



## Pages Inside This Issue

- 1 President's Message
- 2 BSMoA at Arlington and DC
- 2 CT Blue Star Mothers, CT 1
- 3 River City Blue Star Moms, CA 28
- 4 Important BSMoA Information
- 5 Iwo Jima Hero and Purple Heart
- 5 Blue Star Mothers, MA 1
- 6 Fallen Heroes Events
- 7 Special Days
- 8 Arlington National Cemetery
- 8 Fallen Heroes

## DRIVING THE BLUE-HAIRED DAISIES

When Patrick Gualtieri from the United War Veterans Council stood before the National Convention (August 13, 2011) inviting us to join him in New York City on Veterans Day and participate in the greatest parade ever (11-11-11), it seemed too good to be true. I watched as dozens of Blue Star Mothers got excited about the prospect, especially since he promised the UWVC would pay for our travel and lodging for the Parade.

Immediately after arriving back in Dayton, I began to receive emails from Convention Moms with all their questions about our involvement in the Parade. I took this charge personally and even tried to reach Patrick myself. We had a Parade Committee who worked to get specific information from the UWVC (sponsor of the Parade), but when we were not able to reach an agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) with them, the NEB chose (wisely) to back out of its endorsement of the Parade, and instead, allow chapters to participate at their own risk.

That's where I faced a dilemma. Traditionally on Veterans Day, the National President visits the White House and attends the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Although this would have been the highest honor of my life, I also knew that two Quarter-Century Moms (they have been Members of Blue Star Mothers of America for more than 25 consecutive years) had attended the Convention and were set on going to New York City to ride on the Parade float (like they had been promised). And they had also shared this "once-in-a-lifetime dream" with other QCMs in Ohio and a groundswell had begun.

Most of these Mothers are on a fixed income, and transportation and lodging would have been a problem for them. Also, they are grandmothers and great-grandmothers, so their age could have been a potential danger for them if they went to NYC alone. I felt an obligation to them, so I called an audible and made my choice. I say this, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, but my husband and I decided we were "Driving the Blue-Haired Daisies" to New York.

The date of 11-11-11 was certainly memorable for most of us, but for these Mothers it was even more special: not one of them had ever been in New York before, none had ever seen the Veterans Day Parade, and the unscheduled bus "tour" back to the Navy Lodge on Staten Island was the highlight of the day (they saw Times Square, Broadway, the Brooklyn Bridge, Ground Zero, even the Statue of Liberty).

I will close with one more story: it was late and we were not able to ride the Ferry to see the Statute of Liberty, so the bus driver took us to a little-known spot where we could see Lady Liberty from across the Hudson River (what is it, a mile and a half?). All the Daisies got off the bus to snap off a picture or two on their disposable (not digital) cameras. Virginia Clark, the oldest of our Daisies, came up to me with tears in her eyes and apologized for being "grumpy" after a long day. I told her that the apology was unnecessary, but she continued, saying "When I saw Lady Liberty up close and personal, well, that made it all worth it for me." Me too, Virginia, me too. Thank you, Daisies, for a trip I will never forget. It was an honor to spend Veterans Day with you.

# National Officers Representing Blue Star Mothers of America At Veterans Day Ceremonies in DC and Arlington - November 2011

Maura Yanosick, Historian   Gloria Cervantes, Chaplain   Janet Broussard, 1VP  
Linda Bayer, Patriotic Instructor   Kerri Kerce, DC Rep



## Connecticut Blue Star Mothers – CT 1

### THE CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME

Pictured below (left) are the 10 prestigious CT veterans who were inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame class of 2011. On right is Connecticut Blue Star Mother, Jeanie Phillips, with Ross Burke (center) WWII, US Marine Corps veteran from Shelton, CT. Mr. Burke was one of the ten inductees. He is considered by many as the elder statesman of veteran's issues in Connecticut. He served for several years as Adjutant for the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) and is a leader in both obtaining the permission for and issuing of the stamp in honor of the MOPH. Pictured with Ms. Phillips and Mr. Burke is Rev. David McGee, who was Mr. Burke's escort for the ceremony. Rev. McGee is a class of 2009 inductee into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. He is also a Blue Star Dad with the Connecticut Blue Star Mothers.



