



**A GROUP OF WOMEN WITH ONE THING IN COMMON –
ALL HAVE CHILDREN SERVING IN THE MILITARY.
SEPTEMBER, 2020**

Chapter President's Letter

Dear Everyone,

Welcome to September and it is proving to be a busy one! We will shortly be given a paper to sign that will allow us to begin moving in. We could start today, but I feel it is better to wait until we are legal. However, yesterday, Brian, Beth, and myself, cleaned out the Barn and I would like to go on record as saying "Holey Underwear, Batman!" A stellar job was done by Brian and Beth, and I helped where I could. Beth undertook to sweep out the place when everything had been picked up. There was an amazing amount of dirt! Anyway, Brian then took three truckloads to the dump and he and Beth are there now to take a load to Salvation Army, and then Brian will take the load of old metal stuff.

So we are getting there. We found the shingles and the remaining siding to replace what is missing. Things are moving along. We still have no idea when we will be able to do meals at the house. Probably not till late winter or early Spring. Still we can continue as we are doing now. Please take note of Linda's request and volunteer to deliver a meal or the ingredients for one meal to Terrence, as he has graciously agreed to either cook it or warm it up, and dispense it to the current 16 Veterans and families at Cadence Square. They are tremendously grateful as they sometimes feel forgotten since we normally had the Vets from the Dom, etc. Thanks to Terrence for doing this. He said he loves feeding people and is enjoying it.

Nothing much else is new. Brian is settling on an insurance company after going over all the pros and cons and will shortly make an announcement to that effect. Life toddles on and we are still a community that watches out for each other. Blessings on everyone's Head and, hopefully, we can see each other soon.

Joyce



Results from elections held on October 12, 2019

Blue Star Mothers - New York #1 Elected Executive Board for 2019-2021

President – Joyce Mader

1st Vice President – Nancy Bardeen

2nd Vice President – Sally Fritz

3rd Vice President – Valerie Haynes

4th Vice President – Linda Green

Recording Secretary – Jean Burlingame

Financial Secretary/Membership Chair - Bobbie Metcalfe

Treasurer/Budget – Beth Olson

The following positions are appointed.

Corresponding Secretary – shared by Jean Burlingame and Bobbie Metcalfe

Chaplain – Nancy Bardeen

Historian – OPEN

Parliamentarian - OPEN

Patriotic Instructor – OPEN

Sgt. at Arms – Donna Strelow

WebMaster – Brian Mader

As of September 12, 2020, there are 38 moms and 38 associate members.

Please keep in your prayers all those with COVID-19 and all those who care for them. Thank you to all essential workers for your service during this time. Many belong to Blue Star Mothers NY #1 and many have children who are essential! A BIG THANK YOU!

Contributed by PNP Jean Burlingame

Firefighter Abbey Miller takes on a patriotic duty just in time for Memorial Day weekend

BLOOMFIELD — When Abbey Miller learned that American flags might not be placed on the graves of fallen soldiers and veterans this Memorial Day season, she said not on her watch. So, the 19-year-old East Bloomfield firefighter, a Finger Lakes Community College student who this fall plans to study emergency management and fire science at SUNY Canton, purchased over 400 American flags herself and then led an effort over the weekend to place them on the graves of those who served the country.

“I felt the need to honor our veterans and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice,” Miller said. “We had to do something.”

Armed with lists of names, gravesite locations, screwdrivers — the better to poke small holes in the soft ground for the flagpoles — hundreds of the old red, white, and blue, several helpers, many from the East Bloomfield and West Bloomfield fire departments

and others from the community, last Saturday visited East Bloomfield Cemetery and St. Bridget's Cemetery and got to work.

Miller's patriotic duty comes as the coronavirus pandemic has led to the cancellation of Memorial Day parades all over, including the one this year in Bloomfield that she was to help coordinate. Planning for a virtual ceremony is in the works.

Her grandfather, William Burlingame of Bloomfield, said members of the American Legion usually place the flags as part of the Memorial Day events. But because of the coronavirus pandemic, they had to hold off a year.

"A lot of the veterans are up in years, and they thought it would be best not to do it," said Burlingame, who served in the Navy during the Vietnam War and transferred to the Coast Guard Reserves. "With the COVID-19 virus, it just didn't get done."

John Mackenzie, a member of the West Bloomfield Fire Department, said as a veteran, placing a flag is important to distinguish the service of deceased veterans, which is why he signed on to help. He said he is proud of the job Miller did in taking on this role and seeing it through. "She's definitely an asset to the fire department and to the world," Mackenzie said.

