



# UNITED WE STAND

## From the Desk of Our National President

### Special points of interest:

- Patriotic Instructors message for March
- IMPORTANT INFO. ABOUT OUR YEAR-BOOK
- BIG DIPPER
- [CHECK OUT](#)

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FROM THE DESK of OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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Happy Valentine's Day, and I hope you are filled with the joy that results from making a difference in the lives of so many. I have heard the stories of each chapter's special mailings of hearts, chocolate kisses, Valentine's cards; the special gift baskets ready to be delivered to the local recruiting offices; and the personal love and attention lavished on our veterans – all acts of kindness, compassion and gratitude toward those who serve and those who have served. This is from one of the notes my chapter received from a very grateful recipient:

*I would like to personally thank yourself and all within your organization for your efforts and support of Soldiers. My Platoon came back late last evening from our mission, missing chow hours, only to find tons of boxes for us in the mail. The joes were very happy and ripped in like it was Christmas. I can't explain to your organization enough the positive impact you have on*

*Soldiers away from home and doing their jobs. Several posted pictures on Facebook last night with some of the items placed in the box by your team, very well done.*

We are so lucky to be able to do so much for so many! I thank my son every day for opening my eyes to a whole new world of mothers and allowing me to be a part of an awesome sisterhood.

So, this month, I changed my picture to remind me of a very special time in my son's career – when he earned his Ranger tab. He looks so young...

Pat Soler-National President





## Past National President Jean Burlingame National Patriotic Instructor

This month we honor the United States Seabees. We wish them a happy 71st birthday on March 5th.

When the United States officially entered World War II, the use of civilian labor had to stop. Under international law civilians were not permitted to resist enemy military attack. If they did they could be executed as guerrillas.

On December 28, 1941, Rear Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks (BUDOCKS), requested specific authority to activate, organize, and man a unique, very special organization that would support the Navy and Marines in remote locations and defend themselves if attacked — the Naval Construction Battalions. On January 5, 1942, he was given that authority and the original Battalions were formed at a new Naval base in Davisville, Rhode Island. On March 5, all Construction Battalion personnel were officially named Seabees by the Navy Department. Their motto is *Construmus Batumius*, or We Build, We Fight and their logo, the Fighting Bee, was created by a Rhode Islander at Davisville.

The Navy built their Battalions with experienced, highly

skilled craftsmen ... electricians, carpenters, plumbers, equipment operators — virtually any construction or building trade was welcome in the Seabees. Seabee units were quickly engaged in construction and combat. They have served in Guadalcanal, Normandy, Korea, Antarctica, Vietnam, Desert Storm/Desert Shield, and Beirut, Iraq & Afghanistan. From the island-hopping of World War II, the cold of Korea, the steaming jungles of Vietnam, the deserts of the Middle East, Seabees have built cities, paved thousands of roads, and constructed numerous a

airstrips in the four corners of the world.

Seabees also conduct humanitarian missions worldwide, including earthquake and hurricane recovery efforts in the United States.

The true spirit of the Seabees is their "Can Do" philosophy. It's a timeless belief representing Seabees past, present, and future. The Seabee Museum and Memorial Park is in North Kingstown, Rhode Island.



## Tahlequah, Ok - Honor and Remember

BSM Cherokee Capital Ok21 chapter members, Billie Walker and Elizabeth Hamilton traveled to Coweta, Ok. on Sat. Feb. 23, 2013 to present a Gold Star Afghan to fallen warrior, Spec. Kyle Brinlee's family. Kyle was a resident of Pryor, Ok and was KIA in 2004. As Blue Star Mothers we were privileged and honored to present this

gift on behalf of the VETERAN'S CLUB at the James Crabtree Correctional Center in Helena, Ok. The Flag Afghan Project was created by the club in 2007 and are hand crocheted by veteran inmates to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country. Also there to help with the presentation was president

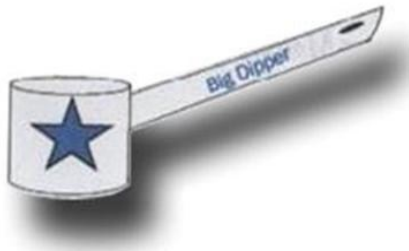
Pam Buffington with the Pryor Blue Star Mothers chapter Ok18. Accepting the Afghan was Kyle's grandfather Johnny Davidson and his sister Kaylee Brinlee of Tulsa. Even though Kyle was KIA in 2004, it was still a very emotional event for all of us. We never want these families to think for a minute that we have forgotten the

sacrifice and love for his country will never be forgotten

Submitted by:  
Billie Walker, President  
Cherokee Capital Ok 21



*Picture: Left to right  
Elizabeth Hamilton -  
Tahlequah BSM  
Johnny Davidson- Tulsa  
Kaylee Brinlee- Tulsa Pat  
Yount- Coweta  
Billie Walker - Tahlequah  
Melissa Yount - Tulsa Jim  
Yount- Tulsa am Buffington -  
Pryor*



