



# BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

## OCTOBER 2025



### Contact Information for National Executive Board

**President: Karen Stillwell – OH**  
[president@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president@bluestarmothers.us)

**1<sup>st</sup> VP: Sonya Stowers –IL**  
[1vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:1vp@bluestarmothers.us)

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Beth Bruening – MO**  
[2vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:2vp@bluestarmothers.us)

**3<sup>rd</sup> VP Amy Jo Hutchinson – OH**  
[3vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:3vp@bluestarmothers.us)

**4<sup>th</sup> VP: Karla Keller – MN**  
[4vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:4vp@bluestarmothers.us)

**Recording Secretary: Leslie Majocka– PA**  
[recsec@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:recsec@bluestarmothers.us)

**Financial Secretary: Carrie Beck – FL**  
[finsec@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:finsec@bluestarmothers.us)

**Treasurer: Jacqueline Ransom – MI**  
[treas@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:treas@bluestarmothers.us)

**PNP Rebecca Stafford**  
[pnpbecky@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:pnpbecky@bluestarmothers.us)

**PNP Anne Parker Pro-Tem**  
[pnpanne@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:pnpanne@bluestarmothers.us)

**PNP Carla Brodacki**  
[pnpcarla@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:pnpcarla@bluestarmothers.us)

**Chaplain Rebecca Stafford**  
[chaplain@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:chaplain@bluestarmothers.us)

**Parliamentarian Patti Elliott**  
[parliamentarian@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:parliamentarian@bluestarmothers.us)

**Dept. Of MI Linda Powers**  
[president.deptmi@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president.deptmi@bluestarmothers.us)

**Dept. of OH President Barb Cook**  
[president.deptoh@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president.deptoh@bluestarmothers.us)

**Dept. of MN President Jen Pecarina**  
[president.deptmn@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president.deptmn@bluestarmothers.us)

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Sisters and Associates,

Almost three months have passed since the National Convention and we have already accomplished so much. Our days have been busy, but productive. I have enjoyed speaking with many of you and helping to guide you through our mission together.

I had the honor and privilege of attending the National Gold Star Mothers Weekend in DC, along with our DC Representative, Teresa Sumners. A big thank you to Teresa for all you do! Thank you to the American Gold Star Mothers for inviting us and including us in your very special weekend. We spent a wonderful evening on Friday at the American Gold Star Mothers house visiting with them and their supporters. We had the pleasure of helping Nichole and Denise with the banquet centerpieces and favors on Saturday morning. I truly admired the creativity displayed by so many. Saturday evening was a very special event held at WIMSA, honoring our Gold Star Sisters. The National Gold Star Mother President, Annette Kirk and her Board hosted a beautiful banquet including many fabulous speakers. Sunday took us to Arlington where the Gold Star Mothers placed flowers at the Gold Star Tree followed by the wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown. Lastly, we attended a beautiful ceremony in the catacombs before returning to WIMSA for a luncheon provided by Mission Barbecue.

On October 3-5, 2025, I was able to attend the Department of Michigan's Convention. I was honored to install both the newly elected Department and Big Dipper Boards. Congratulations to all and wishing them a successful year ahead. We look forward to working with each of these officers and their members. I felt a special connection to our history as my first time speaking as your National President was in the State of Michigan where this all began.

A FUN Night was held by the Michigan Big Dipper. A great time was had by all! The NEB had a great turnout, see the photo below.

As I compose this article for the newsletter, I am preparing to attend the Department of Ohio Convention this weekend. I am very excited to be with my OH Sisters and then travel on to Minnesota for their Convention next weekend. The Department Conventions provide quality sister time, for which I'm so grateful!

We are VERY CLOSE to announcing the dates and the location for our 2026 National Convention. Our Convention Chairs are Kim Stock Foster and Kathy Tracy. Be on the lookout soon for information from them and for an opportunity to participate in the 2026 Convention.

Respectfully Yours in Service,

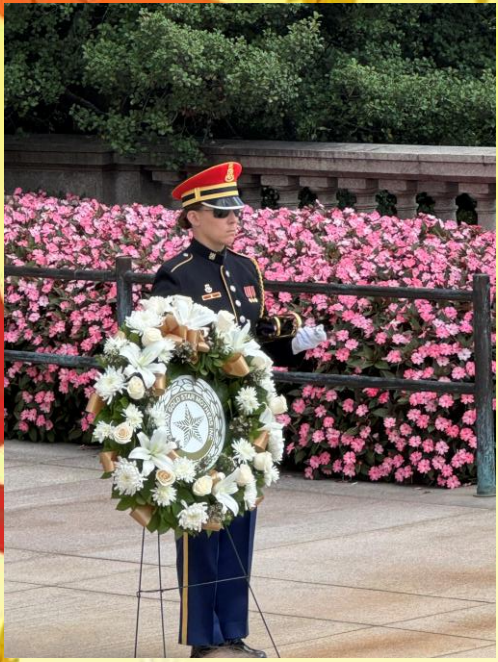
*Karen*

Karen Stillwell

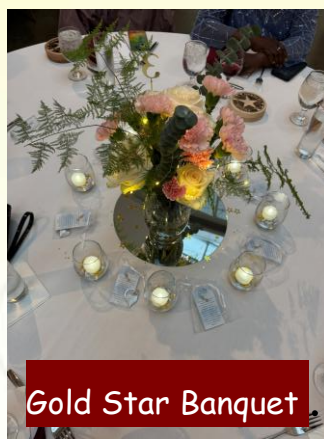
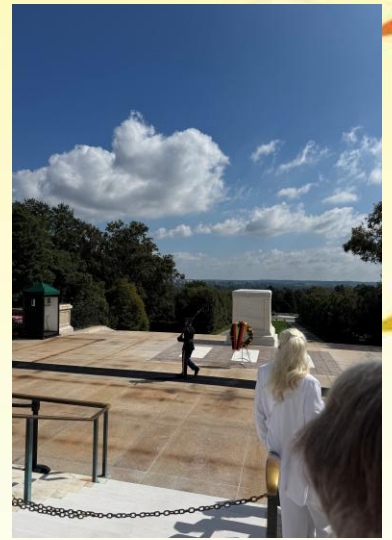
National President 2025-2026



# Gold Star Mother Weekend in DC.



NC17 Gold Stars and Blue stars, DC rep from VA4, TJ and Bonnie Vona from VA5, With BSMA National President



Gold Star Banquet



NP for National Gold Star Mothers, Annette Kirk speaking at the ceremony following the wreath laying



Gold Star National President Annette And Blue Star National President Karen



PNP Gold Star President Sarah Whitledge Taylor With BSMA NP Karen



The "Gold Star Mothers House" in Washington, D.C.



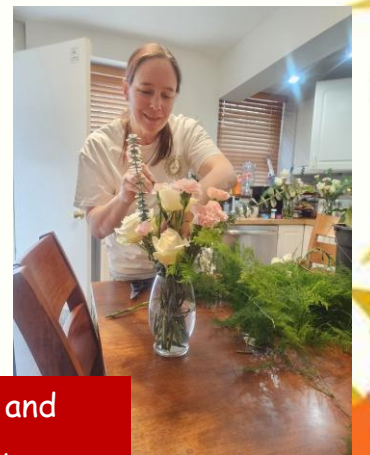
Gold Star from CA30, Evelyn Baltierra with BSMA National President Karen Stillwell



Chaplain for the National Amvets Organization Jeremiah and Linda Botkin. Great supporters of Gold Star Mothers



Blue Star member and Gold Star of NC17, Nichole Jackson Chilton designing the centerpieces for the banquet



# Compliance Do's and Don't /Helpful Hints

Compliance Season runs from September 1st through December 1st each fiscal year so now is the time you should be completing it. Every chapter/Department/Auxiliary has to file! This is a **legal obligation**, parts of which are required by the IRS and by our State governments and by BSMA. We ask for this documentation because we are required to have it!

