



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

SEPTEMBER 2025

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PRESIDENT KAREN STILLWELL



Dear Members and Associates, Again, I am humbled and honored to serve as your National President. I want to thank you for placing your trust in me and giving me the opportunity to make our great organization bigger and better. In the first few weeks I have had the opportunity to add some amazing members to our committees and to appoint others into important positions. I am really looking forward to working with each and everyone of them, as well as all of you.

I wanted to let you all know the updated financial policies approved at this year's Convention have been posted on the website. The approved minutes from Convention 2024 and the draft minutes from this year have also been posted for your review. The draft copy of the minutes from this year will be approved at next year's Convention in 2026.

At the end of this month, I will be honored to represent all of you at Gold Star Mothers Weekend in DC. My heart is already full knowing I will be spending this special time with our amazing sisters.

In October, I will be traveling to all three Department Conventions sharing special bonding time with each. Our common goals and values will unite us! Together we will be One Strong Mission Driven Force! Keeping in mind, the letters, PACE - Positive, Attitude, Changes, Everything!!

On a personal note, this will be my eighth year serving on the National Board, three years as Department of Ohio President, two years as 2VP, 2 years as 1VP and now as your National President. I am a retired RN, working in the Neuro field early on and then running a small business in the medical field for over 36 years



. My husband and I just celebrated 45 years of marriage. We share two wonderful and successful children and three amazing grandchildren. Of course, being a Nonna(Noni) and Papaw is one of the best parts of life. In 2007, our son LT COL. Ryan Stillwell awarded me the honor and opportunity to be a Blue Star Mother, and I joined our organization in 2011. He and our daughter-in-law, Lynn have three children, Ethan, Luke and Hannah.

Our daughter, Amy, is a very successful Executive VP in the medical field. She is always there for us and to support her brother and his family in any way she can.

I have served in many positions at both Chapter and Department Board levels. I quickly became involved in the sisterhood, helping our Military families, supporting our Gold Star families and fulfilling my passion to send comfort to the deployed and our Veterans. I challenge each of you to build on the strengths of your members and grow your Chapter and our organization. It is not about any one individual, but about the mission. Feel free to reach out if I can help you in any way. I continue to serve on my Chapter and Department Boards as a past president. I appreciate all their support and hard work! I am blessed to have had so many years working within this organization. Thank you for your continued kindness, understanding and support. Love and blessings to all of you and your families!

Respectfully Yours in Service,

Karen

Karen Stillwell
National President
2025-2026



1st VICE PRESIDENT SONYA STOWERS



Hello Sisters! My name is Sonya Stowers and I am grateful to you for electing me to serve as your National 1st Vice President, thank you for your support and confidence! I will be taking care of all thing's membership related – new memberships, new associates, renewals, officer rosters, Affiliation Agreements, chapter rosters, and more. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out, I am available to help!

I joined Blue Star Mothers in 2016, when my son earned his EGA and became a Marine. He continues to serve, he and I both celebrating about 9 years of service to our respective organizations. Prior to this year, I served as both National 4th Vice President and National Financial Secretary. I have been a Chapter Mentor, the Remembrance Week Liaison for Memorial Day in Washington, DC, and at the Chapter level I have served 6 years as president and 3 years as financial secretary. This year I am honored to be our chapter's first past chapter president to remain in the chapter and serve on the chapter board.

My husband, Curt, and I met at university and have been married 38 years. In addition to our son, we have two wonderful daughters. We are blessed that all 3 of our kids plus our two bonus "in-love" kids who are our kids by marriage are thriving in this world. We are so happy that our son and his wife have given us the joy of being grandparents – our granddaughter is about 2.5 years old and is the light of our lives! That's us in the photo, wearing our matching Christmas shirts, the last time we were all in the same place.



2nd VICE PRESIDENT BETH BRUENING



"I'm incredibly excited and honored to have been elected to the National Executive Board! I look forward to getting to know all of you and learning more about your amazing chapters through my work on the monthly newsletter. Here's to a great year of connection, collaboration, and growth!"

I joined Blue Star Mothers MO4 in 2015, shortly after my middle son, Kyle, enlisted in the Army. From the very beginning, I knew I had found the support I was looking for, and I quickly felt the deep bond of sisterhood that defines this incredible organization.

I've had the honor of serving as President of our chapter for the past several years. In that role, I've always strived to ensure every member feels welcome, valued, and included. A few of our members will tell you they've been "voluntold" to help on projects or serve on committees — and most of the time, they end up grateful! Sometimes we just need a little nudge out of our comfort zones.

My husband Gary (affectionately known as Garbear) and I have been married for 38 wonderful years. We are blessed with three amazing children: Shane, Kyle, and Brianna. Shane and his wife Ally have two beautiful children — Brooks (3) and Ivy (5 months). Kyle, our Army Veteran, and his wife Justine recently welcomed their daughter Margo (3 months). While both of our sons and their families live close by, our daughter Brianna and her boyfriend Avery live just outside of Atlanta — only about three hours from our favorite beach, Tybee! They also have a beloved fur baby named Gunsmoke.

I'm excited and honored to serve on the National Executive Board. I hope my positive attitude and outgoing personality help each of you feel heard, included, and appreciated. Remember — not one of our stars shines brighter than another. But when we come together, we can do truly amazing things.



3rd VICE PRESIDENT AMY JO HUTCHINSON



I would like to thank you for electing me to serve on the National Executive Board as your 3rd Vice President. I appreciate the confidence you have in me, and I will do my best to always honor our Gold Star Mothers, our fallen heroes, and our fallen Veterans.

I would love to share a little about me for those who do not know me. I am a mother of three. My son blessed me with the title of Blue Star Mother thirteen years ago. He is a Master Sargent in the United States Air Force. My son and daughter in love have also blessed me with the title of being a Me-Me to our most precious grandbaby Olivia. I have two daughters who fill my heart with so much joy. They both work and live close to home, and my heart is happy spending time with them. My husband and I make our home in Geneva, Ohio, along with our two "fur babies" Reagan and Harley. We spend our time serving at our church and honoring our local Veterans whenever possible. Our wind therapy is our favorite activity, riding our Harley Davidson motorcycles whenever time allows.





4th VICE PRESIDENT KARLA KELLER

Hello,

My name is Karla Keller and I am your new National 4th Vice President, responsible for:

1. Compliance
2. Chartering new Chapters, Departments or Auxiliaries
3. Closing Chapters, Departments or Auxiliaries

I have been a member of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. since 2009. My oldest son was active duty in the Army, stationed at Ft. Carson, CO. He had completed his first deployment of 15 months to Iraq, and I wish I would have known about BSM before he ever deployed! I have two other children, a girl and a boy. My youngest son is married and my daughter and son in law have two wonderful kids, my grandson, Carson is 4 and my granddaughter, Collins is 2. The best gig ever is being Nana to them!

I have served many roles in Blue Star Mothers, in my chapter, Department of MN and on the National Board I was previously Department of MN President and National 2VP. I stay in Blue Star Mothers, to serve our military, veterans, gold star families and to make sure new mom's have the support they need. I'm learning a lot in my new role as 4VP and I am here to help.

I hope the year ahead brings much peace, love and success to all of us!



RECORDING SECRETARY LESLIE MAJOCKA

Hello, My name is Leslie Majocka and I am honored to have been elected as National Recording Secretary.

I am a proud Navy Veteran having served for 6 years as a Hospital Corpsman. And I am a proud Blue Star Mother. I was a chartering member of Chapter PA 16 in Southwestern Pennsylvania and have since served as 1VP and am currently President.

Last year, I was privileged to be appointed National Patriotic Instructor, a humbling experience which I thoroughly enjoyed and will never forget.

I live near Pittsburgh, PA with my husband, Skip, an Army Veteran and I am employed as a Home Health Physical Therapist Assistant.

I have two amazing children, Briann and Ian, as well as two wonderful bonus children, Magnus & Aili.

My son was my first sailor and has now been enlisted for over 9 years. He is an active-duty Aviation Mechanic currently stationed at Whidbey Island, WA.

