


## August 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:  
August 17th @9:30am  
Henrietta Ely Fagan  
American Legion, 260  
Middle Road, Henrietta  
NY
- \* Future Strong Stars: Sept  
2nd @7pm at Panera  
1902 Monroe Ave,  
Brighton
- \* Women Veterans'  
Coffee House:  
September 13th  
@5:30pm Ely Fagan  
American Legion. RSVP  
to  
585-210-9779
- \* Gold Star Mother & Fam-  
ily Day Sept 29th
- \* Army Navy Game   
December 14th  
The 125th meeting  
between these teams

### Volunteers Needed for the events listed below

- \* Webster Garlic Festi-  
val Sept 7-8 at the  
Webster Rec Center
- \* VOC Stand Down  
Sept 13th at the  
Rochester Public Mar-  
ket

## CARE PACKAGES

Of the 172 care packages packed and mailed by Blue Star Mothers NY8 and friends on Saturday, June 22nd, 15 were sent to the American Red Cross Service Station in Poland. A note from the Red Cross staff person, Darla Roote deployed to Poland, accompanied the picture below.

*Thank you so much for all 15 of the care packages. To see Wilson Beef Farms in the mix was wonderful. I love their snack sticks and have promoted them to all the soldiers. We are very grateful for all of the love that went into sending so much to us. Some of the soldiers are getting ready to go on a 100 mile, 4 day ruck march and are so glad to have the snacks available to them. Here are a couple of pictures that were taken with the first boxes that we received. Again, I/we cannot thank you enough.*



If you would like to help with the costs of mailing care packages, donations are gratefully accepted. Checks made out to **Rochester Blue Star Mothers NY8** can be sent to our new mailing address:

**Blue Star Mothers—NY8**  
1335 Jefferson RD #93272  
Rochester NY 14692

**A Big Blue Star Mother THANKS to the folks at the North East Quadrant Advanced Life Support Center for sharing their space for care package set-up and packing!!!**



# Chapter Elections at the August 17th Meeting

The Chapter positions of President, 1st Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer will be voted on at the August 17th meeting. You will need to be a current, active member of the chapter and present at the meeting to vote. A chapter needs good leadership and involved members and associates to accomplish our mission to support each other and our children while promoting patriotism and will never, ever, forsake our troops, our veterans or the families of our Fallen Heroes. Please contact Amy VanDerwerken if you would like more information about elected or appointed positions

## **The elected positions and their responsibilities include:**

- \* **Chapter President:** represents the chapter at local events, presides at chapter meetings, is knowledgeable of National governing rules, appoints non-elected officers and committee chairs as needed
- \* **Chapter 1st VP:** assists the chapter president when called on and as necessary, represents the chapter when the president is unavailable
- \* **Chapter Recording Secretary:** takes detailed minutes of chapter and executive board meetings, assists in the transmitting of documents and correspondence if necessary
- \* **Chapter Financial Secretary:** receives and deposits all money received by the chapter, transmits all bills to be paid as authorized by the chapter president, maintains accurate financial records and receives and processes membership applications and dues received from members
- \* **Chapter Treasurer:** pays all bills upon disbursement request, assures all checks are prepared properly and signed by herself and Chapter Financial Secretary, maintains accurate financial records.

## **Blue Star Mother Renewals Due By August 31st**

Blue Star Mothers annual membership renewal is coming due, the \$30 membership fee of which \$15 stays with National BSM and \$15 goes to our chapter is due by 8/31/2024. The membership fee is only for mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, foster mothers and female legal guardians who have children serving in the military, guard or reserves, or children who are veterans. Becoming a member and renewing your membership allows you the privilege of voting on chapter business. Associate members, an important part of our chapter, do not have a membership fee and as such can not vote on BSM business, their membership does not expire. National sends out reminder emails with a link to the National website to renew and pay. Easiest way to renew your membership is on-line at

<https://www.bluestarmothers.org/new-membership-joining-existing-membership-renewals>



*Honor Our Heroes*

**Give Blood**



## **Gary Beikirch Memorial Blood Drive**

**Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
9-2pm**

**Northwest YMCA  
730 Long Pond Road  
Rochester, NY 14612**

For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
and enter sponsor keyword: **YMCAGaryB**  
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



A former U.S. Army Special Forces combat medic, Beikirch, received the Medal of Honor, for his heroic actions at Camp Dak Seang, Vietnam, on April 1, 1970. Despite serious wounds, Sergeant Beikirch worked to defend the camp and tend to wounded soldiers. Gary went on to be active in his community as a school guidance counselor and minister. He died December 26, 2021, surrounded by his wife, Lolly, and family.