

October 2024

Blue Star Mothers ROC



We are mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, foster mothers and female legal guardians who have children serving in the military, guard or reserves, or children who are veterans. We support each other and our children while promoting patriotism. Our organization focuses on our mission every single day and will never, ever, forsake our troops, our veterans or the families of our Fallen Heroes.

Upcoming Events/Meetings

- * BSM Meeting:
October 19th @9:30am
Henrietta Ely Fagan American Legion, 260 Middle Road, Henrietta NY
- * Future Strong Stars: Nov
4th 16 Courtney Drive
Fairport
- * Women Veterans'
Coffee House:
November 8th @5:30pm
Ely Fagan American Legion. RSVP to
585-210-9779
- * Lights of Honor
Sunday, December 1st
See page 8 for details
- * Wreaths Across America
December 14th 12noon
Webster See pages 6-7
for details
- * Army Navy Game
December 14th
See page 11 for details

[Volunteers Needed for the events listed below](#)
[See page 9 for details](#)

- *Lights of Honor Dec 1st
- *Wreaths Across American Dec 7th & Dec 14th
- *Army Navy Game Dec 14th

Gold Star Family Sunday

On Sunday, September 29th, the Rochester Blue Star Mothers NY8 hosted a remembrance and honor ceremony for Gold Star Families at the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument. Each Gold Star Family in attendance was presented with a yellow rose after their loved ones name was read. Various community groups participate in this ceremony including the Patriot Guard Riders of New York , Tom Allen Bugler, Operation Taps, VFW Chili Memorial Post 412, and the Gates Keystone Police Pipes & Drums. NY8 Chaplain Mary Anne Zani read a prayer at the Monument. Special thanks to Glenn Peck, Volunteer Photographer, who took individual portraits of the Gold Star Families at the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument. See pages 2 & 3 for additional photos taken by Glenn Peck.



A Big Blue Star Mother THANK YOU to White Haven Memorial Park for once again providing the All Seasons Chapel for the Gold Star Families Remembrance Event



Photos from the Gold Star Families Sunday



Photos by Glenn Peck



Supporting the VA Food Pantry

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. expects there is a Blue Star Mother VAVS Representative at every VA facility. As part of our VAVS (Veterans Administration Voluntary Service) commitment, our chapter is supporting the Canandaigua/Rochester VA Food Pantry. The pantry is made available to veterans coming to the Canandaigua facility and will be a mobile food pantry to the VA Outpatient Clinic in Rochester on Chalkins Rd. You can help support this pantry for veterans in need by bring the items on the Panty List to our monthly chapter meetings.

Pantry List

Canned chicken

Canned Tuna

Pasta

Pasta Sauce (glass/plastic jar or cans)

Rice-A-Roni Meals

Peanut Butter

Oatmeal

Cereal

Canned Fruit

Canned Vegetables

Reusable Shopping Bags

Veteran Crisis Line

If you're a Veteran in crisis or are concerned about one, connect with the Veterans Crisis Line responders for confidential help. Many of them are Veterans themselves. This service is private, free, and available 24/7. Additional info on pages 4 & 5.

Here's how you can connect with a Veterans Crisis Line responder, anytime day or night:

- * Call 988 and select 1**
- * Text 838255**

ROCHESTER 2024 STAND DOWN

The Rochester Blue Star Moms served lunch to the 342 Veterans who attend the Stand Down and Job Fair on Friday, September 13th at the Rochester Public Market. Along with serving lunch, the Rochester Blue Star Mothers NY8 handed out personal care supplies to the Veterans that stopped at over the 100 vendor booths offering information on services and job information. Thank you to all the moms and associate members that came out to help. And a Special THANKS to Mike Schlenker of Michael T. Schlenker (MTS) Produce for the generous donation of a case of apples and a case of bananas for the Veterans



Stokoe Farms Military Appreciation Day

On Sunday September 13th, a beautiful fall day in upstate NY, the Rochester Blue Star Mothers NY8 along with CompeerCORPS, The Vet Center, The Red Cross, The VA, The Veterans Outreach Center, and Before Last Call hosted military families with cider and donuts in the large barn while providing information about services and programs for area veterans, military service members and their families. Thanks to the generosity of the Stokoe Family admission to their farm with over 40 family friendly activities; low ropes course,



bee zip line, petting zoo, wagon rides, and much more was free for the service member/veteran and 3 of their family members.



