

February 2026

★ **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

- * **February 21st, 2026**
@9:30am Henrietta Ely
Fagan American Legion
260 Middle Rd Henrietta NY
- * **Future Strong Stars**
March 2nd @7-8pm Panera
Bread 1902 Monroe Ave,
Brighton See page10 for the
2026 schedule
- * **Women Veterans' Coffee**
House Feb 11th @5:30pm
Ely Fagan American Legion.
RSVP to 585-210-9779

Upcoming Events

Baby Shower
Sunday, May 17th 2026
from 11am-1pm



Wreaths Across America **Webster NY**

Rochester Blue Star Mothers received a acknowledgement of our participation in the Wreaths Across America.

From WAA: 2025 was an exceptional year for Wreaths Across America – and the reason it was so successful is because of the thousands of dedicated volunteers like you!

Thanks to this collective effort, 7,778 sponsorship groups registered to bring the program to their communities, and more than 1,054 new groups signed up to support the mission. The National Wreaths Across America Day ceremony and wreath-laying event enable families, communities, and the nation to set aside differences and honor those who have championed our freedom. In 2025, thanks to the joint efforts of volunteers, local businesses, and individuals like you, just over 3.1 million veterans' wreaths were sponsored and placed by more than 3 million volunteers.



2026 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:

Sunday, May 17, 2026 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:

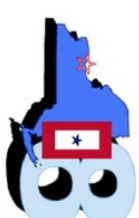
Baby Shower Committee Co-Chairs:

Amy VanDerwerken and Jill Harris

email: 1VP.NY8@BlueStarMothers.US



Help Us.... Support our military past, present, and future!



Sponsored by Rochester Blue Star Mothers NY8

- We are seeking new baby items for our **annual local Blue Star Mothers NY8 Military Baby Shower**.



- **20 local moms** will receive a bountiful basket of new baby items.

Blue Star Mothers Baby Shower 2026
Baby Shower Registry Link below:

- Search for **Blue Star Mothers Baby Shower 2026** under “find a registry” or use the link to the right to purchase products from our Amazon Baby Shower Registry to support our local military families.

<https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/bluestarmothersbabyshower2026-ny8-may-2026-webster/2X3SW2WDPTWF8>

- For more information on the shower please visit the BSM NY8 web site at <http://www.bluestarmomsroc.com>

Thanks for your support!



An Invitation to the
**Department of New York
American Gold Star Mothers
89th Convention Banquet**

Please join us on

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026
Guest Check-In & Raffle – 6:00pm
RIT Inn and Conference Center
5257 West Henrietta, New York 14467

To learn about sponsorship opportunities,
memorial service, and banquet
or purchase event tickets, please refer to attachments.



Memorial Service

Our Memorial Service will be held on Friday, April 17, 2026, at 7 pm. It will be held at:

RIT Inn and Conference Center
5257 West Henrietta Rd.
Henrietta, New York 14467

This will be open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the Memorial.

Banquet Information

Our Banquet will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026 at:

RIT Inn and Conference Center
5257 West Henrietta Rd.
Henrietta, New York 14467

Tickets are \$50.00 per person.
Cocktails and raffle at 6 pm.
Dinner will be held at 7 p.m.

All dinner tickets must be purchased by March 1 , 2026
No tickets sold at the door.

To purchase tickets, fill out the form and mail to:

Dorothy Reid
100 DunnwoodGreen Lane #214
Pittsford, NY 14534

Make checks payable to: AGSM
See Attached Form



REGISTRATION FORM

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
Department of New York
89th Convention

Deadline for Submission: **March 1, 2026**

GUEST REGISTRATION		
Name: _____		
Friday, April 17, 2026	Memorial Service (circle) Yes No	No Cost
Saturday, April 18, 2026	Please check one	\$50.00 a plate
Banquet Dinner	NY Strip Steak _____	
	Chicken Breast Marsala _____	
	Salmon _____	

Each guest must submit a registration form.

