



# THE GOLD STAR MOTHER

Perpetuating the Noble Principles for Which They Fought and Died

ISSUE NUMBER 228

MARCH-APRIL 2024



I (your name), in the presence of  
Almighty God  
and these American Gold Star Mothers  
do of my own free will and accord  
most faithfully promise that I will comply  
with all the Constitution and Bylaws  
of this organization.

That I will never wrong or permit a  
wrong to be done  
to any member of this organization  
if it is in my power to prevent it.

Should my affiliation with this  
organization cease in any way  
I shall consider this pledge  
a lifelong obligation.

I will bear true faith and allegiance  
to the United States of America  
and to the advancement  
of my Country's honor.

All this I promise on my honor  
as a true American.



# From the Desk of the National President

Pam Stemple, National President

## WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS, INC.?



I want to wish everyone a great new year. There are so many things to do this year. There are Veterans out there in the United States of America, Active-Duty Forces, and our very own Gold Star Mothers that we can help and serve. This is what we do. Let's leave the grieving expertise to other organizations. That is what they do best. We are great at Service. That is why we are a VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION!!!! It is what Mrs. Grace

Darling Siebold wanted for this Organization.

I have been struggling the past few months with a topic that just breaks my heart. Guess what that might be? "I was treated so meanly by the women in white." I have been hearing all kinds of negative comments coming across facebook and just hearsay from Membership. I am so devastated by this when I see and hear about it. We should be bending over backwards to make our members and those moms out there very welcome. We are all

participants in this horrible fate we have been given.

In American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., WE ARE INCLUSIVE. There isn't one Hero death that is less tragic. WE have all lost our loved one. WE do not put our members in columns. WE should never do that. WE do not put other families out there you meet in columns either. I get so tired of hearing about how a member or prospective member was told they were not a Gold Star Mother. It is not your place to do that. The DoD has two pins and they both have a GOLD STAR. So, how can you tell a member they are not a Gold Star? Stop It Please!!! Until the DoD changes the Next of Kin pin to something that doesn't have a Gold Star on the pin, we are all American Gold Star Mothers.

If you are in Leadership in your Chapter or Department and get a new member, do not share anything from that new member on how their loved one died or anything about their life. Even if they tell you. They expect trust out of all of us. I want to assure you that we are vetting our prospective members. They have requirements they have to meet. We do not ever share the DD Form 1300, 2064, 214, Death Certificate, Marriage Certificate, Birth Certificate, VA letter, or documents from the VA. You will only receive the application for contact purposes. Be responsible and shut down the negative comments you hear and definately shut down the gossip. Do you have the power to stop it? I say it's your obligation.

We have the 2024 Convention coming up in June. I hope that you will come and be a part of meeting and sharing your life and experiences with the other members, associates, and guests that attend. It will be spectacular (hint, hint)! Be on the lookout for the registration coming out very soon.

I hope that you will continue your DASH in honor of your HERO. I'm looking forward to Spring and new beginnings!



*American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.*  
*87th National Convention*

*Thursday 20 June-  
Sunday 23 June 2024*

*The Antlers,  
A Wyndham Hotel  
4 S. Cascade Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903*

*Watch for details coming  
March 2024  
AmericanGoldStarMothers.org*

*"It's all about the dash."*



*AGSM Store*

**"NEW"**  
AGSM Tote Bags are HERE  
and available at the  
AGSM Online Store.

As many of you are entering new leadership roles, you may need a new bag to carry all the business and meeting materials.

You support  
AmericanGold Star Mothers, Inc.,  
when you shop at the AGSM Online Store.  
Shop away!

*AmericanGoldStarMothers.org*

# Welcome to our **NEWEST MEMBERS**

*“No one wants to become eligible to join American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. However, we find strength in the fellowship of other Gold Star Mothers who strive to keep the memory of their beloved sons and daughters alive by serving the Veteran, Military, and Gold Star communities.”*

— National Executive Board

First Name	Last Name	Chapter	Department	Type of Membership	Date of Membership
Julie Norris	Wotasik	CA - Antelope Valley GSM - Lancaster, CA	CA_S-HI	Member	12/31/2023
Vivien	Yasuda	CA - Inland Empire GSM - Moreno Valley, CA	CA_S-HI	Member	12/8/2023
Marcia	Rendon	CO - Pikes Peak GSM - Colorado Springs, CO	CO	Member	12/20/2023
Rachel	Stemple	CO - Pikes Peak GSM - Colorado Springs, CO	CO	Associate	1/29/2024
Andi	Stemple-Cooper	CO - Pikes Peak GSM - Colorado Springs, CO	CO	Associate	1/29/2024
Victoria Croft	Stephens	FL - Tampa Bay - Tampa, FL	FL-PR	Member	12/18/2023
Joanne	Larson	ID - Star Garnet, Pocatello ID	ID	Member	2/13/2024
Melissa	Spain	MI - Mid-Michigan - Ann Arbor, MI	MI	Member	1/22/2024
Nicholl	Ransom	SD - South Dakota	MN-ND-SD	Member	2/1/2024
Rosa Lee	Webster Gay	NC - Azalea -Wilmington, NC	NC	Member	1/12/2024
Cherie	Harris	NC - Gardenia - Raleigh	NC	Member	1/9/2024
D'Arlene	Lindenberg	NV - Freedom is not Free GS Families, NV	NV	Member	2/13/2024
Jeanne	Brown	NY - Western New York AGSM - South Buffalo, NY	NY	Member	2/13/2024
Kelly	Phelps	OH - Hancock - Findlay	OH	Member	12/19/2023
Debra	Parsons	WV - West Virginia - Charleston	WV	Member	12/24/2023

