



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.



November 2012
Volume 3
Deadline for Decembers
Newsletter 12/12/12
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UNITED WE STAND

Veterans' Day Celebrations, 2012-NP Pat Soler

Sunday, November 11th was an amazing day in the District of Columbia. The weather was warm, the tree colors vibrant in shades of yellow and red, and there was enough of a breeze to keep the leaves rustling on the ground. Now, imagine the pride exhibited by Jean Burlingame (Patriotic Instructor) and Robin Countryman-Valk (Historian) as they walked into the Arlington Amphitheater for the Procession of the Flags. Arms strong, proudly bearing the colors of our fine organization. It was an incredible sight to see. They proudly represented our organization at one of our nation's most important holiday - honoring all of the veterans - those individuals who proudly served their country and defended it from all enemies. Watching the two women perform their duties brought tears to my eyes, as well as to others. The Blue Star Mother name is well-recognized throughout the nation, and especially so at Arlington. The applause they

received was thundering, made even more special by the number of currently-serving military in attendance and their clear adoration of our organization. And there was more! It seems that no one was at Arlington to represent the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion - but they had a wreath that had to be presented at the Tomb of the Unknowns. So, with a quick removal of her BSM garrison cap, Robin was off to personally lay the wreath, representing her own organization. Now, if you know Robin, you know that she was beside herself at the honor of carrying our flag, but then to lay a wreath? You have never seen such emotion, pride and awe. Good job ladies! Cont. pg 10



REMINDER FOR ALL MEMBERS

Your membership dues must be paid no later than January 15, 2013. Although the deadline is not immediate, it is important for you to renew your membership now, as it means that your Chapter has access to additional funds to support necessary Chapter activities.

If the dues are not paid by the 15th of January, your name will be removed from the database and you will not be

able to participate in any Chapter activities.

Blue Star Mothers is an incredible organization - we are over 70 years old and we are the only VSO that focuses on the troops, the veterans and the families of our nation's Fallen Heroes. This means that you can stay involved even if your son or daughter is no longer actively serving; it also means that you can help mentor the new moms and

help provide perspective for what they are experiencing: fear, doubts, concern, pride and joy.

Please consider renewing your membership today, because, United We Stand, and with all o our members, we can truly accomplish our mission.

Yours in service,
Pat Soler
National President

Sierra Nevada, California 12 *Submitted by: Kathy Atkinson*



L to R: Commander William Krissoff is next to 1st Lt. Nathan Krissoff's plaque. Kent Bocks is next to Sgt. Phillip Bocks' plaque at the Veteran's Building, Truckee, California.

On November 3, 2012, the Sierra Nevada, CA12 chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of America dedicated plaques for two fallen Marines who made the ultimate sacrifice. The event was held at the Veteran's Building in Truckee, California. The dedication was the culmination of months of negotiating; finding the appropriate location; fund raising to cover the cost to purchase the plaques and having them installed with the help of two local Truckee businesses.

The chapter plans on a similar dedication in the town of Grass Valley, California for three additional plaques dedicated to fallen heroes in the spring.



L to R: Sandy Furlich, Karen Olsen-Salisbury, Catherine Ione-Perkins, Kathy Atkinson, Cindy McVay, Charlotte Ingram, Michelle Land and Beth Andrews.

Northern Kentucky Chapter 5

On September 22, 2012 the Northern Kentucky Chapter 5 Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. and the US Marine Riders Association, Inc. dedicated a 'War on Terrorism Board' honoring the 107 Kentucky Fallen Warriors from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The board came about because of a brainstorming session between Lorene Friedman and Peggy Eubanks, (from NKY #5 BSMA) and Pete Heiss and Dave Tollison, (from US Marine Riders Association) after they viewed a similar board on a trip to Indiana.

The two associations shared the total cost of the board and all the construction work was done by a mutual friend, Dale Domsher. The 107 names were each engraved in black on metal dog tags and placed on the board. The very first dog tag placed on the board was in honor of a Louisville, KY son and is dated Sept 29, 2003. The last dog tag is a Jeffersonville, KY son and is dated May 07, 2012. It is our daily prayer that we do not have to add any more names to this board.

Two bronze flower urns were engraved and presented by and in honor of our "Robert Eubanks NKY BSMA Youth Foundation". The urns with

red roses were placed on each side of the board. The board was flanked by the Blue Star Mother National Flag and the five branch military service flag. Five gold color stars adorned the board across the top in memory of the Blue Stars that had turned to Gold from the five military armed forces branches.

