

August 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 August 16th @9:30am Henrietta Ely Fagan American Legion 260 Middle Rd Henrietta NY
- * Future Strong Stars Sept 1st (Labor Day) @7-8pm Panera Bread 1902 Monroe Ave Brighton
- * Women Veterans' Coffee House: August 8th & September 12th @5:30pm Ely Fagan American Legion. RSVP to 585-210-9779

Upcoming Events

- * Garlic Fest Sept 6th & 7th
- * Veteran Stand Down Sept 12th
- * Gold Star Families Sunday September 28th See page 3 for details.
- * Lights of Honor Dec 7th See page 4

Blue Star Mothers of America Membership Renewal Due by 8/1/2025

Your Blue Star Mothers of America annual membership needs to be renewed by August 1st. The membership fee is \$30 with half of the money going to national and the other half staying with our chapter. The easiest way to renew your membership is to go to <https://www.bluestarmothers.org/>

Log-in with your username and password. Your profile should open up and there a button to click to renew. Remember we are chapter NY8. Your membership needs to be current to participate in our chapter elections in September.

Associate membership is free.



Member Logout

PUBLIC RELATIONS	Join/Renew	About Us	Files	Patriotic Instructor
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My Community	My Profile	Connections	My Features	Inbox
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Profile	Invoices	Forms I've Taken	Email History	Settings
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Susan Louis
Jump To Profile Details

Joined --

Expiration Date 8/31/2025

Balance: \$30.00

View Invoices

Member Status: **Active**

Your membership will expire at 11:59 PM EST on Aug 31, 2025.

Renew Now

Donate Now (not for renewing membership dues)

Quick Links

- Big Dipper
- Blue To Gold
- Chapter and Department Resources
- Compliance Guide
- Connection Information

Supporting the VA Food Pantry

Support the Canandaigua and Rochester VA Food Pantry by bringing something for the Pantry to our monthly Blue Star Mothers meeting.

Pantry List

Canned chicken

Pasta

Rice-A-Roni Meals

Oatmeal

Canned Fruit

Reusable Shopping Bags

Canned Tuna

Pasta Sauce (glass/plastic jar or cans)

Peanut Butter

Cereal

Canned Vegetables



ROC Veterans provides information about events in the Finger Lakes Area for Veterans & their families. They have a Facebook page, Instagram account and website that can keep you current with events in the area.

Surviving Military Spouses Luncheon

Surviving military spouse are invited to join with other military widows and widowers for lunch and open discussion and support, consider coming to the monthly lunch at Panera Breads, 1902 Monroe Ave, Brighton, NY on the second Thursday of each month from 1-3pm.



Gold Star Families Sunday



September 28, 2025

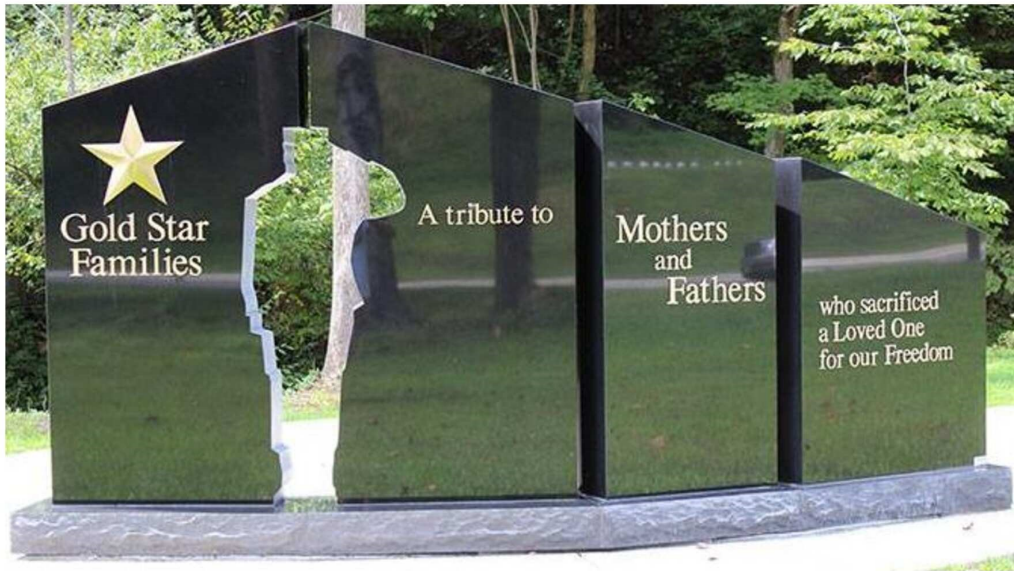
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