My bonus son served 4 years in the Navy as an Aviation Electronics Technician. He is now a Veteran.

As a Veteran myself, I thought I would be prepared for my children to serve in the military but, quickly found a whole new world as a military MOM. I knew I needed other military moms! So happy to have found my way into the Blue Star Mothers.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve as National Recording Secretary and look forward to the year ahead.



FINANCIAL SECRETARY CARRIE BECK

I am honored to serve as your National Financial Secretary for another year and am deeply grateful for the continued trust and support you have shown me. In this role, I am responsible for processing all incoming funds for the organization, including membership dues, donations, store purchases, event registrations, and other deposits. I am also available to assist chapter financial officers with any questions, concerns, or training they may need. I look forward to supporting you and helping with any financial needs that arise.

I am the proud mother of four children: my oldest, Tyler, a manager at a high-end tackle store and boat captain; my son Jacob, a U.S. who currently serves in the Army and who made me a Blue Star Mother in 2016; and my daughter Lilly, who married my "bonus son" Sean, currently serving in the Navy and transitioning to a Department of Defense civilian position. In addition to my responsibilities with the Blue Star Mothers, I work as an office administrator, handling accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, and other financial tasks for my husband and his business partner's pool company in Florida. Clearly, numbers are my passion!

In addition to my role as National Financial Secretary, I have served as my chapter's treasurer for four years and its president from 2023 to Present. I am blessed to lead an exceptional chapter and am proud to be part of the Blue Star Mothers organization. I also volunteer with our local Vietnam Veteran chapter as an Associate member, where I have been fortunate to receive their friendship and support to our organization.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I am available via email at FinSec@BlueStarMothers.us, or by phone at **772-224-5166**. As I work from home, I am flexible and happy to assist you whenever needed.

Thank you again for your continued trust, and I look forward to another productive year serving this incredible organization.

Warm regards,
Carrie Beck
National Financial Secretary,
Blue Star Mothers of America



TREASURER JACQUELNE RANSOM



Thank you for electing me to the office of National Treasurer. I am deeply honored by the trust you have placed in me. I am committed to serving with transparency, responsibility, and dedication. Together, we will safeguard our financial integrity and ensure that every decision supports the best interests of our organization. I look forward to working alongside all of you as we move toward a stronger future.

My name is Jacqueline Ransom and I am currently Past President and Chaplain of Department Michigan and Financial Secretary of chapter MI194. I have been a Blue Star Mothers member since 2014, although my son, Christopher enlisted in the Marine Corp 17 years before I knew about Blue Star Moms. He is now retired and lives in Michigan (Yay!) running his business; Semper Fi Guns and Ammo. His business partner is a Marine and they employ 2 other Marines. My wonderful daughter in law emigrated from Italy and became an American citizen in Okinawa. We tease her about that only occasionally...and we enjoy her cooking skills! They have 4 beautiful children. My husband and I have been married 50 years and have 4 other children, all girls. We think they are the reason Christopher joined the Marines, anything to get away from all the skirts and hair spray! They are all married and between them have 5 more beautiful children. I retired 5 years ago from working in the corporate office of a large mid-western superstore chain and yes, I am busier now than ever. In my spare time, I love my gardens, quilting, reading, restoring our 165-year-old home and spoiling my grandbabies. Blessings to you all and looking forward to a great year of service to our Military and Veterans.



PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT/CHAPLAIN REBECCA STAFFORD

Most of you know me, but for the new members of our organization, Welcome! My name is Rebecca “Becky” Stafford. My husband, Jeff, and I have been blessed with 4 children; Shauna, Kristen, Jacob & Justin, and 10 beautiful grandchildren.

I joined BSMA in February of 2014 and I have the honor of claiming 3 Stars, all Air Force. My Son Jacob Stafford and my bonus Daughter Antoinette “Mae” Stafford are both Veterans, while my bonus Son Daniel Cobb is active duty.

I was elected to the National Executive Board in 2018, serving as the National RecSec for three years (bonus year due to Covid). From 2021-2023 I served as the National 1VP, and from 2023-2025 I had the privilege of serving as your National President. Upon passing of the gavel to our current National President, I was asked to serve as the National Chaplain. It is such an honor to continue to serve this organization. If you need anything from your Chaplain, please feel free to email me at chaplain@bluestarmothers.us.



PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CARLA BRODACKI

My journey began on September 14, 2001 when my son, a high school senior, decided to join the US Air Force after seeing the towers fall in New York City; watching our country being attacked and then mourning the loss of our fellow citizens on September 11, 2001. Bradley Michael Cogan became the bravest person I knew in my life, my son.

I joined Blue Star Mothers in 2004 after an Air Force Captain called me to make sure I was focused on something positive, preparing me for service in places unknown, his words. I think the call was really out of fear that I might be that mom who would rent a Humvee, or camel and make my way fully loaded to rescue my boy, of course this information came from my son, who also told the Captain that I was a better shot than he. LOL

I have served in many offices since that day, from Chapter President to Department Recording Secretary, both Dept. and National Big Dipper offices and Finance officers on all levels. I served as the Department of Michigan President from 2008-2010. All these offices have allowed me to focus on positive programs while meeting many wonderful sisters throughout the years. I served as the National President from 2019 to 2021, it was an honor, then became the National Chaplain from 2021 to 2023 which was an amazing appointment and to date the best job ever. I just celebrated 21 years this past August and hope I can still be useful for years to come. I continue to serve on the National Executive board as a Past National President. If you need to talk or need anything, just reach out at pnpcarla@bluestarmothers.us

Have Courage and be kind to one another, no matter the issue. Remember that our differences together make us stronger.
Love to you all,
Carla Brodacki



PARLIAMENTARIAN PATTI ELLIOTT

Patti is serving a third term as the National Parliamentarian for BSMA. Patti originally joined BSMA in 2007, when her youngest son, Lucas, joined the US Army. She served for several years as the President of the then NC-7 Chapter of BSMA.

Lucas was an MP in the Army Reserve, attached to the 805th MP CO, located in Cary, NC. Following Lucas's death on July 15, 2011, in Basra, Iraq, Patti became a member of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., serving in various positions at the local, state and national levels, culminating in serving as the 2024-2025 National President of AGSM).

Patti returned to membership in BSMA in 2023. Additionally, Patti is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 52 in Franklinton, NC; serves on the Board of Directors of Big and Small Peer Support, an organization designed to provide mental health resources to first responders; and was recently selected to sit on the board of directors of the Purple Heart Foundation of North Carolina.

Patti is originally from Boone, NC. After graduating from Appalachian State University in 1985, she moved to the Raleigh area, where she continues to live. She received her master's degree in organizational leadership in 2023 from Waldorf University, is an active member of Wakefield United Methodist Church and works as a freelance court reporter. When she has free time, you will find her spoiling her three granddaughters.



Anne Parker, VAVS Representative

I have been a member of Blue Star Mothers of America since my daughter went active duty in January 2007. I first joined an online chapter while I was living in Germany which later disbanded. Once I got back to the states I found there was no chapter in South Carolina close to where I was living. With the encouragement of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 186 of which I was a member, I organized the Grand Strand Blue Star Mothers and served as its president until I moved to Florida in 2016. Upon moving to Florida I helped to establish the Ocala Blue Star Mothers and currently serve as its president. I was the National President in 2018-19 and before that served two terms as National Financial Secretary and two terms at National Treasurer. I also served as National First Vice President 2017-2018. I have been the National VAVS Representative since 2014 and have served as National Finance Chair as well as being a member of the National Finance Committee.

I am the mother of two soldiers. a son and a daughter, in the United States Army. My nonmilitary son is a financial adviser and I have nine grandchildren. I am married to an Air Force veteran and we love to travel and work together with the American Legion, the VFW, and, of course, Blue Star Mothers.



From the Desk of

Anne Parker, VAVS Representative



Today, September 11th, our VAVS National Rep, Anne Parker, received this article for the VA Office in DC. Anne would like to share with all of our Blue Star Mothers.

