



**In a military family, we all serve!**

**December, 2025**

***Chapter President's Letter***

Dear Everybody,

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Happy Kwanza! We have had a very busy year and it's not letting up just yet. Bobbie is busy helping Toys for Tots with their annual Campaign along with our Vet, Cliff, and Jon Isaacs from Shootout for Soldiers, heavily disguised as the Grinch! He will be attending our monthly dinner on 17 December. Also, we have Sparky and Joe. Sparky is Santa Claus and, honestly, the real deal! Joe is an Air Force Vet and a very loving and giving person to all. We are proud to call them friends.

We are going to sort children's clothing on 29 November for delivery to poverty level families at the North Wolcott/Rose Elementary School. There are many veteran families there that are at poverty level or below. The school does an incredible job to help the children with doing laundry, supplying clothing, and providing breakfast and lunch. They also send home a small meal for the children to have something to eat for supper. We have gotten slightly used children's clothing, shoes, boots, coats, etc. as well as small individual meals in cans and will donate them to the school. Rob, who is a vet that works for the NYS Veterans Homeless Program. Rob travels around in a van supplying the homeless veterans' families with clothing and supplies. We also have twenty new child size blankets and lap robes for him to distribute. This will be an ongoing project for our Chapter as the need is great and we are able to beat the bushes to get supplies. Learn more about this at the January meeting. We would like to thank the Victor Community Clothing Closet for their kind donation as well as all the others who contributed.

As we head into the end of the year and I reflect on how much we have gotten done for our veterans and troops, I am amazed, as always, at how we did it. We have a wonderful group of Moms and a tremendous Community in this region. My deepest Thanks to all.

We have a new Mom helping today with her Marine Daughter, newly graduated from Marine Boot Camp! At this same time, MaryAgnes McAvoy is preparing to travel to her son Douglas's

Marine Retirement Ceremony after twenty years of service. Our deepest thanks to Douglas on his service!

Please keep all of our currently serving and veterans in your heart and prayers this season and, indeed, every day. They watch over all of us as we watch over them.

Merry Christmas,

Joyce

As of September 15, 2025, there are 23 Moms and 26 Associate members in NY#1.

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### **Results from elections held on September 13, 2025**

#### **Blue Star Mothers – New York #1 Elected Executive Board for 2025-2026**

President – Joyce Mader

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Linda Green

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – MaryAgnes McAvoy

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Val Haynes

4<sup>th</sup> Vice President – Ricci Shuttleworth

Recording Secretary – Joanne Acquilano

Financial Secretary – Fran Gallahan and Carol Adamowicz

Treasurer – Bobbie Metcalfe

The following positions are appointed.

Corresponding Secretary – Bobbie Metcalfe

Chaplain – Val Haynes

Historian – Jane Hallstead

Sgt. At Arms – Becky Nohe

Patriotic Instructor – Rose Asproules

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Beef Jerky Day starts on October 8<sup>th</sup> and goes until November 11<sup>th</sup> at Bass Pro Shops.

Customers purchase the beef jerky and donate the package to NY#1. We send the jerky to the troops overseas in holiday packages and in packages sent other times of the year. Also, the jerky is included in Christmas bags for our Veterans.





In October, Geoff Hallstead and the Lion's Club presented to Joyce and NY#1 the Robert J. Uplinger Distinguished Service Award. The award reads "In recognition of your continuous loving care for Veterans in Canandaigua and beyond. You provide food & clothes that are very helpful, but the Mom hugs that are always warm, welcoming, and abundant set you apart."