## 990-N (e-Postcard)

For chapters who's income is less than \$50,000 annually:

Do not google the form, you may get a third party to file for you and you may be charged for the service. There is **NO FEE** to file the 990-N (e-Postcard)!

This link will take you to the page to file.

[Annual electronic filing requirement for small exempt organizations — Form 990-N \(e-Postcard\) | Internal Revenue Service](#)

Then scroll down and click on >

[Submit Form 990-N \(e-Postcard\)](#)

After filing, be sure to wait 7 minutes to get the "Accepted" form, just refresh your browser until you get the Updated status that changes from "pending" to "accepted".

## Submitting and Uploading Forms

PLEASE put your Chapter State and Number on your financial forms, saved forms and email subject line.

You may be contacted if adjustments are needed on your submissions.

When your compliance has been submitted, reviewed and approved you will get an email **from me** letting you know "YOUR COMPLIANCE IS DONE!"

**If your compliance is not completed by December 1<sup>st</sup> 2025**

you will be contacted by me and neither one of us want that. 😊

Use the Compliance Guide, follow the directions

and have your forms ready to go when you begin and it should go smoothly!

Contact me if you have any questions along the way, I am here to help!

Yours in Service,  
Karla Keller  
National 4th VP – Compliance  
4VP@bluestarmothers.us

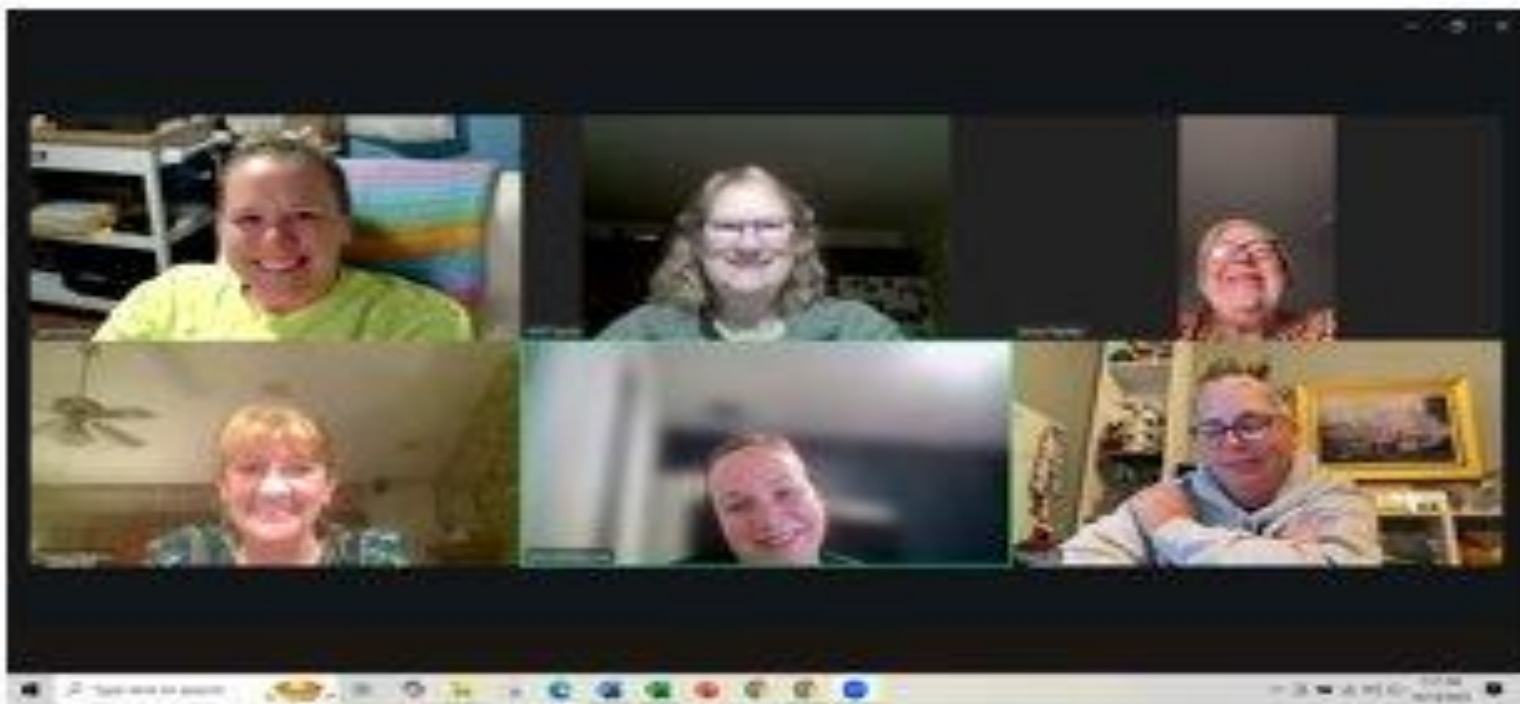




Welcome

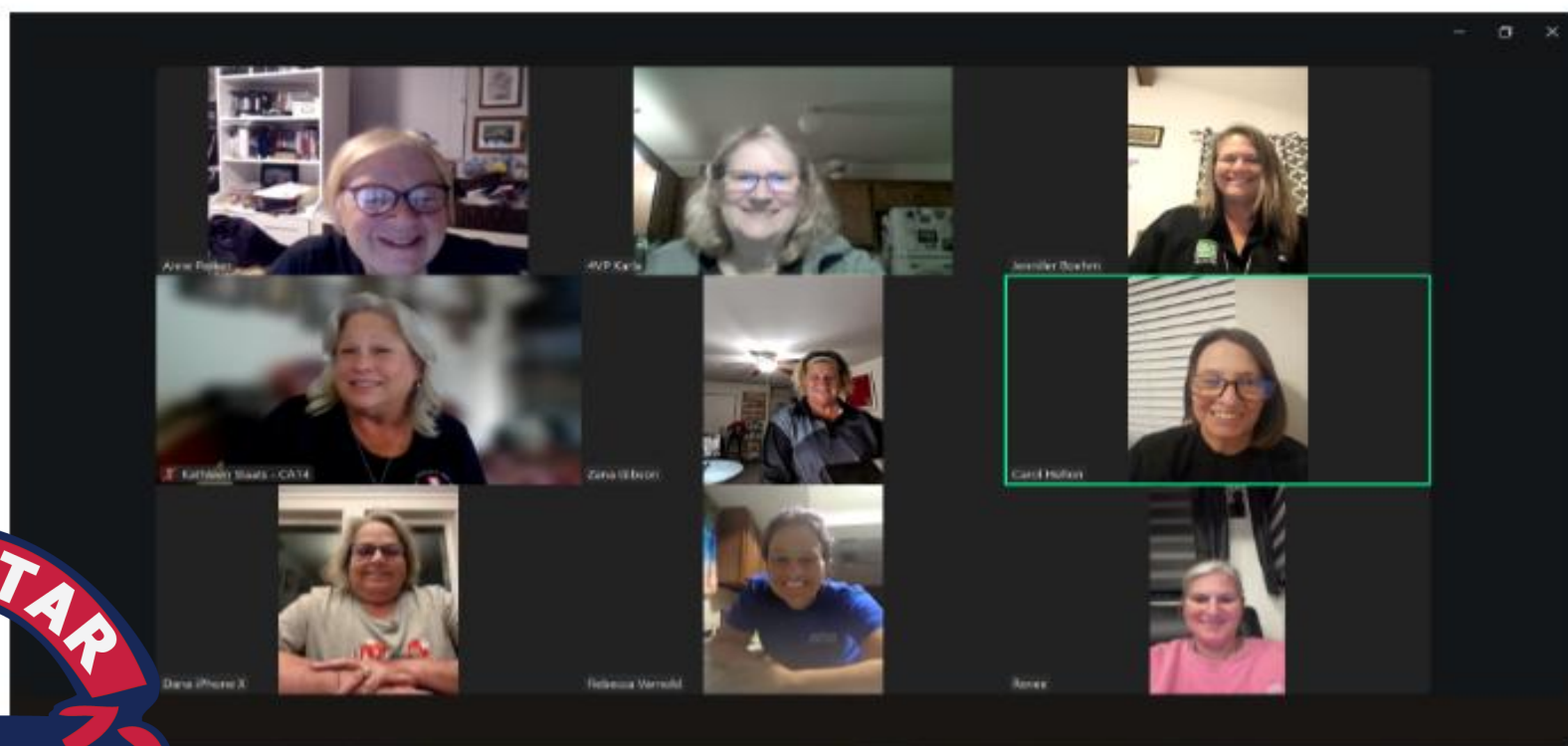
We have installed three new chapters this month

