

GREATER TAMPA BAY BLUE STAR MOTHERS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



May 2019

3RD Annual Tribute To The Troops— Memorial Ride and Concert

Our Greater Tampa Bay Blue Star Mothers (BSM) were honored to support and participate in the 3rd Annual Tribute To The Troops Memorial Ride and Concert. Our Tribute To The Troops® is a non-profit (501c3) organization of dedicated volunteers, supporters and participants that have joined together to raise awareness to the sacrifices made by America's fallen post 9-11 heroes and their families.

The ride began Saturday, April 13th and ended on Sunday, April 14th. The Motorcycle ride visited 6 families of these warriors in the Tampa, FL area. Riders let these families know that we have NOT forgotten their service, sacrifice and most importantly – our HERO!

Honored to be a part of Tribute to the Troops. Our Chapter provided lunch for the motorcycle riders from around the country and our cherished Gold Star Mothers and families. Our Chapter also conducted a Blue to Gold Ceremony at the quarterly Field of Honor with presentations of Gold Star Banners. Thank you Donna Kistel for all you do in doing important Gold Star Liaison work you do and to all those who came out to the lunch to volunteer.

Our Chapter also volunteered at the evening's Tribute to the Troops dinner concert featuring country music recording artist and co-founder of Tribute To The Troops, Rockie Lynne. We so very pleased to donate 2 gift baskets for the silent auction on behalf of our Chapter and we were truly excited to donate the tip money we received from the lunch we served earlier in the day back to Tribute To The Troops. Thank you also to the evenings volunteers who helped us help make this event a success.

Honor. Respect. Never Forget.



A PATRIOTS WELCOME FOR AB ISAAC W. ANDERSON SR.—FINALLY HOME

Excerpted From WFLA News Channel 8; Heather Monahan, May 18, 2019: TAMPA, FL-- The remains of a local hero finally came home Thursday after he died in a plane crash in 1952, disappearing after a military flight over Alaska. On Nov. 22, 1952, Anderson and 51 other American soldiers were headed for Anchorage on a C-124 Globemaster II. But the plane slammed into Mount Gannett in Alaska, killing all 52 people aboard. According to the Associated Press, the wreckage from the crash was found soon after but later became buried in snow and forgotten as it became part of the glacier.

In June 2012, the wreckage was rediscovered by an Army National Guard crew during a routine training mission. A team has traveled to the glacier every year since to try and recover remains. "I'm just glad it's happening. I'm glad it's over," his son, Isaac Anderson Jr., said.

"I started in 1999, thinking I would never get this day. And we're standing here together, interviewing with you and I'm getting my day," said Anderson's granddaughter Tonja Anderson-Dell, who has tirelessly worked to make this moment come to fruition, just before the plane arrived.

Family members joined Air Force members and watched as American Airlines flight 809 arrived in Tampa to a fire truck water salute. On hand along with Mr. Anderson's son were Mr. Anderson's grandchildren and great grandchildren. The stories they had heard about Mr. Anderson, his death, his values and his sacrifices, suddenly solidified as the wheels touched the tarmac bringing home his remains after over 65 years. Airman Anderson's return sunk in after a flag-draped casket rolled off the airplane and onto Florida soil. "It became real at that moment. At that moment. That he was actually home," an emotional Anderson-Dell said.

Anderson was born in Brewster but later moved to Tampa where he eventually met his wife, Dorothy Anderson, who has since passed away. The two had one son together. Anderson's granddaughter, said her grandfather joined the U.S. Air Force because he wanted to provide for his family.

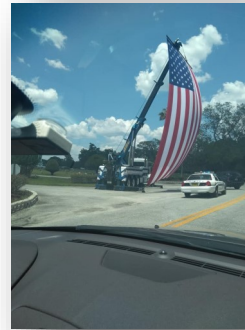
So far, 40 soldiers were identified and returned home to their families.