The Board now has a place of honor in the lobby of our City Government Center located in Florence, KY. Both the NKY #5 BSMA and the USMRA were so extremely proud to have the honor of dedicating this board in memory of those 107 Kentucky sons and daughters who gave their lives preserving our freedom. Submitted by: Lorene Friedman



Our Commemorative Anniversary Blue Star Pins and Patches are still available for purchase through our on line store



Hugs can Heal By: Lynn Sheehy NY6

**Hugs can heal some wounds
You thank a soldier
You hug a soldier
They smile
They wave
And then they sigh**

**A weight has been lifted
A gift has been given
The healing can begin**

**It may be the beginning for
some These Veterans that
gave so much**

A soldiers life is one of sacrifice

**When they return some are
never the same**

**Some wounds are visible and
some are not**

**It's the wounds of their heart
and mind**

**That they struggle with
And when they are thanked
for their service**

**It can make all the difference
To see the face of a soldier
after being thanked for his
service
Is to see a treasured moment**



Joan Owens NY6
Thanking a Vietnam
Veteran in New York City

Proud Marine Mom



I attended a Veterans Day ceremony in Sandusky, Ohio at a Harley Davidson dealership and was so honored to see my son's name on a sign that was posted on a very busy highway. The "Hogs" motorcycle chapter sponsored his name. Captain Brian Pell, USMC has served 4 tours and I am so proud of all that he has accomplished!
A Proud Marine Mom
Pat Pell
OH26

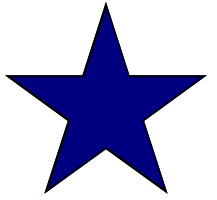


Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana Chapter 5

Had the honor of serving our veterans on Saturday November 10 for Veterans Day. We served them jambalaya and crackers that was provided by our Super One in Ruston. The North Louisiana Military Museum in Ruston sponsored the event, and had tables setup for them to enjoy their meal outside in the beautiful sunshine. The museum was open for the veterans to visit. BSM LA 5 wants to thank all veterans for their service to our great country.



Home Front Moms, Chapter 60 *submitted by: Dawn Woodings*



The 1st portion of November 2012 was a busy month for us. We packed & ship boxes to provide a little 'love' from 'Home' for 315 Deployed men & women. On November 5th, 2012 we packed boxes along with Volunteers from the public & a few Girl Scouts. We sent everyday needed items, Christmas Trees for individual names & larger trees for units with the decorations, DVD's, stockings, candy & Jar Cakes.

On November 10th we were able to get them shipped out....our Post Office LOVES us.



Then on November 11th, 2012; we were finally able to fill our dream. A project that was in the planning since 2011. In 2011 there was a 'Blue Star Marker' placed in Brecksville, Ohio. David Root, one of our VFW Veterans & good friend brought to us....'wouldn't it be nice to have something like that here in our town'. The light bulbs went off & we talked about it, researched it & then planned it. We thought about it... why we cannot do this on our own? So with the help of our good friends at the Avon Rock Pile in Avon, Ohio we were donated a stone. A very large stone about 900 lbs. & knee high. It was perfect to mount a 'plaque' or 'plate' on it. Then came Bob Childers; another good friend of the chapter & VFW member & he suggested we get in touch with Cen-Tec out of Freemont, Ohio & he set us up. Many meetings came & went & we planned designed, planned some more. Our original date we were hoping for was in July of 2012...our Anniversary date. More obstacles & it just was not going to be able to happen at that time. We really didn't have our design completed & other things put us behind. But here we were it was October & it was so close.

On November 1st we met with Frank Gustoff (the City Park & Recreation Director) & Dave from the Rock Pile to pick our location for the placement for our Rock. The following Saturday, Dave delivered it to Ely Square in downtown Elyria, Ohio. On November 11th a few of our members & associates of Home Front Moms gathered in Ely Square to 'Dedicate' our Rock to all Blue Star Mothers past, present & future. Mayor Brinda, Senator Lundy, local newspaper reporter & photographer, TMC photographer & local on line reporter, Pat Pell, Dave Root, Bob Childers, Bill Grace (the past mayor for the city), VFW Post 1079 Honor Guard & public gathered by the Rock. We placed our 'Permanent Wreath' (made by Tamara Nestor-member) next to the stone, where Dave Root & Mayor Brinda spoke a few words. Dawn Woodings, 1st Vice President of Home Front Moms spoke a few words in dedicating the stone to all Blue Star Mothers who have walked before us, the Mothers who Stand Tall today & for those that will walk in our 'Boots' long after we are gone. The dedication was closed by our VFW Post 1079 gun salute & Taps played by our Honor Guard.