### Canteen News

Thanksgiving Dinner for our Veterans held on 11/19 went like a dream! As usual, Linda had everything planned. Val roasted one turkey and Brian Mader smoked one. Linda did ham, stuffing, her famous cheesy potatoes, a luscious apple pie, plus mashed potatoes. Rosie did a green bean casserole and Becky did squash. Ricci provided rolls; Joyce did corn casserole; Carol provided gravy; Bobbie provided Banana bread; Fran did the pumpkin bread. Shawn provided the coolest heating tray which everyone wanted. Joanne sent Pumpkin pie that was delicious. We finally had someone who knew how to carve a turkey!!! A new Vet, Jerome, a cook by trade, did an amazing job on carving the two very yummy birds! There was a great turnout, and everyone went home satisfied. Also, there was take out, for those unable to attend. Kitchen clean-up was quick thanks to Geoff and Jane Hallstead. Everyone contributed, everyone worked hard, and it was amazing.

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December 17<sup>th</sup> is scheduled to be pizza and wing dinner with a holiday party. Please contact Linda Green to help out or contribute food at the monthly dinners for our Vets.





In attendance at the meeting of November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Canteen. Standing (l to r) are Linda, Fran, Jane, Val, Rosie, and Joanne. Seated are Ricci, Carol, Joyce, Becky, and MaryAgnes. Not shown is Bobbie who took the picture.

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#### VETERANS DAY, 2025

Our Service people get a serious thank you from all the Blue Star Mothers for all they give for our nation by responding to the call of duty when the home front is in disarray due to the recent government shutdown. We helped the troops at Fort Drum with food, diapers, and wipes during that time. Bobbie, Becky, and Rosie made the journey through the snow and wind to get everything there. The coordinator of the drive was overwhelmed by the generosity of all who donated to make survival a reality until the Troops get paid again. Our troops do well when they know their families on the home front are secure; we helped that happen. Please keep all our active-duty troops in your prayers as they struggle. Please keep our Veterans in your prayers as some of them live on the brink economically.

Bobbie, Rosie, coordinator Natalie, and Becky at Ft. Drum



Currently, until December 30<sup>th</sup>, we are collecting children's clothing, shoes, boots, winter coats, new underwear, new socks, etc. from size 4T to children's size 16. The clothing will be distributed to the families of homeless Veterans through Rob who works for New York State Veterans Services in our area. He is anxious to get the clothing as the weather is increasingly wintry. Some of the clothing will also go to Veterans families who are at or below the poverty line in North Wolcott Rose area. We are delivering to the Elementary School and their Outreach teacher will see to the distribution. The teachers wash the clothing of the children and make sure they themselves are clean. Small one person servings of food, apples, etc. are kept on hand as many of the children get breakfast at school and sometimes lunch but have nothing for supper. Our Chapter has supplied small cans of mac and cheese, ravioli, etc. so they can take it home to eat for supper. The teachers are an incredible group and we feel honored to help.

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NY#1 is supporting 28 families and 20-25 Vets for the holidays.

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TOYS FOR TOTS collected toys at many of the Five Below retail stores throughout the eight-county area on weekends in November and December. A concert held on December 8<sup>th</sup> also to benefit Toys For Tots. The need for toys was great this year for boys and girls up to the age of 16.

Earlier this year, thanks to Jeff Gallahan, representative of the NYS 131<sup>st</sup> district, NY#1 was awarded a \$50,000 grant. This money is to be used for remodeling and updating our Canteen. Expected work to be done are new kitchen cabinets, new downstairs bathroom, new hot water heater, furnace and A/C, and work on the barn at the rear of the property. The grant is awaiting final stages of approval before work can begin.

### **Important Upcoming Dates**

Next NY#1 meeting is Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Canteen at 9AM. Hope to see everyone there!

Chicken BBQ Fundraiser date is set, but at a new location at 746 County Road 7 in Clifton Springs. Put Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> on your calendar now! There will be NO craft fair and NO basket raffle as NO space at this location, but there will be a bake sale though. Pre-sale tickets will be available again. This event is a drive thru.

**To all the military Moms out there, you are the quiet heroes behind the heroes.**

### **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 March, 2026; the deadline is usually the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month at the very latest. Please send MaryAgnes (mother of two Marines and godmother of a Soldier) an email at [mamcavoy@aol.com](mailto:mamcavoy@aol.com) should you wish to submit information. Please do check our website [www.bluestarmothersny1.org](http://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.