A church service was held May 18th at Town N Country Church of The Nazarene with burial following at the Garden of Memories. Greater Tampa Bay Blue Star Mothers were honored and humbled to serve as witnesses to this monumental home coming. At the celebration of life service, we conducted a Blue to Gold Ceremony and presented Tonja and her father, Isaac Anderson, Jr., with Gold Star Banners and Fallen Hero Challenge Coins.

We were truly blessed to have Ms. Anderson-Dell speak to our club and to offer any and all support we could in her efforts to bring our hometown hero back home to his family.

Thank you to all who came out to welcome Airman Anderson home and who attended the services and burial. A special thank you to Sheri Weis who added a beautiful sentiment to our gift of a patriotic memorial quilt to the Anderson family.

Honor. Dignity. Respect. Never Forget. Airman Isaac W. Anderson, Sr. laid to rest for all eternity. R.I.P. Sir.





BARBARA'S CORNER

May is Blue Star Mothers of America Month

The work that we do is increasingly important for those that have served and continue to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, the global war on terrorism, and with continued deployments of our heroes. Your dedication, sacrifice, and hard work as a member of our Chapter certainly merit recognition.

The month of May is dedicated to all of us and I would encourage you to let everyone you know to take some time during the month of May to honor and recognize the dedication and sacrifice of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. and to recognize and celebrate our rich history and contributions.

I hope you enjoy the article I found on Military Moms and Mothers Day. Please also the wonderful letter we received from Governor DeSantis below in Honor of Blue Star Mothers Month

Barbara

How Military Moms Changed the History of Mother's Day

Americans celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, they will be continuing a tradition that most famously dates back to 1908, when Anna Jarvis sent 500 white carnations to Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in her hometown of Grafton, W.Va., for what's widely considered the first Mother's Day celebration on May 10, 1908. Mother's Day got federal recognition six years later when Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation declaring the second Sunday of May, a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country."

But the holiday didn't become the popular celebration it is now until a bit later — a change that came thanks to a perfect storm of factors.

One change was technological and social, as means for promoting and celebrating a day like Mother's Day became more available. Following the growth in consumer products after the industrial revolution of the late 19th century, the advertising industry took off in the 1910s and 1920s. Retailers mastered the art of using holidays to drive department-store sales. Greeting cards and gift wrap had been invented, and the Florists' Telegraph Delivery Association formed to make it easier to wire a bouquet of flowers from afar. Ironically, though Jarvis eventually came to resent the commercialization of the holiday she had started to honor the challenges faced by her own mother, she actually worked in advertising too.

This advertising appealed to something that couldn't be bought, and that Americans at that moment were craving. As more younger Americans moved away from their homes to urban centers (including Anna Jarvis, who lived in Philadelphia), the desire to reconnect with parents and home rose to the surface.

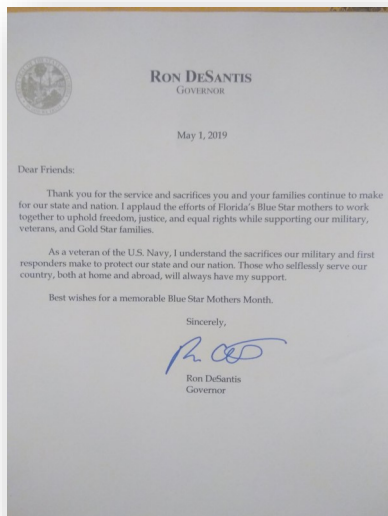
"Advertisers create ad campaigns to play on that sense of familial vulnerability and homesickness. A mother isolated from her children can be made glad by receiving flowers on the occasion," says Leigh E. Schmidt, author of *Consumer Rites: The Buying and Selling of American Holidays* and at the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University in St. Louis. "Mother's Day plays on a sense that people are disconnected and have lost their immediate connection. Mother's Day is this moment in the year and where you can reconnect and reaffirm these family ties across the miles."

