

WASHINGTON STATE GOLD STAR MOTHERS



Volume 1, Issue 1

August-September 2008

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Chapter Officers

- President: Myra Rintamaki
- Vice President: Bette Sullivan (in absentia)
- Secretary: Shellie Starr
- Treasurer: DeEtte Wood
- Chaplain: Carol Bier
- Historian: Linda Swanberg

Contact:

myrar@u.washington.edu or

bsnohomish@aol.com for more information about our chapter.

Washington State Gold Star Mothers (WSGSM) is a local chapter of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. The chapter received its official charter in May, 2007. WSGSM is a non-profit (501C3) organization in Washington State and is listed as a Washington State Business.

MEMORIAL RUN FOR MAJOR MEGAN MCCLUNG

Eleven Gold Star Family members including six Gold Star Mothers volunteered at the second annual Major McClung Memorial run on Saturday, August 23rd at the Whidbey Island Naval Base. The annual 5K/10K race is a memorable event honoring the life of Major Megan McClung who was the highest ranking female military officer and first female Naval Academy graduate to die in Iraq. Major McClung was in her last month of deployment when she died in Ramadi in December, 2006.

Several Gold Star families arrived on Friday and stayed at the Coachman Inn in Oak Harbor while others camped at the local VFW. The Gold Star Families including McClung's parents Re and Mike McClung were treated to a wine and cheese reception hosted by the Ladies

Gold Star License Plates
Members of the WSGSM chapter worked with the 2008 Legislators to pass a bill authorizing a specialty license plate for Washington State Gold Star Mothers and Fathers. All Gold Star



Gold Star Families Volunteer at McClung Run

Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7392.

The Marine Aviation Training Support Group (MATSG-53) hosted the run with marine Luke Miller coordinating the Gold Star Families. After volunteer-

ing at the registration desk, registering almost 200 runners, several Gold Star Family members participated in the 5K walk. All Proceeds of the race will go to the Wounded Marines Program which helps aid Marines and Navy Corpsmen wounded in action.

Mothers and Fathers will have an opportunity to apply for the license plates that will be available in January, 2009. Application information available soon probably through website: www.dva.wa.gov

Opportunity to expand the license plate to include other immediate family will be considered for the 2009 Legislative Session. Those interested in working on this project please contact Myra Rintamaki, President.

MCCLUNG RUN

“What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal.”

Albert Pine



Banner



1st Prize: A porsche to drive for the weekend

Mike McClung father of Major Megan McClung receives a banner of his daughter that was presented at the awards ceremony by Diane Small, of the VFW Women’s Auxiliary and the Washington State Jr. Vice President. Holding the banner is Gold Star Mother, Myra Rintamaki and Darrell Small husband of Diane.

McClung’s mantra which was engraved on her headstone at Arlington National Cemetery reads: “Be bold, be brief, be gone.”

All registered runners and walkers were entered into a drawing to win an opportunity to drive the porsche for a weekend. The winner was a young marine based at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station.

STATE OF WASHINGTON SECOND ANNUAL **TIME OF REMEMBRANCE** FOR FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN

You are cordially invited to attend a ceremony honoring all those who died in service to our country, during the Global War On Terrorism. Join us for this special tribute to the State of Washington’s Fallen Warriors.

Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008

Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008

Richland , Washington

Accommodation: Clarion Hotel
Richland, Washington

Reservations: 509-946-4121

Purpose: To bring together the families of Washington State’s Fallen along with fellow military personnel to share in the remembrance of those who have died for their country as well as provide a soothing and healing atmosphere for families and com-

rades.

Saturday, Sept. 27th:

For the immediate families & military “brothers/sisters-in-arms.” This is an opportunity to meet other Gold Star Families, share with others about our loved ones, and share an evening dinner together.

Saturday evening there will be a public candlelight vigil at the Howard Amon Park on the Columbia River.

Sunday, Sept. 28th at 11am:

For families and the public. A memorial service will be held to honor our Fallen Warriors who served during the Global War on Terrorism. Location: Flat Top Park, West Richland.

RSVP

Many of you may have received a formal invitation to the “Time of Remembrance.”

For those who did not or for additional questions, please contact the Program Chair and Gold Star Mother, Shirley Schmunk at 509-627-5452, or send and email to wa.remembrance@gmail.com

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

INVITATION TO DIGNITARIES

The Honor of your presence is requested

Your support and compassion towards the families of our Fallen Soldiers during their times of grief, was greatly appreciated.

*Please join us on September 27th and 28th 2008,
for the 2nd Annual State of Washington
Time of Remembrance.*

Saturday, September 27th from 12:30 pm- 5:30 pm there will be Entertainment & Vendors at the Community Center, 500 Amon Park Drive, Howard Amon Park. At 7:00 P.M., a Candlelight Vigil will be held at Howard Ammon Park, with both events held in Richland, WA.