Welcome to Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.  
MI203 and FL16! TX21



*Apologies to MI203 for not getting a photo*

TX21



**BSMA**

# Online Store Holiday Bundles

1. Warm wishes for Christmas \$55

2. Ready to travel \$45.00

3. Not under the weather \$35.00

<https://www.bluestarmothers.org/online-store>

## 3. Not under the Weather

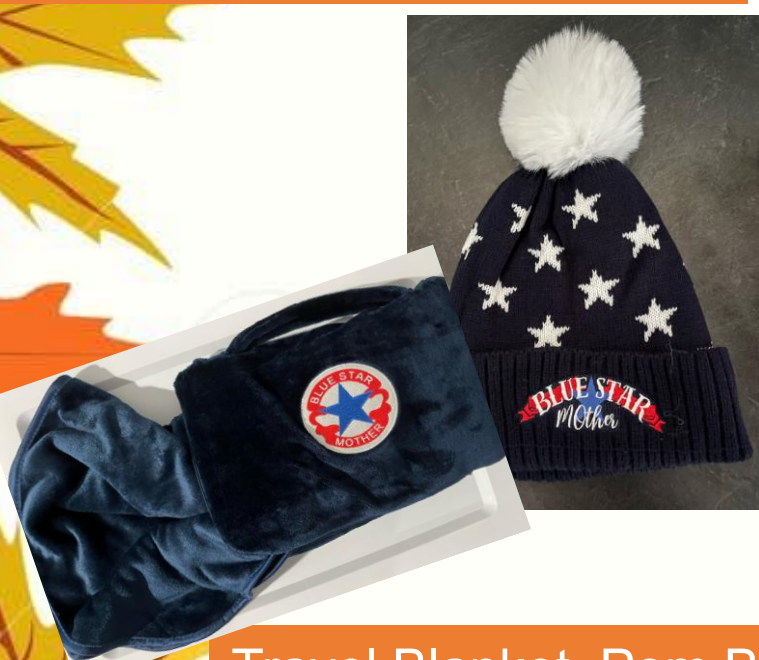


Umbrella, your choice Navy or Red, White and Blue, Red tote bag and Stress star - \$35 for the bundle

## 2. Ready to Travel



## 1. Warm wishes for Christmas



Laptop sleeve, Toiletry bag and Nail file - \$45 for the bundle

Travel Blanket, Pom Beanie hat and BSMA ornament - \$55 for the bundle



The weather is turning cooler, and we are headed towards all the holidays. Our attention turns to family plans, holiday meals and traditions. Before you get to settled into the holidays, we ask that each Blue Star Mother and Blue Star Chapter think about the veteran who has no family, no holiday meals and long-ago traditions.

So, what can you do and what can your chapter do?

Remember we always need to ask the VAVS Chief at the facility what their needs and wants are. Space is limited for them, so you don't want to show up with a huge box of socks.

If you are the VAVS Representative give a call to the Chief and ask what events are planned for the holidays that your chapter can participate in. Perhaps it is a holiday party for patients or helping to decorate the hallways. Ask, if you can put a small tree up in the lobby and come and spread cheer. Use your imagination and dress in the holiday spirit and participate.

A simple but meaningful expression is cards. Have your chapter sign cards at your meeting and they can, perhaps, be put on the dinner trays. But ask first.

If your chapter does not have a VAVS Representative, you can still participate in the veteran holiday. Contact the nearest VA to your chapter and ask what their Wish List is. With the distance to



travel you can use a Walmart.com, Amazon.com or Target.com and purchase and have the items sent directly to the facility. Be sure to ask for a good address and contact name. The last step is to let our VAVS office know so we can keep accounting.

We are always looking for new volunteers so if you are interested please go to our national website, [www.bluestarmothers.org](http://www.bluestarmothers.org) and check under VAVS. Read the training manual so you have an idea of what the position is. There is an application right there that goes to Anne Parker, National VAVS Representative.

Wishing you all a wonderful Fall Season and we are excited to see all the donations that are sent for our veterans.



# Who Is Eligible to Be A BSMA Member

PNP PAT SOLER  
"Spills the TEA "



*"I'm confused; just who is eligible to be a Blue Star Mother Member? Different people tell me different answers!"*

Have you ever heard that, or thought that? If so, you are not alone!

Previously, our Congressional Charter was very specific about who was eligible to be a member (mother or adopted mother), or if you were a stepmother, you had to provide "mother care" from the age of 13 or younger. Additionally, membership was limited to those mothers who lived in the U.S., and whose sons/daughters had served in World War II or the Korean hostilities.

That definition meant that almost all of us did not meet the eligibility requirements. During a national convention, a resolution asking Congress to expand the eligibility requirements was approved.

On December 6, 2011, Congress amended our Charter and made eligible *"a woman who has filled the role of birth mother, adoptive mother, stepmother, foster mother, grandmother or legal guardian."* The key words are **"has filled the role of."**

In other words, **multiple women** for the same son/daughter are eligible to be members! For example, a son could have his birth mother, grandmother and "adopted" grandmother (not related by blood) if that woman filled the role as his grandmother. Even more if there was a stepmother as well.

Congress supported our request that eligibility for membership in Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. be expanded to include other women who played a role in our sons'/daughters' journey of service to their country.

Respectfully Submitted by PNP Pat Soler



## **BSMA TERESA SUMNERS, DC REPRESENTATIVE**



The Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. (BSMA) is an Associate Member of the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Veterans Day Committee (NVDC).

