’s nothing like hugging your child.” She’s looking forward to visiting him next year during a family trip overseas.

Professionally, Amy thrives on helping others succeed. She enjoys marketing for small businesses, real estate investing, and realtor work — all rooted in her passion for community growth. Together with her husband, she invests in properties and works to revitalize neighborhoods, focusing on maintaining long-term, trusted relationships with their tenants.

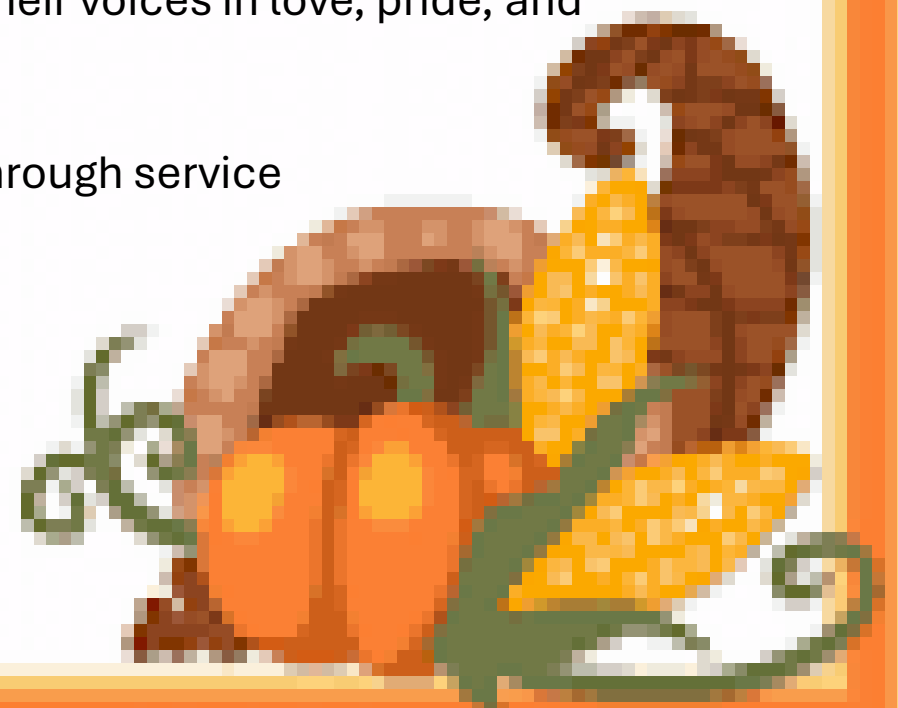
Amy’s personal motto is simple yet powerful:

“If you don’t know something, let’s figure it out together.”

She brings that same enthusiasm and teamwork mindset to her leadership roles as President of the Lake Erie Shores OH21 Chapter, Financial Secretary for the Big Dipper Auxiliary of Ohio, and now, as the National Public Relations Chair for Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

Amy is excited to continue showcasing the incredible service, sisterhood, and community outreach that define Blue Star Mothers of America. Her goal is to help share the stories, spirit, and strength of all Blue Star Mothers across the nation — uniting their voices in love, pride, and patriotism.

“I’m proud to be part of an organization that gives so much back through service and sisterhood.” ❤️ ⭐️ 🧡





Happy Holidays from your VAVS Team – Anne Parker – Doreen Berggren – Carol Sanchez.

This VAVS message is for ALL Blue Star Mothers – not just the VAVS Representatives. Part of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc mission is our Veterans. Every active-duty son or daughter will one day be a veteran. We need to remember veterans every day and not only on a designated holiday for veterans.

So, with that in mind we are asking to have all chapters, with or without a VAVS Rep. to join in the mission of sending a holiday card to veterans.

Several weeks ago, Anne Parker sent a spreadsheet out with the names of VA facilities, Chief names, phone numbers and addresses. Please pull that up on your computers and pick a VA facility out that you can contact. Ask the chief if you can send cards from your chapters to the VAVS office. They can have them placed on food trays to patients; in the dining halls and any place they can. Ordering inexpensive cards from online is easy and fast.

The cards can say – Wishing you a happy holiday – sign with your chapter name and location.

Once you have completed this mission, we would like you to send the quantity of cards and which facility you sent them to. Send this information to: Carol Sanchez – csanchez75@hotmail.com . Carol will track this information.

Thank you for all you do for our veterans.



Some friendly reminders

from the Governing documents Chair . . .

It would be a wonderful world if all of our Members and Associates were familiar with our Governing Documents. Wonderful, but not always realistic! But it is realistic to expect all officers to become familiar with our Governing Documents.

During training at Convention, the Parliamentarian and I suggested that each of the documents be re-read, highlighting the important sections (the same is true of our approved Financial Policy). We suggested that breaking the documents up and reviewing them over a period of time would be easier than trying to consume all of the information in one setting!

1. Remember to check your membership list to make sure that your officers have paid their dues! With all that is going on during the summer months, it can be easy to forget to pay dues and all officers must be active members in good standing.

2. Make sure to submit the updated Officer Roster; National needs to know who your officers are.

3. What about when your chapter has to pro tem an elected or appointed position? Our Bylaws, Article XII on pages 21-22 detail the steps. And, don't forget to update the Officer Roster and submit it to National if any changes occur during the year. For this form, it is not necessarily one and done.

4. It is never too soon to begin planning Convention next year. Remember, all Chapter Presidents are entitled to vote at National Convention and their attendance at Convention does not count when determining chapter delegate numbers. We want all Chapter Presidents to attend Convention.

5. As chapters conduct their fundraising activities, be mindful of surrounding chapters; they may also be doing the same fundraising, which can be confusing to the local community/business members. It is important to communicate and work with surrounding chapters for events of mutual interest, and otherwise, to stay within the area defined by your Chapter Charter. More information on this subject can be found in the Code of Conduct, Article XIII, General Fundraising on pages 23 and 24.

And, as you review the Governing Documents, please know that you can send questions or suggestions for future consideration to govdocs@bluestarmothers.us. I review the email daily and am ready to respond to your needs.

