



SISTERS FIRST
By NP Robin McCarthy



Ohio Sisters



Michigan Sisters

My sister Kathy died ten years ago. I guess you never think about losing a sibling—you expect some day to bury your parent(s), and you fear ever losing your child—but you never think about losing a sister or brother, you always just expect them to be there. At least, that was my case, when my sister of just 45 died in her sleep of congestive heart failure.

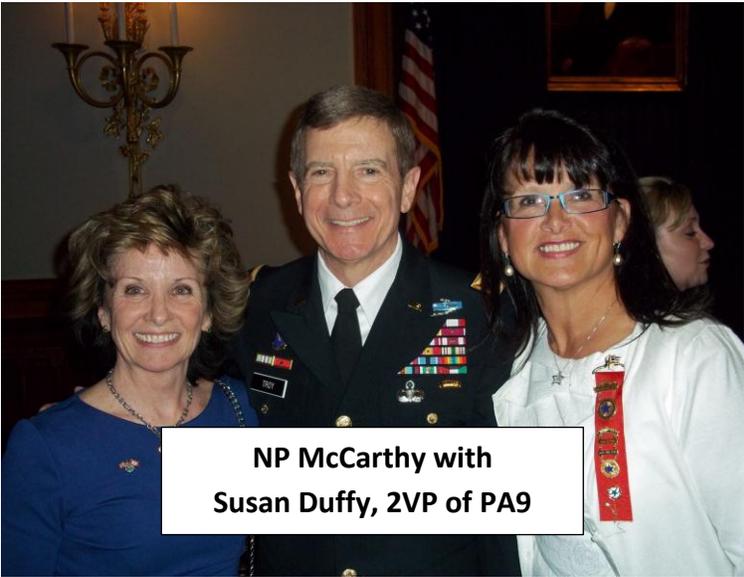
I have three sisters, but Kathy was the one I had often fought with when we were kids. Actually, I have never even had a squabble with either of my two younger sisters, but Kathy and I were closest in age and we had grown up in our own little combat zone. Years later we did settle our differences—after we became *mothers*—and we became very close friends, but there had been a time when our fights were monumental and loud. I think of her a lot during the spring, because that was the season when I lost her.

Last year I attended the wake of PNP Susie Huffer. At her funeral were many of the older Blue Star Mothers in Ohio whom I fondly call the “Quarter Century Moms,” those BSMs who have been members of this Organization for 25 consecutive years or more. Sitting with them in the fellowship hall after the wake, I was struck with how much they *loved* each other, and how they spoke so kindly to each other. I made some remark about that, and they all laughed and told me, “It wasn’t *always* this way.” One of the QCMs said, “We used to fight like freshmen on the cheerleading squad.” “Really?” I asked, because there was no evidence of that in this setting. She responded, “Yes, but we long ago decided that we are Sisters first, and the fighting had to go.”

Hmm, Sisters first...that really captured my attention, and to this day I have taken it as my mantra. Sometimes, when I am disagreeing with a Blue Star Mother, I try to remember that we are sisters first, and that our children (who made us Blue Star Mothers in the first place) are the reason we exist at all. I believe that somehow we may have gotten away from that mission (“to support our troops, our veterans, and the families of our fallen heroes”) and that we were working cross purpose to safeguard our own individual places in the Organization. This will be the death of BSMA, if we allow it, because we are not here to advance our individual causes, but we are here to advance a group in support of our military kids. We have to learn a lesson from our Quarter Century Moms, if we are going to go the distance: we are sisters first.



**NP McCarthy with
Susan Calhoon**



**NP McCarthy with
Susan Duffy, 2VP of PA9**

Think about your sister(s). How do you stay connected? You call, you write a note (email or snail mail cards), you even stop by to see her. The next time you are at cross purposes with one of your Blue Star Sisters, why don't you take the time to remember the relationship that makes you her sister; think about her and pray for her; write her a card, ask about her son's deployment; call her and talk about her daughter coming home from Japan; or stop by to visit when her grandchildren are in town (if you live close enough). Remember, we are sisters first.

