



IN A MILITARY FAMILY, WE ALL SERVE!

DECEMBER, 2024

### ***Chapter President's Letter***

Merry Christmas to everyone!

It has been a very busy autumn. We have had many calls upon our food pantry and have supplied clothing for a couple of new Vets. The current project has Brian Mader rehabbing the back shed into a bijou entry way to the Canteen! It is coming along very well and should be all done by Thanksgiving dinner on the 20th Then we have to revamp all the personal products and incorporate them into the food pantry.

Bobbie and I gutted the food pantry a few weeks ago and Brian (Bless him) hauled it all to the dump. Some of the stuff was from 2009! ICK! We then went grocery shopping with money allocated by the Chapter Board to replace the old with new. All is organized and we are hoping to ride herd on it so that we don't have the same issue again next year.

We are planning for the fundraiser for May, 2025, at Veterans Park. Jeff Gallahan has agreed to be our Chicken Barbeque cooker again and we are lining up crafters. Hopefully we can have a great event and maybe even make a profit!!! That would be very nice. We have an Eagle Scout who may do the flower beds for his Eagle Project in the Spring. Hopefully, it won't overwhelm him and send him screaming for help. The gardens are rather overgrown; one might even say jungle-ish.

We are participating in the Jerky for the Troops put on by Bass Pro. Bobbie and I had a table at the store in Auburn. We are expecting it will be a success. We took unit boxes to an insurance company in New Berlin, NY, about two and a half hours away, as they want to fill them for the deployed troops. We will bring them back with us for mailing.

Holidays for Heroes is underway and Cait Roth, her family, and friends decided to adopt all the families that we were able to get this year. They always do a fabulous job so we have no worries. We will be making up bags for the Vets for Christmas and delivering them to the VA. We received Halloween candy from MaryAgnes's Karate Club. They donate every year and it is a comfort knowing that our Vet, Wesley, will be in Snickers Heaven again.

Colleen Johnson and her Former Marine Husband, have again held a donation day for us and delivered all the brand-new goodies last week -- underwear, socks, etc. It was definitely a needed supply and we are so pleased to get it. Many thanks to them and to all who contributed.

There is no meeting in December because everyone will be up to their necks in Christmas preparations so I will wish everyone a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Yours in Service,  
Joyce



As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, there are 25 Moms and 25 associate members in NY#1.

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#### **Results from elections held on September 14, 2024**

#### **Blue Star Mothers – New York #1 Elected Executive Board for 2024-2025**

President – Joyce Mader

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Valerie Haynes

Recording Secretary – Joanne Acquilano

Financial Secretary and Membership Chair – Bobbie Metcalfe

Treasurer – Fran Gallahan (on leave), Pro Tem is Carol Adamowicz as of 11/9/24

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



## Canteen News

Exciting news! A new roof and windows installed on October 10<sup>th</sup>! A gift to NY#1 and the Canteen from Veterans Choice Exteriors. Also, a new driveway was installed! We are waiting on information regarding a grant for new siding for the Canteen. See pictures below!





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Peggy Filkins, MSN, RN, of the Women Veterans Program at VA Finger Lakes thanked us and are extremely grateful for the generous donation of donuts and cider by NY#1 for their Veterans Mothers' Group Family Fall Fun event in Bath on 10/30/24. The families had an amazing time trick-or-treating between the tables, crafting, and carving/painting pumpkins. It was a great opportunity for them to connect with one another and to VA resources.

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BSMA NY#1 participated in Beef Jerky Day at Bass Pro Shop on November 8<sup>th</sup>. It has been difficult to find and will be sent to the troops as they love it! Received 7 huge bags of Jerky!



Veterans Last Patrol contacted National regarding their "Cards of Gratitude" and "Operation Holiday Salute". It is a nonprofit with a mission to befriend, honor, and support Veterans in end-of-life care, which is called the "Last Patrol". They believe America has an obligation to support those who have served our nation in uniform.

According to Mr. Claude Schmid, Founder of Veterans Last Patrol, approximately 100,000 Veterans go into hospice care each year. Veterans Last Patrol have two annual card campaigns: Cards of Gratitude and Operation Holiday Salute. They seek personalized cards year-round from Patriots who wish to say "Thank You" one more time to a Veteran in hospice. Cards from children and schools are particularly popular; however, they are getting churches and private individuals involved as well.

At the NY#1 meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>, those in attendance signed and sent many holiday cards to this organization for Veterans on hospice.

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More Canteen News! Thanksgiving dinner for our Veterans!

Well, it's the morning after the night before (11/20/24)! We had a very nice turnout and, as always, incredible food!! Everyone went away quite satisfied. We had a beautiful new back porch entry way to surprise people with and they were surprised! Brian Mader and Stephen and Dick Metcalfe did an amazing job. It is now a very bright and cheerful entrance.

John Isaac, from Shootout for Soldiers and his team, of which Jane and Geoff Hallstead are devoted members, came for dinner and to present a check to us to help with what the Chapter needs for our Veterans and deployed soldiers. They were also thrilled with dinner.

Thanks to everyone who helped, contributed, and served the food. You are all amazing, even our sisters far away, sent donations for pies, etc. In spite of everyone's very busy lives, we all came together, and it is tremendously appreciated!

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Wreaths Across America (WAA) takes place on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> this year. NY#1 ordered 40 wreaths to be placed at the NYS Veterans Cemetery formerly known as Sampson Veterans Cemetery. WAA started as a gesture of thanks of volunteers and communities to remember the nation's fallen, honor their service, and teach the next generation about the value of freedom. Wreaths are placed on the stones and markers of those who fought from the Revolutionary War to present day conflicts are honored. There are more than 4,500 participating locations, including Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, this year.





### **Important Upcoming Dates**

Next NY#1 meeting is Saturday, January 11, 2025.

**BSMA NY#1 Stars and Stripes Fundraiser** is scheduled for May 31, 2025 with a new location at Veterans Park on Rt 5&20 in Bloomfield. This will also include a Chicken BBQ with pre-sale tickets available for the meal! We plan on a craft sale, raffle baskets, bake sale. Ricci Shuttleworth is in charge of organizing this event.

### **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.*

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Interested in contributing information for a future newsletter? The next newsletter will be published in March, 2025; the deadline is usually the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. 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.



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