Thank you,
Pat Soler



In the spirit of Thanksgiving
We would like to recognize
Ocala Blue Star Mothers FL-10
for demonstrating
the True Spirit of our Mission!

Ocala Blue Star Mothers FL10 Heard that 2 Chapters in need of financial help to complete a project. So, they reached out and provided the support they needed.

"Our Mission exemplified"

Submitted By Anne Parker

We have had a successful fundraising season so far and are so pleased to be able to help two of our sister chapters and all the deployed troops that they are reaching.

Ocala Blue Star Mothers FL-10 recently learned that two chapters, NV-3 and FL-11 have ongoing deployment package projects and could use financial support.

We learned of the NV-3 project of 400 Holiday packages from a Facebook post and heard about FL-11's ongoing project at our lunch that we hosted in Ocala for five of our Florida chapters.

The Nevada chapter sends 400 holiday packages to deployed troops throughout the world in November.

The Florida chapter learned of a group of 50 Navy sailors in the Bahamas that are stationed in a very remote area, with no commissary, PX, or dining facility. They are sending monthly supplies and food to them.



BLUE DAISIES



Jennifer McCallion SC8

It is with great sorrow we announce the passing of one our Mothers Jennifer will be missed greatly After moving to Market Common a little over a year ago, she quickly joined BSMCC and participated in many activities like the parade, packings and collections. Her vibrant smile lit up every event she was involved in. Our hearts go out to her family. Please keep them in your prayers



OKLAHOMA 20

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" by Mahatma Gandhi



SWEATS FOR VETS

The Claremore VA put out an SOS they were in need of sweats, sleep pants and socks. We did a little shopping and they are stocked for a while! #Sweats4Vets

SPONSORED A VET

We paid the sponsorship for one Purple Heart Recipient to join other veterans for a weekend hunt. Please check out "Behind The Wire Foundation" They are doing amazing things to help our veterans.



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS DINNER & AUCTION

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year! We were beyond honored to have our sisters attend from Oklahoma Chapters 1 and 5! Thank you for supporting us, sisters!



★ **Ohio True Blue #15 kicks off a new year!** ★

Installation of Officers for Ohio's True Blue 15



President Gretchen Schmitz (left) takes the oath for her office from Karen High.



Past President Kay Sellers (left) swears in Karen High to the role as Vice President.



Our new Treasurer, Amy Cooper (left) takes the oath for office from Vice President Karen High.



Our new Secretary, Vickie Peters-Wills (left) takes the oath of office from Vice President Karen High.



◀ President Gretchen Schmitz (left) swears in our Chaplain, Teresa Daniel and Mary Evans as Patriotic Instructor.

Gold Star Mother's Day Ceremony



Ohio's True Blue Chapter 15 members Betty Wharton (from left), Debby Wadham and Gretchen Schmitz attended the Gold Star Mothers and Family Day Ceremony hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1126 of Wapakoneta.

FUNDRAISER NIGHT!



Ohio's True Blue 15 chapter held a Fundraiser night at BW3 on Monday, October 27, where the local chapter received a percentage of the evening's sale.

◀ Enjoying the evening are (back from left) President Gretchen Schmitz, Vice President Karen High and Associate Member, Mary Evans. Seated are Debby Wadham and Financial Secretary, Betty Wharton.



◀ Chapter Secretary, Vickie Peters-Wills and Financial Secretary, Betty Wharton.

Craft Sale

Ohio's True Blue Chapter 15 members Gretchen Schmitz (from left), Betty Wharton, Teresa Daniel and Debby Wadham set up a booth at the Humble Home Fall Vendor Event on October 4. The ladies sold Military Mom t-shirts, military rubber ducks, various military welcome signs as well as spreading the word about our local chapter.



War Mothers of America Inc.
True Blue Chapter 15
Lima, Ohio



Blue Star Mothers, OK
Chapter 10

October 2025
Newsletter

Upcoming Events

October chapter Meeting
October 4th

Mounds Car Show
October 4th

**Oklahoma Warriors
Honor Flight**
October 7th

Pack Night
October 21st

A Blue Star Mom’s Day with the Oklahoma Warriors Honor Flight: Guardianship, Gratitude, and Grander Memorials

In a morning painted with quiet anticipation, I stepped into a day that would etch itself into memory. I had the honor of attending the Oklahoma Warriors Honor Flight as a guardian, a role that would bind me to a community of veterans, families, and friends who carry the weight of sacrifice with quiet dignity. From the moment I joined the convoy, I carried more than a camera and a notepad. I carried a sense of responsibility, to be present for veterans who had given so much, to listen with an attentive heart, and to guard the time they spent honoring those who had served with them, and those who did not return.

One of the most touching moments of the day came when a veteran presented me with a guardian angel coin. The coin, heavier with meaning than its metal might suggest, became a tangible symbol of trust and mutual respect. I accepted the coin with quiet reverence, knowing it symbolized more than personal gratitude. It stood as a reminder that even in moments of quiet departure from the day’s bustle, honor remains a living and breathing force.

The engines hummed softly as the Honor Flight lifted off from Washington, D.C., carrying a cabin full of heroes. Veterans of wars past—some with silver hair, others with stories etched deep into their eyes—sat quietly, reflecting on the day. They had walked among monuments built in their honor, touched names carved in stone, and stood shoulder to shoulder with comrades who understood the weight of sacrifice. As the plane was headed home, the mood was calm, almost reverent. Then the flight attendant’s voice announced loudly: “Ladies and gentlemen, it’s time for Mail Call!” Heads turned. Eyes widened. For a moment, they were young again—back in the barracks, waiting for their name to be called. Volunteers moved down the aisle with bulging bags of envelopes. Each veteran received a thick stack, tied neatly with ribbon. Letters from children, neighbors, old friends, and family spilled into their hands. I was truly amazed by the happiness this simple gesture brought.

My experience as a guardian—standing at the crossroads of memory and service—was not a singular moment but a continuing commitment. It is a reminder that guardianship is not merely about protection; it is about bearing witness, listening deeply and ensuring that every veteran’s story remains alive in the corridors of national memory. This is why we support this amazing organization—because it brings together communities to honor, remember, and uplift those who have given so much!