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, 75th Ranger Regiment & 10th 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

Ph: 585-210-9779

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

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 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:

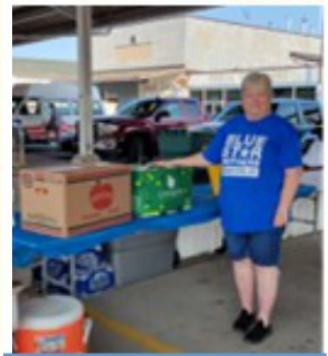
BlueStarMothersRoc@gmail.com

Or Call (585) 210-9779 and leave a message and we will get back to you to discuss arrangements to get the picture.

Blue Star Mothers ROC NY8 Sept 2024-Aug 2025 The Year in Review



Begun in 2011 with few interruptions, NY8 has held an annual community baby shower for military and veteran families. Showering them with supplies and baby care essentials.



Care Packages; Nearly 500 care packages were filled and sent around the world to Service Members

NY8 served lunch to over 320 veterans at the annual Rochester Stand Down in Sept 2024



NY8 hosted a remembrance & honor ceremony for Gold Star Families on Gold Star Sunday Sept 2024



NY8 with other agencies provided cider and donuts at Military Appreciation Day at Stoke Farms



For the 11th year, NY8 invited the community to the Lights of Honor ceremony which has grown to decorating two Christmas trees with over 600 ornaments containing pictures of service members.

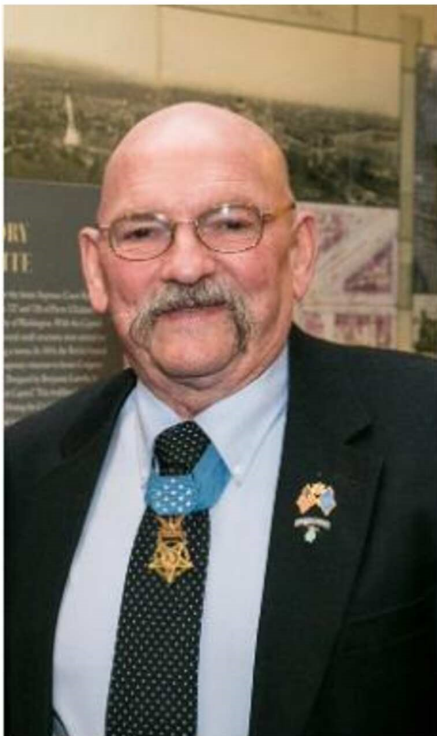
- * Support the VA Food Pantry
- * Annually provide holiday meals to 6 Veteran housing facilities





Honor Our Heroes

Give Blood



Gary Beikirch Memorial Blood Drive

**Saturday, August 23, 2025
9-2pm**

First Bible Baptist Church
990 Manitou Rd
Hilton, NY 14468

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
and enter sponsor keyword: IMOGaryBeikirch
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



A former U.S. Army Special Forces combat medic, Beikirch, received the Medal of Honor, for his heroic actions at Camp Dak Seang, Vietnam, on April 1, 1970. Despite serious wounds, Sergeant Beikirch worked to defend the camp and tend to wounded soldiers. Gary went on to be active in his community as a school guidance counselor and minister. He died December 26, 2021, surrounded by his wife, Lolly, and family.

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.

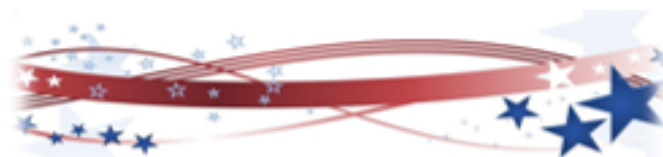
Military Baby Shower: April 27th, a community baby shower for military and veteran families expecting a child or have an infant less than 6 months old. Help needed: collect shower gifts, ask for donations, create baskets, support at event: decorating, picking up food items, welcoming moms, serving food, set-up/clean-up. Contact Amy VanDerwerken at president.ny8@bluestarmothers.us or Jill Harris at 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 or Kathy Dodsworth at 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 to volunteer.

Webster Garlic Fest September 6th & 7th Contact Cherie Wood at 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 to volunteer.



Blue Star Mothers ROC NY8
1335 Jefferson Rd, #93272
Rochester NY 14692
Web: www.bluestarmomsroc.com
Facebook: Blue Star Mothers ROC
Phone: (585) 210-9779