



BSM & VFW Post 9676
At Service Flag Ceremony

VFW Post 9676 partners with the Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County (BSMVC) to ensure that they have a place to meet and to accomplish their mission of sending Care Packages to our active services men, in country and overseas. Veterans know how wonderful it is to receive, not only mail, but also packages from home containing those things that they have trouble acquiring in their service locations. Our relationship with BSMVC is not just mutually beneficial it is almost “symbiotic.” We rely on one another to accomplish our respective missions. Above is a photo of VFW Post 9676 members participating in a solemn and important Service Flag Ceremony with members of BSMVC. Take a little time and read about the importance of The Service Flag to BSMVC members. It will be time well spent. Thank you BSMVC for partnering with us.

THE SERVICE FLAG

The name “Blue Star Mothers” is derived from the service flag, also called the Blue Star Flag, which was designed and patented in 1917 by WWI Army Captain Robert L. Queissner 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.

On Sept. 24, 1917, an Ohio congressman read the following into the Congressional Record: “The mayor of Cleveland, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Governor of Ohio have adopted this service flag. The world should know of those who give so much for liberty.”

During World War II, the Department of War issued specifications on the manufacture of the flag as well as guidelines indicating when and by whom the service flag could be flown.

The service flag is an indoor flag displayed in the front windows by Americans to pay tribute to their family members who are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during any period of war or hostilities. It is not necessary for the service member to be stationed overseas, or be present where the hostilities are taking place. All of the military service members contribute to the performance of our Armed Forces regardless of where they are located, and any service member can be called upon at any time to enter combat.

The service flag may also be displayed by an organization to honor the members of that organization serving in the Armed Forces during a period of war or hostilities. Each blue star on the white background of the flag represents one family member serving in the Armed Forces.

If the family member is killed or dies during the period of war or hostilities, the blue star nearest the top or nearest the staff is covered with a gold star.

The blue star on the service flag represents hope and pride whereas the gold star represents sacrifice to the cause of liberty and freedom.

Most precious to a mother and father are their children. We are there when our sons and daughters leave for the military or head overseas, and we are there to shower them with love when they return home again. Our thoughts are with them every day, no matter where they are. Displaying the service flag honors our sons and daughters and proclaims pride in the fact that Blue Star Mothers have children who are protecting our freedom and defending our country’s principles.

Our Armed Forces continue to participate in activities to combat the War against Terrorism, and to police unrest throughout the world.

By participating in the custom of displaying the service flag, we continue to honor our children and grandchildren -- our country's servicemen and women -- and to recognize and acknowledge the risk they face while fighting to protect our freedom and security. Serving in our Armed Forces is an honor to our country, to our principles, and to our faith, and Blue Star Mothers will continue to hang blue stars in their windows as a sign of pride and respect whenever their children make the commitment to serve our country.