- Volunteered: Veterans Leadership Program Stand Down - Oct. 25
- Packed: Care Packages for deployed troops - Oct. 25
- Volunteered: Cash Bash with VetPets of SWPA - Oct. 18
- Hosted: Monthly meeting - Oct. 16
- Donated: \$1,000 of diapers to local base - Oct. 27



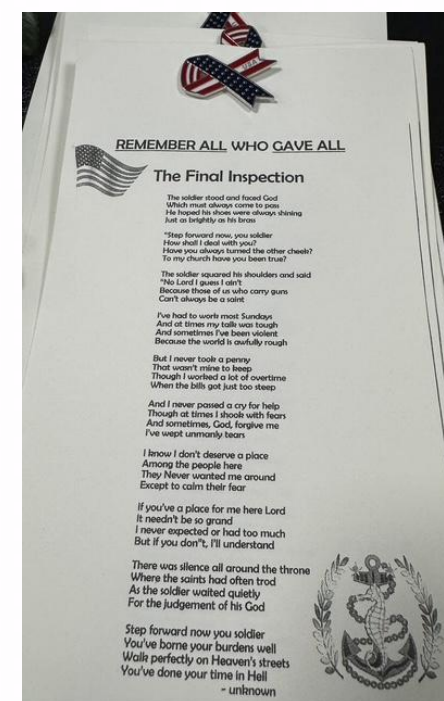
First Coast Blue Star Mothers Florida Chapter 15 2025 Gold Star Mother and Family Brunch

On Saturday, September 20, 2025, First Coast Blue Star Mothers Florida Chapter 15 co-sponsored a brunch for Gold Star Mothers, families and spouses. The event was held at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena in Jacksonville Florida. Invitations were sent out through the Survivor Outreach Services for us to the Army, Navy, Marines, and Florida Army National Guard Gold Star Families. Over the last 3 years, we have presented over 45 Gold Star Banners to families who had never received one.

This year we had 165 RSVP and of those 40 were Gold Star family members. Each Gold Star Mother received a white rose wrist corsage, and the fathers received a red, white, blue-ribbon boutonniere with a Gold Star in the middle. Each attendee received a copy of "The Final Inspection" poem with an American flag ribbon pin attached to it.

We had a video from Representative Aaron Bean and Congresswoman Kat Cammack this year, along with the Gold Star Mothers Proclamation presented and read by Mayor Donna Deegan of the City of Jacksonville. We have been trying to contact more Gold Star Families in Duval, Baker, Nassau, Clay and St Johns County as we know there are those who have not been honored and we are working to make sure all the families of the fallen in these counties honored and remembered. Each year we have a few more Gold Star families attend. As the attendees and family members entered through the door to the event, Patriot Guard Riders, Rolling Thunder and American Legion Riders had a flag line for them to walk through. They were escorted to their reserved table by the Women Army Corp Chapter 56 of Jacksonville. We had each family member bring a photo or memorabilia of their fallen to put on the HERO Table for everyone to be remembered for their sacrifice. This year we presented a banner to the family of a WW2 MIA, later changed to lost at sea then a Gold Star. At the same time the Boucher family had a brother that was a POW.

This year was a little special as a Documentary film crew found out about our event and they are doing a documentary on WW2 and Gold Star Families and they ask permission to attend the event, film it and speak to some of the Gold Star Families about their loved one. This documentary is being made to air on PBS. Four of the Gold Star Families that attended the event requested to be interviewed for the documentary.



OKLAHOMA 1



**A Boohaha Parade,
138th Air Guard
Trunk or Treat**



**We delivered lots of
diapers, wipes, food and
gas cards to the 138th
Air Guard to help service
members during this
time of need while the
governments shutdown**



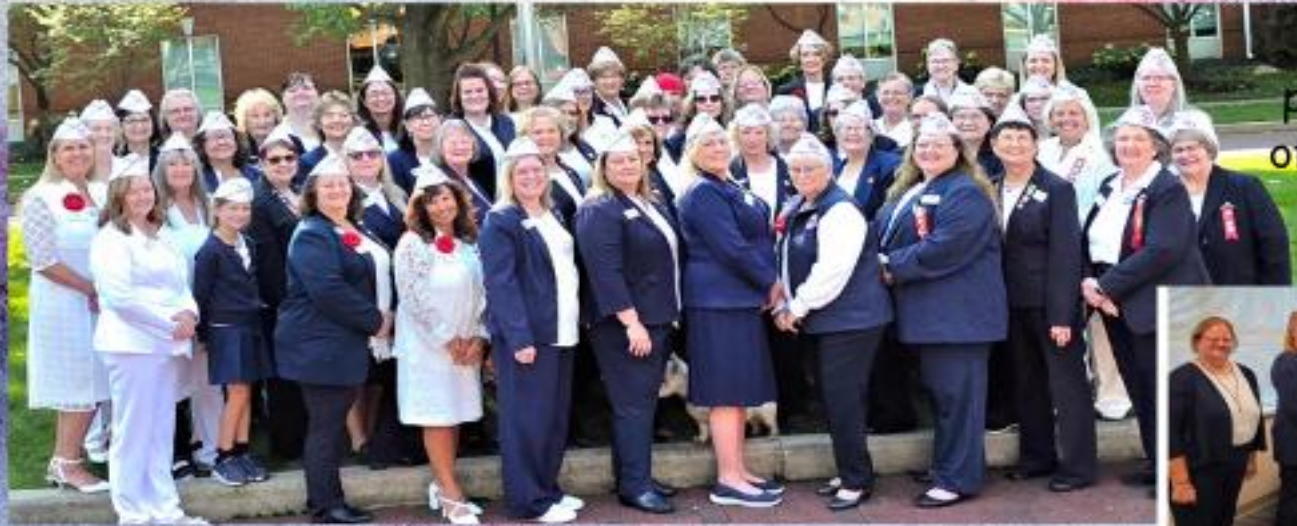
**We delivered
sweatpants
to our local
VA**



Department of Ohio

Nov 2025

October 17-19 we held our Convention. A great time was had by all. We were truly blessed to have a majority of the NEB with us and that we are thankful! Please enjoy our pictures from the weekend.



