



# FLORIDA BLUE STAR MOMS MESSENGER **SUNSHINE 91**



## WHAT has HAPPENED AND is HAPPENING?

Florida Blue Star Moms has been around for a year. Do you know what has happened in that year? Check out these facts.

Membership has grown to over 60 members!

We have sent about 200 boxes overseas.

We have supported each other through deployments, homecomings, and injuries.

We have visited veterans and passed out mementoes.

We have welcomed home soldiers.

We have mourned the loss of fallen heroes.

We have been on national

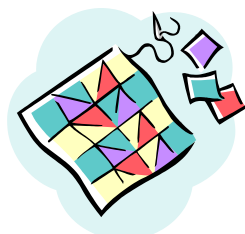
TV and the local newspaper. We have written cards and letters.

WE have been busy! I know that we are spread out across the state and it's not easy to get together but what are you doing in your area? Please email and let us know what is happening . Blue Star Moms MAKE it happen!

Coming up is our **NIGHT AT THE SUNS!** Aug. 31st , Blue Star Moms will have a table set up to promote the FL Blue Star Mom organization. We hope that all of you can make it. Check out the website for more information.

Saturday, September 8  
"Crafting For the Wounded"

BSM will sponsor a craft fair. Location TBA. No Talent Required! Pat Johnson will lead this effort to make lap blankets and quilts for our wounded heroes. Invite your friends to join us. More info coming!  
[johnson703@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnson703@bellsouth.net)



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Volume 1, Issue 1  
July 2007

### UP COMING MEETINGS:

- JULY 10TH
- AUG. 14TH
- SEPT. 11TH
- OCT. 9TH
- NOV. 13TH
- DEC. 11TH

Communication Workers  
Union Hall  
4076 Union Hall Place  
6:30-socializing  
7:00 meeting

### FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

- Coyle & Sons, Inc
- Absolute Surveying & Mapping, Inc.
- One At A Time Auto Repair
- United Methodist Women of Beach
- ABC Sealcoating & Stripping
- Fred H. Brown All Airborne Charter
- SA Douglas Construction
- Publix Supermarkets

Calling ALL members! Have you had a video made for your military person? NOW is the time! Go to the community support link on our website and visit JACKSONVILLE VIDEOGRAPHERS . They will make you a video for FREE! Let's put these guys to work, get your video made now.



## A Mother's Thought

### A MOTHER'S THOUGHT

I had a thought of my son today.

I wondered what would come his way.

Will he be safe on that distant shore?

Will he realize what he is fighting for?

Will he stare death in the face?

Will he claim God's saving Grace?

I had a thought of my son today.

I wondered what would come his way?

Will the people back home say a prayer

For all our soldiers over there?

Will they support our soldier's needs?

Will they understand why our soldier bleeds?

I had a thought of my son today.

Please God let others think this way.

Written by

Patricia Johnson

Do you have an inspirational thought, poem, or story to share? Send it to [Johnson703@bellsouth.net](mailto:Johnson703@bellsouth.net). Our next newsletter will be published in Oct. Deadline for information to be published is Sept. 15th.

## President's Message

It's hard to believe that we have already been chartered a year ~ what a wonderful year it has been! We've grown to over 60 members statewide and have new mothers and associates joining each week. We have participated in several events that have benefited our active military and our Veterans and have many more opportunities to reach out to them and to each other.

The Newsletter is a wonderful addition and will allow us to stay in touch and assure that everyone knows the good things that are taking place both here in Jacksonville, and with your input, the things going on in your area. Pat Johnson, our Vice President, has spent many hours preparing this along with a Directory of Members that each of you will be receiving via e-mail within the next few weeks. We are appreciative of Pat's time and dedication to our chapter. Please read all of the information we send and let us know of any changes and especially any additions you may have. Communication will be the key to our continued success and your information is very important to us.

When this chapter was formed, it was with the desire and intent to be a source of support to one another as we are the only ones who truly know and understand the concerns, and yes, the fears, we feel as mothers of military children. I want each of you to know that we care about you and about your child(ren). Please let us know what is going on with you and with them. It is my belief that our children are only as strong as we are ~ let's lean on one another as a source of support and strength. Remember that support, encouragement or a listening ear is just a phone call or e-mail away. You may call any of us on the Executive Board anytime day or night ~ all of our contact information will be included in the Directory. In the meantime, if you need to speak with someone, we may be reached as follows: Judy Edwards, President, 904-381-5900/904-699-8520 and/or Pat Johnson, Vice President, 904-781-8583/904-248-1432.

Let us hear from you soon...

*Judy*

~ Until they all come Home...We will remain strong and supportive ~



**DO YOU KNOW A BUSINESS OR  
ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD BECOME A PARTNER WITH BLUE STAR  
MOMS?**

**Or maybe they would like to give a one-time donation.**

**Let us know about them.**

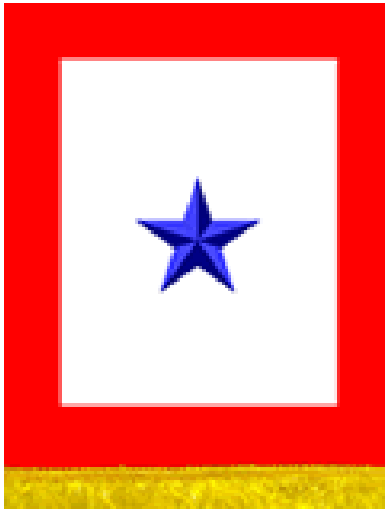
**Or**

**Contact them and have them send the  
contribution to our P.O.Box. (address on page 1)**

**Or**

**Contact Debbie Douglas our Financial Liaison  
904-762-1776**





Are you flying your service flag? Flying a Blue Star Service flag is one way we have to show our patriotism to others.

Honor our service men and women by hanging the service

From the Editor:

We have finally achieved the task of a newsletter! We want this to be an asset to our organization. Communication is vital. As we are spread across the state, our newsletter, website, and e-mail keeps us close. YOU are an essential part of each of these communications. It is you that provide us with information of what is happening. Without your information we would have nothing to share. SO, I will look forward to receiving your contributions for the newsletter as well as well as the website.

[www.johnson703@bellsouth.net](mailto:www.johnson703@bellsouth.net)



*Here is Food for thought as you talk to your Military person.*

*Here is the OPSEC list of "do's and don't's"*

### Have You Paid Your Dues?

Dues to FL Blue Star Moms are **annual**. The initial dues that you paid to join covered you through that calendar year. Each year after, dues should be paid by the 31st of January. We have several members that still owe dues for the 2007 year.

### OPSEC (Operational Security) in Civilian Terms

OPSEC (Operational Security) has strict rules, the following is the basic gist of them: The Ten OPSEC Points:

1. Don't discuss current or future destinations or ports of call.
2. Don't discuss current or future operations or missions.
3. Don't discuss current or future dates and times of when any military unit will be in port or conducting exercises.
4. Don't discuss readiness issues and numbers.
5. Don't discuss specific training equipment.
6. Don't discuss people's names and billets in conjunction with operations.
7. Don't speculate about current or future operations.
8. Don't spread rumors about current, future, or past operations or movements.
9. Don't assume the enemy is not trying to collect information on you; he is.
10. Be smart, use your head, and always think OPSEC when using email, phone, chat rooms and message boards.