As your DC Representative, I attend NVDC meetings on behalf of BSMA and organize our groups logistics in DC. Being an Associate Member, it allows us to take part in the Veterans Day Observance. Our National President, Karen Stillwell starts the day at the White House Breakfast. She watches the President lay the official wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. During the observance, we are recognized as committee members, and Karen lays the BSMA wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier following the observance. Jeanne Ullmer, BSMA National Patriotic Instructor and Deb Waltz, BSMA National Historian represent us in the Parade of Colors.

After these events, we catch our breath and head over to the Women's Memorial for their Veterans Day Ceremony. This ceremony stands out because all the speakers are military women from each service branch. For several years, BSMA has given a donation to the Women's Memorial at this event, which also lets us share what BSMA stands for.

I have included links to the Veterans Day Poster and the Teacher's Resource Guide, created by Donna Eldridge, a Gold Star Wife and her committee. They have provided excellent information not only for teachers but for all Americans. To see who all the Veteran Service Organizations on the NVDC check our pages 22 and 27.

### **Veterans Day Poster**

The official theme for Veterans Day 2025 is "Service to Our Nation". This theme is represented by the winning poster design; "Unified by Service," which visually connects all uniformed services under one purpose. The theme and poster aim to honor the unity, bravery, and sacrifice of all veterans.

<https://department.va.gov/veterans-day/poster/>

### **Teachers Resource Guide**

<https://department.va.gov/veterans-day/veterans-day-teachers-resource-guide/>



October 2025



## Most Frequently Asked Financial Question at Convention: How much money should a chapter keep in reserve?

There is no clear-cut answer . . . it's not established by any federal or state law, it's not a set percentage or a specific amount, **but** it is a loud and clear announcement to your donors and your community as to how you are fulfilling our mission.

### Encouraging Mission-Driven Spending

Do you know our mission? By way of reminder, our BSMA Constitution states:

*The mission of the Corporation shall be:*

- a) to support the Armed Forces of the United States of America and its Veterans;*
- b) to advocate for America's Armed Forces and those men and women who have served their country;*
- c) to maintain allegiance to the United States;*
- d) to educate our members and others not to divulge military or other government information;*
- e) to assist and participate in ceremonies which honor, remember and support our military men and women, and veterans;*
- f) to honor those families whose children have died in service to our country;*
- g) to assist in the care of unsupported mothers who gave their children to the service of the Nation;*
- h) to foster true democracy;*
- i) to assist in Homeland Security;*
- j) to uphold the American principles of freedom, justice and equal rights, and to defend the United States from all enemies, foreign and domestic.*

A large portion of our mission can be accomplished by exhibiting good moral character, offering a kind word, expressing and affirming support, or simply being present at ceremonies and events in a show of respect, honor and compassion. For those activities that are best served with an outlay of funds, we need to look at our bank balances and consider how to **best invest in our mission**. With that framework in mind, I offer you the following thoughts as a point of reference in your decision making.

**Start with Vision:** As a chapter, we exist to **make an impact**—not to build a large bank balance. Every dollar we have is a **tool** to advance our mission and **serve** those who depend on us.

**Acknowledge the Need for Reserves:** Yes, it's wise to maintain healthy reserves for emergencies and stability. But beyond that, holding too much back not only sends the wrong message, but it also limits our ability to grow, reach more people, and demonstrate the power of what we do. Money in the bank may look safe, but it doesn't change lives.

**Honor Donor Intent:** Donors didn't give to see money sit idle. They gave because they believe in our cause. Using those funds wisely and visibly is the best way to honor their trust and inspire continued support.

**Impact Creates Momentum:** When we invest in programs, events, and services, we create stories of impact. Those stories are our most powerful fundraising tool. The more we show results, the more donors are motivated to give again.

**Shift the Perspective:** Let's not think of spending as depleting our account or losing money—it's investing in lives, in growth, and in long-term sustainability. Every dollar put into the mission plants seeds for future harvest.

**Call to Action:** I encourage us to take bold steps and to be faithful stewards by putting resources where they do the most good. Let's approve mission-driven spending that creates visible impact, strengthens donor confidence, and brings our vision to life.

Julie Straw,  
National Finance Chairwoman  
[FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us](mailto:FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us)





# Monthly Updates

The holidays are just around the corner, and shipping deadlines will be approaching quickly. Whether you're sending care packages overseas or gifts across the U.S., here's everything you need to know to stay ahead—and compliant.

## Holiday Shipping Deadlines – Military APO/FPO/DPO

### USPS Deadlines

- **Ground Advantage:** Tuesday, November 4
- **Priority Mail:** Tuesday, December 9
- **First Class Mail, Cards & Letters:** Tuesday, December 9
- **Priority Mail Express:** Tuesday, December 16 (Not available for AE Zip 093)

Zip Code Groups: AE 090–092, AE 093, AE 094–099, AA 340, AP 962–966 Note: Actual delivery dates may vary depending on origin and destination.

### USPS Deadlines – U.S. Domestic Shipping

- **Ground Advantage:** Wednesday, December 17 (Alaska/Hawaii: Dec 18)
- **First Class Mail, Cards & Letters:** Wednesday, December 17
- **Priority Mail:** Saturday, December 20 (Alaska/Hawaii: Dec 18)
- **Priority Mail Express:** Sunday, December 21 (Alaska/Hawaii: Dec 20)

### FedEx Deadlines

- **Ground/Home Delivery:** Wednesday, December 17
- **Express Saver (3 Day):** Friday, December 19
- **2Day:** Monday, December 22
- **Overnight:** Tuesday, December 23 (before cutoff)

### UPS Deadlines

- **Ground:** Thursday, December 18 (check with UPS for exact zones)
- **3 Day Select:** Friday, December 19
- **2nd Day Air:** Saturday, December 20
- **Next Day Air:** Tuesday, December 23 (before cutoff)

## Military Customs Reminder – Now In Effect

As of **September 1, 2025**, new customs requirements from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (a division of Homeland Security) are in place for all APO/FPO/DPO shipments:

- **6-digit HS (Harmonized System) code required for each item**
- **Package weight must now reflect the sum of itemized weights**
- **Items must be listed individually, not grouped (e.g., no more "snacks or hygiene")**

These updates aim to improve security and transparency—but they do require more detailed information. If you're using ShipThrifty, our tools can help simplify the process, including features like **"Add Same Customs for All"** and **label copying** to save you time. Need Help? Don't hesitate to reach out if you need support preparing your care packages this season. Thanks for being part of the ShipThrifty community!

## The Ship Thrifty Team

# Blue Daisies

**MI 177 Tonda Morgan**



**Ann Sanchez - CA7**





**Broken Arrow  
Blue Star Moms OK5**



**22nd Annual Golf  
Tournament**

**River Walk Rally Joint Effort  
OK 5 & Ok10**



**Broken Arrow Mayor  
Wimpee and Jennifer of  
the Tulsa Warriors Hockey  
club (she's a goalie). Both  
of these wonderful ladies  
are also OK 5 Associates!**

**We went to support our sisters  
along with OK 1 at a fundraiser  
for OK 20! What a fun night  
organized by Elks Lodge #1230!**



**We had an informational booth at the  
POW/MIA Hockey Tournament  
organized by the Tulsa Warriors  
Hockey Club. TWHC is a group of  
veterans and family members that  
came together in camaraderie for fun  
and competition with other veteran  
hockey clubs across the nation.**





## BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PA201



*A powerful reflection  
of our community's  
gratitude to the  
military*

*The Blue Star Mothers of the Lehigh Valley are grateful to share that nearly 3,000 donated items (cookies, granola bars, tuna packs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, beef sticks, puzzle books and more) were recently collected from local schools, medical offices, local businesses, and generous community members. These donations will be packed and shipped in the coming weeks to active-duty service members in time for the winter holiday season, bringing comfort and cheer to those serving far from home.*





# Lone Star Chapter, TX6



**Dinner meetings  
with blue star  
sisters are the  
best!**



**Our first Purple  
Heart Memorial  
Dedication**



**Our annual Gold Star Lunch honoring Gold  
Star families and remembering the fallen.**



# Thumb Chapter MI 178



Blue Star Mothers attend Tea Party at Frank Murphy Museum.