As I was writing this article, I came home from work to receive a hand-written card from one of my Blue Star Sisters in another State. She, and several BSMs from her chapter, had written me the sweetest note of encouragement. And I sat on the couch and got teary-eyed. Yes, it came by snail mail, took days to get here, but when it arrived it struck me like an arrow hitting the bulls-eye on a target. I will keep it long after my term as National President is over. It was personal and it was tender, and it reinforced the very thing that had prompted me to write this note: we are sisters first. Let's finish this year with that thought in mind.

FINAL NOTE: our Quarter-Century Sister (Mary) Mollie Tinapple(of Columbus Ohio) died last month in Florida. She had been a Blue Star Mother for more than 50 consecutive years. Good bye, Miss Mollie, and may God bless your memory as a Blue Star Mother.



Minnesota Sisters

Join Us For Our Blue Star Mothers of America 70th CONVENTION

Theme: "Old and Young: BSM STRONG!"

July 31st – August 4th 2012

2 Garfield Place Cincinnati, Ohio

CONTACT: Anita Wagner, Convention Chair
afcookiemom@yahoo.com



REGISTRATION FORM BELOW:



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
70th Annual National Convention
Cincinnati Ohio
July 31, 2012 - August 4, 2012
REGISTRATION FORM



Name _____
Email: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____
Phone: (home): _____
(cell): _____
Chapter State and Number _____
Chapter Name: _____
Are you a delegate Y ___ N ___ Chapter President Y ___ N ___

Department President	Y ___	N ___	National Officer	Y ___	N ___
My roommate/s: _____					

I need a roommate	Y ___	N ___			

Our convention hotel is the Garfield Inn and Suites, Cincinnati OH. Reservations can be made NOW by calling **1-513-421-3355**. The group rate code is: **Blue Star Mothers of America Convention**.

Hotel Information: all rooms are 1- or 2-bedroom suites with queen-sized beds. Each condo-suite is equipped with 2 TVs, free high-speed internet, separate bedrooms, large living rooms, full kitchens (cookware, dishes, and silverware), dining and work areas. You can bring your groceries and make your own meals at your convenience. (Guests enjoy complimentary access to the rooftop sky-view Fitness Center overlooking the city.) Parking garage is adjacent to the hotel and daily parking fees are \$6 per day. Daily room rates are one-bedroom suites \$99+ tax (\$115.83); two-bedroom suites \$109+ tax (\$127.53). All rooms are NON-SMOKING.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES:
Full Convention registration fees include all convention handouts, documents etc. and the following meals: a Box Lunch on Wednesday Aug. 1st and the Convention Banquet Dinner on Friday Aug. 3rd. Daily reservation fees do not include meals.

FULL CONVENTION:
\$85 <input type="checkbox"/>
DAILY RESERVATIONS:(no meals) 8/1-\$40 <input type="checkbox"/> 8/2-\$40 <input type="checkbox"/> 8/3-\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>
8/4-\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>
ADDITIONAL BOX LUNCH (8/1) \$10 each; must be ordered by July 1, 2012
\$10 <input type="checkbox"/>
ADDITIONAL BANQUET MEALS: \$35 each (must order by July 1). Tickets: ___ x \$35= _____
TOTAL:\$ _____.

Checks payable to: Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc
Mail completed registration and payment to:
Anne Parker, National Financial Secretary
1149 Checkerberry Street, Longs, SC 29568

Deadline: Registration and ALL payments received no later than JULY 1,

ONE FORM PER PERSON



Ohio Riverboat Dinner Cruise
Wednesday, August 1, 2012

RESERVATION FORM

Blue Star Mothers are invited to join in an evening Riverboat Dinner Cruise on the Ohio River, Wednesday, August 1, 2012. The cruise leaves from the Newport Kentucky dock (directly across the Ohio River from Cincinnati). You can board the boat at 6:00 pm; the boat leaves the dock promptly at 7:00 pm and will return at 9:30 pm.

Standard Menu includes: Carved Sirloin served with au jus and creamy horseradish; Marinated Turkey with Creole Honey Mustard, Fresh Seasonal Vegetable, Parsley New Potatoes; *or* Pasta Primavera, tossed mixed greens with choice of dressing. Assorted accoutrements include: fresh baked bread assortment with butter, coffee and tea, and dessert station. There will be a CASH BAR for alcoholic beverages and soda.