Our group picture with all of our attendees



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc
Department of Ohio 2025 Convention
First time attendees



Friday night circle telling our Why



Shining Star Nominees

I am honored to announce my election as the Department of Ohio president once again. It is a privilege to serve alongside such dedicated individuals. The new elected board is pictured below. I am excited about the collaboration ahead. Together, we will continue to uphold our mission and make a meaningful impact. I look forward to working with all of the Blue Star Mothers this year

Barb



Blue Daisy Table



Installation of new board by National President Karen Stillwell



2025-26 Department of Ohio Officers
President - Barb Cook, 1st VP - Angela Monroe,
2nd VP - Marie Taylor, Recording Secretary -
Gretchen Schmitz, Financial Secretary - Marlene
Brooks, Treasurer - Sherry Cullison





**NEBRASKA CHAPTER 2
REPRESENTED AT HUSKERS
MEN'S BASKETBALL ON
NOV. 11, 2025...**



**NEBRASKA CHAPTER 2 @
THE HAUNTED ARMORY
2025...**

PIC•COLLAGE



OK5



BA Elks Veteran Parade escorted by Eagle Ops Foundation



Eagle Ops Foundation with preparing Welcome Home 5k race packets



Fundraiser for Soldiers Wish





St. Paul Blue Star Mothers MN 11 September Newsletter



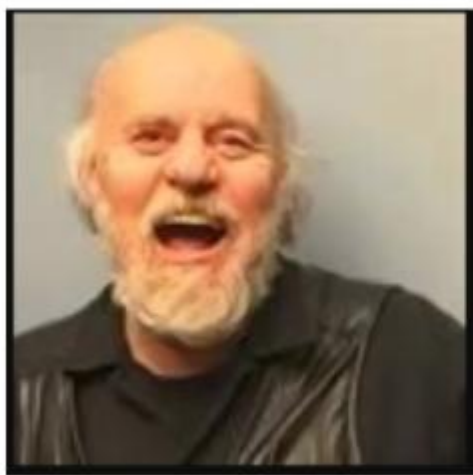
MN11 members attended the Dept. of MN Fall Convention: Debbie, Donna, Karla, Denise and Benita. Friday evening party was 40's themed.



Denise with two Recreational Therapists attended the VA Halloween Party.



Kathy, Debbie, Donna and Benita volunteered with the USO at a baby shower for local military families. MN11 donated items for moms and babies.



We lost an Associate, and Blue Star Dad, Rick Basara on November 1st. He always had a hug and a smile when he brought his wife, Rose, to meetings. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.



Debbie and Benita helped lay wreaths for the Dept. of MN fundraiser at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery.

Mountain Valley TN 4



TN4 received generous donations from the local PILOT chapter to support our stocking for the troops initiative. TWU Kappa Beta Gamma sorority hosted a successful fundraiser to contribute to our stocking project. They even convinced a few professors to take a pie in the face for donations!



During our October meeting, we signed heartfelt cards for Operation Holiday Salute as part of the Gold Star Mother's project.

With no time to slow down, we participated in the Veterans Day parade held in Etowah. Following a quick chapter lunch, we headed to the VFW to start assembling those stockings! After completed 182 stockings and a total of 34 boxes, we felt an overwhelming sense of accomplishment! The few items that we were unable to place in the stockings were set aside to be taken to the VA long term care facility in Cleveland, TN.



YELLOW ROSE - TX20

November 2025

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



Chapter Board Retreat

Chapter Social



Chapter Packing Party



Visit with PNP Anne Parker

TX20 IN ACTION!



2025 Veterans Homeless Stand Down Event



TOYS FOR TOTS



The Wall that Heals





Central Valley Blue Star Moms



CA10

It's been a busy month for CA10! We have elected a new board. Welcome to our members who have made the decision to lead our chapter for the next year. CA10 also attended many community events supporting our BSM mission. A few activities included, a Trunk or Treat for military families on our local 144 th Fighter Wing base, a Spooktacular Halloween carnival at our Clovis Veterans Memorial District, spent a weekend at Sams Club collecting donations for our holiday package drive, had a great time roller skating with our veterans from Beyond The Barracks, Judged a tri tip cook off benefitting our annual holiday package drive, sent off & 3 days later welcomed home a flight of veterans that went to Washington DC for a trip of a lifetime to visit their memorials with the Central Valley Honor Flight and we participated at The Wall That Heals, a very special event that brought a replica of the Vietnam Wall to our community to be viewed 24 hours a day for 4 days.

It took a lot of hours to attend, prepare for and work on all these events so we thank our CA10 members for all the hours they devoted to our chapter and our BSM mission. Thank you, sisters, for supporting our chapter, our Veterans, our military & BSM. We appreciate everyone of you for your dedication. Our chapter can't do all we do without each of you.



FL11



Meeting of FL Chapters



Decorating our tree at The Children's Museum



Meeting of FL Chapters



Honor Flight



Bingo with our Vets



Veterans Day Parade



Packages to Adopt a Base





On November 5 and 6, our Rim Blue Star Moms installed 8 Hometown Hero Banners in our mountain community. With the help of Rancho Tree Company of Bakersfield, installer Danilo and Misael, along with foreman, Bradley Mowbray, we were able to have all banners installed on the Edison light poles. The parents of the military members were present to watch. Special thanks to our Banner Chairperson and Chapter President Alma Diaz for all her hard work coordinating the event. On Veterans Day, November 11, our Moms volunteered at the local Veterans' Day Ceremony at Arrowhead Ridge by cleaning and setting up chairs and tents for the guests. It was a wonderful day of flag raisings, speeches, quilts of valor presentations, colonial music, and celebration of our Veterans' service. A plaque with our chapter name was mounted on the wall.