Soon enough, the desire to connect across the miles took on a more urgent tone.

When the United States joined World War I in 1917, and the war propaganda machine revved up, the burst of patriotism came with a renewed appreciation for mothers. Women were hailed both for raising the soldiers who were on the front lines and for the work they were doing on the home front, such as running fundraisers for the Red Cross. Mother's Day was a way to thank these women for their service.

"World War I comes on the scene, and with all of these sons away at war, there are campaigns to get these sons to send something on Mother's Day," says Schmidt.

"I wish that every officer and soldier of the [American Expeditionary Forces] would write a letter home on Mother's Day," Gen. John J. Pershing declared on May 8, 1918. "This is a little thing for each one to do, but these letters will carry back our courage and our affection to the patriotic women whose love and prayers inspire us and cheer us on to victory."



How Military Moms Changed The History of Mothers Day (con't)

Stationed in Calais, France, Capt. Arthur Wolff's May 12, 1918, letter to his mother said, "Today is known as Mother's Day and every American soldier is writing home today," and he explained how he had just gotten back from a four-day "trip to frontline trenches."

With more than 116,000 Americans who died from disease or in combat during that conflict, the Great War also led to the formation of the American Gold Star Mothers organization, to support mothers of the fallen.

Mothers standing in line near the American flag during the crowing ceremonies of Mother's Day on a U.S. Army base. 1942.

Mothers standing in line near the American flag during the crowing ceremonies of Mother's Day on a U.S. Army base. 1942. William C. Shrout—The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images

The war ended in 1918, but to make sure that veterans would keep up the tradition of reaching out to their mothers after the war, Assistant Secretary of the Navy and future President Franklin Delano Roosevelt sent a reminder about Mother's Day via a May 9, 1919, telegram to the men of the Navy: "I trust that no one who has a mother still living will neglect to write or if possible visit her on this occasion period. No sacrifices during the war have been more severe or borne with more bravery and cheerfulness than the sacrifices of of the mothers of America."

By Mother's Day 1935, when he was in the White House, Roosevelt said that Mother's Day had "assumed a deep and growing significance," so much so that a presidential proclamation telling people to write their mothers on Mother's Day would be "unnecessary," as "I prefer to think that the tributes which will be paid to mothers will come simply and spontaneously from our hearts."

By the time World War II arrived, not only were there "more mothers than ever before in U.S. history" and "more U.S. sons ... away from home on Mother's Day" than at any point since 1918, as TIME remarked, but the holiday was by then firmly entrenched in the American calendar.

Today, 113 million cards are exchanged annually for Mother's Day, making it the third most popular holiday for sending greeting cards in the U.S., according to Hallmark.

By Olivia B. Waxman, May 10, 2019 olivia.waxman@time.com
<http://time.com/5585264/mothers-day-origins-military/>

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT DONORS FOR OUR WARRIOR GAMES CHILDREN'S BACKPACKS

It takes a village and we are so grateful to be part of such a warm giving community here in the Tampa Bay area. Big, big thank yous to:

Gold Star Mothers—\$250

Support The Troops—400 sets of earbuds (Thank you Nikki Smith reaching out on our behalf!)

80 Red Lanyards—Thank you Donna Kistel for making these happen

A huge THANK YOU to Kelly Kowal at My Warrior's Place for the generous donation for our deployed troops packing.

If you have received or made any donations—please let Cindy Thomas know by emailing her at rthoma10@tampabay.rr.com

**PLEASE BE SURE TO SUPPORT THOSE THAT SUPPORT OUR TROOPS, VETER-
ANS AND OUR BLUE STAR MOTHERS!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

06/01/19 Threshers Baseball, Military Appreciation Night. Spectrum Field, Clearwater.