HELP US REMEMBER ALL OUR HEROES

Remember A Fallen Veteran By Sponsoring A Wreath
3,000 wreaths are needed for veterans resting in local cemeteries
Help us honor them all.

HELP REMEMBER OUR HEROES:

Sponsor a \$17 wreath for a fallen veteran.
\$5 Goes back to Blue Star Mothers ROC NY8 to build Care Packages for locally deployed soldiers.



WREATHS
across
AMERICA

www.wreathscrossamerica.org

SCAN THE QR CODE TO MAKE A DONATION ONLINE

Deadline is: November 21st.

RATHER MAIL DONATION? Request a form. WebsterWreaths@icloud.com

Deadline is: November 21st.



★ **WREATH DAY IS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH** ★

Help Us Place Our Veterans' Wreaths!

Scan QR Code or Email [WebsterWreaths@icloud](mailto:WebsterWreaths@icloud.com) to volunteer



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Wreath Sponsorship Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org. If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card, please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Please make checks payable to:
Wreaths Across America
PO Box 249
Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Call 877-385-9504 with any questions.
 Thank you for your sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

Sponsorship Type	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$17.00		
Mailed "In Honor" card = If you wish to send a physical honor card telling someone of your sponsorship, please see "In Honor" section below. The \$2 fee is required for this mailing.	\$2.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$68.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$170.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,700.00		
		Grand Total	

****GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED ON THIS FORM****

In Honor of:

Below, please provide email or mailing address of "In Honor of" recipient so we can notify them of your sponsorship in their honor. If you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet.

Email address: _____

Mailing address: _____

In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall. Below, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided.

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

State: _____

Please note, ALL sponsored wreaths are shipped directly to the location and NO wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: NYWEUC Sponsorship Group ID: NY0415P Blue Star Mothers

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash: _____ Total: _____ Date Received: _____

Total No. Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____

MO: _____

Entered: _____

GEN:

LIGHTS OF HONOR

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Honoring our Military Service Members and Veterans



LIGHTS OF HONOR Tree Lighting Ceremony Sunday, December 1, 2024

The Blue Star Mothers of Rochester will provide, at no cost to you, the original photo ornament to be hung on the trees at the War Memorial. These ornaments may be displayed annually on the Lights of Honor trees at the War Memorial during the month of December. You are invited back each year to hang those ornaments.

You may also order keepsake duplicate ornaments for \$15 each to bring home and hang on your tree or hand out as gifts. To order keepsake duplicate ornaments please contact us at BlueStarMothersRoc@gmail.com Or Call (585) 210-9779.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF ROCHESTER NEW YORK CHAPTER 8

We invite everyone in the community to share this time to honor our military personnel, past and present. Remember to include parents, grandparents, siblings, spouses and friends. During the ceremony, one person representing each service branch will place an ornament on the tree - Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. Then an ornament will be placed to represent each of the major combat eras in our country's history - *et. al.* and finally an ornament will be placed for National recognition of military awards.

When: Sunday, December 1, 2024

Where: One War Memorial Square
Rochester, NY 14614

Time: 2:00 pm

What: Each service branch and combat era will be honored by an ornament placed on the tree by a military person. At the end of the ceremony you may collect your keepsake ornament if you have ordered one.

How: Use this form to submit your pictures for the ornament to be prepared ahead of time. Additional copies of this form are available on our website:

www.BlueStarMomsROC.com

Please e-mail or mail the following information:

Your name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____

e-mail _____

Phone # _____

To Honor (name) _____

Branch of Service _____

Era/Dates of Service _____
(WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, War on Terror, etc.)

Circle the appropriate status for this person:

SILVER: wounded in the line of duty

GOLD: died in the line of duty

BLACK: Missing in Action or Prisoner of War

BLUE: all other service members

Please circle medals awarded:

Medal of Honor, Purple Heart, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Navy Cross, etc.

Number of keepsake ornaments requested _____

Information must be received by Nov 10th.

E-mail digital (jpeg format) photos to:

BlueStarMothersRoc@gmail.com

Or Call (585) 210-9779 and leave a message and we will get back to you to discuss arrangements to get the picture.

Volunteer Opportunities

Our chapter grows and is able to help more service members, veterans and military families because of volunteers. We need the support of all members, associate members, and those thankful for our military to have successful events like The Veteran Stand Down, Lights of Honor, Care Packages etc. Please look at the opportunities below and see how you can help. Our kids stood up and volunteered, now we need YOU to do the same.