In early September, the Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter #178 gathered for an enjoyable day together at the Murphy Museum in Harbor Beach, MI. The afternoon started with a lovely and delicious tea in the sitting room of the museum. Sheila Eddy's teacup demonstration was very interesting. Sheila, Sally Koehn and Margaret Clor were wonderful hostesses. The menu was delicious and made this high tea exceptional.

Following the tea, our group was given a tour of the Frank Murphy Museum. This included the law office and family home. We loved this tour and learned so much about Frank Murphy and his family. Frank went to U of M Law School. He served as Records Court Judge, Mayor of Detroit, Governor General and High Commissioner of the Philippines, Former Governor of Michigan, Attorney General of the United States, and Justice of the Supreme Court.

This museum is packed with history. Thanks for hosting us, Sally Koehn (also a fellow Blue Star Mom).



Nicole Stermer, President, and Marcia Janik from Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter 178 attended the Blue Star Mothers Michigan convention in Grand Rapids, MI October 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Michigan Blue Star Mothers and a few others from the National Blue Star Mothers attended from other States. It was a busy weekend with meetings, guest speakers, and sister time. They enjoyed the Banquet with DJ John Frederick and dancing.

## **Blue Star Mothers ROC NY8 October 2025**



### **Gold Star Family Sunday**



It was with much respect and honor that the Blue Star Mothers NY8 once again hosted a remembrance ceremony for local Gold Star Families on Sunday, September 28th. The names of local heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice were read off and families in attendance were given a yellow rose. Many families brought pictures of their loved ones. The ceremony was held in the White Haven Chapel with Gold Star Family Memorial located just outside. The keynote speaker, Major Dylan Potter, US Army Ranger spoke of the strength and grace of the Gold Star Families and many carrying on spirit of in service in their communities.

### **Military Appreciation Day at Stokoe Farms**

The Rochester Blue Star Mothers shared their mission and lots of fun items for the military kids and their families at the Military Appreciation Day at Stokoe Farms on September 21st. Community partners that also participated included The Vet Center, Veterans Outreach Center, The Red Cross, CompeerCORPS, VA programs: Whole Health and Women's Health and the Monroe County Veterans Service Agency Nature Based Therapy Program.





"Star Moms are on the line!"  
East Bay Chapter 101

## San Francisco East Bay Chapter 101 September 2025 Events

September 11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Wars Memorial in Oak Hill Park (Danville, CA) This large annual public event honors the bravery and sacrifice of the fire, police, and military personnel who responded to the 9/11 attacks. There was also a wreath ceremony in honor of the Gold Star families. Our Chapter had a table set up where people stopped by to learn more about our organization and to also give donations.



September 24 – Dining for a Cause at Virtue & Vice Restaurant (Danville, CA) This cause was for the benefit of the Veterans Memorial Building where our Chapter holds its monthly meetings. Eight moms volunteered as servers for the night. It was exhausting but they had a blast! All the guests complemented our Blue Star Moms for their hard work and dedication for our veterans. The Veterans Memorial Building foundation received 10% of the proceeds and 100% of all tips that night, which totaled over \$10K!!!



The lovely and hardworking Blue Star Mom team!



Friends and supporters came to dine!

September 28 – 2.2 for 22 Challenge for Veterans at Las Positas College (Livermore, CA) This annual event strives to raise awareness with the Las Positas College campus and community that 22 veterans succumb to suicide a day. Funds raised help support mental health programs to prevent veteran suicides, as well as provide scholarships for Las Positas College student veterans. The BSM station was the Paddle Ball Challenge where people were challenged to hit a ball (attached by a string to the paddle) 22 times!



September 28 – Community Presbyterian Church (CPC) Serve Day Another big success with our Blue Star Moms guiding CPC members on the assembly line to pack protein and snack bags which will be included in our care packages. CPC donated all the snack items and supplies. This is an annual CPC event; this year they served 45 organizations including our Chapter.



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LAKE ARROWHEAD, CALIFORNIA  
RIMBLUESTARMOMS.ORG CHAPTER 25

On Friday, September 19, we installed 4 new Hometown Hero Banner pictures in the Military Display Case at Rim of the World High School.

On Saturday, September 20, we volunteered at the Rim Vets Nam to Sands Benefit Concert in Lake Arrowhead. We set up our Information Booth and collected donations for our military projects. Veterans enjoyed various band performances, a delicious dinner, and lots of dancing at the Historic Tudor House.

On Saturday, October 4, we volunteered at the Community Pinecone Festival held at Rim Nordic in Arrowbear. Once again, we set up our Information Booth to collect donations and also provided free games, prizes and patriotic tattoos for the kids. It was a beautiful Fall day!



From left: Bridgett, Lin, Brenda, Alma, and Marisela



Brenda and Alma at the booth



Nam to Sands Concert



Lisa Garland with her son's banner



From left: Alma, Amy, Lisa, Bridgett, and Nadia



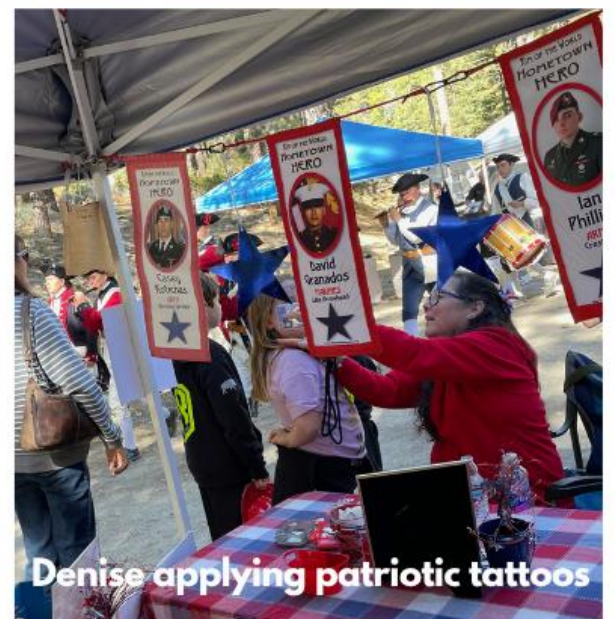
Amy with her daughter's banner



Alma and Denise



From left: Marisela, Nadia, Bridgett, Denise, and Sandi



Denise applying patriotic tattoos

# Michigan 197



This may, or may not be, Mary Patterson, Missi Burl, Debby Baker, Kathy Bate and Lori Jackson at the 82nd Annual Department of Michigan Convention in Grand Rapids!



