



# Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.



# UNITED WE STAND

## GOLD STAR MOTHERS WEEKEND IN WASHINGTON DC

OCTOBER 2012

Volume 2

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NOVEMBERS SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER ARE DUE BY 11/18 PLEASE SEND IN YOUR STORIES AND EVENTS AND PHOTOS TO:

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



Pat Soler, BSMA National President departed California on 27 September 2012 on a Redeye Flight to Washington, D.C. She was scheduled to attend various meetings as well as the Gold Star Mothers National Ceremony. I was at Ronald Reagan National Airport excited and nervous as I awaited her arrival. We had several phone conversations to finalize her trip and also discussed how we were going to link up. This was necessary since we had never meet face-to-face. Like two elated long lost sisters happy to see each other, we exchanged a quick loving hug in the arrival lane at the airport. We loaded the luggage in to the car and set off for D.C. The first task was to find a changing booth for "Super Woman, Pat" to change out of her travel clothes and into her meeting clothes for a busy day of meetings. The first meeting began with Senator's representatives in the Rayburn Room of the US Capitol and the last of five meetings ended in the Hart Senate Office Building. The purpose of the meetings was to introduce and promote the mission and vision of the Blue Star Mothers of America. The next evening, Pat attended the Gold Star Mothers Dinner. After a restful night, we were up early and made our way to the Vietnam Wall. The Gold Star Mothers said a prayer and laid their wreath at the Wall. After that, Pat laid a beautifully arranged red, white and blue floral wreath on behalf of the Blue

Star Mothers of America. The Patriot Guard from nearby states showed their support of the ceremony for the very special Mothers and families who were in attendance. Later in the afternoon, we attended the Gold Star Mothers Ceremony near the Amphitheater on the Arlington grounds. Following the ceremony, the Gold Star Mothers laid their wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. In one of our conversations, Pat had asked me if I would like to assist her in laying the Blue Star Mothers wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Speechless for a few moments (due to the lump in my throat and my brain trying to process this request), I said "Yes!"

When it came time for Pat and me to lay our wreath, a Guard announced to the crowd that they would be witnessing a Wreath Ceremony. He also instructed them as to what they would witness and how they should conduct themselves. Pat and I were escorted by a Tomb Guard from the Tomb Museum down the steps until we reached our position in front of the Tomb. When we reached our location, the Tomb Guard assisted us in placing the wreath and guiding us to our position back in front of the Tomb.

All I knew was that this was one of the greatest honors- to lay a wreath honoring the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Gold Star Families' sons and daughters on one of the Nation's most sa-



cred grounds; where only Presidents, heads of states, and dignitaries have stepped.....at the Tomb Of The Unknowns .

D.C. Representative, Teresa Sumners

## DEDICATION OF PURPLE HEART TO A HEROES FATHER

Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana — LA 5 welcomed home one of their own sons. Tim Sanders, son of James and Angie Sanders was welcomed home with a Hero's welcome.

The airport was filled with Patriot Guard Riders who stood in a flag line in honor of Tim's service. Tim was escorted by the PGR from the airport to his hometown high school in Choudrant La. A

reception was waiting for him with family, friends and Blue Star Mothers of Chapter 5 serving cake and punch. Sanders returned from Afghanistan with a number of accolades, including the Purple Heart and three Army Achievement Awards. He plans to dedicate his Purple Heart to his father, James.

Sanders was injured in Afghanistan when a grenade was lobbed

at him and his troops. He couldn't throw the grenade back in time and received wounds to his hands and face.

His actions to protect his fellow troops garnered him the Purple Heart. After sustaining his injuries, Sanders was told he would be flown home, but he declined and remained in Afghanistan. He said he owes his courage to his father. (continued pg3)

# GENEVA, OHIO CHAPTER 57



*Kathy Michney reminisces at National Convention's Banquet about being an aide on an Honor Flight to DC with the flights founding pilot and speaker, Earl Morse, a physician and Retired Air Force Captain.*



Five "Rosie the Riveters" from Geneva, Ohio Chapter 57. Enjoying 2012 National Convention's "1942 Hollywood Canteen" at Big Dipper Fun Night (from left: President Linda Humphrey, Cathie Schmidt, Virginia Clark, Sally Ricard and Kathy Michney.



BSM Chapter 57 Geneva Ohio installs new officers (from Left; Secretary Virginia Clark, Sergeant at Arms Natalee Sabo, Historian Jackie Davis, Parliamentarian Sally Ricard, Financial Secretary Jane Tapassi, President Linda Humphrey, VP athi Michney, Treasurer Susi Ward, Patriotic Advisor Carol Kissick, Sunshine/crafts Dottie Micco, Chaplain Helen Beal. (Not Shown Peggy McQuaide (Blue to Gold)

## NY2 SECOND ANNUAL GOLD STAR MOTHER'S LUNCHEON

SUBMITTED BY BLUE STAR MOTHER PEGGY SNYDER



On Saturday, September 22nd the Capital Region NY2 held the Second Annual Gold Star Mother's Luncheon. It was attended by 39 Blue star Mother's, Gold Star Mother's, family and friends. A wonderful lunch was prepared by Chef Pat of The American Legion, Joseph E. Zaloga Post 1520 that included his famous vegetable soup, party sandwiches of chicken, tuna and egg salad, macaroni and potato salads and very fresh vegetable and fruit platters with dips. For desert everyone enjoyed the confections of cupcakes that were decorated with gold stars and cookies from were donated by Zachary's Pastry Shoppe and