September 11 is recognized as a National Day of Service, a day dedicated to giving back to our communities and honoring the lives affected by the events of 9/11. VA offers numerous opportunities for you, your family, community organizations or service groups to serve area Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

Opportunities to volunteer

One significant area of need is for volunteer drivers to assist with the Volunteer Transportation Network. As a volunteer driver, you will transport Veterans from their homes to their VA scheduled appointments via a provided vehicle. Many volunteer drivers report that these experiences allow them to form lifelong friendships and enjoy the camaraderie shared with their passengers.

If volunteering within a medical center doesn't suit you, virtual opportunities such as the Compassionate Contact Corps are also available. This social prescribing program connects trained volunteers with socially isolated Veterans or those experiencing loneliness, through regular phone calls. Volunteers in this program share they have many enriching conversations with Veterans about sports, hobbies and cherished memories from the past.

Finally, if you are not able to routinely give back, your organization can consider contacting your local VA to explore the many occasional volunteer opportunities, such as visiting hospitalized Veterans to say thank you for your service or doing a community service project.

These examples illustrate just a few of the many fulfilling volunteer opportunities available. Additional volunteer assignments include assisting at a food bank to combat food insecurity, providing wayfinding support at medical centers by aiding Veterans as an escort, or greeting Veterans at the main entrance as a Red Coat Ambassador.

Your commitment to volunteering does not have to be a full-time obligation. You can choose assignments that fit around your schedule and the number of hours you wish to contribute. By becoming a VA volunteer, you join over 27,950 individuals who dedicate their time to honor the sacrifices made by Veterans nationwide.





It's Compliance time again!

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

What is Compliance Season you might ask? Every Department, Chapter, and Auxiliary of Blue Star Mothers of America, Incorporated must submit compliance documents once each year and this is that time. This is a legal obligation, parts of which are required by the IRS and by our State governments and by BSMA. We ask for this documentation because we are required to have it! So far so good! This year about ¼ of our Departments/Chapters/Auxiliaries have already started submitting their compliance reports and documents. Thank you!

We even have a handful of Chapters that have already submitted everything and it has all been approved – this is awesome! You will receive an email from me when that happens for you!

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

You can find the updated Compliance Guide on our National website.

****Remember to log in using your Department/Chapter/Auxiliary log in information when you are completing compliance!**

Remember to use the most recent forms available, including the most recent Affiliation Agreement signed by our current National Officers in early August right after Convention.

Remember that even if your Chapter closed during the last fiscal year, you still are required to complete many aspects of compliance in order to formally close your obligations to the IRS, to your State, and to BSMA, Inc.

Remember that it does not matter how active your D/C/A is, everyone must complete compliance and it is due no later than December 1st every year.

Remember that **submitted does not mean approved or accepted**. All of our required compliance documents are reviewed by the N4VP, the N1VP, or the Financial Review Team. If you hear from one of these people, please respond as quickly as possible with the clarifications/corrections they have requested.

Everyone can help us get to 100% compliance – encourage your chapter Sisters along the way! Reach out anytime, I am here to help you!

Yours in Service,
Karla Keller
National 4th VP – Compliance
651-470-8996
4VP@bluestarmothers.us





IT'S PAST RENEWAL TIME!!

Our membership runs from September 1 through August 31, our renewal period begins June 1 and ends August 31 each year. You have received at least one email with instructions to renew. If you have not renewed for fiscal year 2025-2026 yet, now is the time to get this done! For your convenience, we have noted several ways in which you can do this:

- Click the link provided in the email and pay online. [This is the easiest and quickest way to renew](#). Once you submit your payment online, your profile is automatically updated with payment information and your expiration date will automatically change to 08/31/2026. No waiting - done! [We do ask that you print your receipt and provide a copy to your Chapter for their records](#).
- You may pay your Chapter and they can submit a Chapter Dues Renewal on your behalf. This takes a little longer, by the time they deposit your payment, submit to the National 1VP, and wait for her to update your profile. Although this is done in a timely fashion, please remember, we have thousands of members renewing so things do slow down just a bit between June and September based upon how many choose this method of payment.
 - Note to Chapters - please make sure your submissions are sent in a timely manner.
- Print the invoice and mail, along with your check, to the National Financial Secretary. While this is very much an option, it is the least recommended, simply for timing purposes. Once your invoice and payment make it through the mail to her PO Box, she then has to process, scan and email to the National 1VP. Please remember, both the National Financial Secretary and National 1VP are working very hard to get through all of their emails and processing procedures as quickly as possible. [So, in a nutshell, this takes the longest to process](#).

Renewal notices are automatically generated so you will receive one until your payment is posted and your profile is updated. If you choose option 2 or 3 above, please remember it takes longer to process and you may receive another renewal notice.

If you have **NEW** members joining, we highly recommend they join online. Again, this method is quicker; however, options 2 and 3 above are available as well.

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

Yours in Service,
Sonya Stowers
National 1VP





treering
Yearbooks will
now be shipped
to your homes.



**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PURCHASE THE
2024-2025
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA
YEARBOOK!**

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ShipThrifty.com
Save time, money, & hassles!

🔴 Military Shipping Requires Additional Details

Regulation Overview Effective September 1, 2025:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) now requires **HS Codes** for all overseas military shipping to APO, FPO, and DPO addresses.

Military mail must follow both domestic and international mail requirements (customs declarations are required since these packages are leaving our country, but they receive domestic pricing since they are going to our troops). That means:

- ✓ A **detailed description** of each item is critical. Enforcement of this started July 14, 2024, which made vague descriptions like snacks, toiletries, etc. unacceptable. Packages started being returned for insufficient customs.
- ✓ **Quantity, weight, and value of each item** are now required. Previously the quantity and value were a requirement, and the overall package weight was acceptable. Now there must be weight for each item with a description and that weight is used to calculate your overall package weight (Ship Thrifty will tally them for you automatically). Based on everything we've heard, services that don't comply aren't technically compliant. Ship Thrifty modified its system to adhere to the requirements laid out.
- ✓ **HS Codes** for goods (6 digits minimum). Prior to September 1, 2025, a detailed description of each item was acceptable for military shipping. The codes are now a required field, but USPS is not enforcing them at this time but could in the future. If they are left off a foreign customs authority could potentially review and reject any package. Ship Thrifty currently has a look-up feature and link to search Google for HS Codes. They are building a care package specific HS look up and will still include the ability to search with Google if you don't find an item listed.
- ✓ **Country of origin** (where it was made) – optional for now but leaving it blank may cause rejection so USPS suggests including it. Ship Thrifty will currently require this field and default the selection to the U.S. since that is what the majority will be. We didn't want to risk nonrefundable returns for anyone supporting the troops or the families of those serving.


Ship Thrifty hosted webinars right after the changes went into effect to share the implications of the changes.

Here is the re-recording of the webinar which incorporates any new learnings to date. <https://youtu.be/JwUTbM3J1Zo>

Care Packing Event Checklist: <https://shipthrifty.com/resource/care-packing-event-checklist/>

Below is the information Ship Thrifty received from their USPS International Team about the requirements. Note this team also escalated Ship Thrifty's questions about the military requirements to the USPS Global Team which confirmed the changes:

The current mandatory and conditional data elements are below. There is the inclusion of HS Codes, but Country of Origin remains in the Conditional list for now, with the caveat that a



country may require it and not including it may cause nonrefundable returned packages – remembering that APO/FPO goods are still under Customs procedures in the destination country.

IMM 123.7 - https://pe.usps.gov/text/imm/immc1_009.htm

1. Mandatory Data Elements: The following data elements are mandatory for all customs forms, regardless of mail class:

1. Sender's full name and address.
2. Recipient's full name and address.
3. Category of items (e.g., document, gift, merchandise, etc.).
4. A detailed description of contents, including the quantity, net weight, and value for each item in the package.
5. Harmonized System (HS) code, Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) code, or Schedule B number. [9-1-25]
6. Sender's signature and date.

