

GREATER TAMPA BAY BLUE STAR MOTHERS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



July 2019

Warrior Games Tampa Bay—Inspiration, Skill, Courage, Compassion, Teamwork and Family

From sign in of athletes and families, through opening ceremonies, competitions, awards and closing ceremonies there was no shortage of team spirit, skill, inspiration and courage by athletes, families and volunteers alike. Greater Tampa Bay Blue Star Mothers were blessed and proud to be a small part of making these fantastic athletes and their families welcome. Due to the generosity of our donors we were able to hand out over 250 backpacks jam packed with goodies, souvenirs and toys to the children and families who came to our table and populated our hallway. Many thanks to all the GTBBSM members and their spouses and families who helped acquire donations, assemble and transport bags and worked our table and helped out at a few others as well. To those that “monkeyed around” and those that worked the tables, helped and cleaned up. Thank you for a job well done. We had a blast meeting new people from here at home and around the globe as well as our partners in nearby tables, Central Command and the service branches. To all who made this possible—thank you again. To all who came and participated—words cannot convey the inspiration you gave us, the display of skill and professionalism and the service you gave our country. We will all be forever changed.



GTBBSM AT WARRIOR GAMES (CON'T)



MISSION ADOPT A RECRUIT

At our Blue Star Mothers meeting we were told several stories about “abandoned” recruits. They had no one to write to them at boot camp, be there for graduation or share that huge moment of accomplishment and pride. We all agreed to reach out to recruits and begin the process nationally as well as creating an adopt a recruit program. As we gear up for this Mission, anyone that wants to join us, please send an email to FL3BSM@gmail.com and we'll let you know as more information becomes available.



BARBARA'S CORNER

In this column I want to talk about the evolution of our Blue Star Mothers Chapter. Like our Military and our world, our organization is forever in motion - changing and growing to be inclusive of new members in our areas of responsibility, changing and growing to meet our military families' needs and to serve our military community. At last count we have 50 members! Currently we add about 2—3 new members every couple of months. Your surveys help us develop new ideas and ways to socialize with each other and serve our families, soldiers and military communities. Elections are very soon. We need you! Join in, give feedback, propose new ideas and fundraisers and above all—let us know what you do outside our organization for the military for our newsletter. Our donors and members would love to know! We are evolving and growing—come be active with us!!

IT'S JULY 4TH—WE MUST BE AT THE SAFETY HARBOR PARADE—FANTASTIC FLOAT—GREAT TIME! THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEER DECORATORS AND MARCHERS!



ABOUT THOSE SURVEYS...

Everyone should have received a survey from Barbara. If you haven't, please be sure to let her know because your feedback is very important! The first part of the survey is used to create a member profile so we can feature each and every one of us in our newsletter so all our members can get to know each other on a personal level since we don't always get the chance to do that at meetings and events. The second part of the survey is your chance to tell us what you think we're doing right, what other things you like to do or see, and suggestions for what you think we can do to improve communication, our reach in the community and opportunities to socialize and fundraise. GTBBSM is growing and we want to be as inclusive and reach as many new potential members who may need the club, want to support activities or just be a BSM. Your feedback is vital to us to do that and support our military and veteran children and our military and veteran community. National has asked each and every club no matter how big or small to have a Public Relations Chair. Unified messaging and ensuring we reach as many potential members as possible and continue to highlight BSM in the community is of paramount importance to them. To that end, Barbara has asked me to serve as Public Relations Chair and I have accepted. I have over 30 years experience in public relations, marketing and event planning and coordination as well 3 years as part of a local board for a non-profit close to my heart. I need your help making sure what I am writing and doing is reflective of our membership's goals and ideals. To quote High School Musical "We're all in this together". Please take the time to fill out your surveys. Your feedback and info makes a difference!

