

January 2025

★ **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:
January 18th
@9:30am Henrietta
Ely Fagan American
Legion, 260 Middle
Road, Henrietta NY
- * Future Strong Stars:
January 7th @7-
8pm Panera Bread
795 Jefferson Rd,
Henrietta NY See
2025 schedule on
page 10
- * Women Veterans'
Coffee House:
January 17th
@5:30pm Ely Fa-
gan American Le-
gion. RSVP to
585-210-9779
See Jan & Feb dates
on page 7

[See page 11](#)
[for how YOU](#)
[can volunteer](#)
[for BSM](#)
[events](#)



Lights of Honor

On December 1st the community was invited and attended the Lights of Honor event hosted by the Rochester Blue Star Mothers at the Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial. This is an annual event to recognize and honor service members and their sacrifices. Ornaments with pictures of service members and veterans are hung on evergreen trees in the lobby and remain there until early January. The Blue Star Mothers wish to thank all the individuals and groups that make this event possible. Thanks to BSM Jeanne Ristau and her committee for making this annual tribute a meaningful event in the Rochester Community. See pages 2-5 for a copy of the Lights of Honor program.



**ANNUAL
LIGHTS OF HONOR**

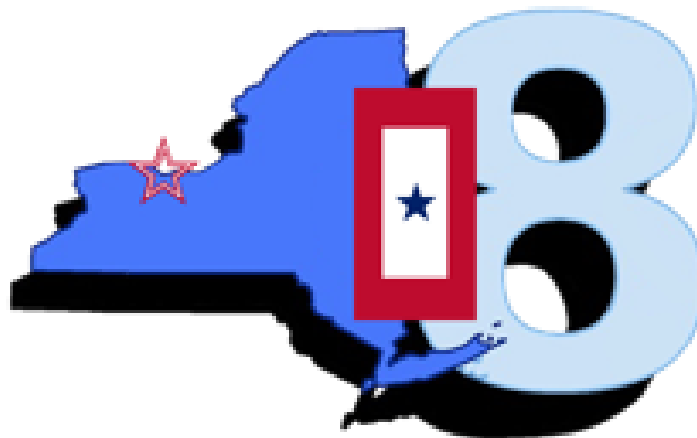
**Blue Star Mothers
Rochester NYS**

Honoring our Military Past & Present

Sunday, December 1, 2024

2:00 P.M.

Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial



Blue Star Mothers NY 8, wish to recognize the following for their dedication and unwavering support of today's military, veterans and their families which makes our mission easier to sustain (in alphabetical order).

American Red Cross

Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial

Compeer Corps

Disabled American Veterans New York 15

Ely Fagan Stevens Connors American Legion #1151

Home Depot Foundation

Glover Crask Foundation

Mission BBQ

Panera Bread

Stokoe Farms

Veterans Outreach Center

Whitehaven Memorial

Greg Wilkes, Wilkes Engraving



Blue Star Mothers ROC NY8

1335 Jefferson Rd, #93272

Rochester NY 14692

Web: www.bluestarmomsroc.com

Facebook: Blue Star Mothers ROC

Phone: (585) 210-9779



Welcome to the Lights of Honor Ceremony

Presentation of Colors – Towpath Volunteers, Fife and Drum Corps.
and Rochester Early College International HS JR ROTC

National Anthem - Pittsford Sutherland Concert Choir

Pledge of Allegiance – Women Veterans Coffee House

Blue Star Mothers' Preamble – Blue Star Mothers/Associate Members

Invocation- Chaplain Tom Puff

Welcome - Amy VanDerwerken, President Blue Star Mothers NYS

Introduction of Distinguished Guests

Master of Ceremonies –Eric Wheeler, United States Army and Navy
Veteran

Keynote Speaker – Lt. Col. Doug Hermann, United States Army,
Retired

Armed Forces Medley- Towpath Volunteers, Fife and Drum Corp

Presentation of Branch Ornaments

Song for the Unsung Hero- Pittsford Sutherland Concert Choir

Presentation of Era/Conflict Ornaments

America The Beautiful- United States Army 198th Brass Band Quintet

Honorable Military Career – Robert (Bob) Persichitti

Presentation of Medals

Lighting of the Trees –Pedro D. Quinones IV (PJ)

Benediction – Chaplain Tom Puff

Retiring the Colors – Rochester JR ROTC and Towpath Volunteers,
Fife & Drum Corps.

Closing Remarks – Amy VanDerwerken, President Blue Star Mothers
NYS





BLUE STAR MOTHERS PREAMBLE

We the Mothers of members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America do unite to establish a permanent organization.

Desiring to continue to be of service to our nation, we dedicate our time and our lives, if necessary, to the perpetuation of democratic government and are proud and honored that our sons and daughters have chosen to serve their country.



Supporting the VA Food Pantry

Support the Canandaigua and Rochester VA Food Pantry by bringing something for the Pantry to our monthly Blue Star Mothers meeting.