President Alma and ZVP Nadia



Amy and her daughter Shelby



Bridgett and her daughter Madison



Nadia, Lisa, son Alexander, and Joy



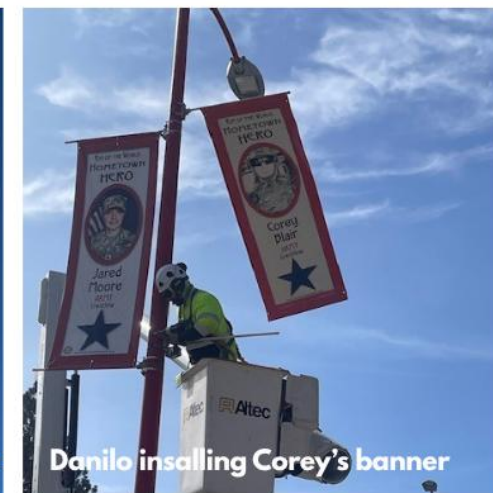
Jennifer and her daughter Anna



Vernon and his daughter Anna



Casey and his daughter Christina



Danilo insalling Corey's banner



Veteran's Day Ceremony



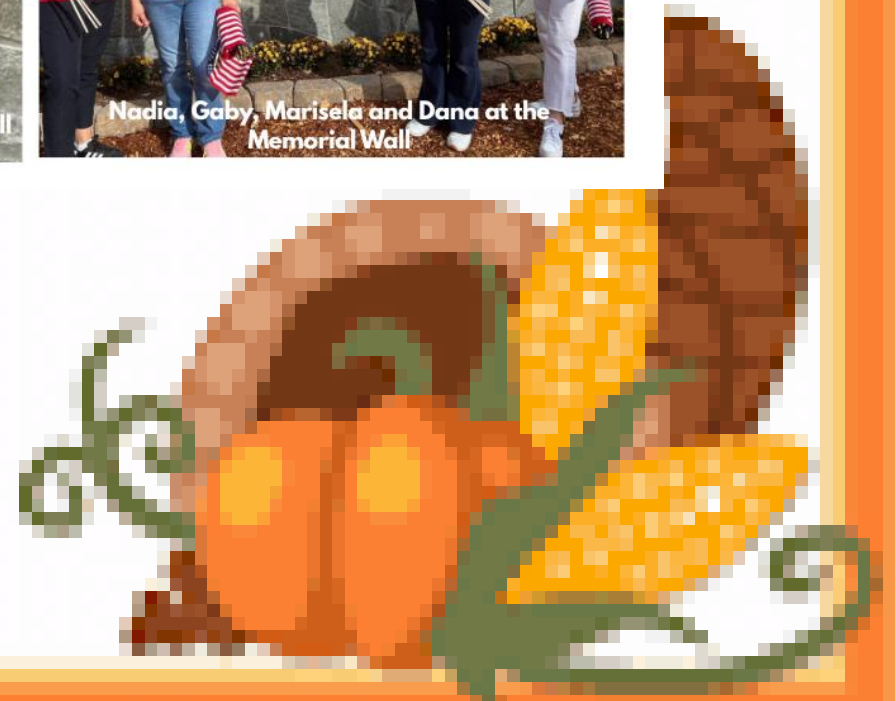
Quilt of Valor recipient



Alma at the Memorial Wall



Nadia, Gaby, Marisela and Dana at the Memorial Wall





TOWN HALL

On August 24, 2025 the Greater Tampa Bay BSM Chapter held a Town Hall to revitalize the chapter. We are thrilled to share the Town Hall was a huge success! As a result, we have welcomed 8 new Members and have enjoyed some fun Meet-Ups! We are currently in the process of planning our Winter Holiday Meeting and are looking forward to many rewarding events in 2026.

EVENTS

- 9/11 HEROES RUN
- OCT. 8TH TRIVIA NIGHT MEET UP
- OCT. 25TH BSM MET WITH OTHER CHAPTERS IN OCALA TO NETWORK
- OCT. 30TH HALLOWEEN MEET UP
- NOV. 4TH - MARINE BREAKFAST
- NOV. 5TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER FISHER HOUSE - VA HOSPITAL
- NOVEMBER - COLLECTED 205 HOLIDAY CARDS FOR THE HOLIDAY CARDS 4 OUR MILITARY CHALLENGE.

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY:



Blue Star Mothers joining forces with Sgt. Anthony Patrick Muhlstadt Foundation & Marine Families to provide breakfast for the 4th Amphibious Assault Battalion

MEET - UPS & COMMUNITY EVENTS:



FL3GTB.com

Tampa, Florida



GREATER TAMPA BAY - FL3



Thumb Chapter MI 178 Veterans day



East Huron Avenue in Bad Axe, MI is beautifully showing honor to our Veterans this Veterans Day by this display of flags in front of the County Building.





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



On Friday, November 8th, our chapter proudly hosted our **11th Annual Basket Social**, and thanks to the generosity of our community, it was one of our most successful events yet!

Beautifully themed baskets lined the tables—each one donated by local businesses, members, and supporters who believe in our mission of honoring and supporting our military. Attendees enjoyed food, fellowship, and the fun of finding that perfect basket to bid on. A few lucky winners even brought home an autographed football or jersey from their favorite Philadelphia Eagles players

Proceeds from this event directly support our military heroes and their families.

Because of annual events like this, and year long community donations, we are able to:

- Send care packages to deployed service members
- Provide financial support to veterans and military families experiencing hardship
- Support and honor Gold Star families, ensuring they are never forgotten



IL6



One of IL6's most cherished traditions: our annual collection drive for OSOT and holiday stocking packing for deployed service members. This year was especially meaningful, as two of our incredible moms were able to send stockings directly to their sons stationed overseas.



We were honored to spend a meaningful morning at the Hines VA Fisher House on November 1st. Connecting with the families there is always a deeply rewarding way to give back. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us and generously donated their time and supplies—your kindness made a lasting impact.



Blue Star Mothers ROC NY8 November 2025



Marine Moms Eat Lunch With Their Kids



Local Marine moms meet for lunch at Mission BBQ in a booth that includes pictures of their Marine kids. There are 142 Mission BBQs located throughout the U.S. Mission BBQ's mission is to serve those who serve.