## River City Blue Star Moms – CA 28



The River City Blue Star Moms met with Albert Rivies of the Veteran Center, who talked about the mobile Vet Center RV. The Veteran Center is a counseling center for vets needing help for PTSD or TBI. The mobile center can be taken to various events from Dallas Cowboys football games to NASCAR races. It has satellite hookup capabilities with access to VA hospital records. The interior is designed to give veterans privacy during any meeting with the staff. It is HIPAA compliant.



They packed many bags to be given to homeless veterans on Veterans Day. Shown above is Blue Star Mom Margaret Golden, mother of the Chapter's treasurer, Lisa Kozlowski (Air Force). Lisa is the mother of Barry Kozlowski (Army) stationed at Fort Bragg. The bags that were packed went to the Kaiser Permanente Veterans Association to be handed out at the health clinic staffed by doctors from Kaiser Permanente and the University of California David Medical Center students. The Health Clinic was held at the Salvation Army Center in downtown Sacramento. Contents of the bags included hygiene products and snacks.



They also participated in two Veterans Day events. In the morning was the Sacramento parade. They set up an informational booth and talked to many people. It was great fun! The parade (the first one in twelve years) was impressive. There was a large applause for the Vietnam Veterans and Japanese American Veterans who marched.

In the afternoon, just across the Sacramento River was the West Sacramento parade. In that they had members marching. They also set up an information booth there. All in all, they report it was both a fun and reflective day.

Pictured above is Cemme Meyer and Louise Yates. Their banner was made by Associate Member, Julie Torchio.

## NATIONAL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND PICTURES

Please submit all newsletter articles and pictures to the Second Vice President at [Rev.Lin.McGee@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Lin.McGee@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. They will be placed in the Newsletter that comes out at the beginning of the following month. (i.e. articles submitted by December 15<sup>th</sup> will be in the December Newsletter which comes out by the end of the first week of January. This Newsletter relays what took place in the month of December, our Heroes we lost in December, and upcoming dates of remembrance or celebration that will take place in January. Thank you for your submissions.

**Remember.....**

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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)

## IT IS YEARBOOK TIME!!!

### We are looking for:

- A picture of your Chapter members together
- A picture of your child
- A picture of your fallen hero
- Action Pictures

Please submit to:  
[Rev.Lin.McGee@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Lin.McGee@gmail.com)

### We will need:

- Your pictures
- Your contact information
- Who/What the picture is of
- A signed written release that we may use the pictures

Please submit to:  
[Rev.Lin.McGee@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Lin.McGee@gmail.com)

### IT IS TIME TO SELL THOSE ADS!!!

As you know, our Yearbook is paid for by the ads that we sell! Please begin selling your ads **ASAP!!**

- Full page = \$300.00
- ½ page = \$180.00
- ¼ page = \$100.00
- Business Card Size = \$50.00
- One Line Names = \$5.00

## Connecticut Iwo Jima Survivor Receives Purple Heart

### Private George Haddam

CT resident, George Haddam, A 90 year old survivor of the battle for Iwo Jima during WWII, was presented the Purple Heart on September 21, 2011 for wounds he suffered in battle on February 26, 1945. Mr. Haddam's paperwork had not been completed at the time of his discharge from the Marine Corps. When he recently applied for the CT Purple Heart license plate for his car (yes, he still drives), he was told that he needed it. Mr. Haddam contacted CT Senator Blumenthal's office who was able to assist him in solving the paperwork issue. With that, he was also awarded his long overdue medal in a ceremony that took place at the National Iwo Jima Memorial on Ella Grasso Boulevard in New Britain, CT; 9/21/11



Rev. Lin McGee, National 2VP, with George Haddam at the 4 pm ceremony at the National Iwo Jima Memorial where Mr. Haddam received his Purple Heart.