Cindy Thomas, Public Relations Chair

Giving Hope to the Homeless

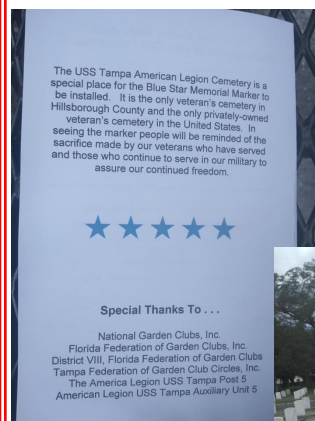
Our vision is to locate and identify homeless Veterans and non-Veterans to aid in finding emergency shelter and assist in providing the necessities to improve their quality of life. Tampa Homeless Outreach will offer direction and guidance to these individuals in navigating the resources available in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties; assisting them in reaching the goal of permanent and affordable housing.

Join us for a black tie or blue jean evening of dining, dancing and camaraderie to allow Tampa Homeless Outreach to help many more homeless men, women and families.

Tickets are \$50 pp and available on line only at:
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/tampahomelessoutreach1>



Honored to attend the dedication of the Blue Star Memorial Marker.



Is Being Someone's Angel On Your "Things I Want To Do" List?

Honor Flight of Central FL is looking for volunteer guardians, more info can be found here & give website. <http://www.honorflightwcf.org/guardian-application/>

Honor Flight of West Central Florida is looking for volunteer guardians for upcoming fall flights. ☐

"Are you looking for the experience of a lifetime? Would you like to make a Veteran's dream come true to see the memorials built in his/her honor?"

We are in need of guardians for our fall flights- Mission 39 Sep 10 and Mission 40 Oct 22. This is a special honor and essential to the success of each Mission.

Guardians MUST be between 18 and 70 years of age and CANNOT be the spouse/ significant other of the Veteran. Cost is \$400 (airline, bus, meals etc).

If you would like to be a guardian, accompany a Veteran to Washington, D.C. and share in this meaningful day, please submit a guardian application ASAP.

Thank you for continued support not only to fly our Veterans, but to change lives."

http://www.honorflightwcf.org/guardian-application/?fbclid=IwAR2s02xFLj-filqnrFwWJQeoaGqYmpnyqO2G0M_jxFTCiQNd2dnpzuGhoc



UPCOMING EVENTS

July—Athena House Ice Cream Social

August—BSM National Convention

August 3 @ noon, BSM Meeting Elections of Officers

September—Patriot's Day, Veteran's Memorial Park

September 4 - BSM Meeting, American Legion Post 5

September 21—New Member/Prospective Member Happy Hour- - Cindy Thomas' house New Tampa (invites and info coming very soon)

October—Gold Star Mothers Appreciation Lunch date and location TBD (we're taking suggestions!)

October 2—BSM Meeting, American Legion Post 5

October 12—Field of Honor—Blue and Gold Ceremony—Cimino Family

October 22-25—Medal of Honor Tampa Bay Convention - Details and Volunteer Opportunities coming soon

November—Goodie Bags for Yolando Mercados Veterans Day Meal

November 11—Veterans Day Parade and Happy Hour Social Following (details TBD)

November 17—Deployed Troops Holiday Packing

December—Athena House Christmas Party - location and date TBD

December 4—BSM Meeting and Holiday Party

December 7—Pearl Harbor/WWII Memorial

December 14—Wreaths Across America—various locations

January—new socials and volunteer opportunities coming in 2020!

Feeling A Little Patriotic and A Little Country?



Tim Montana and the Shrednecks
Sunday, August 4th
5pm-9pm
The Regent, Riverview
(behind Winthrop Town Center)

Military - \$8 donation; civilians- \$15 (includes BBQ dinner);
Cash bar

https://www.unation.com/event/184724437?fbclid=IwAR17cEw_jdJKil477XRll06teafxnhA6jSTUcAbCvqf1iN4bAOc_04lgpe4

Don't Forget To Follow Us On Facebook by Liking Greater Tampa Bay Blue Star Mothers And Keep On Top Of What's Happening!