Sarra Bella Bakery. The tables were beautiful with the colors of white and gold used for tablecloths and napkins and adorned with vases of beautiful gold roses, baby's breath and fern that were given to the Gold Star Mother's at the end of the program. Each Gold Star Mother was presented with a stained glass angel holding a gold star banner that we had specially made by a woman in Texas and afforded by a generous donation from John Brust of Delaware Engineering. Jeanie Smith, one of our Blue Star Mother's brought everyone to tears with her renditions of the National Anthem and God Bless America.

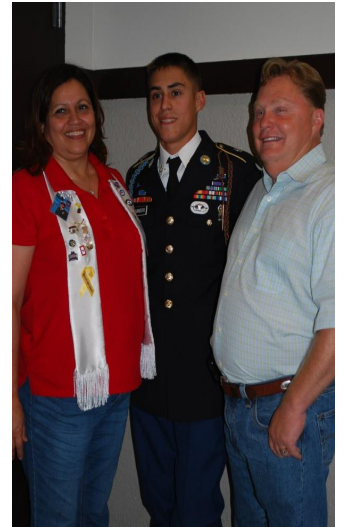
What a very talented woman we have in our midst. After a great afternoon of entertainment by the Clifton Park Community Chorus and The Saint Clare Choraliers each Gold Star Mother was presented with a pillow with their name and their child's name embroidered on the stars in the same design as the quilt that was presented last year. A wonderful afternoon was had by all that attended. It is a real pleasure to interact with these wonderful courageous woman. I would like to thank the committee of Deb Bostic, Joan Butler, Claire Kunz, Janet Lupe, Laurie Miedema, Janet Moran and Darlene Smith for all of their hard work and dedication to putting on this event.

# DEDICATION OF PURPLE HEART TO A HEROES FATHER (CONTINUED PG.1)

So, as soon as the Purple Heart reaches his hands, it will be given to his father. "I want to give it to him. It wasn't that I got hurt, but that I got hurt and returned to the fight two days later. It took courage and a lot out of me to go back. I got all that from my father. He's a good strong man," Tim Sanders said. "He's taught me everything I know." Giving his Purple Heart to his Father was suppose to be a secret, but James Sanders said that secret only lasted about 7 days. "I asked why he wanted to give his Purple Heart to me. He said, the only thing that helped him through Afghanistan and everything he's been through was

because he had a praying father who taught him how to seek God.

"I am deeply honored my son would think of me that much," James Sanders said.  
Text from News Star, Scott Rogers



## BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF COASTAL CAROLINA INVITED GOLD STAR MOTHERS TO A RECEPTION



*Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina*

*Cordially invites you to attend a*

*Gold Star Mother's Day Service*

*September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

*at Two O'clock in the afternoon*

*at the Moose Lodge 1959*

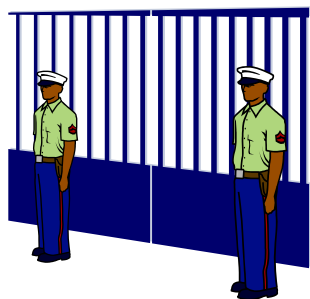
*479 Burreale Road, Myrtle Beach, SC*

## LA 5 HONORS OUR GOLD STARS MOTHERS

Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana Chapter 5 honored our Gold Star Mothers on Saturday September 29, 2012 by having a tea at Edgewood Plantation in Farmerville, Louisiana. A beautiful home built in 1902. It has just been restored into a bed and breakfast. We began our day by sharing our names and speaking about our children's military service. Followed by a tour of the plantation. After having refreshments in the beautiful dining room we had a balloon releasing ceremony in

honor of our Gold Star Mom's. We had the names of all our fallen heroes written on the balloons and read their names out loud before releasing them to the sky. We love our Gold Star Mom's and always want them to know that we remember their Children's service and sacrifice.





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## NATIONAL PATRIOTIC DATES FOR NOVEMBER FROM: JEAN BURLINGAME PNP AND PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

### November 10th, 2012 - Happy 237th Birthday to our United States Marines!

A committee of the Continental Congress met at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, PA, to draft a resolution calling for two battalions of Marines able to fight for independence at sea and on shore so on November 10, 1775, the Marine Corps was born.

### November 11th, 2012 - Veterans Day

National President Pat Soler, National Historian Robin Countryman-Volk and I, National Patriotic Instructor Jean Burlingame will be carrying out our official duties in Washington DC on Veterans' Day.

### November 11th, 2012 - Veterans Day

World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting had ceased seven months earlier when an armistice or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars" and was originally called Armistice Day. Today, November 11 is called Veterans Day and is observed on November 11, regardless

of what day of the week on which it falls, to preserve the historical significance of the date. Most ceremonies are held at the 11th hour on this 11th day of the 11th month. The purpose of Veterans Day is to focus attention on honoring America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. We can all go one step further and thank Veterans whenever we see them during the year.  
Thank you to all of our Veterans!