## Veterans Day Teachers Resource Guide

*Becky Christmas, Past National President*

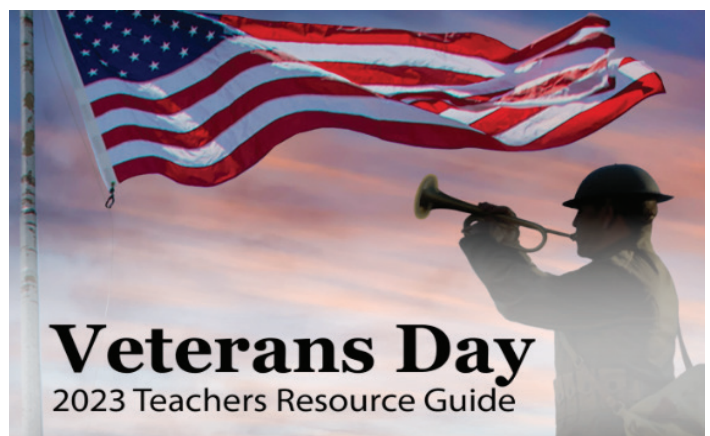
Each year the Veterans Day National Committee produces a Teacher Resource Guide to be used in classrooms across the Nation. This resource has information for students in America telling the history of Veterans Day, what it means to be a Veteran, the importance of Veterans Day and ways to implement teaching all the above and more. It is the hope of the committee that produces the guide that it will help students connect with Veterans as well as active duty military.

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. is a part of the Veterans Day Committee as an Associate Member. We have specifically been asked to have a representative on the Teachers Resource Guide Committee. For several years, I have been honored to be the representative for AGSM as an appointee by the National President. Gold Star Wives are also an Associate Member of the National Committee and Donna Eldridge has been their representative for a number of years. I am pleased to state that AGSM and GSW have been very active contributors for this Guide and the material Donna and I have worked on continues to be used.

I encourage each of you to inform your local schools and friends who are educators about this wonderful resource. It is geared mainly for Middle School and High School but many pieces of the guide are easily adapted for lower grades. The value of school assemblies around Veterans Day is tremendous. The guide has suggestions for the program. Information is included on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Medal of Honor Recipients and suggested activities for the classroom are just a few of included lessons.

The Teachers Resource Guide can be downloaded by going to [2023-Veterans-Day-Teachers-Guide-508.pdf \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/2023-Veterans-Day-Teachers-Guide-508.pdf) or Veterans Day-U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ([va.gov](https://www.va.gov)) and look for the Teachers Resource Guide. The front of the Guide is always the Veterans Day Poster which can be downloaded and printed for the classroom. The 2024 Guide will be ready by the first part of September. Our committee recently had our first meeting of the year and we will be meeting again in February.

Please do not overlook this important project that we Gold Star Mothers are part of. This is another way to support our Veterans, teach our youth and fulfill our Mission.



(PHOTO CREDIT: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VA.GOV)



# CHAPTER NEWS

*The mission of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., is to serve our Military and Veteran Communities, support our Gold Star Mothers and educate our communities on the price of freedom. In an effort to showcase the events our Chapters and Departments are planning and executing highlighting these areas, our Department & Chapter News pages will only include stories and photos of service projects and activities that embody the AGSM Mission.*

## DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA/PUERTO RICO

### GULF COAST CHAPTER

The Gulf Coast Chapter distributed some love to the veterans and residents living in an assistant living facility in Largo. Members of our Chapter met separately with veterans



and presented them with pins, cards and gifts. Afterwards we handed out cards and Hershey's kisses to all the residents to show that they are loved.



## DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA

On January 12, 2024, Cabela's and The Bass Pro Shops, Acworth, Georgia location awarded the Department of Georgia \$3000.00 from their Outdoor Fund Grant to use for the support of our military Gold Star families in Georgia. The \$3000.00 Grant enabled American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Department of Georgia, to purchase 120 backpacks and 54 sleeping bags to gift to the Gold Star families who will attend the June 2024 Georgia Gold Star Family Sleepover at the Georgia Aquarium. Mrs. Mary Barton, Cabela's Sports Management Team Associate, assisted Carolyn Cagle, Treasurer of the Department of Georgia, with the purchase of the backpacks and sleeping bags. The photo shows Mrs. Barton awarding the gift cards to Miss Cagle. We extend our thanks to Cabela's General Manager, Mr. Earl Johnson for choosing to recognize and support



the Gold Star families of Georgia. American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Department of Georgia, at the invitation of the Georgia Aquarium, will host Gold Star families for a sleepover to explore and support the research, conservation, and preservation of marine and freshwater wildlife studied at the aquarium.



A memorial ceremony will be held for the Fallen Heroes of the visiting Gold Star families. This event will present opportunities for the Gold Star families to connect with other Gold Star families, mentors, Georgia Aquarium staff, and the Sports Management Team of Cabela's, Acworth, Georgia. American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Department of Georgia is excited to partner with Cabela's for this very special event honoring the sacrifice made by our families Fallen Heroes.

## DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND/DELAWARE

### MARYLAND CHAPTER

On November 10, 2023, The Maryland Gold Star Mothers were invited by Dr. Jackie Baugh from the Severn School to the Severn School's annual Rolland M. Teel Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony & Veterans Day Assembly. The Assembly was held at The Severn School in Severna Park, Maryland. Gold Star Mothers



Paula Davis, Theresa Karson, Khadija Keita, Donna Robinson, and Stephanie White represented the chapter. The assembly began with the introduction of Severn's 2023 Distinguished Alum, Dr. Katherine Graw Lamond '96. In a solemn nod to Severn's long-standing military ties and tradition, the assembly concluded with a reading of the school's memorial roster. One by one, the name of every alum who gave the ultimate sacrifice was read (85 in total), and for each one an Upper School student representative would quietly stand and depart the assembly. The Annapolis High School NJROTC presented and posted the colors at the event.



## DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

### SOUTH BUFFALO CHAPTER 26

Candy Clemens of the WNY South Buffalo Chapter 26 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Department of New York was awarded money through the Chapter to provide Christmas to 13 Veteran



families with 37 children. She gathered lists from the parents, shopped, wrapped, and delivered packages to make their Christmas bright. Candy works through the St. Bonaventure University Veterans Aligned Students to assist with the needy Veteran families. They are so grateful for the assistance Candy and American Gold Star Mothers provide during the holiday season.



## DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA

### AZALEA CHAPTER

On January 15, the Azalea Chapter, Wilmington NC welcomed a new Gold Star Mother to our chapter. Rosa Lee Webster Gay. Rosa lost her son, Lt. Thomas Charles Gay, Air Force, on April 14, 1982, at Avon Park Bombing Range in Avon Park, Florida. Thomas was 24 years of age. Rosa was told by some person, who she cannot remember, that she was not a Gold Star Mother because Thomas did not die in combat. All these years she believed this until recently. Rosa was born October 29, 1929, which makes her 95 years old. A grief counselor at the Assisted Living where she now lives, informed her she was indeed a Gold Star Mother, it didn't matter if he died in combat or a military accident. As long as he was still serving, she was certainly eligible. The counselor contacted our chapter president, Iris Winters and Iris directed her to our American Gold Star Mothers website for an application. The application was filled out and approved by National AGSM. On January 2, Blue Star Mothers, Kim Dionisio and Maryjo Schnepf came to Rosa's home to preside over the Blue to Gold Star ceremony. Rosa had just left her home 6 months prior, Azalea Chapter Gold Star Mother, Iris Winters, Chapter President, and Vivian Scharver, PNO, were present.

Kim presented Rosa with the Gold Star window flag; Iris presented Rosa's Gold Star pin. Iris read a letter written by Norma Luther, PNP welcoming her to our chapter. Many of Rosa's family members and her neighbors attended and of course her wonderful grief counselor, Debra. Please welcome Rosa Lee Webster Gay to AGSM.

## DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS/OKLAHOMA

### GREATER HOUSTON CHAPTER

The Greater Houston TX Chapter was awarded the Spirit of Scouting Award by the George Strake District of the Sam Houston Area Council of Boy Scouts of America at the annual awards dinner. The award



was attributed to ongoing extraordinary efforts by the Chapter to include the Scouts in various community projects, including the AGSM Christmas Card campaign, contributions to furthering education for merit badges including Citizenship in the Community, providing information to, and assisting Scouts with a U.S. Library of Congress initiative to honor Veterans and fallen heroes, and involvement in the first Wreaths Across America in The Woodlands area. Our Chapter will continue to partner with the Scouts to do more together in the community as servant leaders. Pictured (left to right): Margie Taylor (Chapter Secretary), Dawn Kotalik (Chapter President), and Kim Ball (Chapter Treasurer)

## DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

### ALEXANDRIA CHAPTER

Alexandria Chapter and National Treasurer, Rose Duval, spoke at the Prince William Veterans Council in Manassas, VA about American Gold Star Mothers; explaining who we are and what we do. The event was hosted by K.O. Distilling thanks to their CEO Bill Karlson.





# Chapter Grant

## DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA – WEST PHOENIX CHAPTER

With the awarded Chapter Grant for The West Phoenix Chapter we collected enough items and constructed 100 travel bags for Mana House which is a transitional home for homeless veterans. They will eventually go into their own homes.

We also collected regular size hygiene items for when they get a home, a box is provided by Mana House with essential items for their new place. We delivered the items on 12/2/2023.



## DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS/ OKLAHOMA - GREATER SOUTHEASTERN TEXAS CHAPTER

The Greater Southeastern Texas Chapter received the Chapter Grant to purchase and distribute supplies for Christmas to Veterans living at Watkins-Logan Texas State Veterans Home. The project included members of the Northeast Texas Chapter as well. They purchased, packaged, decorated, and delivered the Christmas bags to these brave heroes.

## *\$200 AGSM Chapter Grants are Still Available!*

Does your Chapter need financial assistance to help local veterans?  
National may be able to assist!

There is still time for AGSM Chapters to apply for a \$200 Chapter Grant!  
The grant application form is found in the "More" section on the AGSM website  
[AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](http://AmericanGoldStarMothers.org)

Click on "Grant Opportunities" for the guidelines and online application.

There will be 5 Chapter Grants awarded at the end of every quarter!  
March, June, September, and December.

If you need assistance, please contact The Grant Committee at  
[AGSMGrants@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:AGSMGrants@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org)

*Apply for the Chapter Grant TODAY!*

**[AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](http://AmericanGoldStarMothers.org)**

# Uncle Sam Wants You . . . Election Year Reminders!

*Patti Elliott, National 1st Vice President, National Parliamentarian*

This is a good time to remind everyone that under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are **absolutely prohibited** from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. Contributions to political campaign funds or public statements of position (verbal or written) made on behalf of AGSM in favor of or in opposition to any candidate for public office clearly violate the prohibition against political campaign activity. Violating this prohibition may result in denial or revocation of tax-exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes.

Certain activities or expenditures may not be prohibited depending on the facts and circumstances. For example, certain voter education activities (including presenting public forums and publishing voter education guides) conducted in a non-partisan manner do not constitute prohibited political campaign activity. In addition, other activities intended to encourage people to participate in the electoral process, such as voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, would not be prohibited political campaign activity if conducted in a non-partisan manner.

On the other hand, voter education or registration activities with

evidence of bias that (a) would favor one candidate over another; (b) oppose a candidate in some manner; or (c) have the effect of favoring a candidate or group of candidates, will constitute prohibited participation or intervention.

NOTE: If you choose to personally contribute to, endorse or display information for any candidate, you absolutely cannot do it on any AGSM National, Department or Chapter site. You should not wear anything with the AGSM logo on it to any meeting, rally or event that is sponsored by any candidate or political action committee for the purpose of campaigning.

