

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 225

Approved May 21, 2014

WHEREAS, The health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Providence are matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Title 36, Section 943 of the United States Code establishes the mission of Blue Star Mothers to be patriotic, educational, service-related and to uphold the American institutions of freedom, justice and equal rights; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Chapter of Blue Star Mothers provides invaluable support for active duty service personnel; assists mothers and families who have children serving in the Armed Services; promotes patriotism; assists Veterans organizations and promotes volunteer efforts to help our country remain strong; and

WHEREAS, The adverse effects of serving in the Armed Services during the War on Terror will be borne by the returning veterans and their families long into the future and perhaps for their entire lifetime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby requests the General Assembly to establish a holiday to observe, recognize and honor Blue Star Mothers; and


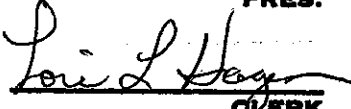
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That along with the Gold Star Mothers Holiday, this newly created holiday would also show deference to the fathers and other family members of veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Senators and Representatives from the City of Providence.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAY 15 2014

READ AND PASSED


PRES.

ACTING CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 5/21/14

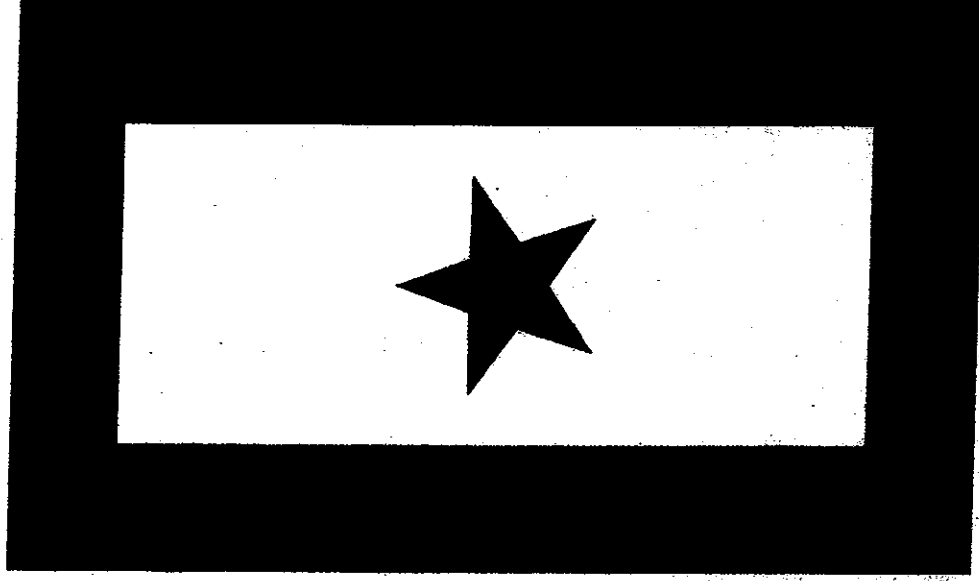
Rhode Island Blue Star Moms



The Rhode Island Blue Star Moms is a military support group specially dedicated to supporting the troops and assisting the mothers and their families who have children who volunteered to serve in the the U.S. Armed Forces

Our Mission

- To support our members and their sons and daughters who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.
- We proudly display the Blue Star Flag whose history dates back to WWI.
- We come together to share our devotion, our pride, and to offer moral support to our community and our members, their families and friends, as well as to veterans.
- We are a non-profit (501(c)3) service organization supporting each other and our children while promoting patriotism.
- We offer a safe place to share thoughts, concerns, and any personal stories that are kept solely within the group.



Our sons and daughters
were called to duty

Rhode Island
Blue Star Moms

History of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

On January 22, 1942 the Flint News Advertiser printed a coupon asking Mothers of servicemen to return the coupon after filling it out. The following February 1st 300 mothers met in the Durant Hotel, in Flint Michigan. Captain George H. Maines, who had conceived the idea for this group, acted as the chair of this first meeting. It was decided that after receiving 1000 responses from the ad to form a permanent organization.

On February 6th the organization was reported on Congressional record. Chapters then formed in Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, California, Iowa and Washington. In June of 1960 the organization was chartered by congress.

Mothers volunteered throughout the tough times of World War II. They worked in hospitals, train stations, packed care packages for soldiers and were an working part of homeland security during times our time of war. The organization waned in size over the years but has held together by mothers showing pride in both their children and country. In recent times we have began to grow in strength. Being attacked on our own soil has once again started mothers hanging flags in their windows at home proclaiming pride in the fact that we have children protecting our freedom during at time of war

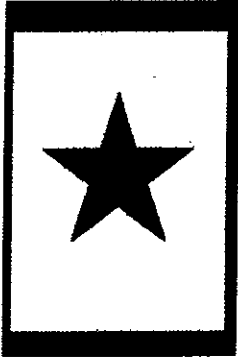
Our organization not only provides support for active duty service personnel, promotes patriotism, assists Veterans organizations, and are available to assist in homeland volunteer efforts to help our country remain strong.

The Service flag, also called the **Blue Star Flag**, was designed and patented by WWI Army Captain Robert L. Queisser of the 5th Ohio Infantry who had two sons serving on the front line. The flag quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in service. Proposed but not official: First Sunday after Mothers Day

President Wilson became part of this history when in 1918 he approved a suggestion made by the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defenses that mothers who had lost a child serving in the war wear a gold gilt star on the traditional black mourning arm band. This led to the tradition of covering the blue star with a **Gold Star** on the Service flag to indicate that the service member has died. The last day in September as "Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

The tradition of a service banner with a **blue star covered with Silver** threads to represent wounded service personnel began in 1917 or 1918 following the suggestion of Women's Committee of the Council of National Defenses, but faded from use sometime between World War I and World War II. When the use of Blue and Gold Star Service Banners was formally adopted into the United States Code and made official, the tradition of the Silver Star Banner was overlooked. The Department of Defense, given the authority to govern the use of the service banners, concluded that existing Blue Star Service Banner or Gold Star Service Banners and Flags could not be altered. A new Silver Star Service Flag and Banner were designed and were quickly accepted widely used throughout the United States. May 1 Silver Star Service Banner Day

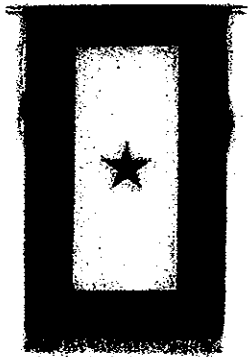
Flag's and their meanings:



= Family member serves in the Military



= Wounded Service Member



= Lost a child (close family member) in War