There are a limited number of seats available for us--**ONLY 125**--so spots will definitely fill up FAST! Blue Star Mothers are welcome to purchase tickets for guests, as well as themselves. .

Please fill out the reservation form below and return it with your payments, so they are received no later than **JUNE 1, 2012**. Tickets are \$40 per person, and all payments are Non-Refundable (except any payment received after the 125 reservations are filled).

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Email Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Ohio Riverboat dinner cruise tickets: _____ X \$40 \$ _____

Make check payable to Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
Mail form and check to: **Anne Parker, National Financial Secretary,
1149 Checkerberry Street, Longs, SC 29568**

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.
70th ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CONVENTION
CINCINNATI, OH
JULY 31st –AUG 4th, 2012

EMERGENCY INFORMATION AND RELEASE FORM

This form is to be completed by each person who is participating in the
70th Anniversary National Convention
Hosted by Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

Name: _____
Home Address: _____
City/State/Zip Code: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE NOTIFY:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip Code: _____
Relationship: _____ Cell Phone: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE NOTIFY: (optional Insurance/Benefit Information)

Insurance Company: _____
Address: _____
Policy Number: _____ Phone: _____

I have the following medical conditions:

I understand that my participation in the meetings or special events at the National Convention is at my own risk and responsibility. Neither the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., nor the Chapter(s) of BSMoA, Inc. assumes any liability.

Chapter Name, State & Number:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

THE ABOVE INFORMATION WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL
UNTIL OR UNLESS NEEDED FOR AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

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This signed release form must be returned along with your 2012 Convention Registration Form.

# 2012 BSM YEARBOOK



## Submit Your Yearbook Ads

\$ 300. Full Page                      \$ 50. Business Size  
\$ 180. Half Page                     \$ 15. Booster (one line)  
\$ 100. Quarter Page                 \$ 5. (Your Name / Chapter #)

SEND TO: Carol Farmer    Attention: BSM Yearbook  
PO BOX 844    Choctaw, OK 73020

Questions: [BSMyearbookads2012@hotmail.com](mailto:BSMyearbookads2012@hotmail.com)  
Submission Deadline: April 30, 2012

## Submit Your Yearbook Photos

Please submit high quality photos to one of the following email addresses:

[BSMyearbook2012@hotmail.com](mailto:BSMyearbook2012@hotmail.com) (or) [BSMyearbook2012@gmail.com](mailto:BSMyearbook2012@gmail.com) (or) [BSMyearbook2012@yahoo.com](mailto:BSMyearbook2012@yahoo.com)

Photo Submission Categories: Troops, Fallen Heroes, Chapters, Candid Shots

Submission Deadline: April 30, 2012

CONTACT: Rev. Lin McGee [Rev.Lin.McGee@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Lin.McGee@gmail.com)

### YEARBOOK PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

When submitting photos online for your online yearbook project, it's important to understand how to evaluate the quality of your digital image files. In general, what you see in respect to quality on a computer screen does not necessarily translate when you print a photo out. Submit high resolution photos to make sure your pages are designed without the "grainy-ness" that is attributed to printing low resolution images. The easiest way to tell if an image file is of high quality is to check the size of the file. The below guidelines are based on "KB" or kilobytes of data.

- If you're working with JPEG images, if you submit anything less than 100Kb, you're likely looking at a very low resolution file.
- Anything between 100KB and 300KB, you have some resolution in your file, but you will still likely notice some grainyness when the image is printed.
- If you're above 300KB on a JPEG image, then you're likely safe. Most digital cameras with 3 megapixels or more will always output a file above this range of data. If you have a 5 megapixel camera, which is the popular setting these days, you should see image file sizes above 1 megabyte.

**PLEASE MARK ALL PHOTOS: Your Name and Chapter, Your Child's Name, Who is in Photo**



## ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION 2012 Blue Star Mothers Yearbook

### **DEPARTMENTS and CHAPTERS:**

Please gather the ads that your members are selling or wish to have in the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Yearbook!!!

This is a fund raising opportunity for your Department or Chapter, as well as a way to help our organization defray the cost of publishing the yearbook!  
25% of the cost of each ad stays with your Department/Chapter,  
with the remaining 75% used to publish the yearbook.