TRUNK OR TREAT

The Rochester Blue Star Mothers NY8, Lynne Marsh and Nancy General participated in CompeerCORPS Trunk or Treat.





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

San Francisco East Bay Chapter 101 October 2025 Events



Trunk or
Treat at Las
Positas
College,
hosted by
Veterans
First
Program.



CARE PACKAGE COLLECTION DRIVES!

NorthCreek Academy in Walnut Creek, CA held a weeklong collection drive during the first week of October for their K - 8th grade students, teachers, and families for items used in our care packages. Two of our BSMs children attended NorthCreek as students.



"Support our Troops" banner in front of school building.



Cub Scout Pack 809 - Danville, CA. During their Nov 5 pack meeting, the scouts wrote notes and put the notes with their favorite snacks to send to our troops.



Two students from The Dorris-Easton School in San Ramon, CA delivered candy donations to our storage unit on Nov 6.



Houston Area Chapter TX2

Our 21st Birthday Celebration.



Lt Commander Daniel Hanley USNR was the speaker at our October regular meeting.



Our 2025 – 26 Board.



Kingwood Pines Hospital, Behavioral Hospital of Bellaire, Cypress Creek Hospital & West Oaks Hospital presenting a very generous donation to Blue Star Moms, Houston Area Chapter - TX2!



A very well deserved BSM Spirit Award! Congratulations Vickie Schultz!



Santa supporting Blue Star Moms Houston at the Kingwood Veterans Fair. L to R Jennifer Sheridan, De Medford, Annette Vasquez, Judi Hanley



Fort Wayne Area Blue Star Mothers - Chapter IN8



Our chapter has been very busy these last few weeks. In October, 2 members were at Cabela's in Noblesville helping promote Jerky for Troops by handing out jerky samples. We got to meet with the store manager and his military veteran employees. In early November we traveled back to make pick up of over 350 bags of jerky. Cabela's team is looking forward to our return in 2026!

Our late November and December activities include Adopt A Family, Holiday Pantry packages for local National Guardsmen working without pay during the government shutdown, our table at a local craft fair and receiving donations from a local Family, Farm and Home store of hats, gloves and socks. We'll be filling Christmas Stocking for our local VA Hospital in Dec as well. More photos to follow next month!



Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County NM6

NM 6 has been very busy this last month! Members participated in activities with the local high school Army JROTC programs, including the Valencia HS flag retirement ceremonies and the Los Lunas HS's annual Veterans Day celebration. In addition to **going to** those schools, cadets **came from** both of those schools to join NM6 not only at the county's annual Los Lunas Invested in Veterans (L.I.V.E.) Veterans Day event but also on November 11 at the Veteran's Memorial in Belen—where one of our members led the audience in singing the National Anthem. On Monday, November 10, several members attended the program at the NM State Capitol's Roundhouse in Santa Fe to honor the 250th birthday of the United States Marine Corps (ooh rah!) where cadets from the MCJROTC program at Cibola HS (Albuquerque) provided the color guard. NM6 moms and families are now in the planning stages for the holidays—praying all our loved ones will be home.



**BLUE STAR
MOTHERS
SE WI 2**



**NOVEMBER
2025
NEWSLETTER**

**Upcoming
Events**

**November 2025
Chapter Meeting**
November 18th

**National Guard
Deployment
Send- Off**
November 30th

**Operation Home
Baked**
December 4th

**Wreaths Across
America**
December 13th

**Flower
Fundraiser
Workshop**
December 22nd

**December 2025
Chapter Meeting**
December 16th



As we step into November, a month centered on gratitude, reflection and honoring our veterans, we are reminded of the heart of our mission and the incredible strength of our chapter. Our October meeting was wonderfully attended; 31 members and 2 associate members were present. Before we officially began, we had the pleasure of welcoming a special guest, Sister Sarge, who stopped in to personally thank our chapter for all we do to support our military and their families. Her message was heartfelt and deeply appreciated.

During the meeting, we shared important chapter information, reviewed upcoming events, reflected on our past activities, and heard updates and reports from our committees. The energy and engagement in the room reflected just how strong and motivated our chapter remains.



Since last month, SE WI 2 has been active throughout our community. Marching in the Wisconsin Veterans Day Parade, welcoming home veterans from the most recent Honor Flight, sponsoring lunch at Bolland Hall, hosting and attending our "Friendsgiving" cooking class fundraiser, enjoying a Sea to Shining Sea musical performance, and participating in Veterans Day events across Southeastern Wisconsin. Each activity reflects our chapter's dedication to showing up and supporting our veterans, service members, and community.



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BSM H.O.M.E. CA30 Chapter



Amber Waves of Grain Craft Beer Festival held on 11/1/2025 at The Shops of Dos Lagos in Corona, CA:

A powerful day of honoring our heroes while enjoying great beer and family fun! The Blue Star Mothers H.O.M.E. CA30 Chapter showed up in full force, spirits high and hearts united, as they proudly promoted their Care Packages Campaign, spreading love, and support to our troops!



Veterans Day Ceremony held on 11/11/2025 at Ingalls Veterans Memorial Plaza:

The presence of our Blue Star Mother/Gold Star Daughter, Lorraine Camire, Gold Star Mother, Patty Jimenez, and Gold Star Father, Carlos Baltierra paid their respect on this celebrated day as they honor our veterans who gave us the true meaning of service, remembrance, and love for our country.



Veteran's Memorial Dedication & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held on 11/11/2025 at the Corona City Hall:

The Blue Star Mothers H.O.M.E. CA30 Chapter was honored to be warmly recognized as they paid tribute to the brave men and women who have served our country at the rededication and unveiling of the newly updated memorial. Our members proudly stood in support of their BSM Community Liaison, MaryAnn Sherman, who serves on the committee for this meaningful project, five years in the making. Designed to welcome school field trips, this space will offer students the opportunity to learn directly from Veterans and experience a place of reverence and gratitude.





