



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.



November 2009

*Happy Birthday NKY Chapter 5.....
You are three years old.*

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. was established in 1942. Chartered by congress in 1960 and 64 years later the first chapter was established and chartered in Northern Kentucky.

On November 15, 2006, eight military mothers and friends from Northern KY saw a dream change to reality when we received our charter from the United States of America Federal Government. With our charter the Commonwealth of Kentucky acquired their Fifth Chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. We hit the ground running in November 2006 and haven't stopped yet. We have encountered a couple of bumps in the road but that makes for a healthy diversified group. We have never forgotten our mission of supporting and honoring our military Troops, our Veterans and showing respect to all Blue Star Mothers.

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-discriminatory and non-profit (501(c)3) organization. In three years we have grown from eight chartered members to 40 Blue Star Mothers, 36 associate members, Dads and Youth Ambassadors.

We have had many "first" since we received our charter. All of them very special and memorable and many of them will remain as a NKY Chapter 5 BSMA mark of achievement for many years to come.

May God Bless the United States of America, our military, our veterans and all the military support groups and especially YOU!



U.S. Marine Corps 234th Birthday

November 10th 2009



One of the most famous Marine customs is the observance of the Marine Corps Birthday. Since 1921 the birthday of the Marine Corps has been officially celebrated each year on 10 November, since it was on this date in 1775 that Continental Congress resolved, "That two Battalions of Marines be raised...." Over the years the Marine Corps Birthday has been celebrated in a wide variety of ways, depending on the location and circumstances of the Marine units. The celebration involves the reading of an excerpt from the Marine Corps Manual and a birthday message from the Commandant; the cutting of a birthday cake by the commanding officer; and the presentation of the first and second pieces of cake to the oldest and youngest Marines present. Recently, the ceremony for the observance of the Marine Corps Birthday by large posts and stations has been incorporated into written directives.

US MARINE CORPS / US MARINE RIDERS 234th BIRTHDAY GATHERING

Special "K's Sports Bar and Grill, Richwood, KY

<http://www.usmarineriders.com/apps/photos/album?albumid=7445816&pagesize=60&page=1>

A great time was had by all –
Thanks for keeping America safe for the last 234 years –
Semper Fi





“What is a Veteran”

Except in parades, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem. You can't tell a vet just by looking. He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel. She – or – he is the nurse who fought futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang. He is the POW who went away one person and came back another – or didn't come back AT ALL. He is the Quantico drill instructor who has never seen combat – but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's back. He is the Legionnaire who pins on his ribbon and medals with a prosthetic hand. He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by. He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb of the Unknown, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep. He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being – a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs. He is a soldier and savior and a sword against darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known. So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say “Thank You”. That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

By Father Denis Edward O'Brian / USMC
Recited by Cadet Eric Napier at the
Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North on Veteran's Day
November 11, 2009





Veterans Day 2009 Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North

On the 11th month, 11th day, 11th hour, America comes together to pay tribute to those who have served to keep our country free.

November 11, 2009 marked the day of dedicating the NKY Blue Star Mother's Memorial Marker, the very first of it's kind to be placed in this cemetery.

The sun was shining brightly but the wind packed a cold wallop as many members of the BSMA NKY Chapter 5 had the distinct honor of being an integral part of the ceremony at the Williamstown Veterans Cemetery North. People from all around came to pay tribute to those who have served our country. In attendance were some very distinguished guests such as Ken Lucas, CSM (Retired) Major Duffee, Grant County JROTC and approximately 300 high school students from Grant County and most importantly many Veteran's and their families.

Michelle Roberts carrying the Blue Star Service Flag and Ruth Ann Herzog carrying the Five Military Branches Flag served as the flag bearers.

Lorene Friedman recited the Veteran's eulogy.

Kay Bryant and Rose Welker placed the memorial wreath along side the memorial marker.

Martha Woodside closed the dedicated with the blessing.