2. Conditional Data Elements: The following data elements may be required based on the contents of the package and other nonpostal rules and regulations:

1. Sender's phone number.
2. Sender's email address.
3. Recipient's phone number.
4. Recipient's email address.
5. License/Permit number.
6. AES ITN or exemption citation (NOEEI) (see 520–527).
7. Harmonized System (HS) code, Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) code, or Schedule B number.
8. Country of origin of goods.

Two crucial parts of the overall mailing:

- Detailed descriptions are the most important part – too often packages contain dangerous or non-mailable items, e.g., aerosols, hand sanitizer, wipes with alcohol, etc.
- Safety is paramount, and airlines have the right to refuse packages due to concerns.





Blue Daisies



Lisa Colon Chapter PA202

Lisa K. Colón was the heart and soul of the Red Rose Blue Star Moms Chapter PA202. As the founder and president for seven years, Lisa organized nearly every event and participated in everything we did. Her leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment shaped our chapter from the very beginning.

Lisa started our chapter in the fall of 2018—remarkably, while she was battling cancer. Her strength, vision, and love for our military families laid the foundation for a community that continues to grow and thrive because of her efforts.

We are forever grateful for the time, energy, and love Lisa poured into PA202. Her legacy will continue to guide and inspire us for years to come.



MARCIA HOWE MI99



Marcia is best remembered for her love, kindness, compassion, perseverance, and faith in Christ. Marcia was a devoted Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) representative at the Battle Creek, MI VA Facility. Through her dedication and compassion, she made a lasting impact on the lives of countless veterans and their families. Her tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to service will always be remembered and deeply appreciated.



Blue Daisies



NINA HAMBERGER NH1

It is with great sadness that share that our former Financial Secretary, Nina Hamberger passed away last evening. She was one of our Charter Members and will be deeply missed.

EDNA JOLENE TAYLOR OK11

Jolene was our Treasurer for several years, she has just given it up this past Dec of 24. Because she was sick. She was a very busy Blue Star Mother. She traveled to several conventions and 3 times to DC. She loved to bake for our Troops and Veterans and was even known to mail a couple of her Apple turnovers to Our own DC rep.



Through research we find hundreds of names of Veterans each month who have passed and we want to honor them by sharing their names with you.

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Army

Charles W. McCook

Charles William Leathers

Christopher L. Cronin

Cipriano Salvador Lujan

Clare Katherine Paxton

Clarence Tracy Jr.

Clifford C. Williams

Crawford E "Gene" Vincent

Curtis Ray Corbray, Sr.

Daniel Arthur Case

Danny Arnold Moore

Danny C. Wolff

Danny Lee Nieporte

Darren L. Cisneros

David Lester Rogers

David Ray Hart

David Russell Hitchcock

David S. Zamora, Sr.

Daymone Simmons, Sr.

Dennis Fay Lacquement

Dennis Lee Daniel Peña

Dennis Ray Wildman

Dennis Thomas Garwitz, Sr.

Donald D. Dorrington

Donald Durant Stevenson, Sr.

Donald Hansen

Donald J. Brown

Donald Lee Campbell

Donald Woodard

Douglas Fairbanks Kale

Earl Junior Minyard

Earl Ray Cochran

Eddie Martin

Eddie Tenorio

Edward Albert Morgan

Edward Allen Cox

Edward Carr

Edward Earl Jones

Edward Gary Cornwall

Edward George Schatz

Edwin Burke

Ellery Kay Spradley

Elliot K. Clark

Ellis Woods

Elmer Eugene Whittaker

Eric Keith Lee

Ernest Davis

Ernest Wendell Brinser

Eugene (Geno) C. Bouwens

Eugene Buckhannon Jr

Eugene Hardy

Everett Eugene Myers

Felix Mirales Torres

Ferenc Jozsef Szerzo

Fermin Velasquez Sr.

Frank De Salvatore

Frank R. Cammarata

Franklin D. Campbell

Fred Levoyed Stafford

Fred M. Beel

Freddy "Fred" Morris Sunnits

Fredrick M. LaBeau

Fredrick M. Sullivan

Gale Nelson Brown

Gary L. White

Gary Lynn Moss

Gene DeLao

George Alex Reagan

George Brown

George D. Fletcher

George Francis McLaughlin, Jr.

George Robert Krueger

Gerald "Jerry" Ward

Gerald Sharp

Gerald W. Day

Gregory Lawrence Bies

Gusdalupe M. Lopez

Harlen Scaggs

Harold Harris

Harry Patrick Craig

Henrietta Holder

Herbert E. McLaughlin

Herman Sanchez Sandoval

Herman Thomas

Honorato K. Yacopin, Jr.

Howard "Pete" Edward McGuire

Howard Hasselkus

Howard Payne

Indalesio Davila Sr.

Irvin J. Amberger

Jack W. Carroll

James "Jim" Wesley Garner

James "Jimmy" Rayburn

James C. Antonacci

James Calvin Sheldon

James Charles Johnson

James Douglas Price

James Durant Foster

James E. Collins

James Edward Ballison Jr.

James Eskew

James Garcia, Jr.

James J. Corcoran

James Joseph Rogers

James Leo Jackson

James Monroe Hackney

James Nicholas

James Porter Davis

James Turner Dunn

James W. "Pete" Lucas

James William Talley

James William Tatro

Jeffrey Thomas Derouin

Jerald "Jerry" Ray Stewart

Jeremy Michael Duncan

Jerome Pickett

Jemel Venable

Jerry D. Smith

Jerry Fleener

Jerry Frank Farley

Jerry Johnson

Jerry W. Lindsay

Jerry Wayne Boerner

Jerry Williamson

Jerry Womack

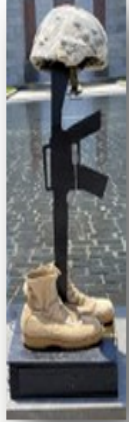
Jimmie Dean Mosley

Jimmy Ray Morgan

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Donald Hansen

Donald J. Brown

Donald Lee Campbell

Donald Woodard

Douglas Fairbanks Kale

Earl Junior Minyard

Earl Ray Cochran

Eddie Martin

Eddie Tenorio

Edward Albert Morgan

Edward Allen Cox

Edward Earl Jones

Edward Gary Cornwall

Edward George Schatz

Edwin Burke

Elkery Kay Spradley

Elliot K. Clark

Ellis Woods

Elmer Eugene Whittaker

Eric Keith Lee

Ernest Davis

Ernest Wendell Brinser

Eugene (Geno) C. Bouwens

Eugene Buckhannon Jr

Eugene Hardy

Everett Eugene Myers

Felix Mireles Torres

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Gerald Sharp

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Gregory Lawrence Bies

Guadalupe M. Lopez

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Harry Patrick Craig

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James Durant Foster

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James Edward Bellison Jr.

James Eskew

James Garcia, Jr.