### **NOTE:**

**Ads are not necessarily "sold". You may wish to have your name placed in the yearbook as a 'Booster' or 'Patron'. You may also wish to put in your business card or place a business card size announcement of your Support for our Troops and Veterans!**

- 1.** Make copies of the ad submission form and **use a separate form for each submission.**
- 2.** Place your name (Patron), name and message (Booster), or message of support (business size) you wish to purchase on the ad submission form with the other required information.
- 3.** Request/Sell ads to be placed in yearbook from businesses, organizations and/or individuals.
- 4.** Collect copy of ad they wish to have placed in yearbook and complete the ad submission form for them.
- 5.** Have them make their check out for the cost of the ad to the Department or Chapter.
- 6.** Give them a receipt for their donation!
- 7.** Department or Chapter sends in 75% of purchase price (keeps 25%), making check out to:  
**Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. (putting 'Yearbook Ad' in memo of check)**  
**And mail to: Carol S. Farmer [attention: BSM Yearbook Ads]**  
**P.O.Box 844 Choctaw, OK 73020**
- 8.** Send **self-addressed stamped envelope** ONLY if you need advertisement returned.
- 9.** **Do Not write** on the business cards or the advertisements. Attach a note with any corrections to the front of order form.
- 10.** **Do Not staple or tape** the business cards or advertisements to the order form. Please use a paper clip to attach any flyer to the order form. Please place the business cards and photos in a plastic bag and then **staple the bag only** to the order form.
- 11.** **PRICE for ads: \$300. = full page; \$180. = ½ page; \$100. = ¼ page; \$50. = business card size; \$15. = Booster (one full line); \$5. = Patron (your name)**



**Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.  
2012 Yearbook Ad Order Form**

**Please use one order form for each ad submission.**

**List Boosters and Patrons together on the one line ad form and attach to form.**

Questions? Please contact Carol Farmer at: [BSMyearbookads2012@hotmail.com](mailto:BSMyearbookads2012@hotmail.com)

**Advertisement Page Size and Price (please mark):**

- |                                             |                                                 |                                          |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$300. = full page | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100. = quarter page  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15. = Booster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$180. = half page | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50. = business size | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5. = Patron  |

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Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Blue Star Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name \_\_\_\_\_ State and # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Print 'Yearbook Ad' in memo of check.**

**Make check payable to: Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.**

**[Department or Chapter keeps 25% of ad cost and mails 75% to National.]**

**Mail to: Carol Farmer [attention BSM Yearbook]**

**P.O. Box 844 Choctaw, OK. 73020**

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

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Kathryn Venable  
National Bylaws Chair

[bylaws2012@yahoo.com](mailto:bylaws2012@yahoo.com)



## BSMA Governing Documents

Because the Governing Documents for Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. are “living” documents, they have evolved year after year with become the guiding documents for the management of all Blue Star Mother of America Chapters throughout the country. Because these documents are “living” all members of Blue Star Mothers of America have been entrusted with the responsibility and the task to propose changes for our governing documents to be voted on each year at the BSMA National Convention.

We are now at the time of year to ask our membership to submit their proposed changes to our Governing Documents and we will be using the following guidelines for submitting a proposed change:

- Clearly state the Document, Article and Section in Bold print
- Write out the current statement and identify the portions to be changed in Red
- Rewrite the statement with proposed changes in Blue

If your submission does not following the above formatting, it may not be included as a change to be voted on during the 2012 National Convention Body.

The deadline for submitting changes to the Bylaws Committee is *May 1, 2012*

All submissions must be sent through email [bylaws2012@yahoo.com](mailto:bylaws2012@yahoo.com) or through USPS to:

Kathryn Venable, Bylaws Committee Chairwoman  
c/o Blue Star Mothers of America  
724B Franklin Ln  
Vista CA 92084

# 2012 OFFICER NOMINATING LETTER AND FORM



Dear Blue Star Mothers,

Past National Recording Secretary, Judy Kwarta and I, Past National President, Jean Burlingame are honored to serve as the 2012 National Nominating Committee.