Checks Payable to: Department of NY AGSM

Mail to:
Dorothy Reid
100 DunnwoodGreen Lane #214
Pittsford, NY 14534



Department of New York
Rochester Chapter
100 Dunnwood Green Lane #214
Pittsford, New York 14534

Greetings,
The 89th American Gold Star Mother, Inc. Department of New York Convention will be held April 17-18, 2026 at RIT Inn and Conference Center located at 5257 W. Henrietta Road-Henrietta, New York 14467.

This is an opportunity for our Gold Star families, veterans, friends and our community to honor our heroes and promote our programs.

The convention committee asks for your support by inviting you to place an ad in our Convention Journal. We welcome businesses, military organizations, clubs, coworkers, family and friends to design messages and add pictures to honor and remember our military members.

It is an affordable and unique way to express gratitude and patriotism as you help defray the cost of our New York State American Gold Star Convention. The Convention Committee and the Gold Star mothers appreciate your contribution.
We're looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Reid

Dorothy Reid
American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
Department of New York- President
Proud mother of
Army SSG. Nicholas Reid
DOW-12-13-2012-OEF



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
Department of New York

Journal Ads are a way to raise money for our convention.
We are happy to accept ads from Veteran groups, community supporters,
local businesses, family and friends.

NOTE: We can use any ad previously provided, just make a note to that effect.

Journal Ads Rates

Full Page Ad (8.5 X 11) - \$120.00

Half Page Ad (8.5 X 5.5) - \$65.00

Quarter Page Ad (4. X 2.5) - \$35.00

Please submit a camera ready ad to

Holly Baker at hbaker69@roadrunner.com

“In the subject area of the email include the Organization name please”

Make Checks payable to AGSM.

Mail checks to:
HOLLY BAKER
12850 DOWD ROAD
SPRINGVILLE, NY 14141

Deadline for the ads is: **March 1, 2026**

Please Note: We will be unable to accept ads after this deadline.
If you pay for a **full-page ad**, you will receive a journal



On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the

next generation and beyond.

To nominate an unsung champion
<https://america250.org/nominate/>



Nominate history's unsung champions

Our American Story is an oral and visual storytelling project aimed at collecting and preserving our nation's stories. This is your opportunity to nominate a living person — a friend, family member, neighbor, or community leader — whose story you think needs to be shared and preserved. Every story is one worth sharing.

Nominate history's unsung champions

REQUEST from Blue Star Mothers of America

Blue Star Mothers of America (BSMA) has asked that each member sign into their online account at **BlueStarMothers.Org** to make sure they have your current email. Address. Occasionally BSMA emails can end up in spam so be sure to check there!!!



Signs of crisis

Every Veteran is different, and many may not show any obvious signs of intent to kill themselves. But some actions and behaviors can be a sign they need help.

Crisis signs

These signs require immediate attention. If a Veteran you know needs medical attention, **call 911** now. For immediate help in dealing with a mental health or suicide crisis, call the Veterans Crisis Line: **Dial 988 then Press 1.**

- Thinking about hurting or killing themselves
- Looking for ways to kill themselves
- Talking about death, dying, or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior, such as drug abuse, risky use of weapons, etc.

REMEMBER: If you believe a Veteran is at high risk of suicide and has already taken pills or harmed themselves in some way, **call 911**. And keep yourself safe—**never** negotiate with someone who has a firearm. **Get to safety and call 911, noting the Veteran is armed.**

Warning signs

These signs may indicate that a Veteran needs help. Contact the Veterans Crisis Line now—**Dial 988 then Press 1**—if a Veteran you know is exhibiting any of these:

- Appearing sad or depressed most of the time
- Hopelessness
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling as if there is no reason to live
- Feeling excessive guilt, shame, or sense of failure
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug misuse
- Losing interest in hobbies, work, or school
- Neglecting personal welfare and appearance
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Showing violent behavior, like punching a hole in the wall or getting into fights
- Giving away prized possessions
- Getting affairs in order, tying up loose ends, or writing a will

Supporting the VA Food Pantry For Veterans

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 Canned Tuna
Pasta Pasta Sauce (glass/plastic jar or cans)
Rice-A-Roni Meals Peanut Butter
Oatmeal Cereal
Canned Fruit Canned Vegetables
Personal care items (soap, toothpaste, shampoo)
Shelf stable milk or juice
Reusable Shopping Bags

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 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 Annual in September. 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.