Army Navy Game Fundraiser: 2nd Saturday in December includes basket raffles, auctions, 50/50 tickets. Help needed: collect items for baskets, create baskets, support at event: selling tickets, set-up/clean-up. Contact Nancy General via text at 585-281-1417 or email her at bluestarmothersroc@gmail.com to volunteer.

Military Baby Shower: Annually in May, a community baby shower for military and veteran families expecting a child or have an infant less than 6 months old. Help needed: collect shower gifts, ask for donations, create baskets, support at event: decorating, picking up food items, welcoming moms, serving food, set-up/clean-up. Contact Amy VanDerwerken at president.ny8@bluestarmothers.us or Jill Harris at 1vp.ny8@bluestarmothers.us to volunteer.

Care Packages: Boxes packed/mailed in June & November to service members deployed overseas. Help needed: solicit postal addresses for deployed service members, collect care package items, promote our Amazon gift list for needed care package items. Friday night before packing: set-up of donated items. Saturday morning: put together mailing boxes, fill boxes, seal boxes. Contact Debbie Trevett at treas.ny8@bluestarmothers.us or Kathy Dodsworth at kdodsworth@frontiernet.net to volunteer.

Lights of Honor: First Sunday afternoon in December. Community event to honor and remember service members past and present with speakers and the hanging of ornaments with pictures of the service members on Christmas tree. Help needed: lining up speakers and entertainment, creating ornaments, publicity, creating flyer/program, set-up/clean-up, greeting guests. Contact Jeanne Ristau at jeanneristau6064@gmail.com or Dory Braun at dbraun4@gmail.com to volunteer.

Veteran Women's Coffee House: Monthly get-together for veteran women. Dinner is served. Help needed: preparing food for dinner, set-up/clean-up. CoChairs are Nancy Bird and Dory Braun. Contact Dory Braun at dbraun4@gmail.com to volunteer.

Wreaths Across American: Volunteers are needed on Saturday, December 7th at 10am at Webster Union Cemetery (345 Webster Rd, Webster, NY 14580) begin marking 2,200 Veteran graves in 4 Webster cemeteries in preparation for the December 14th 12noon event when wreaths will be laid at the graves. Contact Cherie Wood at 585-305-8250 with questions or to sign-up to volunteer.



Blue Star Mothers ROC



CARE PACKAGE DRIVE

Help Us Send A Little Bit of Home to Our Deployed Military

Packages sent twice a year in June and November

Items Needed by 11/18/24 for November Packages

Personal Care Items

*Wet Wipes
Lip Balm/Chap Stick
Gum
Hygiene Products (Soap, Deodorant,
Q-Tips, shampoo, toothpaste,
Foot Powder, Tissues)
Black Cotton Socks
Magazines (sports/fitness)
Dryer sheets (used to put in boots)
Playing Cards
Cards/Letters
Cross word Puzzel books*

Snacks/Treats

*Beef Jerky or Slim Jims
Powdered Drink Mixes– single serve
(Powerade, Gatorade, Cystal Light)
Instant Coffee single serve
Tea Bags
Hot Chocolate
Oatmeal packets
Granola / Cereal Bars / Protein Bars
Cookies (Individual packs of Oreos, Chips ohoy)
Trail Mix
Nut Packets
Pringles (snack size)
Pretzels/Cheetos/Chex Mix/Crackers – snack size*

Save time and visit our Amazon BSM Roc NY8 Care Package Wishlist and purchase some items and have them shipped directly to us for packing.

amazon



Amazon Care Package Link: <https://a.co/auDQ1bo>

Care Packages to be packed on Saturday, November 23rd at 9:30 am at the American Legion Post 942 818 Ridge Rd Webster NY 14580

Blue Star Mothers NY8
1335 Jefferson Road, # 93272,
Rochester NY 14692
www.bluestarmomsroc.com
Email: president.ny8@bluestarmothers.us
Facebook: Blue Star Mothers Roc
585-943-1252



Join the Fun!

BLUE STAR MOTHERS ROC ARMY VS. NAVY GAME FUNDRAISER



December 14th, 2024 @ Noon
Spencerport American Legion Post 330
691 Trimmer Rd, Spencerport, NY 14559



Tailgating, Raffles, 50/50, Food & Drinks

Come join the fun!
Service Dogs Welcome

Pre-game Starts at Noon
Kickoff is at 3PM

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
NANCY GENERAL or MARCY DEWAAL
(585) 210-9779
BLUESTARMOTHERSROC@GMAIL.COM
www.BlueStarMomsRoc.com