## Blue Star Mothers of Massachusetts – MA 1



MA Chapter 1 members honored veterans at several observances their area. Denise MacAloney, Nancy Siegel, Rose Annese, and Kathy Giordano attended a memorial screening of *Restrepo* in Harvard, MA. After the screening, Army Sergeant Brendan O'Byrne spoke about his experiences at OP Restrepo and returning to civilian life after deployment. Sharon Bouchard and Debbie Cameron (pictured left) attended observances in Leominster.

Saints and Heroes ~ Sinners and Men ~ the weaving of a soul ~ and thus it begins.....  
The journey to war ~ there is no escape ~ the darkness of night ~ and then the day breaks.....  
The fighting has started ~ it is not far away ~ I hear the destruction ~ and I have started to pray.....  
God heal us and help us ~ I will stand and fight ~ For each step I take ~ brings others peace in the night.....  
My family is waiting ~ I will be home soon ~ it is already December ~ or, is it June.....

**A VETERAN IS SOMEONE WHO, AT ONE POINT IN HIS LIFE WROTE A BLANK CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO "THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA " FOR AN AMOUNT OF "UP TO AND INCLUDING MY LIFE."**



Many Fallen Heroes families or friends begin annual events to honor their lives. They also begin programs and projects in their honor. These all serve to teach about the sacrifices of war, raise awareness for various causes, provide funds for scholarships, and bring forth other important benefits. Pictured above is Lance Corporal Lawrence R. Philippon, United States Marines, who was KIA in Iraq on May 8, 2005, Mothers Day and his parent's 24<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. In his memory, Leesa and Raymond have established the "Lcpl Lawrence R. Philippon Memorial Scholarship" at Conard and Hall High Schools and also "Operation Smile", which provides free surgeries to repair cleft lip, cleft palate and other facial deformities for children around the globe. They also hold a Memorial Dance each year which helps support both of these programs. This year, the "7<sup>th</sup> Annual Lcpl Lawrence R Philippon Memorial Dance" will be held in West Hartford, CT, on February 7, 2012. Please phone 860-521-3802 if you would like more information. If you are not in the CT area, please look for similar projects and programs in your area which honor our fallen heroes and benefit so many in so many ways.

*Remember to Dance and Always Smile!*

Please remember to visit our National website:  
[www.BlueStarMothers.org](http://www.BlueStarMothers.org) for all of your 'shopping needs'. We have BSMoA hats, bags, and shirts, as well as many other things you many like.

**Please let us know if you have lost a Blue Star Mother, Blue Star Dad, or Blue Star Associate in your Chapter so they can be honored.**