James J. Concoran

James Joseph Rogers

James Leo Jackson

James Monroe Hackney

James Nicholas

James Porter Davis

James Turner Dunn

James W. "Pete" Lucas

James William Talley

James William Tatro

Jeffrey Thomas Derouin

Jerald "Jerry" Ray Stewart

Jeremy Michael Duncan

Jerome Fickett

Jemel Venable

Jerry D. Smith

Jerry Fleener

Jerry Frank Farley

Jerry Johnson


Jerry W. Lindsay

Jerry Wayne Boerner

Jerry Williamson

Jerry Womack

Jimmie Dean Mosley



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Jimmy Roger Hundley
Joe R. Punneo
Joel Kirschbaum
Joel Leon Thomas
John George Robrecht Jr.
John H. Magee
John Hoyer Wilson
John J. Henry
John Michael Gundy
John Phillip Dearing
John T. Nason
John Taylor
John Thomas Vestal
John William Barnes
Johnny Christopher Willis
Jon Benjamin Raudman
Julian Daniel Rouse, Jr.
Kenneth Cassani
Kenneth Ernest Broadway
Kenneth L. Davis
Kenneth Ray Spurling
Kenneth Wayne Ward
Kent Hall Riddle
Kevin Ukele
Larry Curtis, Jr.
Larry Davis
Larry M. Hamer
Laura Nanette Perryman
LaVern R. Harvey
Lawrence "Larry" Mc Bride
Lawrence Duncan Jr.
Lawrence Joseph Long
Lee A. Courson
Lee G. Holden
Lee Payne
Leo Clarence Rice
Leo Stroup
Leon R. Karwacki
Leroy J Bailey
Lloyd Kirk White
Lloyd Robert Stallings, Jr.
Luther Guadalupe Luera
Lynn Elmer Woodall
Maile Good
Malcolm Lee Lampley

Marvin Blakerman
Marvin Terrell Goldsby
Matthew Wayne Clark
Max "Eddie" Pittman
Michael Anthony Vick
Michael C. Kilpatrick
Michael David Lopez
Michael Eugene Saunders
Mitchell Westervelt
Morris Cash Jr.
Morris Lapeyrouse
Neil Johnson
Nicholas Paul Estes
Nolan Dugas
Nolan Dugas, Jr
Norman Ray Huffman
Oscar Linwood Sprague
Otis D. Dawson
Otto Skidmore
Patrick William Bum
Pedro Sainz
Peggy Ann (Mosley) Williams
Peggy Sue Tucker
Peter "Jr" Harper
Peter Valentino
Philip B. Thomas
Rallo Waylan Warren
Randall Wayne Collins
Ray Molder
Raymond Juarez
Raymond P. Prickett
Rex Bills
Richard E Standard
Richard Fonti
Richard Michael Hunter
Richard P. Orozco
RICHARD ULYSEE LEE,
Richard W. Gildow
Rick Tedder
Rickey Lynn Terry
Robbie Bronson
Robert "Mike" Michael Allen
Robert David Harden
Robert E Moe
Robert Franklin Alchin

Robert Lawrence Zmak
Robert Lee White
Robert Major
Robert O. Mooney
Robert Smith
Roger Dale Hucks
Roger J. Brey
Roger W. Smith
Roland J. Blanscet
Ronald Cain
Ronald Darryl Lusby, Sr
Ronald Dean Shaw
Ronald Eugene Lake
Ronald Lee Andrews
Ronald Wayne "TNe" Allen
Roy Clayton Shannon
Russell Bartley
Russell O. Fosburg
Ryan Jerome Lockridge, Jr.
Sara Howland
Scott T. Pionski
Sean Everette Turner
Sherman F. Alsop
Spencer Clayton Hoover
Stacey Dean Swiney
Stacy A. Adams, Jr.
Stanley W. Tuttle Jr. (Skip)
Steven J. McKenna
Terry B Marshall
Terry Lee Logsdon
Thaddeus S. Twardowski
Thomas Emil Frankenberg
Thomas Frank Faulkner
Thomas Joseph Hejlek III
Thomas Lawrence Roberts
Thomas Mancini
Thomas Paul Muellenbach
Thomas Spriggs
Thomas Walter Evans
Timothy J. Miller
Tom H. Persinger
Tommy Lynn Oliver
Triston M. McGarrath
Troy Dale Shores
Tyler Jay Steinle



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Tyrone Lamont Earnest

Valdemar DeHerrera

Vernon Lee Scott

Vondel Ray Edgar

Wade Clay Smith

Walter Douglas III

Walter Lee Thomas

Wayne Fatheree

Wesley Cordell King, Jr.

William Abel Wyman

William B. Bucey

William Carr

William Enrique Patino Martinez

William Faircloth

William Gillard

William Harold Hott

William Heffleman

William Oliver Griffith

William Truman Scritchfield, Jr.

William W. Watts

William Yensen

Willie Franklin Skinner, Jr.

Willie Warren Moss

Marine Corps

Alan M Sanborn

Alex George

Augustin Reyna

Bernard Montell Harvey

Billy Ray Matzke

Carl F Wilfing

Cesar Gustavo Murrieta

Charles Joseph Bolwin

Cody Ray Folsom

Daniel James Holt

Dennis Lee Reeves, Sr.

Donald E. Kitzmiller

Donald Earl Eichschlag

Donald Gehl

Donald Kestler

Douglas Charles Wood, Sr.

Dustin Allen Ridenhour

Edward A. Ostrowsky, Jr.

Edward J. Orr

Frederick Dewey Patterson Jr

Fredrick Joseph Barnes

Gary Stephen Tabor II

George H. Langlois

George Thomas Reiter

Gerhard Ernest Parke

Glenn Douglas Brem

Hiram Morris Skeens

James Alvin Severson

James Dotson Taylor

James Edward Butler

James Louis Broome, Jr

James Richardson

James Therman Barlow

James Trombetta

James Webber Lent, Jr.

Jeremiah Murane

John B. Krysztofik

John Barrett Moroney

John Coronado

John Doak "J.D." Franklin

John Jones Sr.

John M McGrath

John T. Wiednt

John Wayne Spires

Johnnie Lee Moore

Jose Roberto Silva Sr.,

Joseph Christopher Lizama

Joseph M. Zdonovich

Joseph Walter Huchowski

June Salony Mills

Kelly Clawson

Kylie Sullivan

Larry D. Carson

Leonard Carl Hart

Lois Jean Mather Garrett

Mark L Kennedy

Mark Steven Trujillo

Matthew Lee Israel

Matthew Zampino

Melvin Walls

Norman Eugene Henry

Patrick Joseph Daly

Patrick Michael Chapman Jr.

Paul F. Edwards

Ramon "Ray" Rios

Richard Allen Garamituro

Robert "Bob" Frederick Brinkman

Robert "Buddy" E. Drown

Robert Benjamin "Bob" Wilson

Robert George Shicotte

Robert Joseph Gutierrez

Robert Lefelhoc

Robert M. Baker Jr

Robert Stephen Hicks

Ronnie E Summroell

Stephen Andrew Harding

Sylvester Stewart, Jr.

Terol Lee "Terry" Stone

Terry Alan Ezell

Theodore Paul Habliston

Timothy Magness

Timothy Wayne Lemons

Travis D. Hill

Wade Sinn

Walter Windell Banks

Wayne Burnett McIrvine

Wayne D. Sperring

William B. Cissell

William M. Martin

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Marine Corps/Air Force

Richard Paul Parker

Marine Corps/Air Force/Merchant Marines

Lynnell "Lynn" Thrash

Marine Corps/Army National Guard

Olin C. Wilkinson

Marine Corps/Army Reserve

Clyde William "Bill" Boyce, Jr.

Marine Corps/Marine Corps Reserve

Anton Philip Froelich

Charles Dickerson Breakfield

Donald Lee Harris

Harold Angel

James Royce Brinkley

Ricardo James Orozco

Richard Wilfred Eckler

Jason Christian Hartman

Navy

Alfred McAfee

Andrew Nava

Anton Peter Werner

Arthur Thomas "Tom" Daniel

Arturo G. Martinez

Brannon Raspberry

Charles Richard Garcia

Charles Wilfred Stone

Christopher L. Clark

Cletus Knobloch

Daniel A. Braun

David Bruce Kirby

David F. Maloy

David Lee

David Lee VanCleve

David Martin Leon

Deborah Harp

Dennis Joe Wells

Dennis Wayne Burns

Donald Dean Hensley

Donald Ray Hale

Durham Joseph White

Edwin Lea McGehee

Elbert "Lawson" Poling III

Elijah Washington

Elizabeth Ann Balcombe

Eugene Harry Jacobson

Forrest "Bill" William Peters

Frank Fuller Cates II

Frank Norris Bradley

Fred Delane Young

Gail Edward Paintin

George "Butch" Cross

George Crysler

George David Callahan

Gerardo J. Lucio

Homer B Makinson

Horace Dwain Yates

Howard Earl Tindall

Howard R. Makowski

Jack Michael Minor

Jack Towry

James Albert Litmer

James Deken

James Owen Hickam

James Richard Ponsot

Jeff Adinolfo

Jeff Kang Gee

Jerome Philip Hawthorn

Joe Carl Murphy

Joe Wayne VanZant

John Burton Hodgdon

John Clark Griffin Sr.