As we approach the time of year when Chapters and Departments elect new officers, please remember to submit the changes so we can update the database. Send information to: [membership@americangoldstarmothers.org](mailto:membership@americangoldstarmothers.org)

## Officer Updates

**HELP WANTED**  
Be a part of the  
2024-2025  
National Executive Board!

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. is approaching a monumental time in our organization's history. As the nation's third oldest Congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organization (VSO), we will soon be celebrating 100 years of service. It's an exciting time to think about being part of planning those events and helping shape our next 100 years. Service on the NEB is a lot of work, requires a huge time commitment and is physically demanding at times, but the opportunity to meet and interact with our members is beyond words.

If you are thinking about service on the National Executive Board (NEB), we have put together some resources to help you with your decision. We always like for candidates to be fully informed about what will be expected of them and the duties of the position you are seeking. Helpful information to aid you in planning for the 2024-2025 year and current position descriptions for the NEB can be found in the Members Only section on our website at the following link: [AmericanGoldStarMothers.org/heb-job-descriptions](http://AmericanGoldStarMothers.org/heb-job-descriptions)

Thoroughly review all the information available on the website. If you are still interested in serving on the NEB, see the Convention Call on the next page.



**Giving Grace Grant**  
**Applications are being accepted**

The Grants Committee is currently accepting applications for the AGSM Giving Grace Grant. Qualifying events eligible for grant application include utility expenses (heating, electricity, water, etc.), housing (mortgage/rent), emergency housing repairs, food, medical /health care needs, and transportation issues (car repairs).

You may also ask for assistance to pay your 2024 National dues.

To review Eligibility Requirements and complete an application, go to: [AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](http://AmericanGoldStarMothers.org)  
**More... Grant-Opportunities**

**Questions?**  
Please contact the Giving Grace Grant Committee Chair at [AGSMGrants@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:AGSMGrants@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org)





# 2024 Convention Call Details

## REGISTRATION / CREDENTIALS:

All Members, Associates and Guests must register and pay any associated convention registration fees by **18 May 2024**. The In-Person Registration Fee of \$130.00 must be paid by all Members, Associates and Guests. A late fee of \$25.00 will be required to be paid on ALL registrations received after the **18 May 2024** deadline. The registration fee covers the costs of all convention-related activities, and voting access for all registered delegates and alternates (as needed). Register online at [Americangoldstarmothers.org](http://Americangoldstarmothers.org) or mail completed registration form with fees to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., 2128 Leroy Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20008. No mailed registrations will be accepted after the **18 May 2024** deadline.

Members, Associates, and Guests may register and pay on the first official day of convention, but they will not be registered as a Delegate or Alternate. They will not be guaranteed a copy of the convention journal, convention meals, space at convention activities or convention gifts. No registrations after the first day of convention will be processed without approval of the National Executive Board.

## REPRESENTATION:

Delegates: Each Chapter shall be entitled to one delegate for each five members or major fraction thereof whose current National dues have been received by the National Treasurer at least 30 days prior to the convention and to one alternate for each delegate. Delegates and alternates shall be elected at a regular or special business meeting of the Chapter for which a notice has been given to all members at least ten days prior to said meeting. In addition, each incumbent Chapter President, Department President, and National Officer by virtue of their offices shall be a delegate without alternate. Past National Presidents shall be a delegate without alternate.

Alternates: Alternates may participate in discussions on the floor and may also serve on appointed committees/ positions but may not vote unless their delegate is not present at the time of voting. Members not elected to a Delegate or Alternate position may participate in discussions on the floor and may also serve on appointed committees/positions. The National Service Officer will determine eligibility of delegates.

Chapter Presidents and Department Presidents are responsible for communicating the election of delegates **in writing** by **18 May 2024** to Annette Kirk, [2ndVP@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:2ndVP@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org).

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS:** Proposed Amendments to the Constitution must be published at least 30 days prior to Convention in *The Gold Star Mother*. Proposed Amendments must be submitted no later than **15 March 2024**

to be published in the May/June issue. Amendments to the C&BL can be made by a Department Board from the floor but must be passed by a unanimous vote of the convention body. For information on appropriate Robert's Rules of Order format, contact Patti Elliott, National Parliamentarian, by email at [1stVP@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:1stVP@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org) prior to the start of convention.

## RESOLUTIONS:

May be approved at the National Convention after ratification by the National Executive Board.

Resolutions must be presented to the NEB in writing by **18 May 2024**. Send to Patti Elliott, National Resolutions Chair by email at [1stvp@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:1stvp@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org). The Resolutions Chair will be responsible for reviewing and presenting said resolutions to the NEB at their meeting prior to the convention.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE:

This event recognizes the service of our deceased members and associates and pays tribute to the fallen. Department Chaplains are responsible for ensuring the reporting of names of all deceased members and associates by **18 May 2024** to Cathy Bordeaux, National Chaplain, at [chaplain@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:chaplain@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org).

## JOURNAL:

Aside from helping to defray the cost of the convention, the Journal provides information on Convention events and serves as a tribute to our fallen sons and daughters. **See Journal page for cost, format requirements and publishing deadline. Must be submitted online by 23 April 2024.**

If you have questions, please email Lee-Ann Forsythe, [publications@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:publications@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org).

## RECOMMENDED DRESS CODE:

Friday Memorial Service and Workshops: Business White  
Saturday Business Meetings: Business White  
Saturday Evening: Banquet – Disco or Cocktail Attire  
Sunday Installation of Officers: Business White

## NOMINATIONS:

Nominations shall be for a specific office on the National Executive Board. (See Constitution and Bylaws for detailed requirements of each office.) Requests for specific Job Descriptions may be made to Patti Elliott, at [1stVP@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:1stVP@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org).

A member in good standing may be considered for a nomination to a National Office when a letter of endorsement from the candidate's Chapter or Department is sent to Becky Christmas, Nominations Chair, by email at [beckyxmas@aol.com](mailto:beckyxmas@aol.com) or mailed to PO Box 173, Wagon Mound, NM 87752. **Nominations must be**

**received by 18 May 2024.** The letter of endorsement is limited to 400 words. The letter must state the specific office the proposed candidate would like to be nominated for, a brief statement of AGSM, Inc., offices held and volunteer activities that support the mission of AGSM. Offices held and volunteer work with other nationally chartered Veterans Service Organizations, and/or volunteering with the Department of Veteran Affairs will be accepted. If the candidate is a Veteran, the service history may be included. For nominations that endorse the offices of National Treasurer or National Secretary, the candidate may include a synopsis of employment experience or volunteer work history as it pertains to the position of nomination and the AGSM job description only.