**Please remember the family of BSD Bruce Wennberg from CT1 that passed away December 15, 2011.**

# DECEMBER DATES OF REMEMBRANCE, CELEBRATION, OR OBSERVANCE

- December 01, 1941 ~ United States Civil Air Patrol (CAP) organizes (USAF Civilian Auxiliary)
- December 01, 1969 ~ Vietnam War: First draft lottery in the United States is held since World War II
- December 03, 1775 ~ First official US flag raising (aboard naval vessel Alfred – first US battleship)
- December 03, 1818 ~ Illinois becomes 21st US state
- December 03, 1828 ~ Andrew Jackson elected 7th president of US
- December 03, 1948 ~ First US woman Army officer not in medical corps sworn-in
- December 04, 1992 ~ Somali Civil War: President George H. W. Bush orders 28,000 US troops to Somalia, East Africa
- December 05, 1964 ~ First Medal of Honor awarded to a U.S. serviceman for action in Vietnam is presented to CAPT Roger Donlon of Saugerties, NY, for his heroic action earlier in the year
- December 06, 1884 ~ The Washington Monument in Washington DC is completed
- December 07, 1787 ~ Delaware is the first state to ratify the US Constitution
- December 07, 1941 ~ World War II: Attack On Pearl Harbor - Imperial Japanese Navy attacks the US Pacific Fleet and its defending Army Air Forces and Marine air forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- **December 7, 2011 ~ 70th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day**
- December 08, 1941 ~ The United States declares war on Japan
- December 10, 1817 ~ Mississippi becomes 20th US state
- December 10, 1869 ~ Wyoming Territory is first to grant women the right to vote
- December 13, 1636 ~ Massachusetts Bay Colony organizes three militia regiments to defend the colony against the Pequot Indians. This organization of the militia is recognized today as the founding of the United States National Guard.
- December 13, 2003 ~ Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is captured near his home town of Tikrit
- **December 13, 2011 ~ 375th Birthday of the National Guard**
- December 14, 1799 ~ President George Washington, American revolutionary leader and first president of the United States, dies of acute laryngitis at his estate in Mount Vernon, Virginia
- December 14, 1819 ~ Alabama becomes 22nd US state
- December 15, 1791 ~ The Bill of Rights (the first ten amendments to the US Constitution) becomes law
- December 15, 1938 ~ Groundbreaking for Jefferson Memorial in Washington DC
- December 16, 1773 ~ American Revolution: Boston Tea Party
- December 20, 1989 ~ United States invasion of Panama
- December 23, 1788 Maryland votes to cede a 10 mile area for District of Columbia
- **December 25, 2011 ~ Christmas Day (Federal Holiday)**
- December 26, 1972 ~ Harry S. Truman, 33rd president of the US, dies in Kansas City, MO
- December 26, 2006 ~ Gerald Ford, 38th President of the US dies in Rancho Mirage, CA
- December 28, 1846 ~ Iowa becomes 29th US state
- December 29, 1845 ~ Texas becomes 28th US state
- December 31, 1862 ~ American Civil War: Abraham Lincoln signs an act that admits West Virginia to the Union (divides Virginia in two).



### ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Linda Bayer, National Patriotic Instructor, from Southbay Blue Star Moms - CA4 (left) and Maura McGowan Yanosick, National Historian, from Eastern Massachusetts Chapter 2 (right), pause for a moment for a historic picture. They represented the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. in the Parade of Flags at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day 2011. Linda brought in the American Flag and Maura the Blue Star Mothers Flag.

## Remembering Our Nations Fallen Heroes November 2011 DoD

*Lt. Col. David E. Cabrera, 41, Abilene, TX  
Staff Sgt. Christopher R. Newman, 26, Shelby, NC  
Sgt. James M. Darrough, 38, Austin, TX  
Sgt. Carlo F. Eugenio, 29, Rancho Cucamonga, CA  
Sgt. Christopher D. Gailey, 26, Ochelata, OK  
Spc. Sarina N. Butcher, 19, Checotah, OK  
Staff Sgt. Ari R. Cullers, 28, New London, CT  
1st Lt. Dustin D. Vincent, 25, Mesquite, TX  
Lance Cpl. Nickolas A. Daniels, 25, Elmwood Park, IL  
Pfc. Cody R. Norris, 20, Houston, TX  
Pfc. Theodore B. Rushing, 25, Longwood, FL*

*Sgt. 1st Class Johnathan B. McCain, 38, Apache Junction, AZ  
Spc. Calvin M. Pereda, 21, Fayetteville, NC  
Spc. David E. Hickman, 23, Greensboro, NC  
Spc. James R. Burnett Jr., 21, Wichita, KS  
Pfc. Matthew C. Colin, 22, Navarre, FL  
Spc. Sean M. Walsh, 21, San Jose, CA  
Pfc. Adam E. Dobreiner, 21, Moline, IL  
Lance Cpl. Joshua D. Corral, 19, Danville, CA  
Pfc. Jackie L. Diener II, 20, Boyne City, MI  
Cpl. Zachary C. Reiff, 22, Preston, IA  
Cpl. Adam J. Buyes, 21, Salem, OR  
Sgt. 1st Class Dennis R. Murray, 38, Red Boiling Springs, TN*

