



In a military family, we all serve!

September, 2026

Chapter President's Letter

Dear Everyone,

Welcome to September!! It's been a really nice summer, hasn't it? I was happy with cooler temperatures so one could be outside without melting. We started the renovations of the Canteen finally, and we are very excited. Brian has already got the bathroom finished and it looks great. He has met with Rich, husband of Sandy who is a member of our Chapter and who has raised their grandson, Keith, a member of the National Guard just returned from deployment. Rich is a former HVAC installer, and he is working with Brian on getting the new system so next summer we may have air conditioning! YAY!!

We have done 168 book bags for children of low-income Veterans which was a great project, and I thank everyone who showed up to help. As you know, the barn has been cleaned out and the new freezer is now due on September 16th. Brian installed a new electrical outlet and the place is looking good. Stephen is keeping the lawn mowed and trying to get the edge on the weeds. As you know the Cherry tree had to come down, which was sad but, on the other hand, the August lilies, in purple, bloomed like crazy with all the sunshine and rain now that they are not in the shade.

We are planning the Holiday for Heroes project already and have been getting families together for adoption. If you know of any Veteran families that can't do Christmas, please find out their information and tell Bobbie. We sent 13 boxes out already and most likely will be sending more. Becky and Rosie have been a tremendous help with that. They really know how to pack!

Please remember our troops, no matter where they are stationed and pray for them. Remember that those who died are not "small potatoes". They were our children and deserve to be remembered with thankfulness.

Yours in Service,
Joyce

Results from elections held on September 12, 2026

Blue Star Mothers – New York #1 Elected Executive Board for 2026-2027

President – Joyce Mader

1st Vice President – Linda Green

2nd Vice President – MaryAgnes McAvoy

3rd Vice President – Val Haynes

4th 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

As of July, 2026, there are 23 Moms and 24 Associate members in NY#1.



Shootout for Soldiers was on July 25th at Canandaigua Academy. In the beige shirt is Keith (picture on the right) who is in the National Guard and was stationed in the Middle East and Germany. His grandparents (not shown) are members of NY#1! We sent him loads of beef jerky which he shared with fellow soldiers. NY#1 is a beneficiary of SFS.

Canteen News

Finally approved! The Grant for the Canteen was official approved in early August! Work to remodel and update the kitchen is under way. The small bathroom is complete; next project is the pantry off the kitchen. Also, the garage roof and door will be repaired. Jeff Gallahan worked hard for us, his constituents! See below for presentation of the check by Jeff in 2024 with Joyce, Carol, and Jane!



Joyce with Rob, NYS Homeless Veterans. In mid-August, NY#1 donated 50 backpacks with school supplies as well as diapers and wipes for homeless Veteran families. In all, NY#1 donated 168 backpacks with school supplies to various agencies!

Bobbie and Brian finished cleaning the garage on Monday, August 24th. Great job, neat and clean! Now ready for renovations!



Important Upcoming Dates

The next meeting is Saturday, September 12th at 9AM at the Canteen. No meetings in June, July, and August though the Canteen will still be open for dinner for the Veterans on the 3rd Wednesday of those months.

Danielle Campbell is the Program Coordinator at Operation Homefront for the Family Support Services department.

Every year (now in its 19th year) Operation Homefront hosts the Military Child of the Year® Awards. The awards are open to military children between the ages of 13-18. There are 7 recipients, 1 child from each branch of service. Each recipient receives **\$10,000 CASH**, a laptop, other donated goodies, and a 3-day trip to Washington, D.C. with their families. Anyone that knows a military child can nominate any military child. The awards are open to Active Duty, reserves, Gold Star, National Guard, AND retired military children. The program is entirely **FREE** and exclusive to military children. Help get the word out to military communities and families!

Nominations are open now and remain open until December 1st, 2026.

If you have additional questions, please contact Danielle at OperationHomefront.org or call her at 210-439-0321.

National Blue Star Mother's Day is February 1st. We missed it in 2026, but put it on your calendar for 2027 to celebrate!

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 December, 2026; the deadline is usually the 15th of the month at the very latest though earlier is always better! 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.

