



A GROUP OF WOMEN WITH ONE THING IN COMMON —
ALL HAVE CHILDREN SERVING IN THE MILITARY.

JUNE, 2023

Chapter President's Letter

Dear Everyone,

Welcome to early Summer! It has been a beautiful Spring so one has great hopes for the weather this year.

Our Clean-Up Day at the Canteen with the Canandaigua VFW was wonderful. They were a tremendous help, and we had a lot done. Beth was the Overseer on the project; she had a list of jobs to be done, and they got through it like Champs. Guy, a former Marine, tore down all the ivy that had overtaken the side of the barn. The barn is looking much cleaner now. The inside of the barn was cleaned out by Bobbie and her husband for the garage sale so double bonus.

Linda made a delicious lunch for everyone, and we were out of there by three. They even planted the new striped lilac tree to remember our Vet, Terrence. He loved helping at the Canteen, and he adored lilacs so we thought this was a good idea. All of our trees survived the winter and are in good health. We discovered that beautiful plant at the very back of the yard to be a flowering peony variety (courtesy of my son's horticultural App). It is very pretty and a lovely deep pink.

Things are looking up on the grounds. We are not having another meeting until September as it is hard to get people to come to summer meetings what with vacations, etc. We will be talking to Val and Bobbie about the October project. Things are moving along there. Jean Burlingame has found some delightful trophies to present, we have some food trucks lined up to go, some craft vendors lined up and donations for the baskets we will auction off. We even have a list of tasting judges for the chili cookoff and the baking contest. Sounds delicious!

I attended a Memorial Day Service in Cheshire and spoke at their request about who Blue Star Mothers are and what we do. It was well received and served to remind everyone that we would not have all the joys of summer if we did not have Memorial Day to make it possible. I

ask you to remember those who have given their lives and those who are still serving and those who have served as well as the families that have gone through all of it as we have done. We owe all of them a huge THANK YOU!

Yours in Service,

Joyce

Results from elections held on September 10, 2022

Blue Star Mothers - New York #1 Elected Executive Board for 2021-2022

President – Joyce Mader

1st Vice President – Linda Green

2nd Vice President – Valerie Haynes

Recording Secretary – Peg McCarthy

Financial Secretary and Membership Chair - Bobbie Metcalfe

Treasurer – Beth Olson

The following positions are appointed.

Corresponding Secretary – shared by Jean Burlingame and Bobbie Metcalfe

Chaplain – Jean Burlingame

Historian – Jane Hallstead

Parliamentarian – Peg McCarthy

Patriotic Instructor – Ann Wido

Sgt. at Arms – Becky Nohe

As of June 12th, there are 27 moms and 30 associate members of NY#1.

Canteen News

Barn Sale on the first weekend in May was a success! Proceeds used to purchase mulch for the garden with extra for the bank! Any stuff left over went to AMVETS.

GoNetSpeed is the Internet provider at the Canteen.

The Iris at the Canteen are stunning as is the peony bush at the very back of the yard and the lilacs. The snowball tree is coming up beautifully and our newest lilac tree is thriving.

Shoot out for Soldiers will be making dinner at the Canteen for June and the Lion's Club in July. Joyce is making dinner in August. September is still open and need someone to make dinner that month.

Use of the Blue Star Canteen and/or grounds by vetted and approved outside groups

Section 1. The canteen is a part of New York Chapter 1 and Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.'s mission. Any use of the canteen or grounds by an outside group is not to be encouraged.

Requests for use of the BSMA, Inc. NY1 Chapter Canteen must be submitted in writing or via email to recsec.ny1@bluestarmothers.us. There may be a few exceptions which must be vetted before being approved by the Chapter Board of Directors at a CEB meeting and by the membership at a chapter meeting before approval is given for use. Should there be an urgent request received, the Chapter President (CP) may use email to contact members of the CEB. Upon CEB approval, the CP may use email to contact the membership. All requests, meeting minutes, emails and/or responses should be sent to the Recording Secretary for her records.

Section 2. An approved group of no more than 25 people, must have a current certificate of insurance, naming the BSMA Chapter 1 as an additional insured, on file with BSMA, NY Chapter 1 Recording Secretary, prior to their use of the canteen and/or grounds.

Section 3. No parking in the Dentist Office parking lot unless the dental office is closed for the day.

Section 4. A Blue Star Mother is required to be constantly present during the entire use of the Canteen and/or grounds or the event cannot take place. Accessing the canteen will be by the back door only. The front door is not to be used. The Blue Star Mother attending will unlock the back door for the group and will be responsible for locking the door at the end of the meeting. She will also make sure lights are turned off and the alarm is set before leaving.

Section 5. There are to be no firearms, weapons, smoking, vaping, alcohol, or drug use in the canteen or on the grounds of the canteen.

Section 6. The upstairs, the pantry and its content, and all kitchen appliances including the stove, are off limits. Groups may bring in their own snacks or non-alcoholic beverages.

Section 7. Groups are required to leave the canteen, including the bathroom, clean after their meeting and take trash with them.

Section 8. A copy of these rules must be posted in the Canteen kitchen at all times.

Section 9. Violations of any of these rules will result in use of the canteen and/or grounds being revoked.

Section 10. A copy of these rules will be given to any approved group prior to their use of the canteen or grounds.