The letter must be dated and signed from a member of the Chapter or Department submitting the nomination and must include the signature of the candidate. Candidates nominated from the floor must be prepared with a letter of endorsement for the Chair of the Nominations Committee.

All the above criteria must be met for consideration of a nomination for an office on the National Executive Board. Letters of endorsement will not be returned.

**PAGES:** The National Sergeant-at-Arms appoints and directs at least two Pages to assist with conduct of the business meetings and other events. During the business meetings, Pages will wear white business attire, caps, white gloves, and a badge designating their position.

**REQUEST FOR UNPLANNED BUSINESS:**

Members wishing to present a subject on the convention floor which is not a part of the planned agenda must present such request in writing to the National Executive Board for their consideration by **1 June 2024**. Any member wishing to appear before the Executive Board at their scheduled meeting on **20 June 2024** must request permission in writing by **1 June 2024**, stating purpose and intent. Requests for additions to the business agenda and presence at the National Executive Board meeting on **20 June 2024** must be sent to Pam Stemple, National President, at [president@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:president@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org).

**CONDUCT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS:**

The conduct of all American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., business meetings and/or events shall be by the rules set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws and the Ceremonial and Business Procedures Book (Little Gold Book, 2017 printing). Members attending convention are encouraged to print the most recent version of the Constitution and Bylaws (approved at the 2023 National Convention), available at [Americangoldstarmothers.org](http://Americangoldstarmothers.org).

**PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY:**

Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable, provided it is not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

All mailed submissions must be received by the stated deadlines.

## March / April Calendar of Events and Important Dates



<i>March</i>	<i>Women's History Month</i>
<i>2 March</i>	<i>Navy Reserve Birthday</i>
<i>5 March</i>	<i>Seabee Birthday</i>
<i>10 March</i>	<i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>
<i>10 March</i>	<i>Ramadan Begins</i>
<i>13 March</i>	<i>K-9 Veterans Day</i>
<i>17 March</i>	<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>
<i>21 March</i>	<i>Rosie The Riveter Day</i>
<i>25 March</i>	<i>Medal of Honor Day</i>
<i>29 March</i>	<i>National Vietnam War Veterans Day</i>
<i>31 March</i>	<i>Easter</i>
<i>5 April</i>	<i>Gold Star Spouses Day</i>
<i>9 April</i>	<i>National Former POW Recognition Day</i>
<i>9 April</i>	<i>Ramadan Ends</i>
<i>14 April</i>	<i>Air Force Reserve Birthday</i>
<i>22 April</i>	<i>Earth Day</i>
<i>23 April</i>	<i>Army Reserve Birthday</i>

*For details on these events  
and more go to  
[AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](http://AmericanGoldStarMothers.org)*



*AmericanGoldStarMothers, Inc.*

**2024 National Convention Registration Form**  
**Thursday 20 June - Sunday 23 June 2024**

Deadline for Registration - 18 May 2024 - Mailed Registrations must be postmarked by 13 May 2024

Register Online at [AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](http://AmericanGoldStarMothers.org)

Member's Name			
Address			
City, State, Postal Code			
Phone Number			
Email Address			
<b>Is this your first AGSM Convention?</b> YES NO		Chapter _____ Department _____	
<b>Are You a Veteran?</b> YES NO		<b>If yes, branch of service</b>	
<b>Convention Registration includes:</b> Thursday Welcome Reception Friday Member and Guest Luncheon Guest Tour (Guests Only)		Boogie Nights Banquet VAVS & Community Service Luncheon (Members Only) Installation Breakfast	
		<b>Member Registration Fee:</b> <b>\$130</b>	
<b>Thursday 20 June</b> Welcome to the Centennial State Welcome Reception		YES	NO
<b>Friday 21 June</b> Memorial Service and Lunch (Transportation Included)		YES	NO
<b>Saturday 22 June</b> VAVS & Community Service Luncheon (Members Only)		YES	NO
<b>Saturday 22 June</b> Boogie Nights Banquet		YES	NO
<b>Sunday 23 June</b> Installation Breakfast		YES	NO
		<b>Please circle one:</b> <b>Guest      Associate</b>	
<b>Guest Name</b>		<b>Guest Registration Fee: \$130</b>	
<b>Thursday 20 June</b> Welcome to the Centennial State Welcome Reception		YES	NO
<b>Friday 21 June</b> Memorial Service and Lunch(Transportation Included)		YES	NO
<b>Saturday 22 June</b> The Just Spectacular Guest Tour		YES	NO
Please Select United States Olympic & Paralympic Museum (Lunch on your own) One: Manitou Springs & Garden of the Gods (Lunch on your own)			
<b>Saturday 22 June</b> Boogie Nights Banquet		YES	NO
<b>Sunday 23 June</b> Installation Breakfast		YES	NO

**Payment Options**

**Check:** Make Payable to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

**Mail To:** AGSM National Headquarters 2128 Leroy Place NW Washington DC 20008 **(MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 13 MAY 2024)**

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# National Executive Board Meeting

## February 8, 2024

A business meeting of the AGSM National Executive Board was called to order at 7:59 AM by Pam Stemple. A motion to dispense with the ritual was made by Teresa Bullock and seconded by Lee-Ann Forsythe. The motion carried.

Chaplain Cathy Bordeaux gave an opening prayer and members recited the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Annette Kirk.

