

**December 2025**

# ★ **Blue Star Mothers ROC** ★



We are mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, foster mothers and female legal guardians who have children serving in the military, guard or reserves, or children who are veterans. We support each other and our children while promoting patriotism. Our organization focuses on our mission every single day and will never, ever, forsake our troops, our veterans or the families of our Fallen Heroes.

## Meetings & Events

### \* No BSM Meeting in December

- \* **January 17th, 2026**  
@9:30am Henrietta Ely Fagan American Legion  
260 Middle Rd Henrietta NY
- \* **Future Strong Stars**  
Jan 5th @7-8pm Panera Bread 795 Jefferson Rd Henrietta See page 4 for the 2026 schedule
- \* **Women Veterans' Coffee House** Dec 12th  
@5:30pm Ely Fagan American Legion. RSVP to 585-210-9779

## Upcoming Events

- \* **Lights of Honor**  
Dec 7th See page 2
- \* **Wreaths Across America**  
Dec 13th See page 7
- \* **Army Navy Game**  
Dec 13th See page 3



NY8 President, Amy VanDerwerken speaks at the November 21st dedication of the New York State Department of Veterans' Services digital kiosk at Eastview Mall. See page 7 for more information on this new local resource.

# LIGHTS OF HONOR

## TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

### Honoring our Military Service Members and Veterans



#### LIGHTS OF HONOR Tree Lighting Ceremony Sunday, December 7, 2025

The Blue Star Mothers of Rochester will provide, at no cost to you, the original photo ornament to be hung on the trees at the War Memorial. These ornaments may be displayed annually on the Lights of Honor trees at the War Memorial during the month of December. You are invited back each year to hang those ornaments.

You may also order keepsake duplicate ornaments for \$15 each to bring home and hang on your tree or hand out as gifts. To order keepsake duplicate ornaments please contact us at [BlueStarMothersRoc@gmail.com](mailto:BlueStarMothersRoc@gmail.com) or Call (585) 210-9881.



#### BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF ROCHESTER NEW YORK CHAPTER 8

We invite everyone in the community to share this time to honor our military personnel, past and present. Remember to include parents, grandparents, siblings, spouses and friends. During the ceremony, one person representing each service branch will place an ornament on the tree - Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. Then an ornament will be placed to represent each of the major combat eras in our country's history - *et. al.* and finally an ornament will be placed for National recognition of military awards.

**When:** Sunday, December 7, 2025

**Where:** One War Memorial Square  
Rochester, NY 14614

**Time:** 2:00 pm

**What:** Each service branch and combat era will be honored by an ornament placed on the tree by a military person. At the end of the ceremony you may collect your keepsake ornament if you have ordered one.

**How:** Use this form to submit your pictures for the ornament to be prepared ahead of time. Additional copies of this form are available on our website:

[www.BlueStarMomsROC.com](http://www.BlueStarMomsROC.com)

**Please e-mail or mail the following information:**

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

To Honor (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Era/Dates of Service \_\_\_\_\_  
(WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, War on Terror, etc.)

**Circle the appropriate status for this person:**

**SILVER:** wounded in the line of duty

**GOLD:** died in the line of duty

**BLACK:** Missing in Action or Prisoner of War

**BLUE:** all other service members

**Please circle medals awarded:**

Medal of Honor, Purple Heart, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Navy Cross, etc.

Number of keepsake ornaments requested \_\_\_\_\_

**Information must be received by Nov 16th.**

**E-mail digital (jpeg format) photos to:**

[BlueStarMothersRoc@gmail.com](mailto:BlueStarMothersRoc@gmail.com)