# Stardust

Big Dipper Newsletter  
Auxiliary of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

## Big Dipper Has Announced a Theme for Fun Night 2013!

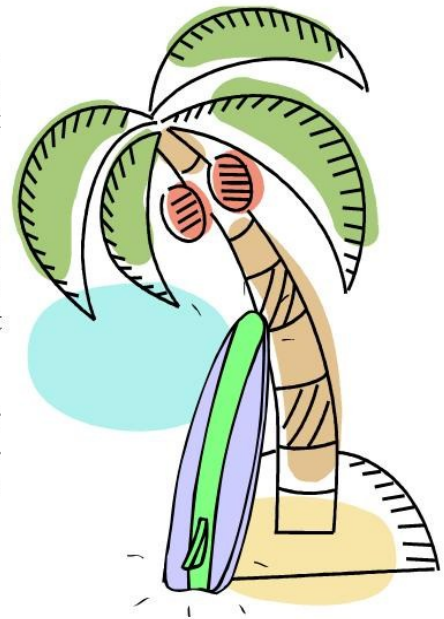
As of the January 30th, the Big Dipper board could not pass up the idea of a “Beach Blanket Bingo by the Golden Gate” theme for Fun Night at the 2013 convention in San Francisco, CA. Each year Fun Night is hosted by Big Dipper. The main goal is to raise money for the Josephine Colenda Education Assistance Fund. And while doing that we will be having a great time! Among the activities held during Fun Night is an excellent silent auction with a variety of items. Also this year will be beach games, raffles and a photo booth. So get out those flip-flops and join us.

Big Dipper is also challenging chapters to have a fund-raiser specifically to donate the proceeds to the education assistance fund. The chapter with the highest donation will receive special recognition at convention.

As a national auxiliary of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., Big Dipper awards educational assistance to veterans, active duty service members, children/ grandchildren of Blue Star Mothers or veterans and blue star mothers. Last year Big Dipper was able to give out awards to 17 recipients.

Since 1951, Big Dipper has given out tens of thousands of dollars for education assistance. Check out the Big Dipper page at [bluestarmothers.org/big-dipper](http://bluestarmothers.org/big-dipper). Join today, for the price of a \$5 latte you can make a difference in the life of a veteran and military family.

Now is the time to “Educate Our Veterans and Military Families”!

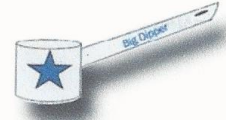


Membership for Big Dipper is \$5 per year and open to members of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC

NATIONAL BIG DIPPER Auxiliary



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2012 -2013

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER STATE & NO: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Send form and check for \$5.00 pay to the order of: Big Dipper Auxiliary

Robin Johnson  
Big Dipper Nat'l Fin Sec  
72 Minnerly Rd  
Coxsackie, NY 12051

[Robin.Johnson@SUNY.edu](mailto:Robin.Johnson@SUNY.edu)

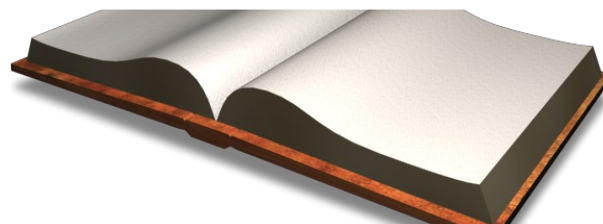
For Big Dipper Use Only: ↓

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*IF YOU BELONG TO A  
DEPARTMENT WITH A BIG  
DIPPER AUXILIARY – SEND TO  
YOUR DEPARTMENT BIG DIPPER  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND  
SHE WILL FORWARD HALF TO  
BIG DIPPER FINANCIAL  
SECRETARY*  
• • •

## Feather River Blue Star Moms CA1

Had a great time during their first "Super bowl Sunday Enchilada Sale"! With over two feet of snow on the ground there was overwhelming support from the communities in Westwood and Plumas County in Northeastern California. We had so much fun, and it was so easy, we are going to do it again for Cinco de Mayo.

Submitted by: Ann T. Cordero-President and Blue-To-Gold Liaison-National Big Dipper Treasurer



### OUR YEAR BOOK 2013

OK LADIES IT'S TIME TO START SENDING IN YOUR PHOTOS FOR OUR YEARBOOK THIS YEAR WHICH WILL BE FOR SALE AT OUR NATIONAL CONVENTION IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 2013. WE ARE LOOKING FOR DEPARTMENTS AND CHAPTERS ACTION SHOTS AS WELL AS SHOTS OF YOUR CHILDREN IN ACTION. AND AS ALWAYS PHOTO'S OF OUR FALLEN WARRIORS. LADIES WE MAKE THE BOOK AND I CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOUR HELP SO PLEASE START SENDING YOUR PHOTOS INTO