John E. Kilmer

John Emory Larson

John H. Stevens

John L. Daniels

John Lynn Crabtree

John Owens Hall

John Robert McAuliffe

John Samuel Young

John Sherman Cunningham

John Wayne Quaid

John Wesley Bitton

Joseph William Sessions

Joshua Tober

Judith Bernadette Buser

Kenneth Howard Lincoln

Kevin Eric Everson

Kim E. Goliath-Wells

Larry Graham

Larry Jackson

Larry T. Burns

Larry W. Phillips

Leland Collins

Leslie Ray Wendt

Lindell Purdy

Louie Allen Jariel

Mack Robert Starnes

Mark Allen Maynor

Mark Andrew Carter

Mark Gregory Sooter

Mark Peszynski

Mark Wallace

Melvin Lee Scott

Michael Clifford Hooker

Michael Lynn Langford

Michael Shayne Pemberton

Noel Haynes

Norman C Nash, Jr

Paul David Poole

Paul L. Mimms

Paul M. Kuder III

Peter Aidan Nishnick

Randall H. "Duke" Cunningham

Raymond Charles Riddles Sr

Raymond Eugene Yeutter

Robert A. Kelvington

Robert C. Hiller

Robert Dale Giese

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Robert Donald Boomhower

Robert Franklin Loar

Robert L. Jaime

Robert LeRoy Bowsher

Robert Stanley Jensen

Robin Earl Marsh

Ronald Joe Perkins

Ronnie Lee Compton

Ronnie Lee Stewart

Roy Allen Benson

Royal William Connell Jr

Stanley James

Stephen William Morgan

Terry Camp

Terry L.C. Hazell

Tgary Robert Russo

Thomas Joseph Wiley Jr.

Thomas Ward

Timothy John Mueller

Vener Noll

Vernon Ray Green

Victor L. Fox, Jr.

Wayne Mahon

William "Bill" Alex Guile

William Lionel Mulligan

Navy/Air Force

Elmer Leonard Brewington

James T. Russell, Jr.

Navy/Air Force/Coast Guard

Drew Carlos Holley

Navy/Army National Guard

Donald Everly Blackburn

Monty Hobson Gunn

Richard A. Haggard

Navy/Army Reserve

Stephen Hunt Floyd

Wendell Walter Webner

Navy/Marine Corps Reserve

Alex Bedoya

Navy/Navy Reserve

Christopher Hamel

David Edward Verner

Dennis Edward Dube Jr.

Donald "Buck" Buchanan

Earl Dean Nance

Edward Gordon McKenzie

Gregory Dale Mowery

James Wylie Roberts

John C. Jauch

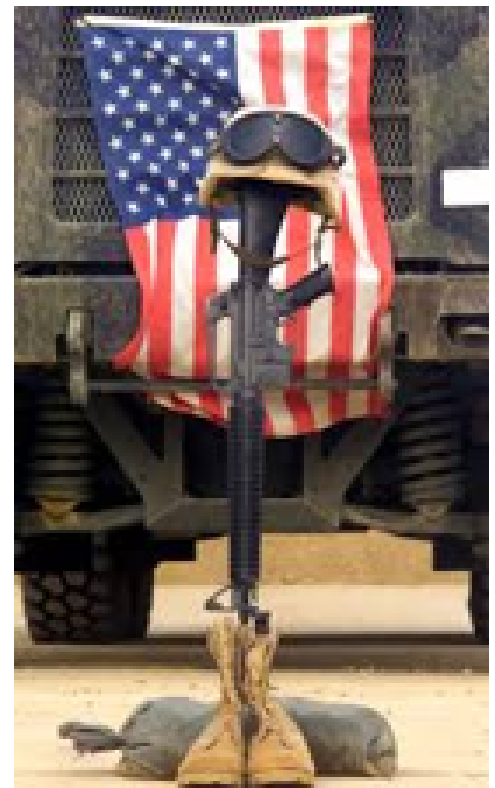
L. Lewis Tucker

Michael C. Bessler

Michael Douglas Critchfield

Raphael Johnson

Robert Dean





NY#1 attends the summer Veteran's Women's Health Events, to provide gift bags for attendees, and to provide lunch. Picture from April 30th event. Additional events on July 17th, Tuesday, from 10AM to 2PM in Bath, NY and August 12th, Tuesday, from 10AM to 2PM in Canandaigua



A nephew of a NY#1 Mom is a professional painter and belongs to the Painters Union. The Union decided to do a community service project to paint our Canteen! Many painters were at the Canteen on June 7th. NY#1 provided lunch for the painters. The house is now a deep blue. Another family member took care of needed repairs on the building prior to the painting. NY#1 Moms were on-site cleaning the inside of the Canteen on June 7th.





On July 18, Alma, Sandi, and Lin did community service picking up trash around the Lake Arrowhead trail. On August 1st, our moms participated in the Running Springs Mountain Top Days Parade! On August 22, more moms and dads helped clean up the trail at Lake Arrowhead. Bridgett Newsham had her daughter Madison's Hometown Hero Banner made. It will be installed soon. Our Treasurer, Sandi DeMarco, was able to attend the Convention in Wisconsin, July 28 - August 2, 2025! This is the first time a member of our chapter has attended the National Convention! The Wisconsin Blue Star Mothers organized this year's National Convention and surprised members with a goodie bag of donations from other chapters. Highlights included: a fieldtrip to the WW2 Museum, a fun pajama sock hop, a solemn moment of silence, and meeting one of our advisors, Anne Parker. Fun time was had by all!



#1 Alma, Sandi and Lin picked up trash at the lake!



#2 Bridgett, Vicki, Alma, and Tracy marched in the Mountain Top Days Parade!



#3 Bridgett, and her husband, David, held their daughter Madison's Hometown Hero Banner ready for installation.



#4 Michael, Eric, Sandi, Bridgett and Denise picked up trash at the lake!



#6 Convention bag of goodies!



#7 The WW II museum and the gathering of nearly 200 Blue Star Moms was a very memorable day.



#8 Fun decorations at the Convention Sock Hop Pajama party!



#5 Sandi DeMarco was very excited to attend National Convention and wear the uniform.



#9 Moment of silence and prayer for our fallen soldiers, a somber but heartfelt gathering.



#10 Sandi took a pic with Anne, one of our advisors and just had to grab a quick photo. What a privilege!



The Triple Digit Heat Didn't Stop BSM AZ4 from Having Cool Happenings in Arizona's Southwest Valley

VA PHOENIX HOSPITAL LUAU

Our Chapter was honored to be at the VA Phoenix Hospital Luau event. The event was hosted by Riders USA and our BSM AZ4 chapter. The special day featured a military veteran ukulele band, hula dancers, and homemade pineapple upside down cakes.



250TH YEAR OF THE U.S. ARMY EVENT

Our Chapter was proud to be a part of the 250th year of the U.S. Army event at the Pat Tillman Center at Arizona State University.



BLUE STAR MOMS MEMORIAL MARKER

It was a beautiful morning in Litchfield Park, AZ as our Blue Star Moms AZ4 Memorial Marker was unveiled. This is the first of its kind in Arizona. It began four years ago when our Past AZ4 President Theresa Koontz began the process for this important and impactful project. Theresa had a vision for a landmark for all to visit to respect and honor those who are serving and those who have served in our military Armed Forces. The event took place on Armed Forces Day in the city center of Litchfield Park. We are very grateful to all who attended and to the dedication and support from our partners who helped make this day possible.

