

April 2024

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.

Upcoming Events/Meetings

- * BSM Meeting: April 20th @9:30am Henrietta Ely Fagan American Legion, 260 Middle Road, Henrietta NY
- * Future Strong Stars: April 1st @7pm Panera Breads, 800 Greece Ridge Center Dr.
- * Women Veterans' Coffee House: April 12th @5:30pm Ely Fagan American Legion. RSVP to 585-210-9779
- * April 20th Month of the Military Child Event, see article for details

Blue Star Mother & Veteran Honored

Amy Hudzinski was honored at the March 16th Rochester Blue Star Mothers meeting for being the 2024 Female Veteran of the Year at CompeerCORPS. Amy served in the Reserves from 1984-2006 and was activated for Desert Storm 1990-1991. Amy's daughter was ROTC.



Sitting behind Amy is Ret Colonel Nancy Bird, an Associate member and facilitator in the Women Veterans' Coffee sponsored by the Rochester Blue Star Mothers.



Wounded but not out of action are Blue Star Mothers Nancy General (Marine Moms) and Mary Anne Zani (Army Mom)

CompeerCORPS facilitates peer support and opportunities for Veterans to engage, network, and form friendships with other Veterans in camaraderie though ongoing transition back to the Rochester community and civilian life. The Rochester Blue Star Mothers are proud to partner with CompeerCORPS with various community events.

April is Month of the Military Child

The Rochester Blue Star Mothers are once again proud to help sponsor an event that recognizes the resiliency of military children. There are more than 1.6 million military children who face many challenges and unique experiences as a result of their parents' service. So remember **PURPLE UP** to show your support.



Celebrating the Month of the Military Child Let's Go Bowling

Saturday April 20, 2024 12pm-2:30pm

FREE Bowling for Children & Adults

Pre-Registered Military & Veteran Families

Pizza, Soft Drinks, Cake Provided

Bowl-A-Roll 1560 Jefferson Rd, Rochester NY 14623

Space is Limited to 80 Bowlers

Need to Pre-Register Max of 4 Bowlers per Family

Pre-Register with any of the groups listed below

The VA: 585-364-9210

Vet Center: 585-393-7608

CompeerCORPS: 585-546-8280 x 207

National Guard Family Prg: 585-783-5310

Veterans Outreach Center: 585-295-7821



Connection. Camaraderie. Community.

A Big Blue Star Mother THANKS to the sewers, knitters and crocheters from the Helping Hands of the Villages in Lockport NY for the beautiful items they made and donated for the May 5th Baby Shower for Military Families and Veterans.



2024 Baby Shower

The Rochester Blue Star Mothers will once again be hosting a Baby Shower for military families. Volunteers will be needed to help at the Sunday, May 5th shower. Please use the link below if you would like to shop for the shower using the

Amazon Baby Registry:

2024 Rochester Blue Star Mothers NY8's

<https://a.co/9H6jrcY>

2024 Blue Star Mothers NY8 Baby Shower

Honoring Military Families!



Who: Active Duty, Veterans and Military Spouses of Active Duty & Veterans who are expecting or have children up to 6 months old.

When: May 5, 2024 between 11:00am - 1:00pm.

What: Beautiful gifts for you and your baby including baby clothing, handmade outfits, diapers, baby supplies, and much more.

FREE for the first 20 women to register!!!

Where: American Legion Cottrell-Warner Post # 942
818 Ridge Rd Webster, NY 14580

To register / additional information contact:

Baby Shower Committee Co-Chairs:

Amy VanDerwerken and Jill Harris

email: 1VP.NY8@BlueStarMothers.US



Rochester BSM Keynote Speaker at American Red Cross Military Resource Brunch

Rochester Veteran and Blue Star Mother will be the keynote speaker at the Red Cross Brunch on Saturday, May 4th. Kathy has had an amazing military career and continues her service to the community. Her son is currently deployed.



You Are Invited to Attend
Military and Veteran Resource Brunch
For Service Members, Veterans,
Families and Friends

Brunch will be provided and this event is **FREE**

Saturday, May 4, 2024
Doors will open at 10 AM
Program will begin at 11 AM

Finger Lakes Community College
Student Center-2nd FL Café-Near Parking Lot A & B
3325 Marvin Sands Drive
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Service providers will be present, providing information on resources and programs available in our community.



Keynote Speaker
Katherine Quilones
Commander
VFW 412
Chili Memorial Post

Katherine's Army career began in jr. high school. In 1984 she attended Basic Combat Training and Advance Individual Training, working in Human Resources and Automated Logistics. In 1996, she became a member of the NY Counterdrug Task Force for the Corps of Cadets. When the 9/11 attacks occurred she immediately reported to the NY/Canadian Border with the Counterdrug Task Force. She was deployed with her son to Afghanistan in 2007-2008 and Kuwait 2012. Katherine had a wonderful career of 32 years 10 months with the NY Army National Guard, 20 years active duty with the Counter Drug Task Force. She earned numerous awards including, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (3rd Award), and many more. Katherine was recently inducted into the NY State Veterans Hall of Fame.

Seating space is limited,
so please RSVP by April 1, 2024 to Susan Louis at
585-576-5322 or at Susan.Louis@redcross.org

Next Care Package Event for Deployed Service Members is June 15th

Start thinking about donations for our care package drive in June and gathering addresses for service members at an APO or FPO address.

Let's send some LOVE from home