Attached is the form to be used for all nominations for the elections to national office 2012-2013. Please return the nominating form to Past National President, Jean Burlingame as soon as possible but no later than May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012. The address is on the form.

This will enable the nominating committee to verify members in good standing and distribute the nominations and qualifications for each position to the membership, no later than thirty (30) days before convention.

This is the first year for nominations in advance of the national convention. Everyone nominated in good standing will be presented by the nominating committee at the national convention. We are striving to make it a simple process so more of our membership will have a voice in nominations. We also hope that by the chapters having the nominations and qualifications in advance of convention it will help them when deciding their delegate votes.

Please reference the following governing documents to make sure your nominated mother is in good standing, understands the requirements for the office she is nominated to, and is qualified to serve in that office.

**Constitution:**

Article IV, Eligibility of Membership in Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

**By-Laws:**

Article III, Section 1, Section 2, Section 3 – Members in good standing

Article IX, Section 1, Section 4, Section 5, Section 7

**BSMA Leadership Handbook for National, Department & Chapters:**

Article 1, Section 1 – All National Officers Qualifications

Article 1, Section 3 – Duties, qualifications & major responsibilities of the National President

Article 1, Section 3 – Duties, qualifications & major responsibilities of the National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Article 1, Section 3 – Duties, qualifications & major responsibilities of the National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Article 1, Section 3 – Duties, qualifications & major responsibilities of the National 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

Article 1, Section 3 – Duties, qualifications & major responsibilities of the National 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President

Article 1, Section 3 – Duties, qualifications & major responsibilities of the National Recording Secretary

Article 1, Section 3 – Duties, qualifications & major responsibilities of the National Financial Secretary

Article 1, Section 3 – Duties, qualifications & major responsibilities of the National Treasurer

We are looking forward to seeing you at convention.

Yours in service,

PNP Jean Burlingame

PNRS Judy Kwarta



**Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Nomination Form for National Office 2012**  
**Return to: Past National President Jean Burlingame, Chair, by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012**  
**53 East Main Street**  
**Bloomfield, NY 14469**  
**Or by email to: jeanmre@yahoo.com**

Nomination for the Office of \_\_\_\_\_ (example: Treasurer)

Name of Blue Star Mother being nominated \_\_\_\_\_

Her State \_\_\_\_\_ Her Chapter Number \_\_\_\_\_ Year she joined BSMA \_\_\_\_\_

Offices & dates she has held offices:

National Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Office: \_\_\_\_\_

List her Skills for this office: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of a favorite project she has worked on: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter Number \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

To be filled out by nominating committee:  
 Chair PNP Jean Burlingame and PNRS Judy Kwarta

Member in good standing verification

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

**Janet Broussard  
National First Vice President**

**1<sup>ST</sup> REPORT FOR MARCH 2012**

Number of online new members from January 1 to March 9, 2012: 839 new members and new associates.

Online Active Profiles: 11,790

Online Member Profiles: 5,313

Online Associates Profiles: 2,825

Input all applications received from our Financial Secretary into the database as received.

Continue to update Master Compliance Spreadsheet.

Continue to update Chapter Officers Roster Spreadsheet.

Mailed 1725 membership cards to various chapters.

Have been working with the membership chairs regarding moving applicants to member/associates groups.

**Rev. Lin McGee  
National Second Vice President**

**YEARBOOK**

We are presently working on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the BSMoA Yearbook. Please begin to submit the pictures you would like to have displayed in the book (troop, fallen hero, chapter, candid shots). Also please begin to sell your ads (or place your own information in the Yearbook). See submissions details and forms in this newsletter. If you have any questions, always feel free to contact me at: Rev.Lin.McGee@gmail.com

**NEWSLETTER**

Please submit articles for the Newsletter by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Your information will appear in the Newsletter that comes out within the first week of the next month. Thank you if you have sent pictures and articles for this month's theme. The following are the themes for the remaining month of the 2011-2012 BSM year. Additional information you may wish to submit is appreciated. Please remember to let me know if a member of your Chapter passes away so that we can honor them in the Newsletter and the Yearbook. Thank you.