Mary Patterson and Lori Jackson (Mi 197) meeting a veteran from Pentwater



# Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers

**ELECTIONS 2.0 - 9/08/2025**  
**PRESIDENT ROSEMARY FREELIN**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> VP FRANCES WALKER**  
**TREASURER RUTH HARRIS**  
**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**  
**KAY COLEMAN**  
**RECORDING SECRETARY PATTY PAUL**



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**WELCOME NEW ARMY  
MOM  
GIGI ARCHULETA**



**National Gold Star Mothers Day**  
**SEPTEMBER 23, 2025**



*Remembering and Reminding  
All recognizing your sacrifice  
your lost sons and daughters in  
service to this nation.*

**911 MEMORIAL -  
ALBUQUERQUE  
NM  
BUILT WITH TWO  
PIECES OF STEEL  
RODS FROM THE  
WTC'S  
WE REMEMBER  
AND WILL NEVER  
FORGET**



## SEPTEMBER 13, 2025, MUA WITH NM GOLD STAR MOTHERS PICNIC AT THE NM VETERANS MEMORIAL



**2025 FORGOTTEN HEROES' BURIAL CEREMONY - NM DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS.**  
ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2025. THE CREMATED REMAINS OF 38 UNCLAIMED  
MILITARY VETERANS WERE LAID TO REST WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS. THE CEREMONY  
TOOK PLACE AT SANTA FE NATIONAL CEMETERY AND ADJUTANT MAJOR GENERAL;  
MICHAEL AGUILAR READ THE EULOGY FROM THE NM NATIONAL GUARD. NM2, NMS AND  
GOLD STAR MOTHERS WERE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY TO RENDER A FINAL SALUTE  
AND BE THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO CLAIM THEY RECEIVED A PROPER BURIAL WITH  
DIGNITY, HONOR AND RESPECT THEY DESERVE.



**HAPPY 78<sup>TH</sup>  
BIRTHDAY USAF  
KIRTLAND AFB  
BALL 9/27/2025**



**POW MIA RECOGNITION  
CEREMONY 9/20/2025  
RGV NM2 IN ATTENDANCE.**



**LP NEXT FOR NM2 WITH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES THAT SERVE OUR MISSION**  
**OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, MARCHI GRAS IN NM, FUNDRAISING GALA**

**NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> CAREGIVER APPRECIATION, VA PROVIDERS RECOGNITION  
AND LUNCHEON 435 VETERAN CAREGIVERS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR  
PASSION AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES.**

**NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE AND CEREMONY AT THE NM  
VETERANS MEMORIAL - BOUTIQUE**

**NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> - PACKING OF 400 PLUS CARE PACKAGES FOR DEPLOYED  
SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN.**

# CA-10 Fresno, CA



Recent Events for Central Valley Blue Star Moms of Fresno, CA. Our "Remember the Troops" 5th Annual Golf Tournament raised funds for the December Package Drive for Active Duty Military. We honored our Gold Star Moms with a fun "Picnic-Themed" Lunch with special Gold Star Teddy Bears as a gift to each Gold Star Mom.



On October 1st Nebraska Chapter 2 Heartland M\*O\*M\*S partnered with the University of Nebraska basketball team & some Nebraska Guard members to put together care packages to send to our deployed service members.





## LA Chapter 7

Our members were honored to participate in the Louisiana Gold Star Family Day event on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at the LA Veterans Memorial Park at our State Capitol.

The month concluded with promoting the Wreaths Across America program.



Geaux 7 Gold Star Mother Carol Bass and her mother, Janice Walter



Louisiana Gold Star Family members and audience at ceremony



LA 7 members Ann Berkins and Sandy Stockwell serving refreshments



Geaux 7 members at the Gold Star Family Event





Gold Star Family members, and Blue Star Mothers of America members from Louisiana – Chapter 1, Chapter 6, and Chapter 7 at the Memorial Monument



Wreaths Across America Promotion at Bass Pro  
Sandy Stockwell, Kerri Kannady & Lea Evans

# YELLOW ROSE - TX20

October 2025

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



## TX20 IN ACTION!



Purple Heart Monument Dedication in Frisco



Patriot Day Events in Celina and Frisco



POW/MIA Ceremony hosted by the American Legion Post 21 in The Colony

## 1st Gold Star Sunset Ceremony

What an amazing turnout and event for TX20's first Gold Star Family Day. The weather was perfect, the program was truly touching, our Gold Star Families were honored, and the luminaries shined bright in remembrance of our fallen service members.



# Mountain Valley TN4



TN 4 was invited to speak at the Daughter of the American Revolution, Alexander Keith Chapter on October 4th, highlighting our mission to fill Christmas stockings for our TN deployed heroes over the holidays. Our local DAR has been a wonderful partnership in supporting us to reach this year's objective.



On October 11th, TN4 participated in the annual Pumpkin town event in downtown Athens, TN, where we secured a prominent space, with the help of our local DAR. We displayed a sample of the items included in each stocking and offered an Amazon QR code for convenient purchases from our wish list. We humbly and gratefully accepted cash donations for help in paying for postage. The event fostered valuable community connections with Mark Cochran, TN House of Representatives, and Senator Adam Lowe.





Jennifer collected formal dresses over the summer and we delivered to Operation Deploy Your Dress at Fort Carson



We took a farm tour of one of our local farms who generously donates their famous Dad's Hot Sauce to our care packages!

We received a snack donation and delivered to the USO Denver MEPS



# Western Slope Blue Star Mothers

## C08



New recruit Send-offs



Annual picture of non-profits in our area gearing up for Colorado Gives Day

We took Happy Retirement balloons and lunch to one of our Army recruiters!



# South-Kent Blue Star Mothers



## MI191



Lisa Haik receiving her Shining Star pin by Linda Powers



Becki Vander Molen,  
Becky Stafford



Claudette Talbot,  
Becki Vander Molen



Left to right: Stacy Pyper, Jennifer Hayward, Bethany Nettleton, Lisa Haik, Jennifer Dietrich, Becki Vander Molen, Pam Hull, Andrea Sumner



Jennifer Hayward,  
Andrea Sumner



Mardi Gras Big Dipper night  
Left to Right Back row: Bethany Nettleton, Jennifer Dietrich, Becki Vander Molen, Terri, Pam Hull. Front row: Shelley Wilson, Jennifer Hayward, Andrea Sumner

Bethany Nettleton, Terri,  
Becki Vander Molen



## BSM PA16

# A Month of Momentum, Mission, and Heart



The Blue Star Mothers of Southwestern PA16 are powering through 2025 with purpose and pride! This past month was packed with meaningful moments as we continued our mission to uplift and support our military and veteran communities.

🎉 We kicked things off with a spirited Purse Bash in support of Heroes Supporting Heroes, where our members showed up in full force to raise funds and awareness.

📺 At the Land, Sea & Air Military Expo, we proudly hosted an information table—connecting with attendees and sharing our mission with new faces.

We stood tall at the Beaver County Muster, offering our heartfelt support to veterans and their families, and reminding them they're never alone.

🎁 One of our most joyful highlights was partnering with the 911th Airlift Wing, where our members assembled and delivered welcome kits brimming with snacks and comfort items for returning service members.

🎊 Our Yellow Ribbon Wreath Raffle was a resounding success, with proceeds fueling our outreach efforts—from care packages to VA support supplies.

🏠 And in a gesture of everyday kindness, we stocked Veterans Resource Rooms at several local universities, ensuring student veterans have a quiet space, a snack, and a reminder that they're appreciated.