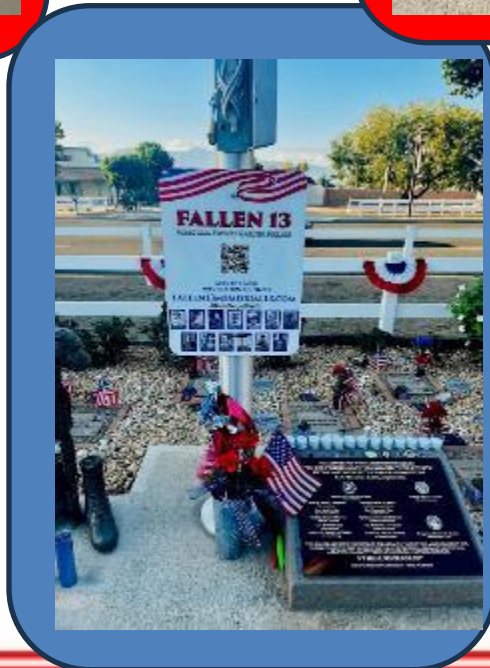


ARMY FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

Our Chapter joined the City of Litchfield Park, AZ for a Flag Raising Ceremony to celebrate the Army's 250th Anniversary.



On August 26, Chapter 30 attended the 4th Angelversary Ceremony of the Fallen 13 in Norco, CA. Kareem Nikoui's mother Shana spoke about her daily struggles with the loss of her son. Their courage, sacrifice and love for our nation will never be forgotten.





Blue Star Mothers of America Louisiana Chapter 1

News from the Mothers of Military Servicemen and Women
September 2025



LA1 Celebrates 20 Years of Support Through Service



Members of LA1



Honoring LA1 founder Janet Broussard and Red Rock and Blue founders Iris Malveaux and Jacques Doucet



Army Maj. Gen.
(Ret.) John P.
Basilica Jr.



Gold Star
Mother Ruth
Reed

*Let's
Celebrate!*

The Support Through Service Gala
raised money to support two
organizations.

Books
for
Boots



Remembering Our Blue Daisies



Patsy Becker Jan McCurdy
Lynette Bell Liz Walker





BSM PA16



What's Happening In Southwestern PA

July Highlights

We kicked off the month with a burst of red, white, and blue at the beloved Canonsburg 4th of July Parade, proudly marching in honor of our nation's independence. We also had the honor of attending the Legacies Alive Gold Star Family Picnic, a deeply moving gathering that reminded us of the enduring strength and sacrifice of families who have lost loved ones in service. Shortly after, we laced up our sneakers for the Jason West 5K Walk & Fundraiser, a heartfelt tribute to a fallen hero whose legacy continues to inspire. Three of our outstanding members attended the National Convention, returning with a wealth of insights, resources, and renewed energy to uplift our chapter's mission. We rounded out the month with our monthly meeting, where we joyfully recognized 10 exceptional organizations that steadfastly support our military community – an evening filled with gratitude and camaraderie.

August Moments of Care & Connection

As August arrived, we turned our focus to nurturing and support. Our chapter proudly participated in the March of Dimes Baby Shower, celebrating and uplifting military moms-to-be with thoughtful gifts and warm encouragement. Meanwhile, our Veteran Affairs Representative shared a beautiful bounty from the Butler VA's Garden—a flourishing harvest made possible by dedicated volunteers. Thanks to their efforts, our local heroes enjoyed fresh, homegrown produce, a simple yet powerful reminder of community care. We closed the month with our monthly meeting, reflecting on a summer of meaningful impact and looking ahead to the opportunities that fall will bring.

Through every event, our chapter continues to embody the values of service, unity, and heartfelt support. Here's to the unwavering spirit of Southwestern PA!

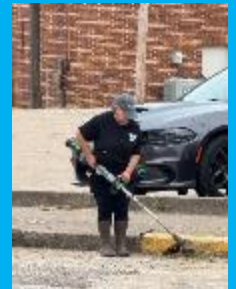


OK10



Since returning from convention, we have tried to stay very busy preparing for our upcoming Elections and end of year compliance. Putting to use everything we learned we are tweaking our Financial program to fill in any areas we had incorrectly entered and working on a new budget.

We attended a Dedication ceremony for a beautiful Purple Heart Memorial Garden in Jenks Oklahoma. We talked to a gentleman there about helping us get our Veterans groups to form a local Veterans Council and possibly a Veterans Park! (Pictures to follow)



We hosted a Meet and Greet/Make and Take to recruit new moms. We have a couple of good possibilities on the horizon. (pictures to follow)



Mountain Valley TN4



Mountain Valley TN4 proudly answered the call for Tunnel to Towers on September 6th, demonstrating our unwavering dedication to honoring our nation's heroes. TN4 made a remarkable bronze level contribution and selflessly volunteered at the 5K race in Loudon, TN. We felt deeply humbled to be a part of this poignant tribute for those who served during 9/11



MI197





Debbie Keysor, Kathy Bate and Lori Jackson promoting Blue Star Mothers at Founders day in Sanford, MI. It was chilly and windy, warm and sunny, with and without rain.
Pure Michigan!



YELLOW ROSE - TX20

September 2025

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



TX20 IN ACTION!

Chapter Meetings are never just Chapter Meetings! We use our monthly get-togethers for sisterhood fellowship, taking care of a little bit of business, and service.



This month we packed goodie bags with salty snacks, sweet treats, Harbor Freight microfiber towels and Bass Pro beef jerky. We even had moms writing letters of support to our Active-Duty Service Members for a project with the American Legion.



2025-2026 TX20 BOARD

President	Stephanie Manchen
1 st VP	Jenn DiMarco
2 nd VP	Hope Briggs
Rec Secretary	Sonia Smith
Fin Secretary	Amy Crocket-Norwine
Treasurer	Jennifer Rowe





BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PA201

Members from our Chapter participated the weekend of August 22-24 in the second Philling the Need weekend at Coca-Cola park in Allentown PA. This August campaign proved to be a great success in supporting our Chapter's Fall care package shipment in providing both monetary and item donations.



Philling the Need

The Nam Knights MC - Lehigh Valley Chapter hosted their Annual Vet Fest on Saturday, September 6. This fest is a celebration of service honoring all those who have served country and community. Support outreach organizations were available for both veterans and law enforcement personnel providing valuable assistance to them and their families. Vendors, live bands and a motorcycle run were also included! Our Chapter participated in this event sharing information about our organization and gathered donations through our "Buck a Duck" initiative.



Vetfest



Lake Erie Shores OH21



Dress to impress



Bus trip





The Rochester Blue Star Mothers NY8 participated in the annual Stand Down held in Rochester NY. The Blue Star Mothers served pizza, fruits and juice to the over 200 veterans that attended the event. The event offers information about services, obtaining veteran benefits, there are a number of community and social agencies along with employers. The BSM provided toiletries to the veterans that stopped by their table.





Pine City Blue Star Moms, MN Chapter 16



We joined Blue Star Moms from across the state at the end of August to participate in the Minnesota State Fair's Military Appreciation Day Parade. The float was full of Blue Star Moms and family members, along with quite a few that walked the entire length of the parade. It was a great turnout, and the crowds are always supportive. Miss Minnesota, Maisie Adams stopped by to say hello and express her appreciation.

We held our September meeting and noted that we have a busy Fall ahead with our upcoming craft show luncheon, and other holiday events.



LA7 members of Central, LA -- Serving Those Who Serve!



Our newest members: Jessica Calamia, Terrie Jenkins & Robin Lambert



Kathy Baker & Dena Landry representing us at the Central, LA Veterans Memorial for the 9/11 Remembrance Event



On August 25th, the Geaux Seven Chapter was honored to assist in the presentation of Quilts of Valor to ten veterans at the Louisiana Veterans Home in Jackson, LA. Pictured L to R: Jennifer Summers, Michelle Searcy, Kathy Baker & Kayla Pagel



2025-2026 Officers (L to R): Michelle Searcy, Recording Secretary; Dena Landry, 1st VP; Sandy Stockwell, 2nd VP; Kathy Baker, President; Ann Barkins, Financial Secretary & Kayla Pagel, Treasurer



St. Paul Blue Star Mothers MN 11 September Newsletter



Each year the MN State Fair hosts a Military Appreciation Day. MN Blue Star Mothers have been in the parade for over 15 years. There is no better crowd for a parade than at the Fair!



