

## **Truckee Meadows Blue Star Mothers NV#3**

### **Activities Report 2011 Convention**

This year Truckee Meadows Blue Star Mothers did the usual airport greetings, care package mailings and fundraising. We also presented a Gold Star Service Flag to a Reno family of a fallen soldier. We did a few other special things as well; on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July our active local military service members were honored with twenty banners hung in an area called Victorian Square. The banners were done in partnership with the City of Sparks. The city gave us a place for the banners to be on display and put them up for us.

The state of Nevada has a new governor this year and in his inaugural address he mentioned the military; this seemed like the perfect opening to write him a letter to see if he would meet with us and allow us to present him with a Service Flag to be displayed in a window at the capitol in Carson City. Governor Sandoval agreed to meet with us and by the time we left the capitol, a Service Flag was hanging in the window to honor the Nevada deployed military. After all, Nevada is these service members “mother” state.

Another event we attended and program we supported was a fundraiser for a place in Nevada called Sugarland Ranch. This ranch boards dogs & cats for service members when they are deployed. This event featured a Lt. Mark Shaw & his dog Hunter. Lt. Shaw was actually from Texas and heard about Sugarland Ranch and drove all the way to the Sparks area to leave his dog in their care free of charge, while he did a year’s deployment in Afghanistan.

We were very fortunate this year to have the first “Homes For Our Troops” project in Northern Nevada. SGT Kenneth Dylan Gray, an injured Marine is in the process of having a home built for him. The project started for us with a fundraiser we attended put on by one of the local JROTC units from Hug High School. It continued with us going and helping at a three day Build Brigade the week end of March 11<sup>th</sup>. The project is not yet completed so we have more work to do in the future.

We just had a fundraising event with our local Triple A baseball team, which was coordinated with Military Night at the Aces Ballpark.

These are just a few highlights of our year in the Truckee Meadows of northern Nevada.

*Gwen Jensen, President, Truckee Meadows Blue Star Mothers NV#3*