WESTERN SLOPE BLUE STAR MOTHERS
CO8

VETERANS DAY PARADE



AFTER THE PARADE, WE PARTICIPATED IN A BLOCK PARTY! WE HANDED OUT POPCORN AND ENSTROMS TOFFEE. KIDS COLORED PAGES FOR OUR CARE PACKAGES AND WE MET SOME FUTURE MOMS!



VIETNAM VETERAN PINNING CEREMONY



WE HELPED THE STEADFAST VALOR FOUNDATION HONOR SOME LOCAL VIETNAM VETERANS WITH A PINNING CEREMONY!

GRANTS FROM WALMART



TWO OF OUR LOCAL WALMART'S PRESENTED US WITH A CHECK, TO HELP WITH OUR ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL EVENT, AT THEIR STORE CELEBRATIONS!

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

OUR COMMUNITY HONORS OUR VETERANS WITH A CEREMONY EVERY YEAR. THIS YEAR, JENNIFER PLACED A WREATH IN HONOR OF ALL SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS; THOSE PRESENT AND NOT. WE ALSO HANDED OUT DONUTS.



ALL SERVICES BALL

WE PARTNERED WITH SEVERAL SPONSORS AND HELD A BALL TO HONOR OUR LOCAL MILITARY AND FIRST RESPONDERS



TRUNK OR TREAT

WE TOOK PART IN OUR LOCAL VA HOSPITAL'S TRUNK OR TREAT. OUR CAR THEME WAS SUPERHEROES AND WE ALSO DISPLAYED OUR CHAPTER HEROES!



BUCKEYE MILITARY MOMS OH-9

CONVENTION FUN

NEW NATIONAL
PRESIDENT

FUND RAISING!



O-H



I-O!



OHIO CONVENTION

Members at the Department of Ohio Convention!



The Buckeye Military Moms proudly announces

Karen Stillwell

as the newly elected
National President
of the
Blue Star Mothers of America

ONE LUCKY BUCKEYE!

Our chapter is excited to share our wonderful member Karen Stillwell with all of you!



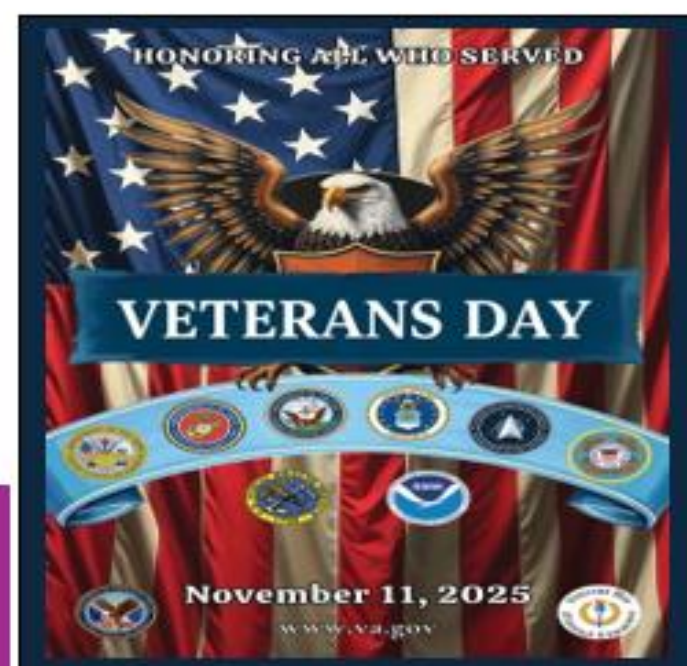
STAYING WARM!

Hill's Market Fundraiser was brrrrrisk! But we made it a good day to spend together!



November 2025 Newsletter

NM2



Mardi Gras in New Mexico -Fundraising Gala October 18,25
Marriott Pyramid, Albuquerque, NM



November is National
Family Caregivers Month!



NM2 present to support the
VA caregivers.



National Family
Caregivers Month
NOVEMBER

UP NEXT FOR NM2.

11/15 Packing of Holiday care packages for deployed troops worldwide. Mailing 400 plus care packages filled with love and support.

11/15 NM2 PRESENT FOR THE RAYMOND G MURPHY VA HOSPITAL "HOSPICE CEREMONY"

"The Honor Walk" and "Celebration of Life" for all Veterans and their family who passed in hospice 24-25.

12/13 Wreaths Across America – Santa Fe National Cemetery

12/20 Christmas Party for NM2 Members and Family



Blue Star Mothers



Of The Upstate

SC #4



We participated at a community safety celebration in October.



Bass Pro Shop supported Blue Star Mothers in their nationwide annual event, Jerky for Troops. All Stores collected jerky locally from their customers. The jerky will be included in our holiday packages for our deployed military.



Recently, we participated in our annual event at Fluor Field with Upstate Salute. This event recognizes and gives honor to veterans.

Happy Thanksgiving!!!





Blue Star Mothers of America Louisiana Chapter 1

News from the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women
November 2025



New Orleans VA Stand Down



LA1 participated in the VA Stand Down in New Orleans. Members escorted clients through the resource stations on the grounds of the VA hospital.



Jeepin' for Vets



Greenoaks Funeral Home and LA1 member Gretchen Varnell held Jeepin' for Vets to raise funds for Wreaths Across America. LA1 recognized Greenoaks, Patriot Guard Riders and Odin Sons for their steadfast support of Blue Star Mothers.

Tunnels to Towers



LA1 was one of many sponsors of the first Tunnel 2 Towers held in Baton Rouge. Members staffed an information table and accepted donations for Wreaths Across America. Tabatha Tynes, Christie Landry and Janet Broussard raced in the 5K.



Resource Fair

Denise Singleton, Linda Taylor and Dora Sanford attended the Volunteers of America October Festival Resource Fair. They provided attendees information about Blue Star Mothers and accepted donations for Wreaths Across America.





Members of NY7 and all military Moms gathered to open the event with a prayer and blessing for our troops and each other.