“A DAY OF HONORING ALL WHO SERVED”

For pictures from the Ceremony please click on
www.usmarineriders.com -- Honor - Veteran's Day 11/09



Kentucky Fallen Warriors
from
“Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom

Eighty-two small American Flags were planted on the hillside at the VA Cemetery North, in Williamstown, KY to honor and show respect for the Fallen Warriors.

Each one of these Fallen Warriors made the ultimate sacrifice for our Country.

Their Blue Star has turned to Gold.



Pfc. Sergio S. Abad,	Sgt. Christopher T. Heflin
Sgt. Michael D. Acklin II	1st Lt. Robert Henderson II
Capt. Clayton Adamkavicius	Sgt. 1st Class James T. Hoffman
Staff Sgt. William A. Allers III	Spec. Jonathan A. Hughes
Spec. Jason E. Ames	Sgt. 1st Class Charles Jason Jones
Pvt. Adrian Edmund DeAngelo Augustin	Lance Cpl. Sean M. Langley
Chief Petty Officer Gregory J. Billiter	Lance Cpl. Robert A. Lynch
Sgt. 1st Class Jason L. Bishop	Specialist William L. McMillan III
Sgt. William G. Bowling	Sgt. Phillip McNeill
Master Sgt. Thomas Bruner	Pfc. Scott Messer
Spec. Joey Cantrell	Spec. Ryan J. Montgomery
Staff Sgt. Nicholas R. Carnes	Pfc. Joshua Moore
Staff Sgt. Thomas W. Clemons	Sgt. 1st Class John D. Morton
Cpl. Gary B. Coleman	Maj. Michael L. Mundell
Lance Cpl. Chase J. Comley	Lance Cpl. Deshon E. Otey
Sgt. David K. Cooper	Sgt. 1st Class Christopher W. Phelps
Staff Sgt. John E. Cooper	Pfc. Sammie Phillips
Sgt. 1st Class Lance Cornett	Sgt. Darrin K. Potter
Master Sgt. Clinton Cubert	Spec. James Powell
Sgt. Matthew L. Deckard	Sgt. Tatjana Reed
Sgt. 1st Class Robert V. Derenda	Lance Cpl. Thomas Reilly Jr
Cpl. Nicholas J. Dieruf	Staff Sgt. George S. Rentschler
Pfc. Stephen P. Downing II	Sgt. William P. Rudd
Staff Sgt. Joe L. Dunigan	Spec. Justin A. Scott
Lance Cpl. Thomas P. Echols	Pvt. Robert J. Settle
Sgt. Robert W. Ehney	Sgt. James A. Sherrill
Maj. Steven W. Faulkenburg	Cpl. Windell J. Simmons

Spec. Timothy A. Fulkerson	Captain Eric Daniel Terhune
Spec. James W. Gardner	Lance Cpl. Jonathan B. Thornsberry
Lance Cpl. Chadwick A. Gilliam	Pfc. Joshua K. Titcomb
2nd Lt. Jeffrey C. Graham	Spec. Eric L. Toth
Spc. Kevin J. Graham	Sgt. Daniel W. Wallace
Pfc. Brian L. Gorham	Sgt. Joshua A. Ward
Spec. Jeremy Gullett	Cpl. Christopher T. Warndorf
Staff Sgt. Santiago M. Halsel	Pfc. Theodore "Coty" West
Staff Sgt. Christopher N. Hamlin	Staff Sgt. Delmar White
Sgt. James W. Harlan	Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeffrey L. Wiener
Pfc. Michael R. Hayes	Spec. Ronnie D. Williams
Lance Cpl. Justin Sims	Sgt. David N. Wimberg
Staff Sgt. Garth Sizemore	Staff Sgt. Gary L. Woods Jr
Sgt. Joseph M. Tackett	Sgt. 1st Class William Zapfe



THANKSGIVING ~ November 26, 2009

Today, the people of the United States celebrate one of our National Holidays, 'Thanksgiving'. We gather with one another to give thanks for our many blessings, to enjoy family and home, and to remember loved ones who are not able to be with us on this day.