**APRIL = MILITARY CHILDREN**

- April is 'Month of the Military Child' (children of those serving in the military)

**MAY = MEMORIAL DAY**

- Memorial Day events and parades
- Armed Forces Day events and parades
- Send pictures of heroes with their spouse (May 11 is 'Military Spouse Appreciation Day')
- Mothers Day events

**JUNE = REMEMBERING**

- How your Chapter started (with pictures of then and now)
- Fathers Day events

**JULY = CELEBRATION**

- Getting ready for Convention
- Independence Day celebrations

**Teresa Bullock**  
**National Third Vice President**

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc Third VP Report submitted 3/27/2012

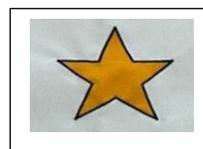
The Department of Defense has released the names of ten (10) Army Casualties and one (1) Marine Casualty during the Month of March.

Twenty-one (21) Gold Star Banners were ordered for presentation to twelve (12) fallen heroes parents and/or spouse.



**Our Nation's Fallen  
Heroes**

March 2012, DOD Reports



Cpl. Conner T. Lowry, 24, Chicago, IL  
Staff Sgt. Jordan L. Bear, 25, Denver, CO  
Pfc. Payton A. Jones, 19, Marble Falls, TX  
Spc. Edward J. Acosta, 21, Hesperia, CA  
Staff Sgt. Jesse J. Grindey, 30, Hazel Green, WI  
Spc. Daquane D. Rivers, 21, Marianna, FL  
2nd Lt. Clovis T. Ray, 34, San Antonio, TX  
Sgt. Jamie D. Jarboe, 27, Frankfort, IN

Spc. Dennis P. Weichel Jr., 29, Providence, RI  
Capt. Aaron D. Istre, 37, Vinton, LA  
Sgt. Daniel J. Brown, 27, Jerome, ID  
Sgt. William R. Wilson III, Getzville, NY  
Sgt. Joseph D'Augustine, 29, Waldwick, NJ  
Capt. Francis D. Imlay, 31, Vacaville, CA  
Pfc. Johnathon F. Davis, 20, Griffin, GA  
Cpl. Roberto Cazarez, 24, Harbor City, CA  
Spc. David W. Taylor, 20, Dixon, KY

**Rose Ann Elliott**  
**National Fourth Vice President**

Congratulations OR2 our newest chartered chapter! Hopefully by the end of the month we will have a new department in Arizona. At this writing I am awaiting just one item. Thanks to Rebecca Leatherwood for suggesting this to the ladies in Arizona and helping them unite! I am actively working with IN12, IL4, NY11, OK22 and WA5 to complete their charters. There is approximately 20 more moms trying to begin new chapters in their areas. I am so thankful each time we have a new chapter because I know that the mothers and grandmothers are supporting our troops and veterans in their area. We as a national organization are here to help in any way that we can to encourage you and support you as chapters.

I wish to thank the almost 200 chapters who have completed their compliance for fiscal year 2011. I realize that this is not always the easiest task. I hope to prepare a calendar listing and information on the needed items within the next month or so that you can keep. I also encourage each and everyone of you to keep an ongoing log of the activities and events that you do to make our annual reporting easier. With our fiscal year ending August 31<sup>st</sup>, I am here to encourage each of you to place on your calendar today a note to begin the financial document completion by the end of September each year. The items for compliance can be processed online anytime after September 1. I am always here to help, if you are still working on that paperwork and are stuck just send me an email at [razelliott@gmail.com](mailto:razelliott@gmail.com) or give me a call at 740-569-7495. If I am at work please tell me your time zone and best time to reach you and I will call back. I'm always up late!!!