Burlingame, while noting he may be biased, said he was very pleased to see someone so young recognize the importance of veterans, many of whom gave their time and some their lives to serve the country. "It's very pleasing for someone to see what the day is all about," Burlingame said.

Miller said she has a sense of pride — as well as a big sigh of relief — in having done this. "It's very emotional when I think about it," Miller said. "Without their sacrifices, I wouldn't have the freedom to go to school, the freedom to go to work, or the freedom to be a firefighter. I'm doing the right thing."

By Mike Murphy @MPN_MikeMurphy Posted May 19, 2020



Barn/Garage Sale on July 9th, 10th, and 11th. This is the only chapter fundraiser this year. We had an enormous quantity of stuff, all in good condition, all spaced out in the barn for social distancing. Bobbie did a fantastic job of advertising. Bobbie and Beth worked hard with Dick, Brian and Terrence (Vet) to get it ready. Left over items were packed up on Sunday, July 12th, for AMVETS to pick up. We made \$1633.00 from the sale. Thanks to all who helped.



Joyce received a call late on July 13th after 4PM from the Construction Coordinator at the VA. He asked what we were going to do when we can't access the Canteen. Joyce asked what he was talking about. Buildings 33 and 34 are coming down in their entirety and the Canteen will be totally blocked off with construction fencing - only a two-day notice! The Executive Board was contacted.

The Canteen was emptied of all foodstuffs. Williamson Cold Storage will do anything for the Vets and Blue Star Mothers. The company gave us storage space for food in freezers at the Canteen. Other food items are stored at Bobbie's.

All the memorabilia were removed from the walls, wrapped, and packed. Nancy Bardeen's daughter got us a storage unit, pro bono, in Farmington, near the Thruway. Cliff got us a moving van, courtesy of Marine Corp Council, and Mike Chaba, President of the Council, found Marines to help load the moving van.

Joyce needed to make a Police Report as the wooden glider, that Josh worked on for 6 months and beautifully refinished, was stolen at some point last fall. Clothing in the Canteen was bagged and moved to the storage unit. Everything removed from the Canteen that could possibly be saved, much of it donated to other Veteran organizations.

Ryan, the Assistant Director of Engineering, came and toured the Canteen. He was upset that we were only given 48 hours to vacate while the company knew for months that the building would need to be vacant!

We can still function independent of the Canteen. New York # 1 has always been innovative and one step ahead of the rest of the Blue Star Mother Chapters in the Nation.

The reality is that the VA did not formally tell us to go. They will come off as innocent if the Veterans ask when the Canteen is coming back. We can spread the word that we are still going to help where we can. We have tremendous support from Eagle Star, Liberty Village, Marine Corp Coordinating Council, DAV, the Lion's Club of Canandaigua and many, many friends of the Chapter.



Thanks to all who helped!

If you have stories about the Canteen, please send them to Joyce. She would like to get a collection together to make a memory book. We had many adventures, some spectacular disasters, and much fun. We gave a lot of Veterans good memories, great meals, and practical help in re-setting their lives. This is a tremendous thing. Some have gone on to bigger and better lives, some are still lost, but they all agree that the canteen was a bright spot in their recovery efforts. Mostly, they mention the food and sitting outside at the picnic tables to just visit and relax. Good times.

We have stored boxes of documentation on our chapter's history for years. Bobbie is in the process of scanning all of that documentation to memory cards. From there, the information is copied to flash drives. This enables us to save our chapter history with back-up. Bobbie, as chapter financial secretary, will keep the memory cards and as chapter secretary, PNP Jean will keep the back-up flash drives. Chapter Minutes have also been saved to a flash drive. This has enabled us to be rid of boxes of paperwork.

The GREAT PUMPKIN RACE has been canceled for this year. This event takes a lot of advanced planning and advertising. There is no news on when the VA will reopen and we can't host the pumpkin race if the VA is not open.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next meeting is Saturday, October 10th, at Veterans Park at 9AM.

Ongoing BSMA NY#1 Fundraisers

New RED (Remember Everyone Deployed) t-shirts available. Design is on the back. 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.

Buy a Brick Fundraiser was introduced by Joanne at the January, 2016, meeting. Bricks cost \$50 and a duplicate brick is \$35. Bricks will be placed in the Patriot Garden around the flag poles at the Blue Star Canteen. The 4" by 8" brick in Regimental Red is etched through a laser process. Got questions? Contact Sally at salfriz.2@gmail.com. Information on this fundraiser is available at <http://thatsmybrick.com/bluestarmothersny1>

Interested in contributing information for a future newsletter? The next newsletter will be published in December, 2020; 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.