NY7 Celebrated their 15th Anniversary of being a chartered chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America. The event focused on the Past, Present and Future of the Chapter. During the event, we recognized the efforts of our founding members and were honored to have local military organizations and supporters attend. Proclamations from State and Congressional representatives were presented.



Presentation of Colors by local Legion Post Color Guard



Missing Man Table and Meaning of items



Congressional Proclamations presented to Founding Members and current Executive Board members



Current military member shared the value of Blue Star Mothers to our troops and veterans.





It has been a busy month for our Chapter.

Shopped, prepared and delivered hygiene and meal kits to MACV.



Attended our Department Fall Convention.



Continued to prepare meals at the Fisher House.



Attended the 50th Joint Commemoration of the Vietnam War that recognized Cambodian, Hmong, Lao, Vietnamese and US Veterans.



A big shout out to Cabela's/Bass Pro Shop in Rogers MN for the jerky donation! Getting it to our troops!

Joined MN13 in decorating Christmas Stockings for their box packing.



Had an information table at the "Battle for the Axe" (it's a Minnesota thing) Hockey game between MN Sentinels and Wisconsin Warriors.



Geaux Seven Blue Star Mothers LA7

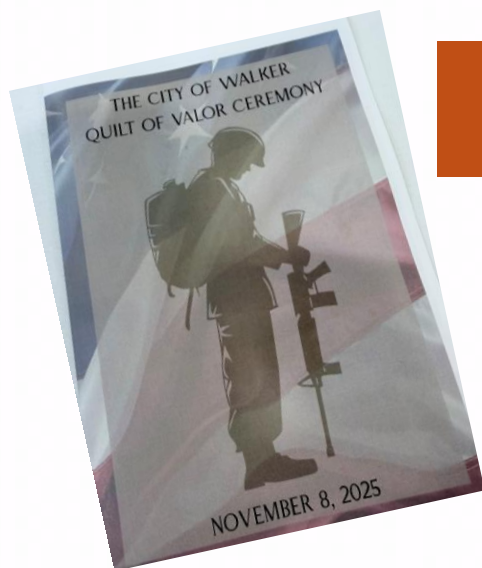


The Louisiana Blue Star Mothers that attended the Homeless Veterans Stand Down in New Orleans



2025 Baton Rouge Veterans Day Breakfast
President Kathy Baker and 2 VP Sandy Stockwell with Elena Branzaru, USMC Veteran and Chair of Advisory Council Mayor President Sid Edward

Walker Veterans Day Parade



City of Walker Quilt of Valor Presentation



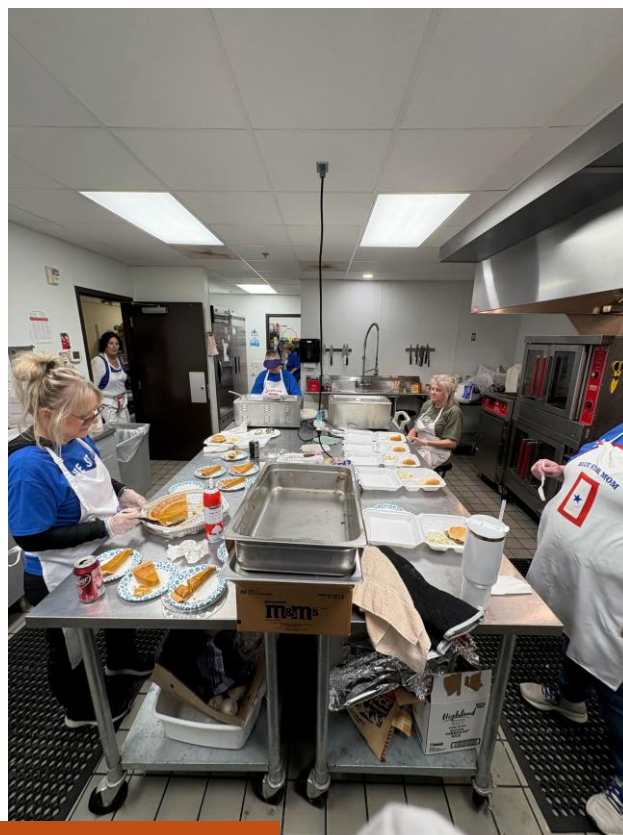
Pine City Blue Star Moms, MN Chapter 16



Looking forward to Spring convention!



Rosie the Riveter was out in full force for the Minnesota Department Fall Convention! 1940's was the Friday night theme, and our Blue Star Mothers and Associates did not disappoint! As always, convention was a great time to catch up with our other chapter members.



Our annual luncheon and bake sale fundraiser was held during the Fall Craft Show at the Braham Event Center - and once again, people were asking as early as 9:00 a.m. when lunch would be ready! The pulled pork sandwiches are always a hit, and the pumpkin pie is always delightful.



Got FUDGE? Our Troops do! We packed up and shipped 430 pounds of fudge to troops all over the world and stateside, including Alaska, Hawaii, California, and Alabama, just to name a few states. A huge THANK YOU goes out to the Rocky Mountain Chocolate factory in Duluth, MN - their annual September campaign of donating one pound of fudge to the troops for every pound purchased, was again a great success and we are always grateful to be able to send out the fudge as a sweet treat for our dedicated troops.



SACRAMENTO
BLUE STAR
Moms

CA7
Newsletter
November 2025

October Events

Sock Drive

**10/18
 SPOOKTACULAR
 BUNCO**

**10/21
 Lunch @ TRAX**

**10/28
 Donation
 Pickup @
 Placer County**

**10/28
 General
 Meeting @
 Heartslanding
 Ranch**

Sock Drive

Blue Star Moms collecting socks for deployed soldiers at Salon Genesis



FL 10 Ocala Blue Star Mothers


The Ocala Blue Star Mothers dedicating the Blue Star Mothers monument at the Marion County Veterans Park on November 16. The chapter sponsored a car show last year to pay for this monument. It features a QR code that directs to our website, www.ocalabluestarmothers.org and the national website www.bluestarmothers.org





THANK YOU
VETERANS
FOR
YOUR
SERVICE





Thank You to the Armed Forces



happy
Thanksgiving