More from Joyce Mader about the Memorial Day Service in Cheshire:

At the Cheshire Volunteer Fire Department Memorial Day Program, Jed Simpson, the Town Supervisor, spoke about what Memorial Day meant to him and told the story of finding letters from his Great-Uncle who served in WW1. He found a book where his uncle wrote in the margins about the various battles and mentioned the names of his brothers-in-arms who had been killed or wounded. He wrote about going through the meadows of France and Belgium, and how the Germans were strafing the fields with machine gun fire. The uncle had been shot

in the head but survived. Unfortunately, someone told his family that he had died while he, very much alive, was in-route back to the US at the end of the War. His parents and kin were overjoyed when he returned.

Pam Helming, our NY State Senator and a friend to Chapter #1, was also in Cheshire to remind everyone why we were there. They had a wonderful singer and a local Chaplain. Joyce spoke about Blue Star Mothers: how the organization came into being, where it all started, how long we have been around, and what exactly we do for our deployed Service People, our Veterans and the Military Families on the home front. There were children there as well, taking it all in and learning what we owe to those who lay down their lives for all of the rest of us. It was a moving program.

People then went to the nearby cemetery to place a wreath on the monument for the Civil War Soldiers whose remains are scattered everywhere. A local lady recited the Gettysburg Address, and another woman played the guitar. We all sang America, the Beautiful. There was a gun salute from the Canandaigua American Legion in honor of the deceased, and the Chaplain closed with a benediction. It was a glorious day: warm, sunny, blooming everywhere with flowers, and trees in bud. In a way, it was heartbreaking as those who purchased our freedom had to leave sunshine and birdsong behind forever. They strongly believed in what they were doing to secure the future for themselves, their families and descendants.

Jane and Geoff Hallstead walked in a Memorial Day parade representing BSMA NY#1



The following was submitted by Peg McCarthy, originally from May, 2008. (Edited for space.)

"A Hero Was Here" is the tag line for the site honoring the military service of SGT John "Kyle" Daggett, US Army.

Kyle was mortally injured during the battle for Sadr City, Iraq. He would die two weeks later, in Halifax, Canada (en-route to Walter Reed National MC in MD), with his family by his side on May 15, 2008.

The Stryker vehicle he and his patrol were in came under RPG attack. The two soldiers in the rear gun wells, Kyle & SPC Shane Stuard, took the brunt of the attack.

With May being Armed Forces Appreciation Month, please take a moment to remember all who have served, especially those that made the "ultimate sacrifice".

REMEMBER THEM TODAY ... AND TOMORROW



That's Sgt. John "Kyle" Daggett, 22, Airborne Army Ranger from Phoenix, AZ. He died from injuries sustained when an airburst mortar exploded over the armored vehicle he was traveling in. Daggett was in the rear gun hatch, exposed, along with another soldier when the explosion occurred in Baghdad. Sgt. Daggett's injuries were overwhelming yet he made it from Baghdad to Germany to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he finally succumbed.

Sgt. Daggett's died a hero. And that, after the mortar exploded, the driver of the vehicle who recovered enough to drive *"like a bat out of hell to the evac site, taking out vehicles, utility poles and anything else in his way"* was Spc. James McCarthy.

SPC Shane Stuard, a father of three, who was riding alongside Sgt. Daggett, recovered from his injuries while at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

I'm anti-war. I think any sane person is. But I am pro-soldier ... because war is the worst thing on this earth and soldiers know it and they choose to do it anyway — so the rest of us don't have to.

Once in a room with four Vietnam veterans and a Desert Storm veteran. The conversation centered on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the realities of being a soldier. At one point, the Desert Storm vet looked me in the eye and asked, "How come you never served your country?" There was no malice in the asking, but all conversation stopped and everyone waited for an answer. I had no answer that seemed adequate so I told the truth, "I made the choice to avail myself of the freedoms that you have fought to provide me ... Thank you." And one of the Vietnam vets stuck out a hand and said, "Fair enough. You're welcome."
Remember the cost of freedom.

Important Upcoming Dates

Shootout for Soldiers is scheduled for July 29, 2023.

National BSMA Convention is July 31 to August 4, 2023, in Nashville, Tennessee at the Millenium Maxwell House Hotel. Bobbie M. and Jean B. will attend from NY#1.

Next BSMA NY#1 meeting will be Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 9AM at the Canteen.

Save Saturday, October 21st, for the Buffalo Bills Tailgate Party including a chili contest, baking contest, a food truck rodeo, raffle baskets, and a craft sale at the Canteen. More details to follow as they become available.

BSMA NY#1 Ongoing Fundraisers

Window car clings are available for all military branches. Contact Bobbie at 585-200-0121 for more information on other items and to order.

Keep collecting those used cell phones and toner cartridges from your printers. Also, any scrap metal, wire, old stoves, refrigerators, or other metal items are needed. We get cash for them! Please contact Bobbie Metcalfe.

Interested in contributing information for a future newsletter? The next newsletter will be published in September, 2023; the deadline is the 15th of the month. Please send MaryAgnes (mother of two Marines and godmother of a Soldier) an email at mamcavoy@aol.com should you wish to submit information. Please do check our website www.bluestarmothersny1.org for additional information, photos, and more. This newsletter is also available on the website address noted above under the "About Us" menu tab.

