

**Sept 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

- \* BSM Meeting Sept 20th  
@9:30am Henrietta Ely  
Fagan American Legion  
260 Middle Rd Henrietta  
NY
- \* Future Strong Stars  
Oct 6th @7-8pm Panera  
Bread 800 Greece Ridge  
Center Drive Greece
- \* Women Veterans' Coffee  
House: October 10th  
@5:30pm Ely Fagan  
American Legion. RSVP  
to 585-210-9779

### Upcoming Events

- \* Gold Star Families Sun-  
day September 28th See  
page 3 for details.
- \* Lights of Honor Dec 7th  
See page 4



## 2025 Garlic Fest

If you weren't at the 2025 Webster Garlic Fest you missed a stinkin good time. This year's fest was bigger and well attended with more vendors and food trucks. There was something for everyone; garlic cookies, llamas and goats, BBQ, and even hidden crocheted garlic plushies to find. It was also the opportunity for the community to comet together to support Wreaths Across America, Gold Star Mothers, Rochester Blue Star Mothers.

We want to THANK all the vendors, the volunteers that made the event possible and the Town of Webster Community Rec Center for providing the space for this event.

# Suicide Prevention

September is Suicide Prevent Month but recognizing the signs, knowing how to get help and support the person in crisis is something we need to do each and everyday for all members of our community.



## TAKE ACTION



- Dial 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 to talk to someone
- Start a confidential online chat session at [www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat](http://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat)
- Send a text message to 838255 to connect to a VA responder
- Take a self-check quiz at [www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/quiz](http://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/quiz)
- If you or a Veteran you know is in crisis, find a facility near you
- Visit [www.MilitaryCrisisLine.net](http://www.MilitaryCrisisLine.net) if you are Active Duty, Reserve, or Guard
- Connect through chat, text, or TTY if you are deaf or hard of hearing



**Veterans  
Crisis Line**  
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1



# **Gold Star Families Sunday**



**September 28, 2025**

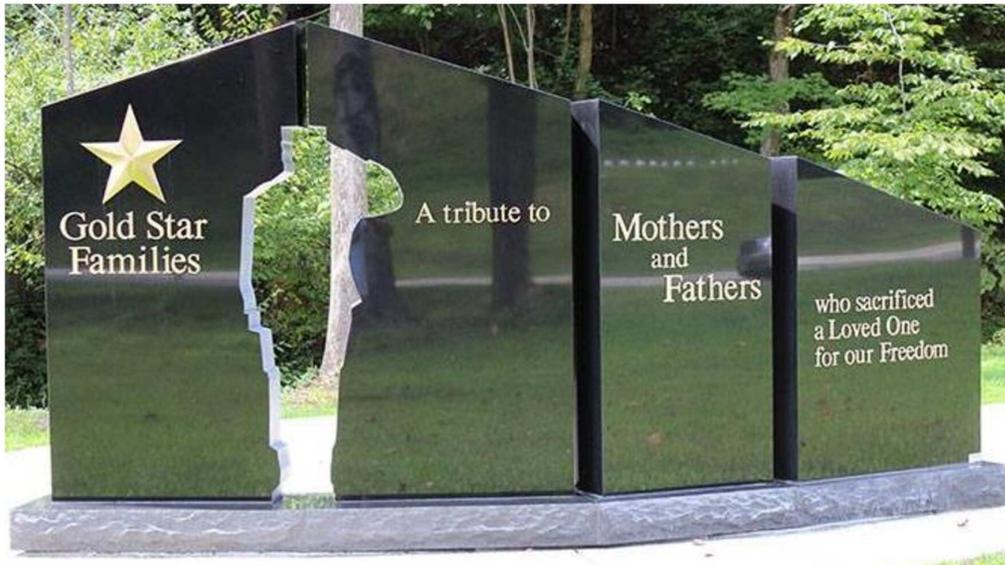
**2:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

***All Seasons Chapel***

**White Haven Memorial Park**

**210 Marsh Road**

**Pittsford, New York 14534**



## **ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

- **Keynote Speaker – Major Dylan Potter, U.S. Army Ranger**  
**Branch: U.S. Army, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment & 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division**
- **Master of Ceremonies – Nick Stefanovic, Director of Monroe County**  
**Veterans Service Agency, Branch: U.S. Marine Corps**
- **President's Proclamation – Adam Bello, Monroe County, NY – County Executive**
- **Rose Ceremony Remembrance - Eric Wheeler, Assistant Director of Veteran Services,**  
**Monroe Community College, Branch: U.S. Army & U.S Navy**

**GOLD STAR FAMILIES CHECK-IN @1:30 PM**

**Sponsored by: *Blue Star Mothers Rochester NY8***

**[www.bluestarmomsroc.com](http://www.bluestarmomsroc.com)**

**Ph: 585-210-9779**

# All Women



Honor Flight Rochester is working to put together an  
ALL FEMALE Veteran Honor Flight,

~ But all 65 spaces need to be filled ~

*Please share with other female veterans and*

*Let's make this happen!*

Any questions should be directed to Honor Flight Rochester  
at 585-210-2115 or here:

<https://honorflightrochester.org/contact-us/>



The Rochester Blue Star Mothers NY8 participated in the annual Stand Down held in Rochester NY. The Blue Star Mothers served pizza, fruits and juice to the over 200 veterans that attended the event. The event offers information about services, obtaining veteran benefits, there are a number of community and social agencies along with employers. The BSM provided toiletries to the veterans that stopped by their table.



# LIGHTS OF HONOR

## TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Honoring our Military Service Members and Veterans



### 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)

### 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) 210-9779.

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) 210-9779 and leave a message and we will get back to you to discuss arrangements to get the picture.



Compeer  
CORPS  
Friendship. Support.  
Camaraderie.



American  
Red Cross



Come Learn About  
Community  
Organizations Supporting  
Military and  
Veteran Families

Enjoy free fresh made donuts  
and refreshments while supplies  
last in Stokoe Farms'  
Harvest Barn beginning at 11am



**Sunday, Sept 21, 2025 10am-5pm**  
Enjoy a Family Day at Stokoe Farms'  
Military Appreciation Day  
656 South Rd, Scottsville NY 14546  
Over 40 family friendly activities;  
ropes course, bee zip lines, wagon  
rides, petting zoo, corn maze, slides,  
candy cannon, and much more.  
**Max of 4 FREE** admissions per  
military and veteran families  
courtesy of Stokoe Farms



Connection.  
Camaraderie.  
Community.

*Military/Veteran ID  
Appreciated*



### Congratulation to the 2025-2026 Rochester Blue Star Mothers NY8 Officers

Left to right, Pat Witt, Jill Harris, Lara, Whitney, Amy VanDerwerken, Vera Mae Rudd-Young, Stacy Bodner, and Debbie Trevett. Thank you for volunteering to lead this chapter.



# Military Benefits Resource Fair

Saturday, October 11, 2025  
10:00a - 2:00p

**The Salvation Army**  
915 N. Clinton Ave • Rochester NY 14621

Learn about veteran benefits you may be entitled to such as:  
healthcare, service connected disability, education & more

*Refreshments will be provided*

RSVP encouraged, but not required:



Proof of military service is encouraged, but not required

*For more information contact Kathy Quiñones 585-348-7004*

Sponsored by:



# 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:** April 27th, 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** September 6th & 7th 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.