FUNDAMENTALS OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES 2012

All parliamentary rules are based on a regard for and the protection of:

The rights of the majority.

The rights of the minority.

The rights of the absentees.

The rights of the organization as a whole.

Principles everyone should keep in mind:

The society is paramount. The good of the society supersedes any individual or small group of individuals.

All regular (FULL) members have equal rights. At a properly called meeting that means the right to make motions, the right to speak in debate, and the right to vote.

A quorum (as established in the bylaws the minimum number of members) must be present in order to conduct business. If the bylaws are silent then a quorum is a majority of the entire membership of the society, the board, or a committee.

Only one Main Motion may be before the assembly at a time. However, appropriate Subsidiary, Privileged and Incidental Motions may be applied to a Main Motion.

Only one member may have the floor at any one time.

All comments/questions must be addressed to the chairman. The chairman may either answer the question or refer it to the appropriate person.

All debatable questions shall be fully debated. (It takes a (2/3) two-thirds vote of the membership to suspend debate.)

Remember – keep your debate on the merits of the motion before you– never the maker of the motion or any other speaker. Personal remarks are always out of order and in poor taste.

Most questions are decided by a majority vote. A majority vote is defined as more than half of the votes cast by persons legally entitled to vote, not counting blanks or abstentions.

It takes a (2/3) two-thirds vote on questions that effects or deprives a member of their rights.

Remember everyone has the right to remain silent – but silence gives consent. By remaining silent you are giving support to whichever side that wins.

Show courtesy to all but demand courtesy in return.

The meeting should start on time.

Always adopt the agenda – even it appears to be the same form month to month.

Everyone should keep the meeting on track – so that everyone can get home before “midnight.”

Solveiga L. Unger

Associate Member BSMA

Above Information based on Pointers on Parliamentary Procedure

By: Louise E. Bereskin, PRP

National Association of Parliamentarians

DECEMBER PATRIOTIC DATES 2012

December Patriotic Dates 2012

Past President Burlingame *Past National President Jean Burlingame*
National Patriotic Instructor, 2012-2013

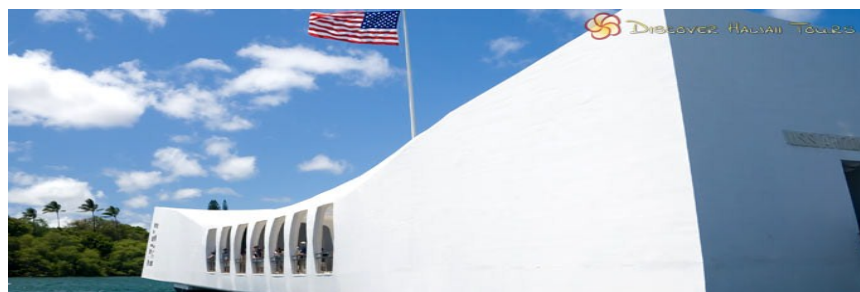
National
Jean

December 7

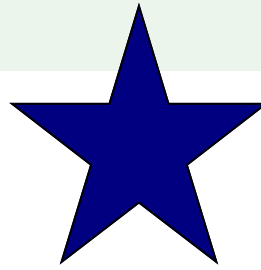
National Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance
 December 7, National Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii, during World War II. Many American service men and women lost their lives or were injured on December 7, 1941. National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is also referred to as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day or Pearl Harbor Day. On the direction of the President, the flag of the United States of America should be displayed on the homes of Americans, the White House and all United States government buildings. The flag should be flown at half-mast to honor those who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor. Memorial services are held at venues such as the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor.

December 13th

Happy 376th birthday to the National Guard which started in 1636 when the existence of and need for the colonial militia was ratified by the Founding Fathers in the Constitution. At the core of yesterday's Minutemen, today's National Guard has the same conviction that their military service is required to make their nation and communities a safer and better place.



*Buckeye Military Moms
Chapter 9
Worthington, OH*



Chapter 9 formed a homeless veterans committee after discovering the need for boots at the October 2011 Central Ohio Stand Down. Veteran Stand Downs are held annually by local groups at various locations across the country to give homeless veterans access to health screening, flu shots, dental checks, legal advice, employment counseling, hair cuts, hot lunches and other services available to veterans. The Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio operated a free clothing store from donated clothing, shoes and boots. When it was discovered at last year's event there were only a dozen pair of boots donated for nearly 300 veterans the need for the Homeless Veterans Committee and its first project became apparent. The Committee applied for and received \$700 from a Department of Ohio Care Source Grant and a letter writing campaign to secure commercial support began.