It was on September 25, 1789, while Congress was in session, that Congressman Elias Boudinot from the state of New Jersey stated that he "could not think of letting the session pass over without offering an opportunity to all the citizens of the United States of joining, with one voice, in returning to Almighty God their sincere thanks for the many blessings he had poured down upon them." He proposed to both the House of Representatives and the Senate that they make joint request of President George Washington that he should issue proclamation for a day of thanksgiving for "the many signal favors of Almighty God."

On October 3, 1789, President George Washington issued the first "Thanksgiving Proclamation", which declared November 26, 1789 a national day of 'thanksgiving and prayer' for our country. You can read, hear, and learn more about the proclamation here: <http://lifeofgeorgewashington.org/georgewashingtonsthansgivingproclamation.html>

Although the issuing of the Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamation ceased in the early 1800s for some 45 years, the tradition was re-instituted by President Abraham Lincoln when he gave his 'Proclamation of Thanksgiving' on October 3, 1863 <http://www.historyplace.com/lincoln/thanks.ht> which declared that the last Thursday of November 1863 would be set aside for a nationwide celebration of thanksgiving.

Since that time, 'Thanksgiving' has been observed annually in the United States. During the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the observation date from the last Thursday of November to the third Thursday to allow for extra shopping time between Thanksgiving and Christmas, with Congress enacting what was called the 'fourth Thursday compromise'. Though his reasoning was to boost our economy by extending the holiday shopping season, public protest was huge and rapidly became politicized. In the year 1939, some states celebrated a 'Democratic Thanksgiving' on the third Thursday of November and others celebrated a 'Republican Thanksgiving' on the fourth Thursday of November.

Public outrage continued, even calling Thanksgiving 'Franksgiving' until December 26, 1941, when Congress passed a law ensuring a unified American celebration of Thanksgiving, declaring a National Holiday to be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November.

There are numerous claims to the date and location of the 'First Thanksgiving Celebration' from which we model our present day American observance. Record shows that the Spanish explorer, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado led a 'thanksgiving' celebration at the Palo Duro Canyon, in West Texas in 1541. And on September 8, 1565, 800 settlers gathered for a 'thanksgiving' meal in the Spanish colony of St. Augustine, Florida, with their leader, Pedro Menendez de Aviles and the Timucuan Indians.

On June 30, 1564, René de Laudonnière, the leader of the colony of French Huguenots who had established the settlement which is now Jacksonville, Florida, recorded that they had sang and celebrated "thanksgiving" unto God. Colonists in Jamestown who had diminished from 409 to just 60 survivors, called for a celebration of 'thanksgiving' when ships filled with food and supplies arrived from England in 1610. And on December 4, 1619, when 38

colonists landed at another place in present-day Virginia that they called Berkeley Hundred, they also were to celebrate 'thanksgiving'.

In 1621, the most famous of 'thanksgiving' celebrations (and the one most Americans attribute to being 'the first traditional thanksgiving feast/celebration') took place between the surviving Mayflower Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Native Americans in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Too, the settlers of the Massachusetts Bay Colony observed a celebration of 'Thanksgiving' on July 8, 1630.

Colonists recorded that 'when the sailing ended and the ships were accounted for', there was a 'day of thanksgiving' in all plantations. Passengers aboard the Arbella proclaimed they had celebrations of 'thanksgiving' while on route. Yet, as no American Nation existed at any of these times, none of these 'thanksgiving' celebrations held national pronouncement or proclamation.

It wasn't until George Washington stopped his troops in the open fields in 1777 while on route to Valley Forge that the first observance of 'thanksgiving' took place in the new United States of America.

Today, November 26, 2009, is Thanksgiving Day in our country. And, no matter which past feasts and celebrations we look to as our 'First Thanksgiving', today is our day in which to set aside the time, as a Nation, to give gratitude and thanksgiving for all of our many blessings.

Please see this year's Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamation at:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-thanksgiving-day>

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