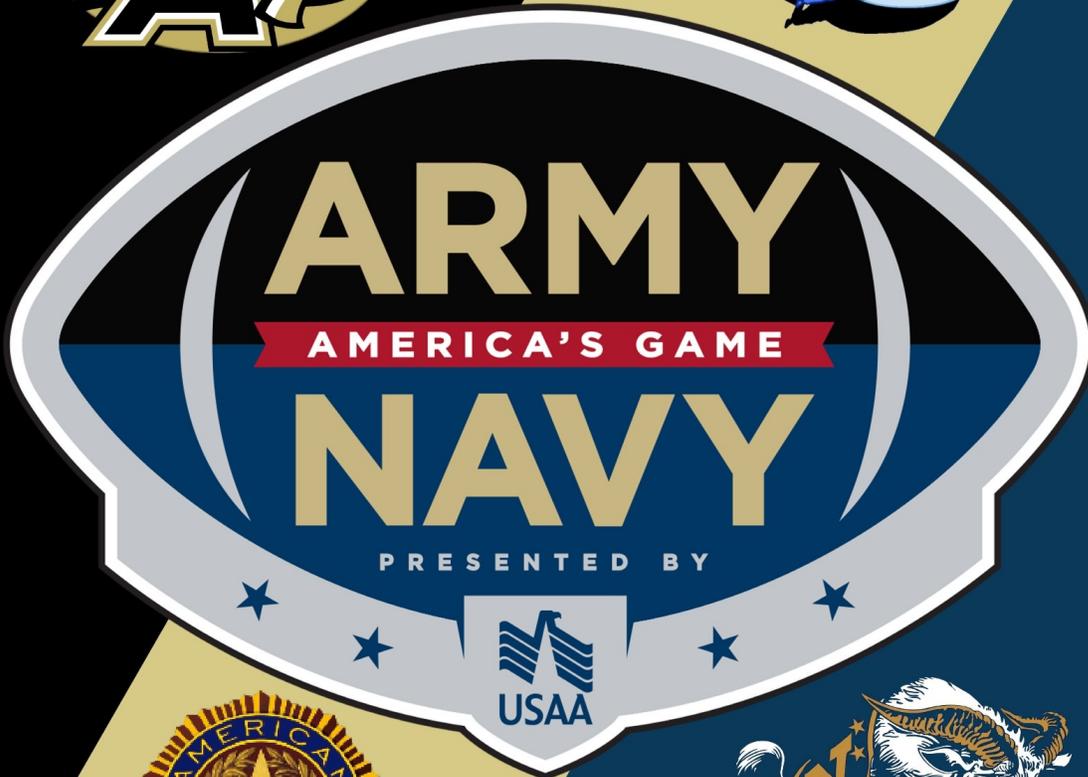
Or Call (585) 210-9881 and leave a message and we will get back to you to discuss arrangements to get the picture.

Join the Fun!

# BLUE STAR MOTHERS ROC ARMY VS. NAVY GAME FUNDRAISER



December 13th, 2025 @ 1:00pm  
Spencerport American Legion Post 330  
691 Trimmer Rd, Spencerport, NY 14559



## Pre-game, Raffles, 50/50, Food & Drinks

Come join the fun!  
*Service Dogs Welcome*

Pre-game Starts at 1:00pm  
Kickoff is at 3PM

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:  
NANCY GENERAL  
(585) 210-9881

BLUESTARMOTHERSROC@GMAIL.COM  
[www.BlueStarMomsRoc.com](http://www.BlueStarMomsRoc.com)

# 2026 Future Strong Stars



Come dine with us at Panera Bread locations, 7-8 p.m.

Help us in building bridges with the Families of all Branches of the Armed Forces.

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|                    |           |                               |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 05 JAN             | Henrietta | 795 Jefferson Road            |
| 02 FEB             | Gates     | 1501 Howard Road              |
| 02 MAR             | Brighton  | 1902 Monroe Avenue            |
| 06 APR             | Greece    | 800 Greece Ridge Center Drive |
| 04 MAY             | Fairport  | 16 Courtney Drive             |
| 01 JUN             | Webster   | 935 Holt Road                 |
| 06 JUL             | Henrietta | 795 Jefferson Road            |
| 03 AUG             | Gates     | 1501 Howard Road              |
| 07 SEP (Labor Day) | Brighton  | 1902 Monroe Avenue            |
| 05 OCT             | Greece    | 800 Greece Ridge Center Drive |
| 02 NOV             | Fairport  | 16 Courtney Drive             |
| 07 DEC             | Webster   | 935 Holt Road                 |

Blue Star Mothers: 585-210-9881 or [bluestarmomsroc.com](http://bluestarmomsroc.com)



VA FINGER LAKES PRESENTS  
WITH THE PARTNERSHIP CCICM & CDCE



# FINGER LAKES VETERAN *Connection Cafe*

Come connect with other local Veterans,  
build VA connections, and learn about  
resources available to you.



Rochester Calkins VA Clinic  
260 Calkins Rd  
Rochester, NY 14623

Susan B. Anthony Conference Room



Third Friday of Every Month  
Beginning October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
8:30am - 10:30am



Open to all Veterans enrolled in VA Finger Lakes Healthcare

FREE COFFEE & TEA WILL BE AVAILABLE



**No RSVP Required**

For question contact Gillian Olson 585-463-2608

MADE POSSIBLE BY



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
VA Finger Lakes Healthcare System





## Dedication of Veteran Kiosk at Eastview Mall

The NY State Dept of Veterans' Services officially activated its newest Digital Kiosk at Eastview Mall, located inside Entrance 6.

Deputy Counsel Benjamin Pomerance from the NY State Dept of Veterans' Services hosted the unveiling, which brought together a wide range of elected officials, Veterans advocates, and community partners committed to strengthening access to benefits and services.

This kiosk provides a direct, user-friendly connection to critical resources for all who served, Service Members, and Military Families — helping ensure no one is left navigating the system alone. “Together, we continue building a more accessible New York for all who served.”

Present at the unveiling were Victor Town Supervisor Jack Marren, Monroe County Veterans Service Agency Director Nick Stefanovic, Ontario County Veterans Service Agency Director Sue Smith, Katherine Quinones of the Latino Military Coalition, Katherine Hatch of EquiCenter, Inc., Tracy LoTemple of Compeer Rochester, Laura Heltz of Rochester Veterans Outreach Center, and Amy VanDerwerken of Blue Star Mothers Rochester for their partnership and support.