**Julie Roberts  
National Treasurer**

**NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2012**

**Starting Balance for February 29, 2012: \$122,267.56**

**Ending Balance for February 29, 2012: \$124,057.91**

**Number of checks written for February 2012:**

**Checks - 36**

**Bill Pay – 2**

**Debit Card – 5**

**Bank Charges – 1**

**Voided Checks – 0**

**Continue to work with chapters that have issues pertaining to membership dues not received from national and vice versa.**

**Prepared the Department Roster Dues checks for February**

**Prepared all Reimbursement Forms submitted and approved by 3 or more members of the Finance Committee.**

**Continued preparing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly membership dues checks for Chapters and Departments.**

**Working with 4<sup>th</sup> VP on complying letters/emails to go to the chapters that are not in compliant with the Governing Documents.**

**Pat Pell  
President, Department of Ohio**

**Department of Ohio Monthly Report submitted 3/27/12**

**The elected board will meet on 3/31/12 (face to face) to discuss format and handouts for the North/South conference, which is scheduled April 28, 2012 in Columbus, Ohio.**

**Compliance issue for Chapter OH60 should be completed (need Affiliation agreement resigned by current officers) by April 10, 2012.**

**As president I attended Chapter 2 monthly meeting in March. They are receiving a special honor in April from the Military and I asked them to submit to the newsletter and yearbook. It is called the ESGR honor and will involve a formal presentation in April.**

**Cathy O'Shields**  
**President, Department of Oklahoma**

Department of Oklahoma President Report submitted March 27, 2012

Completed the Welcome Home Concert on March 13, 2012 of the United States Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus had a great turnout of Blue Star Mothers and also general public. The Army Band said that we will do this again in about 2 years as they are scheduled to be in this area once again.

March 24, 2012 St. Patty's day parade was attended by the Department of Oklahoma and we also were able to be in attendance at the State Capital for the reading of the fallen from the beginning of the war in 2003 to current. This was such a heart wrenching event but it was such a completion for our Gold Star Families.

Moving forward with our Department meeting on July 14, 2012 in Tahlequah and this will be a training event to go over all of the bylaw changes for the delegates and chapters so they can make sure they understand the changes that could be taking place if the vote is accepted. Department convention is still moving forward for October 19-21 in Hulbert Oklahoma and we are getting the final details worked out on this with the committee.

Other items of interest would be the many Yellow Ribbon Events that taking place for the next few months. This is in support of our returning troops that were deployed to Afghanistan. This is a reintegration for the troops that were deployed to make sure they get the VA assistance needed and to make sure they can return to family life.

Gold Star Family event will take place on September 29, 2012 and this will be held as a luncheon again and will start at 11:00 and end at 4:00 pm. This is to honor the families that have lost a child in the service. This is a very moving event and it helps the families bond with other families.

**Kristine Wigau**  
**President, Department of Michigan**

Jan – March 2012

Events attended (All were also good networking events)

- VAVS Motor City Valentine's Concert
- Wayne State University – Col Gregory Gadson Scholarship Endowment (endowed by Urban Science)
- Wayne State University – 'Ten Things You Should Know About Today's Student Veterans' presented by Alison Lighthall (very interesting!)

Chapters Visited

- MI 178 – book signing
- MI 1 – continuation of chapter
- MI 95 – continuation of chapter
- MI 180 – (reported on department activities)

Compliance Status

- MI 174 – IRS revoked (working on paperwork)
- MI 187 – chaplains fund check (it is in the mail to Anne!)
- MI 184 – missing back stmt and recon

Other

- Working with vendor (new owner) to get PDP pins

Upcoming dates to remember

- April 14 School of Instruction – Stanton, MI – (DEP Meeting Prior)
- June 23 FunD Day – Flat Rock, MI – (DEP Meeting Prior)
- Oct 5-7 Department – Clare, MI

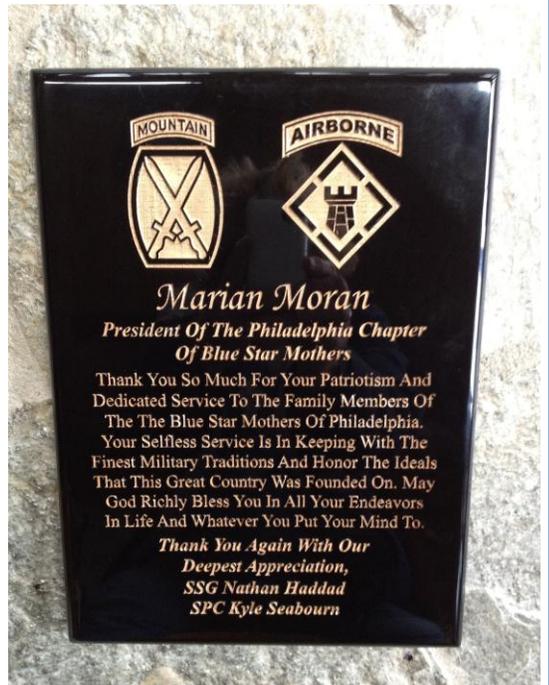


# News From Our Chapters

Command Sergeant Major James Peter M. Matthews, son of National Second Vice President, Rev. Lin McGee and husband of Leslie Matthews, CT 1, has recently accepted a CSM job at the Two Star General level. Congratulations Jim!!!