Secretary Chanta Vasquez conducted the roll call of officers. There were nine members of the

NEB present, and no guests: President Pam Stemple; 1st VP Patti Elliott; 2nd VP Annette Kirk; Treasurer Rose Duval; Chaplain Cathy Bordeaux; Sergeant-at-Arms Joyce Paulsen; IT Chair Lee-Ann Forsythe; Flag Guard Teresa Bullock; Secretary Chanta Vasquez.

### FINANCE AND BUDGET

Rose Duval spoke to PayPal and inquired if they could add the option for members to pay the service fee when they pay their membership dues. PayPal does not allow this because it is considered a service. Rose is looking into two other companies or services like PayPal that could offer different options. Both companies are willing to Zoom with NEB for questions so Rose Duval will set up a Zoom.

A motion to inquire with Wegner about doing an audit for 2022 – 2023 made by Patti Elliott and seconded by Annette Kirk. Following discussion, motion carried.

### HEADQUARTERS REPORT

Rose will be contacting Terminix about the nest in the President's Room.

A motion to approve replacement of the broken blinds in the office not to exceed \$75 was made by committee. Following discussion, motion carried. The committee will revisit the replacing of blinds for the rest of the house in May.

### LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Motion to prepare a letter of support for the NFF's 2026 "Light to Unite" initiative recommended by committee. Following discussion, motion carried.

### C&BL, LITTLE GOLD BOOK, AND STANDING RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Little Gold Book has not been updated yet.

Motion from committee to bring to the convention floor on behalf of the NEB a proposed change to Article IV to read: Gold Star Fathers, Gold Star Siblings, Gold Star Grandparents and Stepfathers are eligible to join as Associate Members. They pay no dues, hold no office, and have no vote, but may be appointed as

a Deputy to the representative at the VA Medical Center. Following discussion motion carried.

A brief recess was taken from 9:47 AM to 10:02 AM.

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The membership committee would like to remind Chapters and Departments to send an updated officers list after elections to the NSO.

A motion to approve a logo request from the Department of New Jersey was made by Patti Elliott and seconded by Teresa Bullock. Following discussion, motion carried.

A motion from the Membership Committee that, going forward, newly approved charters will be sent the AGSM logos along with instructions for use. Following discussion, motion carried.

A motion to return dues payment to the mother who previously withdrew membership from AGSM was made by Patti Elliott and seconded by Teresa Bullock. Following discussion, motion carried.

10:55 AM a motion to move into Executive Session by Annette Kirk and seconded by Lee-Ann Forsythe. Following discussion, motion carried.

11:07 AM a motion to move out of executive session by Patti Elliott and seconded by Annette Kirk. Following discussion, motion carried.

New permanent membership cards will go out to Department Treasurers the week of 2/12/24. Joyce will send out an email blast to Treasurers once as soon as they are mailed out by Lee-Ann Forsythe.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

#### GRANTS COMMITTEE

Suggestion that the California Chapters reach out to moms regarding disaster relief. Flag Guard Teresa Bullock will manage this.

#### WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The committee would like a Ways and Means business card going forward that could be added to shipments and to get the word out about Ways and Means.

Suggestion to have a computer for convention so members can order on the spot from Vista Print and be delivered to their home.

Motion to order one of each item from Vistaprint for convention samples made by Patti Elliott seconded by Cathy Bordeaux. Following discussion, motion carried. W&M Chair Joyce Paulsen was approved to purchase the Vista Print items.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Chapter fundraiser items for sale will be placed back on the .org website.

Hamilton Jewelry is no longer willing to collaborate with us, but they have given the option to purchase all the remaining items in stock.

Motion made to purchase items from Hamilton Jewelry stock inventory not to exceed \$1900 by Joyce Paulsen and seconded by Lee-Ann Forsythe. Following discussion, motion carried.

A motion to purchase 5000 brochures not to exceed \$600 made by Patti Elliott and seconded by Cathy Bordeaux. Following discussion, motion passed. Lee-Ann Forsythe

A brief recess from 12:17 PM to 1:09 PM.

### AMERICANISM COMMITTEE

#### COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

The committee determined that the license numbers were not required for compliance. The committee confirmed that Harbor Compliance only needs 2021's signed 990, which the committee does have. Working on fixing the EIN number with the Department of Colorado.

Lee-Ann Forsythe is working on moving the FAQs for compliance from the .com to the .org.

#### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Motion from the committee to suggest the following to Waldorf University: that the scholarship be renamed the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Scholarship and that all other criteria to retain the scholarship remain the same. Following discussion, motion carried.

A motion to approve all Committee Reports as submitted and/or revised by Patti Elliott and seconded by Teresa Bullock. Following discussion, motion carried.

### OFFICER'S REPORTS

#### President's

#### 1st Vice President

Updated letterhead available on the drive. Patti Elliott is putting together a resource guide for those interested in running for the NEB.

#### 2nd Vice President

#### Secretary

#### Treasurer

Rose Duval is putting together a QuickBooks training guide for future National treasurers. **Headquarters Member**

Headquarters now has a CO2 detector by the boiler.

A brief recess from 2:53 PM to 3:10 PM.

#### Chaplain

Cathy Bordeaux would like to add a cutoff date for death notification before convention. This date would be the same day as registration closing date, and she will add to the chaplain's continuity book.

### Flag Guard

#### Historian

A motion to spend up to \$700.00 for engraved plaques to commemorate the first 100 years of AGSM as part of the history project made by Teresa Bullock and seconded by Patti Elliott. Following discussion, motion carried.

#### VAVS

Pam Stemple is putting together the numbers for fiscal year 2022 to recognize VAVS volunteers. Regarding recommendations in her report Pam Stemple will call for a vote later once she has more details regarding the recommendations. Goal going forward would be to ramp up the VAVS Program to members. Pam Stemple shared a news release from the VA Hospital reporting that the VA has permanently housed 46,552 homeless Vets, up 23.5% from last year's 38,000 Vets.

#### IT and Publication

Branding matters! Our logo should be on everything. Please check emails that the colors, fonts, correct e-mail addresses and .org website. Using our correct name - American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. - is especially important, written or verbalized.