*Join Us in Our Mission*

Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach



## HELP US REMEMBER ALL OUR HEROES

Remember A Fallen Veteran By Sponsoring A Wreath  
*3,000 wreaths are needed for veterans resting in local cemeteries*  
*Help us honor them all.*

### HELP REMEMBER OUR HEROES:

Sponsor a \$17 wreath for a fallen veteran.  
*\$5 Goes back to Blue Star Mothers ROC NY8 to build Care Packages*  
*for locally deployed soldiers.*



**WREATHS**  
*across*  
**AMERICA**

[www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org)

SCAN THE QR CODE TO MAKE A DONATION ONLINE

RATHER MAIL DONATION? Request a form. [WebsterWreaths@icloud.com](mailto:WebsterWreaths@icloud.com)



★ WREATH DAY IS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13th ★

*Help Us Place Our Veterans' Wreaths!*

Scan QR Code or Email [WebsterWreaths@icloud](mailto:WebsterWreaths@icloud.com) to volunteer

# DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



**Three Non-Profits coming together to help the Veteran Community! Call the Restore nearest you to arrange for a pickup of your furniture and/or appliance donation. Tell them the Sunny Mike Foundation or the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Greater Rochester sent you. These organizations will receive a discount when purchasing items for in-need Veterans. It's that easy!**

## LOCATIONS

**BayTowne ReStore**  
1900 Empire Blvd  
Webster, NY 14580  
**(585) 697-2012**

**Henrietta ReStore**  
2199 E Henrietta Rd,  
Rochester, NY 14623  
**(585) 444-9588**

**Canandaigua ReStore**  
3040 County Road 10,  
Canandaigua, NY 14424  
**(585) 396-3040**

People who donate to ReStore will get 20% off same day purchases.



Military discount is 10% daily, with the exception of Thursdays which is 15%. The coupon can't be used in conjunction with either of the daily discounts.

# Volunteer Opportunities

Our chapter grows and is able to help more service members, veterans and military families because of volunteers. We need the support of all members, associate members, and those thankful for our military to have successful events like The Veteran Stand Down, Lights of Honor, Care Packages etc. Please look at the opportunities below, see how you can help. Our kids stood up and volunteered, now we need YOU to do the same.

**Military Baby Shower:** Annual in April, a community baby shower for military and veteran families expecting a child or have an infant less than 6 months old. Help needed: collect shower gifts, ask for donations, create baskets, support at event: decorating, picking up food items, welcoming moms, serving food, set-up/clean-up. Contact Amy VanDerwerken at [president.ny8@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president.ny8@bluestarmothers.us) or Jill Harris at [1vp.ny8@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:1vp.ny8@bluestarmothers.us) to volunteer.

**Care Packages:** Boxes packed/mailed in June & November to service members deployed overseas. Help needed: solicit postal addresses for deployed service members, collect care package items, promote our Amazon gift list for needed care package items. Friday night before packing: set-up of donated items. Saturday morning: put together mailing boxes, fill boxes, seal boxes. Contact Debbie Trevett at [treas.ny8@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:treas.ny8@bluestarmothers.us) or Kathy Dodsworth at [kdodsworth@frontiernet.net](mailto:kdodsworth@frontiernet.net) to volunteer.

**Veteran Women's Coffee House:** Monthly get-together for veteran women. Dinner is served. Help needed: preparing food for dinner, set-up/clean-up. CoChairs are Nancy Bird and Dory Braun. Contact Dory Braun at [dbraun4@gmail.com](mailto:dbraun4@gmail.com) to volunteer.

**Webster Garlic Fest** Annual in September. Contact Cherie Wood at [WebsterGarlicFest@gmail.com](mailto:WebsterGarlicFest@gmail.com) to get involved in this stinkin good time.

**Veteran Stand Down:** Organized annually by Veteran Outreach Center in September for area veterans with information on community services, employment and support. Held during the day on Friday at the Public Market in Rochester. Help needed: serving lunch to veterans, staffing BSM table and handing out hygiene supplies, set-up/clean-up. Contact Amy VanDerwerken at [president.ny8@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president.ny8@bluestarmothers.us) to volunteer.





An F/A-18 Hornet decorated with lights and an oversized Santa on board the aircraft carrier USS George H. W. Bush in 2010. Petty Officer 3rd Class Kevin Steinberg/US Navy

# CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED ON BASES, PORTS, AND SHIPS AROUND THE WORLD



U.S. Army families watch a decorated Joint Light Tactical Vehicle during the Dragoon Ride at U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, Germany, Dec. 18, 2024. 2nd Cavalry Regiment units hosted the annual holiday parade that featured a decorated convoy to celebrate soldiers and their families during the holiday season. (Jolene Cintron/U.S. Army)