We were very excited when the call came from *Rocky Brands, Inc. (Headquartered in Nelsonville, OH) that they wanted to partner with us to provide boots for homeless veterans at the 2012 Central Ohio STAND DOWN ~ the event's slogan is "A hand up, not a handout." (www.centralohiostanddown.org). On October 16th of this year, Rocky Boots, their President, Jason Brooks, Liz Horn, Jason Goettke and five other employees, personally sized and fitted nearly 400 veterans with a brand new pair of military issue,

Gortex Rocky boots. In light of this tremendous contribution from Rocky Boots, we were able to redirect our grant money providing a pair of crew socks and foot powder with each pair of boots.

On Special Note ~ We were touched while participating in the Columbus Veteran's Day Parade on November 9th we noticed many of the veterans from the STAND DOWN wearing their boots and shouting thanks to Rocky and to us.

Members of our Chapter 9, Blue Star Homeless Veterans Committee: Chair, Deb Waltz, Jeanette Able, Barb Forsythe, Cynthia Seeborn, Lynn Feldman and Peg Kearns.

*Rocky Brands, Inc. designs, develops, manufactures and markets premium quality Outdoor, Work, Western, Duty and Military footwear as well as Outdoor and Work Apparel and accessories. The Rocky Brands family of brands includes ROCKY, GEORGIA BOOT, DURANGO LEHIGH, GIANT by Georgia Boot, BUILT by Georgia Boot, and the licensed brands MICHELIN Footwear and MOSSY OAK Footwear.

Rocky Brands, Inc., 39 East Canal Street, Nelsonville, OH 45764

Submitted by: Deb Waltz



Veterans Day in New York City Long Island Blue Star Moms NY6



Top: Long Island Blue Star Moms NY6
On the Veterans Day Parade Right: Float going down 5th Avenue
Below Left Cyndi Ventura, Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipient
Paul William Bucha, Lisa Ryan at the Marine Corp. Ball



New York 6 was once again invited by the United War Veterans Council to participate in the Veterans Day Parade 2012 in Manhattan. It was a weekend filled with many events. Friday was the Marine Corp. Ball at the Union League Club. The guest of honor and key note speaker was the Commandant USCD Admiral Robert J. Papp Jr. The theme for this years parade was "United we Stand", Great minds think alike. This year New York City honored the Coast Guard, each year NYC chooses a branch as their special honoree of the weekend. We met so many wonderful members of our armed forces both active and veterans. At the Marine Corp. Ball Cyndi Ventura- Chapter President and N2nd VP and Lisa Ryan- Chapter Recording Secy. were able to spend time and talk with Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipient Paul William Bucha (Buddy). On Saturday we attended briefings, To inaugurate the 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War and honor these veterans. We sat in on meetings in NYC of the General Staff of the Department of Defense. To be able to help these Brave and Honorable Veterans to get the recognition and benefits for their service is so very bitter

sweet. I was so very proud to be part of this, they are some of the first to come to honor our young warriors, homecoming and funerals. They told me they will never let what happened to them happen to another generation of warriors. This event was held at the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guard an Airmen's Club a wonderful old hotel open to our active military, veterans and their families a place to stay in NYC for a reasonable rate, located on Lexington Ave between east 36th and 37th. So if your ever in the city, please stop in. On Sunday we had the Veterans Day parade it was a wonderful experience to be part of. Our Dads and some members chose to march holding our flags, others handed out cards as we marched down 5th Avenue thanking veterans for their service and just giving them hugs. While others chose to just float down 5th Avenue and wave and thank our veterans. Following the parade we attended " Reflections Festival of the Arts " featuring art work from the Dept. of Defense, Veterans from the VA and VAP, Gold Star Mothers, Works Honoring our Military of WWII, Korean War and Vietnam. The Wall of Honor with the

names of the fallen in NY from our current conflicts, World Trade Center and so much more. A great weekend honoring and thanking all our veterans and active servicemen and woman.





*Wishing a Happy
Thanksgiving To All our
Military
Families from your Blue
Star National
Board*



Continued from Cover: Women In Military Service Association Reception- Left to right PNP: Robin Barnes McCarthy, PNP & Patriotic Instructor Jean Burlingame, Matt Bristol NVDC of Dept. of Veterans Affairs,, NP: Pat Soler, and DC Rep. Teresa Sumners



United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs. NP Pat Soler talked to Secret Service and waited to speak with Gen Shinseki to thank him for his service to our Veterans!