#### Sergeant - at - Arms

Joyce Paulsen reports that she is adding templates that she uses to the Sergeant-at-Arms Continuity book.

#### Parliamentarian

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Memorial Day - Pam Stemple is requesting all NEB members be present for the Memorial Day Weekend Events.

Annette Kirk will represent AGSM at the Gold Star Manor in Long Beach for their new memorial dedication.

#### 2024 CONVENTION

A motion to approve \$1000 for the second portion of the Colorado convention deposit made by Lee-Ann Forsythe and seconded by Annette Kirk. Following discussion, motion carried.

2028 Centennial - Mona Gunn will be the committee chair. Members of the committee include

PNPs and PNOs. The current National President will serve on the committee. The current First

Vice President will serve as an ex-officio member and secretary to the committee. At this time, NSO/IT Chair Lee-Ann Forsythe will also be a part of the committee. All funds for the Centennial will run through current AGSM accounts and be accounted for accordingly.

A motion was made for the 2023-2024 NEB to allocate \$50,000 from the Library of Congress account to the Centennial Committee for the startup made by Lee-Ann Forsythe and seconded by Lee-Ann Forsythe. Following discussion, motion carried.

#### 2025 CONVENTION

Patti Elliott has visited six hotels in Raleigh and has decided on the Raleigh Downtown Sheraton. The hotel is asking for 25% at the time of contract signing, which would be \$4500.

Following extended discussion, a motion to table this discussion by Patti Elliott and seconded by Annette Kirk. Motion carried.

A motion by Patti Elliott and seconded by Teresa Bullock to adjourn 6:15 PM ET. Motion carried.

February 9, 2024

The business meeting of the AGSM National Executive Board was reconvened at 7:57 AM by National President Pam Stemple.

Chaplain Cathy Bordeaux gave an opening prayer and members recited the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Annette Kirk.

Secretary Chanta Vasquez conducted the roll call of officers. There were 9 members of the NEB present, and no guests: President Pam Stemple; 1st VP Patti Elliott; 2nd VP Annette Kirk; Treasurer Rose Duval; Chaplain Cathy Bordeaux; Sergeant-at-Arms Joyce Paulsen; IT Chair Lee-Ann Forsythe; Flag Guard Teresa Bullock; Secretary Chanta Vasquez.

**2024 CONVENTION**

Pam Stemple discussed the schedule of events.

Lee-Ann Forsythe discussed Estimated Expenses Worksheet

Motion to not offer a virtual component for the 2024 Convention by Teresa Bullock and seconded by Patti Elliott. Following discussion, motion carried.

Motion to complete all voting by electronic voting at the 2024 Convention by Lee-Ann Forsythe and seconded by Annette Kirk. Following discussion, motion carried.

Pam Stemple would like a media blast to encourage participation at the 2024 Convention.

Lee-Ann Forsythe shared details about the Pin Swap and other activities for the convention.

A brief recess from 9:48 AM to 10:01 AM.

A motion to approve the projected budget for 2024 National Convention by Patti Elliott and seconded by Annette Kirk. Following discussion, motion carried.

**2025 CONVENTION**

Reopen tabled discussion of the 2025 National Convention

Motion to approve \$4500 deposit for 2025 National Convention by Cathy Bordeaux and seconded by Lee-Ann Forsythe. Following discussion, motion carried.

**2026 CONVENTION**

A motion to hold a \$1,000 deposit for the 2026 Convention to be held in Tampa, FL, to be used when a hotel is determined made by Annette Kirk and seconded by Patti Elliott. Following discussion, motion carried.

A motion to accept all Officer Reports by Patti Elliott and seconded by Teresa Bullock. Following discussion, motion carried.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Pam Stemple would like to encourage NEB Department Liaisons to continue to communicate and update their respective departments.

Rose Duval would like to set up a Zoom meeting with Wegner for the NEB, to understand all that is involved with the needed audit.

A recess from 10:57 AM to 6:16 PM.

The NSO brought a second member who had withdrawn from the organization. The NSO shared a discussion with the chapter to return the member to good standing; a motion was made by Patti Elliott and seconded by Annette Kirk. Following discussion, the motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the NEB, a motion by Patti Elliott and seconded by Teresa Bullock to adjourn at 6:30 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chanta Vasquez, National Secretary  
NEB approved date: February 16, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Stemple, President Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chanta Vasquez, Secretary Date

**Constitution and ByLaws Ammendments**  
**Submission Deadline: 15 March 2024**

As outlined in Article XIII of our Constitution & Bylaws,

- ★ the Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting
- ★ provided the proposed amendment has been printed in "The Gold Star Mother" at least thirty days prior to the convening of the next National Convention,
- ★ or by unanimous vote without notice.

Further, in Section 2 of Article XIII,

- ★ no proposed amendment shall be submitted or considered by the National Convention unless said proposed amendment has first been submitted by a Department Board, Department Convention or by the National Executive Board.

This means all proposed amendments should be accompanied by minutes (in proper format according to Robert's Rules of Order) of the meeting at which the proposed amendment was approved to be submitted by a Department Board.

Send all proposed amendments to Annette Kirk,  
Constitution & Bylaws Chair at  
2ndVP@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org



# Remembering Frances Jean Cortor Turley

## 9/8/1929 - 12/24/2023

### Past National President 1996-1997

### American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

*Jeanine Rainey, President, Department of Missouri*



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Past National President Frances Jean Cortor Turley on December 24, 2023, at the age of 94. Frances was a member of the St. Louis Chapter in the Department of Missouri and served as AGSM National President in 1996-97. After her beloved son, Sgt. Francis Edwin "Duke" Cortor, Jr., was killed in action in Vietnam on October 21, 1969, Frances joined AGSM and served in many Board positions,

especially as Department and Chapter Treasurer and Chaplain. According to Past National Secretary Susie Moore, Frances took her duties as National President very seriously, being an excellent leader, administrator, and mentor. She encouraged all members to actively participate and to accept Board positions. Frances hosted the 60<sup>th</sup> AGSM National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri in 1997 with the theme "In Service and Sacrifice."

