



# Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

# UNITED WE STAND

## The Blue Star Mothers of the Sierra Nevada

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The Blue Star Mothers of the Sierra Nevada Chapter, CA 12 finally saw their two year project come to completion.

They raised money to purchase three memorial plaques for three fallen heroes and dedicated them at a ceremony on March 30th, 2013 in Grass Valley, California. In addition, they were successful working with the State of California to have the Brighton Street bridge

renamed to the Gold Star Memorial Bridge. United States Congressman, Doug La Malfa, Nevada County Supervisor, Nate Beason, and National BSMA President, Pat Soler were among the many people at the ceremony. Also pictured are many of the Blue Star Mothers who worked on the project.

This is the second of two sets of plaques that the CA 12

chapter installed and dedicated. Two plaques were dedicated last year in Truckee, California and was featured in the November 2012 newsletter.

Submitted by:  
Kathy E Atkinson

### Special points of interest:

- Patriotic Instructors Message for May
- With Memorial Day almost upon us, don't forget to send in your photos and stories of how your chapters each spent this very special day of remembrance for those who died in our Nation's service. Send your photos and stories to:

[bsm2ndvp@gmail.com](mailto:bsm2ndvp@gmail.com)

- JUNE 1st is the DEADLINE for YEARBOOK PHOTOS SEND YOUR PHOTO'S TO

[bluestarmothers2013yearbook](mailto:bluestarmothers2013yearbook)

DON'T MISS OUT.....



***Veteran Bob Ahern of Ahearn Foundation presenting check to BSM MA CH 1 Co-Presidents Maureen O’Gorman and Susan Hall***



On Saturday, March 9, 2013, the Blue Star Mothers, MA Chapter 1 Co-Presidents, Susan Hall and Maureen O’Gorman were in attendance at the Annual Ahern Foundation’s St. Patrick’s Day Gala. The Ahern Foundation of Stoneham MA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to assist veterans and current members of our military fighting the war on terrorism. Led by an all volunteer organization, Mr. Robert Ahern, President and Mr. Christopher Ahern, Vice-President, donate, through their fundraising efforts, substantial financial grants to military support organizations that deal directly with veterans and military personnel and their families.

The St. Patrick’s Day Gala, attended by over 600 people, is a fundraising event for local troops and their families. Several Medal of Honor Recipients were also present including; Colonel H.C. "Barney" Barnum, United States Marine Corps (Ret.) and Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs, Captain Thomas G. Kelley, United States Navy (Ret.) and Former Secretary, Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services, Captain Thomas J. Hudner, United States Navy (Ret.) and Sergeant Major John R. Cavaiani, United States Army (Ret.)

The wonderful evening started off with dinner, dancing, traditional Irish bagpipes and step-dancers. The evening ended on a surprise note with The Blue Star Mothers, MA Chapter 1, honored with a grant of \$1000.00.





*Jean Burlingame*  
*National Patriotic Instructor*



**May 15th, 2013** – Peace Officers Memorial Day

This is the day to honor Federal, State, & Local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty. It is also the perfect day to say thank you to all peace officers.

**May 18th, 2013** – Armed Forces Day

Many events across the United States take place on Armed Forces Day to honor Americans in uniform who served their country in times of war and peace. Those who are honored on this day include people who serve or have served the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and National Guard and Reserve units.

**May 22nd, 2013** – National Maritime Day

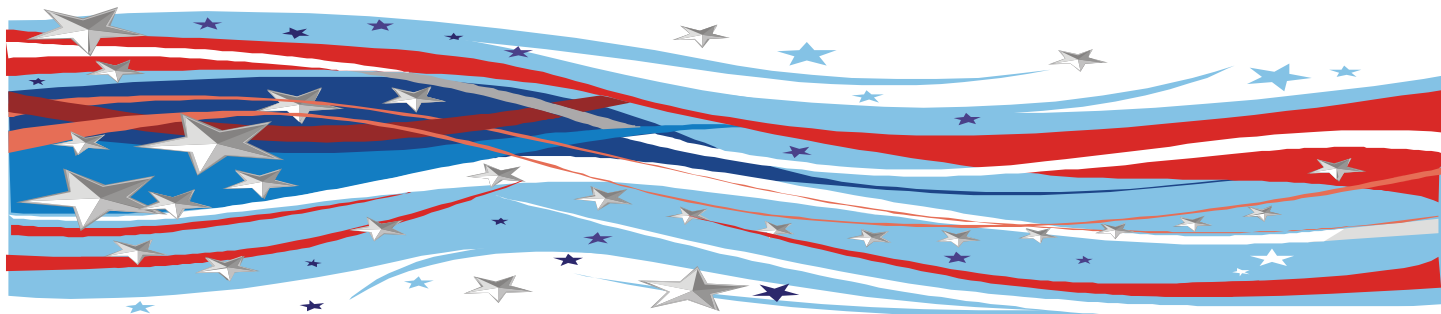
National Maritime Day is annually observed in the United States on May 22. It is a time to observe our maritime heritage. We honor those who served as merchant mariners in service to their country and to recognize the benefits of the maritime industry.

National Maritime Day is an observance but it is not a federal public holiday in the United States. The President is requested to issue each year a proclamation calling on: people to observe National Maritime Day by displaying the flag of the United States at their homes or other suitable places; and government officials to display the flag on all government buildings on National Maritime Day.

**May 27th, 2013** – Memorial Day

Originally called Decoration Day, it is specifically set aside as a United States Federal Holiday to remember military personnel who have died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. Raising the flag at half-staff until noon follows the general guidelines of the Federal and State flag codes. The term half-staff means that the position of the flag is half the distance between both the top and the bottom of the staff. The flag should be hoisted to the peak of the staff for an instant before lowering it to half-staff. The flag should be displayed at half-staff position until noon only. Then raise the flag to the top of the staff until sunset.

**This Memorial Day** - the National Historian and I will join Blue Star Mothers National President, Pat Soler, in Washington, DC to participate in services at Arlington National Cemetery. Robin Countryman-Valk and I will be honored to represent all of you as we carry the flags of our country and Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. during the services.



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

Mail completed form & check to:

Kathryn Venable, Financial Secretary

Blue Star Mothers of America

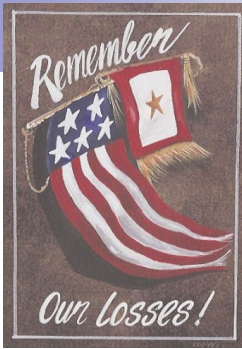
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OFFICE USE ONLY:

SEND YOUR YEARBOOK PHOTOS TO: [bluestarmothers2013yearbook@gmail.com](mailto:bluestarmothers2013yearbook@gmail.com)



**"The United States flag does not fly because the wind moves past it... The United States flag flies from the last breath of each military member who has died protecting it."**

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*BLUE STAR MOTHERS of AMERICA, INC.*



## A Tribute to Our Fallen



*The Department of Defense has announced 13 casualties between February 15, 2013—March 18, 2013*

*There has been 116 casualties since August 1, 2012*

*Our Prayers and thoughts are with their families*

