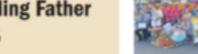
## STEPPING () UT

## FRANKLIN SQUARE/ELMONT

The Scene



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JULY 14 - 20, 2022



## MORE THAN TWO-DOZEN military mothers were celebrated at the baby shower held inside the UBS Arena on July 6.

## **Military** moms honored

**UBS** Arena hosts baby shower

By ROBERT TRAVERSO

More than two dozen mothers and moms-to-be who are either active-duty service members or the spouses or partners of deployed members of the U.S. military were celebrated at a baby shower at UBS Arena last

The hockey-themed gathering was hosted by the New York Islanders and the nonprofit Operation Shower, which provides such events for military families who are often separated

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## Elmont H.S. students organize following abortion ruling

By ROBERT TRAVERSO

rtraverso@iherald.com

When the Supreme Court al importance. voted on June 24 to overturn Roe The group will also plan and v. Wade - the landmark 1973 rul- organize community events to to an abortion - a group of stu-members about civic and politi- Elmont Memorial H.S. student dents from Elmont Memorial cal topics, including civic litera-High School decided to take cy, gun control and abortion court's decision to overturn the enthood of Greater New York lack the ability to get an abortion action.

knowledge among fellow stu-ty," Patterson said. dents and Elmont community The first meeting was held on tional right to abortion that has members, particularly the July 6 at Averill Boulevard Park existed since 1973. "Women Elmont Cultural Center.

gather like-minded people to discuss events and issues of nation-

ing establishing a woman's right inform Elmont community

Students Aliana Bryan and During the summer the group was the main topic. Najwa Patterson formed an as plans to strategize about how to "I think it's really not fair," yet unnamed discussion and create major change, "coming up Bryan, who will enter 11th grade activism group dedicated to with ways to improve the state at Elmont in September, said spreading civic and political of our nation and our communi- about the Supreme Court's deci-

in Elmont, where the high should have the right to do what

ducation is the first

landmark abortion rights case Action Fund, said in a statement.

sion to strike down the constitu-

they want with their bodies. The

robbed millions of people of states across the U.S.

government shouldn't have a ger protected on the national level, it remains a protected "The U.S. Supreme Court has right in New York and other

their right to control their bodies Bryan emphasized that while and personal health care deci- women can still seek abortions sions," Joy D. Calloway, the inter- in New York, millions of other im president of the Planned Par- women across the country now



Courtesy of the New York Islanders

MORE THAN TWO-DOZEN military mothers were celebrated at the baby shower held inside the UBS Arena on July 6.

# Military moms honored UBS Arena hosts

baby shower

rtraverso@liherald.com

More than two dozen mothers and moms-to-be who are either active-duty service members or the spouses or partners of deployed members of the U.S. military were celebrated at a baby shower at UBS Arena last week.

The hockey-themed gathering was hosted by the New York Islanders and the nonprofit Operation Shower, which provides such events for military families who are often separated

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 10** 

"Event aimed to ease stress of deployment

from loved ones for milestone events like this.

It was held inside the UBS Club and featured a catered with Operation Shower as we express our lunch, raffle prizes, and a "Shower in a Box" — gifts donated by various nonprofit groups.

who found out about the event from a posting at New Jer- the Islanders' community relations senior sey's McGuire Air Force Base, where he's

stationed, and jumped on the opportunity. His wife, Andrea Sariah, is expecting their baby boy soon, but hadn't planned to host a shower since family and friends were so far

"We weren't expecting to have one at all, so having one this amazing — and to share it support, our with other families - blows our mind," Sari- appreciation. à ah said.

No one probably understands that distance better than Theresa Hyacanthe, whose family is in Germany, but lives in the North- MORRISSEY east with her active-duty husband.

"It makes me cry that they want to give me gifts," she said. "I don't even know these people."

Hyacanthe already shares a 5-year-old daughter with her husband, and are expect-

ing another daughter in September. And she's already because they recognize the importance of the service. Cudmore already has a 15-month-old child at stresses of deployment and military life. Operation Shower. home, and are set to welcome a sibling in August.

dren's Foundation hosted the baby shower. The founda- Shamie, Delta's president. tion — which the NHL team founded in 2003 — aims to specifically when it comes to health, wellness and educa- because mothers are the cornerstone of miliary families. this wonderful milestone together."

"The Islanders are proud to partner appreciation to these courageous military moms-to-be for their service and sacrifice "It's out of this world," exclaimed Maxwell Renaud, on behalf of our country," said Ann Rina,

director, in a release. "For women who are expecting a baby and whose spouses are deployed — and especially for expectant moms who are active duty the impending arrival of a child can be both exciting and stressful," said LeAnn Morrissey, the founder of Operation Shower, which has provided baby showers for more than 6,800 military moms since 2007.

Delta Children, a Manhattan-based company that produces cribs and other furniture and accessories for kids, donated items for the shower

"We acknowledge their service and the This year marked the second time the Islanders Chil-sacrifices they have made," said Joseph



making friends, like Samantha Cudmore, who recently ensuring new and expecting mothers are MANY NEWBORN CHILDREN of military couples attended a baby shower moved to Nassau County, and who also has a husband in equipped to raise their children amid the at UBS Arena, sponsored by the New York Islanders and the nonprofit

"Operation Shower was created because typically military moms are the ones who hold it all together at And it's those sacrifices that are often-overlooked, and home," Morrissey said. "These moms deserve our supsupport and enhance the lives of children and families, shouldn't be, Operation Shower's leader stressed, port, our appreciation, and an opportunity to celebrate



## 14, 2022 – FRANKLIN SQUARE/ELMONT HERALD

## Event aimed to ease stress of deployment

### CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

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sey's McGuire Air Force Base, where he's stationed, and jumped on the opportunity. His wife, Andrea Sariah, is expecting their baby boy soon, but hadn't planned to host a shower since family and friends were so far away.

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This year marked the second time the Islanders Children's Foundation hosted the baby shower. The foundation — which the NHL team founded in 2003 — aims to support and enhance the lives of children and families, specifically when it comes to health, wellness and educa-

tion.

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MORRISSEY

founder, Operation

LEANN

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Delta Children, a Manhattan-based company that produces cribs and other furniture and accessories for kids, donated items for the shower

because they recognize the importance of ensuring new and expecting mothers are equipped to raise their children amid the stresses of deployment and military life.

"We acknowledge their service and the sacrifices they have made," said Joseph Shamie, Delta's president.

And it's those sacrifices that are often-overlooked, and shouldn't be, Operation Shower's leader stressed, because mothers are the cornerstone of miliary families.



Robert Traverso/Herald

MANY NEWBORN CHILDREN of military couples attended a baby shower at UBS Arena, sponsored by the New York Islanders and the nonprofit Operation Shower.

"Operation Shower was created because typically military moms are the ones who hold it all together at home," Morrissey said. "These moms deserve our support, our appreciation, and an opportunity to celebrate this wonderful milestone together."