Each event, each gesture, each moment of service reflects the heart of our chapter. We are deeply grateful for the opportunities to serve—and for the incredible community that makes it all possible.

Until next month, stay safe, stay well, and keep spreading kindness.



Blue Star Mothers



Of The Upstate

SC #4



August/September  
2025

Our chapter has been very productive for August and September. August was renewing memberships and nominating 2025-2026 Officer Committee. September was busy as we had many events that we attended.



President Martha Austin read a poem at the Gold Star Dinner and we helped to greet and serve the Gold Star Mothers that attended.



2025-2026 Officer Committee



Vets Helping Vets Spartanburg  
Car, Truck, and Bike Show

President Martha Austin had an opportunity to be interviewed by a local radio station - 98.9 WORD. Bill Frady host and ask questions that helped provide information about our chapter to the Upstate.



Hello Fall Vendor Fair  
United Wesleyan - Operation Christmas Child



## St. Paul Blue Star Mothers MN 11 October Newsletter



We helped at a fundraiser for Project Got Your Back. It was a plane pull and it was a blast to be there. They help connect veterans, to a "Navigator" (mentor) to help them find resources for jobs, healthcare, homes, treatment options and more! They raised \$40,000 this day and we were honored to help. (The all girls team did a GREAT job!)



At our October meeting Cole, from Project Got Your Back, and his kids, came to speak to us and we presented a check for \$1000 to them. \$1000 sponsors a veteran for a year.



The sponsorship covers transitioning tools, financial assistance, training, outreach and program oversight. Cole is chapter member Lynn's son. Learn more at <https://www.projectgotyourback.org>



Honor Flights are always such a wonderful experience! The October 6<sup>th</sup> flight welcomed home 1-WWII, 29-Korean War and 50-Vietnam Veterans. Winter Carnival Klondike Kates from the past St Paul Winter Carnivals joined our moms for a photo!



# IL6



On September 18th, Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers Past President Sonya and President Becky had the privilege of attending a powerful evening at the Chicago Hilton on Michigan Avenue, in support of the Navy SEAL Foundation.

The event paid heartfelt tribute to Navy SEALs, past and present, and their families, recognizing the extraordinary commitment and sacrifice it takes to serve.

Guests of honor Michael J. Sacks and VADM Joseph Maguire, USN (Ret.) shared candid insights during a moving Q&A session, touching on the realities of SEAL life, the current global landscape, and the values that continue to inspire them.

It was an evening of deep respect, connection, and reflection, one that left a lasting impression on all who attended.



We're deeply grateful to our friends at the local State Farm Insurance office for their generous support of our annual OSOT – Support Our Troops Collection Drive.

Their team went above and beyond by accepting donations on our behalf, helping us gather much-needed items for service members. Thanks to their kindness and community spirit, we'll be delivering these contributions to the OSOT Lisle, IL office in mid October.



Stay tuned! More details to come as we continue this meaningful mission together.



Our incredible Blue Star Moms spent another meaningful morning at Fisher House, sharing smiles, warm meals, and kindness with the families of Hines VA Hospital patients.

From cooking breakfast to donating paper goods and books, our moms bring comfort and care to those who need it most—along with plenty of well wishes and heartfelt conversations.

We're proud to continue volunteering regularly and always look forward to these special visits. It's a joy to serve, connect, and remind the families they're never alone.

## BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF VALENCIA COUNTY (NM6)

NM6 has been busy! June 7, we provided refreshments and encouragement to participants, including one of our members (who won first in her age group in the 5k walk/run) in the annual Los Lunas Invested in Veterans Events (LIVE) Memorial Run. Then, in August, as one of the organizations supported by the run, LIVE presented us with a check. Throughout the summer, NM6 members were honored to participate in Flag lines for the funeral/memorial services of veterans from our communities. On September 18, we were in Santa Fe at the National Cemetery to remember 38 Forgotten Heroes at their Memorial Ceremony. Also, at our September meeting, we elected the new executive board for our chapter! In the course of the summer, through the amazing partnership with La Vida Felicidad and H2 Academic Solutions, we also prepared and distributed 250 CARE bags to veterans in need in our community. |





# Blue Star Mothers of America Louisiana Chapter 1

News from the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women  
October 2025



## Gold Star Family Day



LA1, LA7 and LA6 joined the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs in recognizing Gold Star Families from across the state at a ceremony in Veteran's Memorial Park. Larry Williams, assistant secretary of Veteran Outreach, shared opening remarks and Retired Major General John Basilica Jr. was the guest speaker. Our VSO partner the Patriot Guard Riders also attended the ceremony.



### Tri-State Gold Star Families Memorial Ride



The Flags of Honor Escort visited the Gold Star Family Memorial as part of their Tri-State ride. Natalie Truax presented the wreath representing Gold Star families.

### 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony



American Legion Post 38 hosted the 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony. LA1 and LA7 attended the ceremony to remember those Louisiana residents who perished in the 9-11 attacks. LDVA Sec. Charlton Meginley presented Mr. Mike Lamana with the Louisiana Veterans Medal of Honor and a flag flown at the Louisiana State Capitol in memory of his son, Michael "Scott" Lamana. Michael "Scott" Lamana was a member of the U.S. Navy and died in the attack on the Pentagon.

Happy Birthday



Denise Singleton, Rosanna Richard and Jeri Gill pinned WWII veteran Tolley Fletcher on his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday! Tolley participated in Operation Torch in North Africa, the D-Day invasion of Normandy and hunting U-boats in the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. He joined the Navy at age 17 and was discharged as a Gunner's Mate Third Class.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### LA1 2025-26 Chapter Executive Board



# Pine City Blue Star Moms MN Chapter 16

We are in the midst of planning our annual craft show luncheon and bake sale fundraiser for November along with the preliminary planning of our bi-annual comedy show/dinner fundraiser that is scheduled for this coming Spring.

We are awaiting the final tally from the Duluth Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory's fudge sales from September. For every pound of fudge sold in September, they donate a pound to the troops and we have been fortunate enough to be able to send them out on their behalf. We spend a day in November packaging it up with other items in our annual care packages.





Car packed and ready to deliver 1,400 pairs of socks to the St. Cloud Standdown. We had great supporters from VSO's, friends and neighbors! We also received a monetary donation to purchase more socks when these run out.



Chapter members working on Diamond Art holiday ornaments to be included in our holiday bags that we put together for our veterans who are living in MACV (Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans) housing. We expect to prepare around 60 holiday bags for three different housing units.



# Central Missouri Blue Star Mothers October 2025



## Happy Fall Y'all

In September the chapter helped at the VFW Post 6514 and Veterans We Got Your Back Fishing Tournament. This event is held every year and allows veterans to have fun while fishing at Lake Of the Ozarks, MO.



These veterans enjoyed great food and fellowship while Blue Star Mom's enjoyed visiting and learning more about these men and women.



Dorothy  
Becky  
Sue



Anita and Becky share the Blue Star Mother's Mission with Shelter Ins. employees.



# BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



## OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

### Upcoming Events

**October 2025  
Chapter Meeting**  
October 21<sup>st</sup>

**Cooking Class  
Fundraiser**  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Veterans Day  
Parade**  
November 8<sup>th</sup>

**November 2025  
Chapter Meeting**  
November 18<sup>th</sup>



Our September meeting was a full one! In attendance were 30 Members, 1 Guest and 1 Associate Member. We shared a meal, discussed recent and upcoming events, exchanged updates, and celebrated new beginnings for the year ahead. During the meeting, we proudly installed our 2025-2026 Board Officers, along with our Appointed Officers, and officially welcomed six new members into our chapter family.