06/15/19 Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication, 11:00 a.m. American Legion Cemetery, 3810 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa

06/16/19 Deployed Troops Patriotic Packing, American Legion Post 5

06/21/19 – 06/30/19 - Wounded Warrior Games

July—Athena House Ice Cream Social

07/04 19 - 4th of July Parade, Safety Harbor

July—Field of Honor – Tonja Dell-Anderson Family to be recognized

August—BSM National Convention

August 3 @ noon, BSM Meeting Mission BBQ, 5602 W. Waters Ave., Tampa, FL (elections)

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

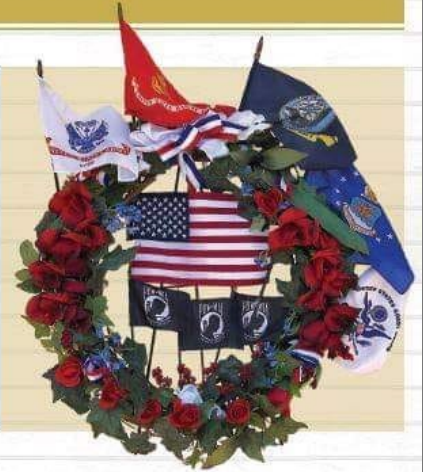
September 4 - BSM Meeting, American Legion Post 5

October—Gold Star Mothers Appreciation Lunch

October—Field of Honor

Honoring Fallen Heroes and the True Meaning of Memorial Day

22nd Annual Memorial Day Weekend Remembrance Ceremony



Join Hillsborough County leadership along with Veterans, active duty military members, and Gold Star Families, as we honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Sunday, May 26 at 10 a.m.
Veterans Memorial Park
and Rear Admiral Leroy Collins, Jr. Museum
3602 Highway 301 North in Tampa

Following the ceremony, attendees are encouraged to stay and enjoy refreshments, the park, and museum displays. For more information, contact Consumer and Veterans Services at (813) 246-3170.



HCFLGov.net/Veterans



Friday, June 21

Golf Prelim, Eagles Golf Course
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 22

Track, University of South Florida
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Golf Finals, Eagles Golf Course
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Mountain Bike Demonstration, Alafia State Park
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Opening Ceremony, Amalie Arena
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 23

Field, University of South Florida
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Wheelchair Tennis, University of South Florida
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cycling Time Trial, Bayshore Boulevard
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Monday, June 24

Archery Prelim, Tampa Convention Center
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Powerlifting, Tampa Convention Center
2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Wheelchair Basketball Prelim, Tampa Convention

Tuesday, June 25

Archery Finals, Tampa Convention Center
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Indoor Rowing, Tampa Convention Center
2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Wheelchair Basketball Prelim, Tampa Convention Center
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 26

Cycling Road Race, MacDill Air Force Base
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Wheelchair Rugby Prelim, Tampa Convention Center
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sitting Volleyball Prelim, Tampa Convention Center
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 27

Shooting Prelim, Tampa Convention Center
7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Wheelchair Rugby Prelim, Tampa Convention Center
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sitting Volleyball Prelim, Tampa Convention Center
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday, June 28

Shooting Finals, Tampa Convention Center
7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Wheelchair Rugby Finals, Tampa Convention Center
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Wheelchair Basketball Finals, Tampa Convention Center
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 29

Swimming, Long Aquatic Center
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 30

Wheelchair Volleyball Finals, Yuengling Center
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Closing Ceremonies, Amalie Arena
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



[View in browser](#)



WE SALUTE YOU, VETERANS


FREE ADMISSION
FOR ALL VETERANS




FREE ADMISSION
FOR UP TO 3 GUESTS

Busch Gardens is proud to support military veterans with this exciting special offer. As a thank you for your service, we are offering veterans **one free ticket and up to three additional tickets for immediate family members**. Visit our website to verify your veteran status through ID.me and claim your tickets. Your tickets are good for one visit to Busch Gardens Tampa Bay now through July 15*.

You must claim your FREE tickets by June 9, so take advantage of this offer today!