***BLUESTARMOTHER2013YEARBOOK@GMAIL.COM***

*WE ARE NOT SELLING ANY ADS THIS YEAR, WE HAVE DESIDED TO MAKE A "WE SUPPORT BLUE STAR MOTHERS AND THEIR MISSION PAGES". YOU CAN SEND IN A CHECK FOR \$10.00 TO HAVE YOUR NAME, STATE AND CHAPTER # ADDED TO THESE PAGES. MAKE YOUR CHECKS PAYABLE TO BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC. MAIL CHECKS TO*

*BSM-2013 YEARBOOK PO BOX 1808 VISTA, CA 92085 PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE NAME, STATE, CHAPTER #*

*IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE PUTTING THIS YEARBOOK TOGETHER WITH ALL OF YOU, CYNDI VENTURA-NATIONAL 2nd VP*

# OUTSTANDING NON-PROFIT AWARD GIVEN TO BLUE STAR MOTHERS CA 30

On Saturday, January 19, 2013 the Greater Corona Valley Chamber of Commerce presented the CA 30 (H.O.M.E) chapter with the Outstanding Non-Profit award for 2012. The black tie optional event was held at the beautiful Eagle Glen Golf Club in the hills of Corona, California on a chilly evening in the large ball room of the golf club. After dinner, various awards were presented on the stage and when CA 30's president, Teri Figueroa was called, she summoned the entire board as well as our chapter's members who were in attendance.

The award was presented to our chapter in recognition for being a "dynamic group of women who do many outreach projects in the communities in and surrounding Corona." The chamber also noted that our chapter sends care packages to deployed troops by way of holding

fundraising events. Our members have observed that through our fundraising efforts and community outreach we have been made to know the generosity and support from the people of the greater Corona area. Last September, for the first time ever in Corona, H.O.M.E. became the main organizational group to hold the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers 5K Run.

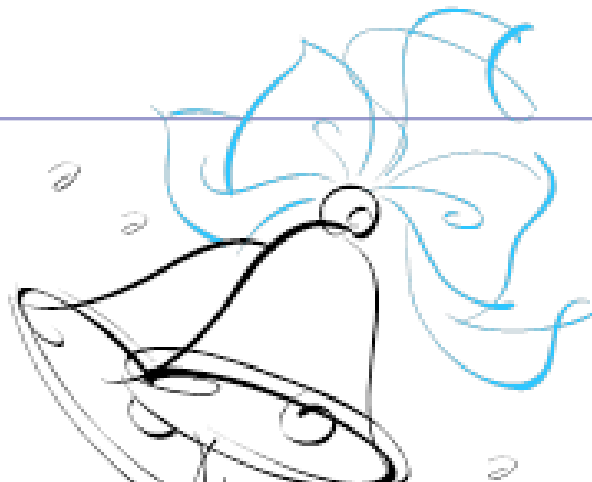
This past December a huge parade, spearheaded by the H.O.M.E. chapter members, was put together on short notice to welcome home a severely wounded soldier and Corona native.



The parade lined Main St. in Corona with thousands of appreciative citizens. Several local TV stations carried the emotional and awe-inspiring scene.

Lead by the fundraising talents of H.O.M.E. chapter's president, and the enthusiastic board and chapter members, Corona's military mothers look forward to a Mother's Day event each May with numerous gifts and surprises at the annual event.

Since September of 2012, care package shipping has been the number one priority for us and our young chapter, and our goal is to keep surpassing our record. We're well on our way as this week we will ship out 100 more care packages! After all, it's what we're here for. Every event and task for this chapter is taken on with love and pride. We are here to serve and we're ready, willing and able to do it!



## “GOWNS FOR MILITARY BRIDES”

Chapter AZ1, Lake Havasu, AZ, recently received a generous donation of wedding and evening gowns from a local bridal shop that was going out of business. We decided to create a program we call “Gowns for Military Brides.” Through our new program we will provide wedding gowns at no cost to Lake Havasu military women on active duty or veterans, or to women who are planning to marry an active duty serviceman or veteran. We have already given away five wedding gowns.

We will be lending out the evening

gowns to Lake Havasu girls who may not be able to afford the purchase of a gown for a prom, ball, or other formal event. There will be no rental charge, but the gowns must be dry cleaned before returning. We have provided information to our local high schools so the girls will know our program is an option when they need a gown.

Chapter AZ1 is also accepting donations of wedding or evening gowns from the community so we can continue this program into the future. The very morning of the press release appearing in our local newspaper, we

received four calls from women wanting to donate gowns. We’re sure our new Gowns for Military Brides program will be a success and will provide a great service to our community.



Kathy McCraw, president of AZ Chapter 1, displays one of the wedding gowns that AZ1 is giving away to military brides from Lake Havasu City.

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A sampling of evening gowns that AZ1 has on hand to lend out for proms, balls, and other formal events. ==>