Pantry List

Canned chicken

Pasta

Rice-A-Roni Meals

Oatmeal

Canned Fruit

Reusable Shopping Bags

Canned Tuna

Pasta Sauce (glass/plastic jar or cans)

Peanut Butter

Cereal

Canned Vegetables

Veteran Crisis Line

Call 988 and select 1 or Text 838255



It takes courage to speak up when you recognize signs of crisis in yourself or others.



**UPDATED 2025 Blue Star Mother NY8 Sponsored
Veteran Women's Coffee House**

January 17th

February 14th



**Ely Fagan American Legion
260 Middle Road
Henrietta, NY 14467
From 5:30- 8:30pm**

Free Light supper and refreshments provided
(open to female veterans only)

Come meet other Female Veterans in a casual atmosphere that is safe, alcohol and drug free for socializing, sharing resources, and networking

To confirm/RSVP or get additional information, contact Dory or Nancy, co-chairs of Veteran Women's Coffee

House at (585) 210-9779 or email
BlueStarMothersROC@gmail.com

Remainder of 2025 dates TBD



**Monroe Powers
#15**

The local DAV (Disabled American Veterans) has a new office located at
**Ste 4 1239 University Ave
Rochester NY 14607-1636
Phone: (585) 451-5218**

Wreaths Across America

The community and the Blue Star Mothers once again came together to support the Webster NY Wreaths Across America on December 7th when the graves were marked and on December 14th when wreaths were placed at 2200 Veteran graves at three cemeteries in Webster NY.



Donors to the 2024 Army Navy Game Day Fundraiser

Rochester Museum and Science Center

Black Button Distilling

Rochester Americans

Mind Body Float

Taste of Texas BBQ

Deerfield Country Club

Spencerport Hots

DJ Pizzeria

Spencerport Legion

Caraglios Pizza

RPO (Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra)

Rochester Knighthawks

Marketview Liquor

Genesee Country Museum

Mission BBQ

Perris Pizza (Spencerport Location)

Subway (Spencerport Location)

Compeer Corps

Army Navy Game Day Fundraiser

The 125th meeting of Army and Navy on the football field took place on December 14th. The Rochester Blue Star Mothers with the support of the Spencerport Legion hosted a fundraiser during the game to raise money for the many projects the BSM support; care packages, veteran standdown, and the military baby shower. There were 30 raffle baskets, a beautifully framed photo of an eagle in a cemetery and a macrame American Flag auctioned off. The rivalry is strong but it is all in good fun to celebrate the heroes that take the field!! Thanks to BSM Nancy General and Marcy DeWaal and their committee for making this a successful and fun event. Thank you donors for your generous contribution for this event, Donors listed on page 8.



2025 Future Strong Stars



Come for dinner with us at Panera Bread locations, 7-8 p.m.

Help us in building bridges with the Families of all Branches of the Armed Forces.

06 JAN	Henrietta	795 Jefferson Road
03 FEB	Gates	1501 Howard Road
03 MAR	Brighton	1902 Monroe Avenue
07 APR	Greece	800 Greece Ridge Center Drive
05 MAY	Fairport	16 Courtney Drive
02 JUN	Webster	935 Holt Road
07 JUL	Henrietta	795 Jefferson Road
04 AUG	Gates	1501 Howard Road
01 SEP (Labor Day)	Brighton	1902 Monroe Avenue
06 OCT	Greece	800 Greece Ridge Center Drive
03 NOV	Fairport	16 Courtney Drive
01 DEC	Webster	935 Holt Road

Blue Star Mothers: 585-210-9779 or bluestarmomsroc.com

Holiday Meals for Area Veterans

Between December 18th and 20th the Rochester Blue Star Mothers brought sandwich platters, chips, and cookies to six Veteran housing communities in Rochester, Spencerport, and Batavia to serve 155 veterans a holiday meal. Thanks to BSMs Lara Whitney, Nancy Lopez, Joanne Cooper, Sue Louis, Tammy Ensmann, and Amy VanDerwerken, not only were the BSMs able to deliver food but some presents and household cleaning supplies for the veterans and their families.

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, see how you can help. Our kids stood up and volunteered, now we need YOU to do the same.

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.

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.

Webster Garlic Fest Annual September event in Webster, date TBD.

Veteran Stand Down: Organized annually by Veteran Outreach Center in September for area veterans with information on community services, employment and support. Held during the day on Friday at the Public Market in Rochester. Help needed: serving lunch to veterans, staffing BSM table and handing out hygiene supplies, set-up/clean-up. Contact Amy VanDerwerken at president.ny8@bluestarmothers.us to volunteer.



Blue Star Mothers ROC NY8
1335 Jefferson Rd, #93272
Rochester NY 14692
Web: www.bluestarmomsroc.com
Facebook: Blue Star Mothers ROC
Phone: (585) 210-9779