Several of the events pictured below reflect the heart of our mission and the continued dedication of our members. This past month, we participated in the POW/MIA Silent March held at our meeting location, the American Legion. Members also attended the Gold Star Mothers Service, supported the Veterans Treatment Court graduates, and greeted our heroes at the most recent Honor Flight arrival. Each event was a meaningful reminder of why we serve and stand together as Blue Star Mothers. As we move through October and into November, our calendar remains busy with opportunities to serve and connect.



SACRAMENTO  
**BLUE STAR**  
*Moms*

CA7  
**Newsletter**  
**October 2025**

**September  
Events**

Let the Fun  
Planning Begin

9/19 POW/MIA  
Remembrance  
Event

22 Track  
Collection Day

9/23 General  
Meeting

9/28 Celebrate  
Gold Star Moms  
and Families

9/30 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday  
Fun At Wendy's



**SacramentoBlueStarMoms**  
[www.SacramentoBlueStarMoms.org](http://www.SacramentoBlueStarMoms.org)



# IOWA★STAR

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

bluestarmothersia1@gmail.com

Moms on a Mission

www.bluestarmothersofiowa.com

## Blue Star Mothers of Iowa Are “Moms on a Mission” with our #2700 Care Package Campaign!

The Blue Star Mothers of America - Iowa Chapter has been deeply moved by the outpouring of community support in recent weeks. The city of Mitchellville played a major role in helping raise funds for the 2025 Care Package Campaign through events like pancake breakfasts, community dinners, and contributions from local businesses. These funds will help send thousands of care packages to deployed service members, including a local resident.

Gratitude was also extended to community leaders, volunteers, and children from Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School and the Young Patriots Club, whose coloring sheets and donations showed the powerful impact of even the smallest hands in supporting a greater mission.

The Chapter also participated in deeply emotional and patriotic events, including The Final Salute, where they honored 13 unclaimed veterans and one spouse with dignified military burials. Their presence and support helped ensure these heroes were laid to rest with the recognition they deserved. At Principal Park, families of deployed troops gathered for a heartfelt evening, watching their loved ones on the Jumbotron and receiving support from the Iowa Cubs, Iowa National Guard, and even Captain America. Meanwhile, a burger drive-thru fundraiser raised over \$5,000 in just three hours—enough to ship 186 care packages overseas—thanks to the overwhelming generosity of Iowans who donated money, supplies, and kind words that brought many moms to tears.

The Hot Rods for Heroes Car Show was a tremendous success, exceeding all expectations and raising an impressive \$24,451.78—our largest fundraiser of the year! With 175 stunning cars on display and a strong community turnout, the event brought together car enthusiasts and supporters alike to honor our heroes. Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of everyone involved, this year's show not only met but surpassed our fundraising goal, making a meaningful impact and setting a new benchmark for future events.

Emotions ran especially high when the Chapter was chosen by Army veteran and fellow Blue Star Mother Joni Ernst as her charity of choice, receiving a \$10,000 donation. The honor brought immense pride and gratitude as the mothers were recognized for their sacrifices and unwavering support of their children in uniform. For many, it was the first time they felt truly seen—not just as supporters, but as mothers of the nation's defenders. The Blue Star Mothers, representing diverse communities across Iowa, are united not by politics but by the red, white, and blue worn by their children—and by the yellow that symbolizes their shared hope and commitment: Until They All Come Home.



# BSM H.O.M.E. CA30 Chapter



9/11 Patriot Day was a solemn day of honor and remembrance, paying tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of our nation's first responders. Blue Star Mother Lorraine Camire joined local heroes in Norco, CA, to commemorate the day with deep respect and gratitude for all who serve and protect.



## A Night to Remember

As the sun set over the George Ingalls Memorial Plaza on September 28, the Blue Star Mothers H.O.M.E. CA30 Chapter hosted a heartfelt ceremony in honor of **Gold Star Mothers and Family Day**. Surrounded by the warm glow of twilight, they came together to remember and pay tribute to the families who have endured the greatest sacrifice, the loss of a loved one in military service.

The evening was a solemn and beautiful reminder of the true cost of freedom, and a tribute to the enduring courage, strength, and resilience of the families left behind. Their loved ones' legacies continue to shine brightly, forever remembered and deeply honored.





# Gateway Blue Star Mothers Newsletter October 2025 Vol. 2

In September, GBSM Mothers proudly partnered with Moore Printing to host our annual Meat Bingo Fundraiser!



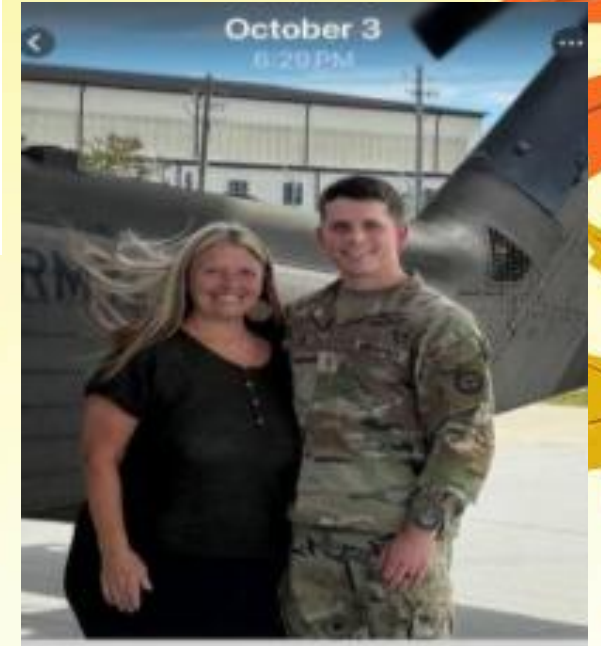
**A Special Thank You to Cheryl E., Our Dedicated VAVS Representative!**  
Cheryl E. recently volunteered at the Jefferson Barracks Drive-Thru Baby Shower event, supporting our Veterans and their families. Her commitment to service and dedication to her role as VAVS Rep continues to make a meaningful impact. Thank you, Cheryl, for your compassion, time, and unwavering support of our Veterans!



## GBSM Accomplishments

1. GBSM partnered with Moore Print Group to raise \$11,318.00 to purchase wreaths which will be laid on this year's Wreaths Across America Day.
2. The newly elected Finance Team and finance committee met several times to complete this fiscal year's budget, which passed at our October mtg.

Meet our GBSM Member, Libbie!!



**Who made her a Blue Star Mom?**  
Libbie's son, Sam, is in the Army National Guard. Sam recently graduated from flight school at Ft. Rucker and earned his helicopter pilot's license. Way to go Sam!!!!



GBSM Moms enjoyed this month's social At the famous St. Louis Lemp Mansion for their Ghost Tour!

A soldier in camouflage uniform is seen from behind, carrying a child on their back. They are walking through a forest with a path covered in fallen leaves. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting autumn. The text is overlaid on the image.

You don't raise *Herros*  
You raise *Sons*  
but if you treat  
them like  
sons

they turn out  
to be *Herros*

even if it's just  
in your own  
eyes



*Give a girl the right shoes and she can conquer the world... -M. Monroe*