*Sunday, September 28th, at 11:00 A.M.,
Memorial Service to Honor our Fallen Soldiers
who served during the Global War on Terrorism.
Flat Top Park, corner of W. Van Giesen Street and
Bombing Range Road, West Richland, WA.*

*Website: www.timeofremembrance.org
Questions or information please call:
509-750-5687
Most Sincerely,
Shirley Schmunk, Chairwoman*

*"The beginning of the end
of war lies in
remembrance"*

Herman Wouke

Chapter Membership: Gold Star Mothers that join the national organization, of American Gold Star Mothers (Dues \$15) www.goldstarmoms.com automatically become a member of the local chapter. Associate Membership is available for free for dads and siblings. Yahoo Chat Group for Washington State Gold Star Mothers. Go to Yahoo.com and click on Groups and invite to join. You will need a password to log in.



MAKING NEW MEMORIES

Fourteen **Washington State Gold Star Mothers and Daughters** participated in our second annual retreat February 29th through March 3rd at Dana Point, California just north of San Clemente. Our secretary, Shellie Starr coordinated the event and reserved two wonderful condos right on the beach. Shellie's Aunt Ulta helped sponsor the event and her brother Tim (an army veteran) volunteered to be our barbeque chef for our Sunday barbeque.

Our retreats are set up to provide a time of relaxation and contemplation, acknowledging our losses but open to building new memories with new friends who share a common bond. We maximized our free time for mothers and daughters to interact, shop, and enjoy the beautiful California area. It is also a time for siblings to get to know each other and share their loss while nurturing new friendships and sharing old memories. It is a time for the Gold Star Mothers to have a little alone time as well as spend more in depth time with other mothers sharing their journey.

One of our main activities for the weekend was to sew a "Memory Quilt." Gold Star Mother, Andi Bailey, a master quilter coordinated our project. At a previous meeting, several Gold Star Mothers met at Andi's house for the prep work including making many eight-inch quilting squares from patriotic material to be used in our project. Mothers who were interested in beginning a quilt transferred pictures of their son to fabric to be incorporated into their memory quilt. We are grateful to California Gold Star Mother, Maria Simpson, for rounding up four sewing machines for us to use.

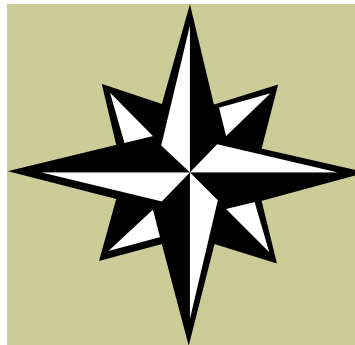
SPOKANE LILAC PARADE AND FALLEN HERO BANNERS

Gold Star Mother, Kim Cole of Spokane was the powerhouse behind the Gold Star Mothers entry into the Spokane Lilac Festival Parade on Saturday, May 17th.

Kim not only spear-headed the event but was responsible for getting their 16 foot float decorated and ready for the parade. She also had sweat-shirts made with pictures of the fallen warriors on the back for Gold Star Mothers to wear.

Fallen Hero Banners
Kim Cole has picked up the banner project initially started by Shirley Schmunk, Chair of the Time of Remembrance.

Kim took the incentive to



have banners of Washington State Fallen Heroes made and recruited local high school students to carry the banners in the parade.

Kim Cole is currently working with VFW Women's Auxiliary, and Washington State Jr. Vice President, Diane Small of Oak Harbor to find funding for the

banners. Diane has enthusiastically supported this project with a goal of funding all of the banners for Washington's Fallen.

Gold Star Families can contact Kim Cole at Mck1220@msn.com for more information on the banners. For those interested in making a contribution to the banner project, you may contact Diane Small at DPProjects@comcast.net

California Retreat Continued from page 4

Other activities included trips to Balboa Island, a mission tour, visiting the Ocean Institute, playing at Disneyland, a tour of Camp Pendleton, meeting up with sisters, brothers, and friends living in California, jogging, and walks on the beach. A highlight of our visit was our Sunday afternoon barbeque with eleven **California Gold Star Mothers** including their President, Sue Pollard. We were fortunate to have a few military guests join our us for the barbeque. A few mementos were exchanged by both Gold Star Chapters. Our evening ended with spirits lifted, new friendships established and a new sense of community developing among our Gold Star Families. What an opportunity this was for sharing our pasts while gently looking forward to the future with new memories .

Submitted by,
Myra Rintamaki, President
Washington State Gold Star Mothers
3/4/08

2009 WASHINGTON STATE GOLD STAR LICENSE PLATE PROJECTED DESIGN FOR GOLD STAR PARENTS