Marian Moran, PA 9, received this beautiful plaque from the two "wounded warriors" that were honored at the dinner, From War to Home.



The Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., New York Chapter # 1 are going where no one has gone before. Where? To a 109 year old house on the grounds of the Canandaigua, New York, Veterans Administration Hospital to open the first Canteen since the Korean War. The ladies are making history since the VA never allows groups to do this sort of thing. Permission had to be obtained by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in Washington, D.C., for it to become a reality.



# Important News From Marian Moran



Dear Blue Star Moms & Dads

I have learned a lot from asking and reading about H.R. 2647 ..... in civilian words ..... the Absentee Ballot for your Military son or daughter giving the power of voting.

Guidelines:

1. Have them contact their "Election Officer" in the military
2. They need to register with their "HOME" election board and request an application to receive an absentee ballot. That request is only good for (1) calendar year..... example: soldier request a ballot for the Spring Elections ..... that request and address is good till December 31, 2012 ..... end of calendar year !
3. When they receive the ballot ..... they can request it go by email or mail ( I suggest email ! )
4. Complete the entire ballot and answer all questions..... it is paperwork !
5. The Ballot must be MAILED AND POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT THE NIGHT BEFORE ELECTION DAY !

THE NEW AMENDMENT did 2 things .....

- 1.) allowed a State to send a Ballot by email
- 2.) and placed the obligation of the VOTER to notify yearly his address to his local election board ..... of course he must register with his election board.

Parents, guide your soldier to follow his right to vote. If he or she has done everything right and the voter feels he was excluded from the process; please call your local election board.

Marian Moran

## Dates to Remember, Celebrate, or Observe in April April is 'Month of the Military Child'

- April 1, 1954 ~ United States Air Force Academy established in Colorado
- April 2, 1951 ~ First Navy use of jet aircraft as bomber; launched from a carrier, USS Princeton
- April 4, 1917 ~ World War I; United States declaration of war on Germany
- April 4, 1818 ~ United States Congress adopts flag of the United States; 13 red and white stripes and 20 stars, one for each state
- April 9, 2003 ~ Baghdad, Iraq falls to American Armed Forces
- April 14, 1865 ~ President Abraham Lincoln shot in Ford's Theatre by John Wilkes Booth
- April 28, 1788 ~ Maryland becomes the 7<sup>th</sup> state
- April 30, 1789 ~ George Washington inaugurated as first President of United States
- April 30, 1798 ~ United States Congress establishes the Department of the Navy
- April 30, 1812 ~ Louisiana becomes the 18<sup>th</sup> state



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## **HAVE YOU JOINED BIG DIPPER YET?**

The Big Dipper is an auxiliary of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., which honors outstanding members of the Blue Star Mothers, sponsors the 'Fun Night' at convention, and provides educational scholarships to students. Membership is only \$5.00 a year. Please contact the Big Dipper President, Paulette Golden of MI 180 for any questions you may have about joining [pgloden60@hotmail.com](mailto:pgloden60@hotmail.com)

**Welcome to our Newest Chapter**

OR2  
PO Box 185  
Sublimity, OR 97385

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OUR NEWEST CHAPTERS AT CONVENTION!!**

**Robin Barnes-McCarthy  
National VAVS Rep**

**VAVS (VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE) NEWS:** Serving now in the capacity of our National VAVS Rep, our National President attended this year's VA National Advisory Committee in Charleston, SC, the week of March 14-16, 2012 to represent our organization. Lynn McMillen, PA 201, newly appointed National Deputy, was also able to accompany her. **WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING VAVS REPORTS AT CONVENTION!!**