Some of our grandchildren ride in the truck and had fun with the bubble machines this year!



Kathy's son, and Army Veteran Brian, led our float carrying the American Flag this year.

The weather was perfect!



MN NG 34th ID Red Bulls are a great part of the fair every year. They put on a concert twice a day on Military Appreciation Day! Along with a great flyover! This year was three Blackhawks.



We held our elections and are grateful for the past and current boards.

Benita/Sales and Inventory Specialist,
Lynn/Treasurer, Marilyn/Fin Sec, Kathy/PCP,
Karla/PCP, Blue to Gold, Debbie/1VP,
Donna/President, Terri/Rec Sec.





Congratulations to the 2025-2026 Chapter Executive Board.



President – Brenda
1vp – Jennifer
2vp – Pam
RecSec – Jeanne
FinSec – Tracey
Treasurer – Teresa

We were proud and honored to present Alisa Bigelbach with her National Shining Star Award.



Attended a special concert at the VA by the Navy Aviation Alumni Choir



Attended the 2025 Minneapolis Veterans Creative Arts Competition Exhibition & Showcase Reception. Some amazing artworks and stories to be heard and seen.



Volunteered at the Pop-Up Pantry

Volunteered at the "Ruck Life" Event for 23rd Veteran and even had two of our chapter members (along with family members) participated in the 10-mile event.

Participated In The 7th Annual Veteran Suicide Awareness 5k



Your actions may seem small to you, but they make an enormous difference to those you have helped.





Gateway Blue Star Mothers

September/October Important Dates

- 09/26 Meat Bingo Set Up
- 09/27 Meat Bingo
- 10/06 Exec. Team Mtg
- 10/13 Lemp Mansion House Social
- 10/14 GBSM Member Mtg

Upcoming Events

- 12/06 Cookie Day
- 12/13 Wreaths Across America
- TBD Double Good/Krispy Kreme Fundraiser Kick off



This past weekend, GBSM Mothers partnered with Building Change for their annual 22-mile walk, held in honor of the 22 veterans we lose each day to suicide.

Funds raised from the event go toward supporting local organizations that work to address the many challenges our veterans face. GBSM Moms proudly managed the various rest stops along the route, offering encouragement and care to all participants.



Congratulations to Beth Bruening on her nomination and installment as the 2nd Vice President of Blue Star Mothers of America!

We are so proud of your leadership and dedication. Your commitment continues to inspire us all!



GBSM Mothers voted in favor of making a donation to the upcoming VAVs Baby Shower event, scheduled for September 20th. Thanks to our dedicated VAVs volunteer, Cherie, we learned of the specific need for diapers and wipes — and we're proud to help support this meaningful cause.



SACRAMENTO
BLUE STAR
Moms

CA7
Newsletter
September 2025

August Events

7/28-8/01 Blue Star Mothers National Convention

8/7 Carol Silk 80th Birthday

8/20 Sgt Nicole Gee Hwy Dedication

8/20 100th Birthday Marine Veteran Stuart McIntyre

8/26 Chapter Elections



YOU ARE INVITED
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20TH
 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
 97th POST #168
 2025 CHAPTER VOTING MEETING

Happy 100th Birthday WW II MARINE VETERAN

STUART McINTYRE

PLEASE BRING A BIRTHDAY CARD TO SHARE WITH STUART McINTYRE



SacramentoBlueStarMoms
www.SacramentoBlueStarMoms.org





Ohio #9



Military appreciation at community Biker Night event

Central Missouri Blue Star Mothers

September 2025

A new year begins with many activities for our chapter to share our mission.



Newley Elected Officers

Left to right: Fin Sec, Sara Skelton;
1VP, Sue Sanders; Pres., Becky
Stafford; Rec Sec, Dorothy Hampton;
Treasurer, Alethea Tennill



Crafting Day



Fisher House Meal Prep



Jefferson City Air Show



Bike Fest Vendor Table with
Sue's son, Nathan

Temps were high but, BSMs were Cool



Fort Wayne Area Blue Star Mothers - IN8



Our chapter has had a busy September! We have new officers, 2 of our moms welcomed home sons from deployment, a few vacations to visit our military families and we held our 17th Annual Golf Outing!



**BLUE STAR
MOTHERS
SE WI 2**



**SEPTEMBER
2025
NEWSLETTER**

**Upcoming
Events**

**September
Chapter Meeting**
September 16th

**POW/MIA Silent
March & Legion**
September 20th

**Gold Star
Mothers Service**
September 28th

Honor Flight
October 4 &
November 1

**WI Realtor
Military Ball**
October 18th

**Cooking Class
Fundraiser**
November 3rd



Sharing Stories, Serving Together

Our August meeting was filled with connection and purpose as we gathered with 31 members, 2 associate members, and 5 guests. Over a shared meal, those who attended the 82nd National Convention reflected on their experiences, sharing special memories, takeaways, and thoughtful ideas for how we can continue to support one another and carry out our mission.

In addition to these reflections, members shared updates on upcoming group activities and volunteer/fundraising events, keeping everyone engaged in the busy and meaningful months ahead for our chapter. We also took time to highlight and share personal updates.



This month's newsletter features photos from several events where Chapter 2 members showed up to serve and represent Blue Star Mothers proudly, including a successful Brat Fry Fundraiser, volunteering at the 2025 Irreverent Warriors Silkies Hike, supporting veterans at the Racine County Veterans Stand Down event and connecting with the community at the 128th Air Refueling Wing Open House.

Each of these moments reminds us that our presence, whether through service, fundraising, or simply attending makes a difference. Together, we continue to live out our mission and strengthen the bonds of our chapter.



Western Slope Blue Star Mothers COs



2025/2026 Board Members

Sherry Verdlicek (Recording Secretary), Jennifer Ryan (2VP), Allison Rehor (1VP), Cheryl Masters (President), Amy O'Campo (3rd VP), Shamin Erskine (Financial Secretary), Eleshia Carpenter (Treasurer)

September Fest



The town of Rangely, Colorado hosts Septemberfest every Labor Day. This year we participated in the Stars, Stripes and Summer Nights parade honoring the Army's 250th Anniversary, Veteran's and all things Rangely! We also had a booth set up with Blue Star Mother's Information and sold hand made items to earn money for our care packaging!

Colorado Tribute to Aviation



Colorado Tribute to Aviation is an aircraft static display event in Montrose, Colorado. We had the opportunity to tour specialized military aircraft and interact with pilots and aircrew. We also had a booth and we handed out Entroms Toffee to all Active Duty and Veterans!

New Recruit Send-Offs



SPANISH SPRINGS NV5



Annual Report from Spanish Springs NV5 to Blue Star Mothers of America for 2024/2025 year:

- 1 Parade / Packing Party / Day at the Legislature / Radio interview / Television interview / Annual Joint Review / Gold Star event
- 2 Simultaneous Wreaths Across America events
- 3 events with NV Army Guard / Military Birthday celebrations -Marine Corps League, United States Marines, United States Army
- 4 Military Ceremonies / Honor Flight Welcome Home / events at the Veterans Administration / dinner served at the Veterans Guest House / events with meals served with Community 4 Veterans / events with NV Air Guard / events with NV Army Guard / events with Northern Nevada Veterans Home
- 5 community partner dinners/fundraisers / Change of Command Ceremonies / Veteran Conventions
- 7 veteran community events
- 12 general meetings / board meetings / Commander's Convening
- 14 community clean up of the Nevada Veterans Memorial Plaza
Approximately 200 volunteer hours at the VA Hospital
260 case packages mailed
617 cards and letters mailed
Approximately 1080 volunteer hours by our chapter



RESPECT • HONOR • REMEMBER



GOLD STAR
MOTHER'S
DAY



SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 28, 2025



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Forever In Our Hearts



"Even the smallest act of service, the simplest act of kindness, is a way to honor those we lost, a way to reclaim that spirit of unity that followed 9/11."