Frances was highly respected in the National organization and much appreciated and loved by the St. Louis Chapter. She truly honored her son through service. Years ago, when World War II mothers were members, Frances drove from her home outside the St. Louis area to the city to pick up members who couldn't drive and took them downtown to Soldiers Memorial for meetings. More recently, a new Gold Star Mother befriended Frances and was inspired and encouraged by Frances' independence and drive. Her example gave the new Gold Star Mother the confidence that she could survive her loss.

Frances was often called upon to receive the flags of homeless Veterans at their funerals at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. She understood the importance of honoring the service of every Veteran, regardless of his or her circumstances. Frances was featured in a 2006 AGSM, Inc. publication about receiving a flag. She was quoted as saying, "...I do it for this man. He deserves an honorable burial."



Frances was incredibly proud of her son, Duke, who was killed in action while voluntarily trying to recover wounded comrades, and bodies of the fallen, during a mortar attack in Vietnam. He was awarded a Silver Star for his heroic actions. Later in life, Frances traveled to Vietnam with other Gold Star Mothers to pay tribute to her son.

Frances is survived by sons Phillip Dean Cortor (Navy Veteran,) Dennis Paul Cortor (Navy Veteran) and James Andrew Cortor. She is preceded in death by husbands Francis Edwin Cortor, Sr. and Homer Turley.

After completing training as an LPN, Frances worked at the Veteran's Hospital at Jefferson Barracks for twenty years, much of the time in the spinal cord unit. She was devoted to caring for sick and wounded service members. Frances once said, "I couldn't do anything to help my son, but I could do something to help his buddies."

In addition to her dedicated service to AGSM, Frances belonged to many other service organizations including: the First United Methodist Church of Festus, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, the Ladies Auxiliary of VFW

Post 3777, and the American War Mothers. According to National Past President Mary Jane Kiepe, Frances was always on the move and she did everything quickly. Frances loved to read, especially biographies and books with military themes. She was a talented quilter and loved to travel. Frances was known to hop on the back of a motorcycle with a member of Rolling Thunder when they visited Washington D.C. around Memorial Day. She also enjoyed being escorted by the Corvette Club at the St. Louis

Veteran's Day parade each year.

At her funeral the Chaplain of the Baptist Home, where Frances resided for the final years of her life, recalled Frances fondly. He noted that her years of nursing experience were on display as

Frances advocated for the needs of her fellow residents. She pursued her life's mission of service until the end.

Reflecting on her life, one can see that Frances touched many lives in the Gold Star community and beyond. She was an admirable woman considering that AGSM was only one of her many cherished service organizations. She was a mother who turned a broken heart into a servant's heart, and she will be dearly missed.



# Heartfelt Appreciation TO OUR DONORS

*American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. could not continue our work as a Veterans Service Organization without the continued support of our generous donors.*

## DECEMBER 6, 2023 - FEBRUARY 7, 2024



American Gold Star Home  
 Mo Owens  
 Carl Vincenti  
 Julie Siemers  
 Judith Lavin Ivester  
 Kari and Stephen White  
 Marine Corps League Hawaii - Vernon Jarvis  
 USAFOCS - Gerald T. Nolan

Dr. Laura Kafka  
 Vietnam Veterans Of America, Inc Chapter 1071  
 VFW Dept II 2149 Tioga Post  
 Elizabeth Rodosovich  
 Sargent Electric Company - Rob Dobish  
 Mark Murray  
 Marsha Soria  
 National Society Dar Mt. Rosa Chapter  
 VFW Auxiliary No 41  
 VFW Auxiliary To Adamson Warmuth Post 6624



## We Hold in Loving Memory

*"Wherever a beautiful soul has been, there is a trail of beautiful memories!" – Anonymous*

Name	Date	Chapter	Department	Membership
Frances Turley	12/24/2023	St. Louis	MO	Past National President
Irma "Jean" Hall	11/23/2023	Kentucky	KY	Mother
William McNaughton	12/7/2023	North Fork	NY	Associate
Don Schilling	1/20/2024	West Virginia	WV	Associate

*'Jesus said to her,' "I am the resurrection and the life.  
 The one who believes in me will live, even though they die"*  
**John 25**

### Note to all Chaplains - All Death Notices go to:

Cathy Bordeaux, National Chaplain  
 chaplain@americangoldstarmothers.org  
 AmericanGoldStarMothers.org/chaplain





American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.  
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Washington, DC 20008-1893  
202.265.0991  
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**OBLIGATION OF AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS, INC.**

IN THE PRESENCE OF ALMIGHTY GOD AND THESE AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS, DO, OF MY OWN FREE WILL AND ACCORD, MOST FAITHFULLY PROMISE THAT I WILL COMPLY WITH ALL THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

THAT I WILL NEVER WRONG, OR PERMIT A WRONG TO BE DONE, TO ANY MEMBER OF THIS ORGANIZATION IF IT IS IN MY POWER TO PREVENT IT.

SHOULD MY AFFILIATION WITH THIS ORGANIZATION CEASE IN ANY WAY, I SHALL CONSIDER THIS PLEDGE A LIFELONG OBLIGATION.

I WILL BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF MY COUNTRY'S HONOR.

ALL THIS I PROMISE ON MY HONOR AS A TRUE AMERICAN.

**The American Gold Star Manor/Home was incorporated as a charitable, non-profit corporation for the purpose of assisting in the support of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. and providing a national home for American Gold Star Mothers.**

**The Manor is located in a quiet section of beautiful Long Beach, close to shopping centers, churches, and medical facilities. Freeways provide easy driving to downtown Long Beach and Southern California points of interest.**

**If you are interested in living at the American Gold Star Manor, please contact the administration office at (562) 426-7651 or you may visit The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. website for more information.**

**AMERICAN**   
**GOLD STAR MANOR**

***GoldStarManor.org***

