

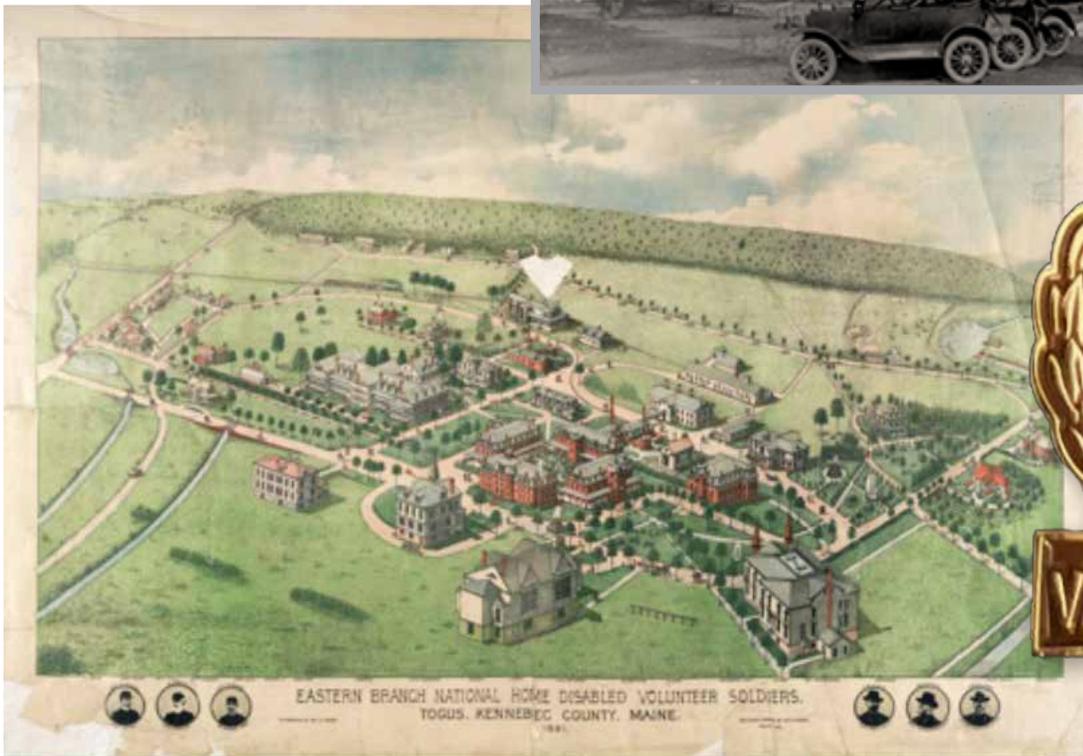


THE GOLD STAR MOTHER

Perpetuating the Noble Principles for Which They Fought and Died

ISSUE NUMBER 217

MAY-JUNE 2022



Serving Veterans Since 1928

From the Desk of the National President

Jo Ann Maitland, National President



The last... how we relate to those words. For a Gold Star Mother, it triggers the most emotional and heart-breaking memories. I was fortunate to have exchanged "I love you's" with Buck as our last spoken words.

I believe most past presidents of AGSM, Inc., will admit how quickly the year goes by. The plans of work and good deeds have either come to fruition or not. Challenges arose this year that were unimaginable, but we prevailed

and somehow kept putting one foot in front of another. On the other side, the work we have accomplished has been essential and will be forever a part of me, and hopefully, AGSM, Inc.

The good works of our Chapter Members fuel the hope of a future for AGSM. Grace Darling Seibold founded AGSM to heal our grief by honoring our fallen through service. These acts of volunteerism contribute to our Veterans, Active-Duty Military and Gold Star Families' quality of life.

I will repeat, volunteering feels good!

That sentiment brings me to the National Executive Board.

The woman you have entrusted to run the business of AGSM, Inc., does this work selflessly and with unmatched expertise.

Unfortunately, the last two years have been restricted dramatically due to the pandemic, but AGSM found new and better ways to endure. Who better suited to succeed in trying times than a Gold Star Mother? We are the strongest and most resilient women I know.

I did not do this job alone. The Presidency is not about me. A good leader has a great team, and I have been honored to have an exceptional team.

I want to honor our National Executive Board Veterans first, with a snapshot of who we all are:

Teresa Bullock, US Army, Sgt at Arms, was always the voice of reason, supporting quietly but bringing her view that helped navigate us through tough situations.

Annette Kirk, US Army, Banner Guard. Annette took the lack of being able to carry our beloved Banner and made up for it by diving deep into the quagmire of Legislative actions, both nationally and locally.



Lee-Ann Forsythe, USMC, National Service Officer, which is a thankless job she performed with expertise and patience. The woman behind the curtain made it all work for me and AGSM. There are not enough accolades that I can express about her. She is the epitome of the USMC Motto, "Adapt and Overcome."

Pam Stemple, US Navy, 2nd VP. The knowledge and wisdom that prevails in her spirit navigated us through the stormy and calm waters of the year. The beauty of France and our Pilgrimage showed in her being as she represented overseas as a proud US Navy Veteran.

Joyce Paulsen, our Flag Guard, is a quiet, enduring woman who contributed to the ways and means committee with her views of how to market products in Mother's Cupboard.

Janice Chance, VAVS Representative, who can keep up with Janice? The smile with a prayer motivated me daily. She is a power of example unparalleled.

Patti Elliott, Secretary extraordinaire, her extensive knowledge and sense of fairness kept us between the lines. Her leadership with the Giving Grace Grant will enrich the lives of many AGSM Members.

Elaine Brattain, Chaplain, spiritual leader and guide through our Constitution and Bylaws. Fitting that they go together, as she motivated us to always "do the right thing."

Vickie Castro, Treasurer, our bean counter, with views of things that brought out our thinking caps and helped us move forward.

Sarah Taylor, 1st VP. It's the drawl, the smile, the care that she shows to Vietnam Veterans and all creatures, great and small. AGSM's future is in loving and capable hands.

My theme this year was "Familia Sumas," we are family.

Like most families, we are not perfect. The 2021-2022 National Executive Board kept the mission of American Gold Star Mothers as our priority. So, if you, as a member of our beloved organization, want to serve, step up, raise your hand, represent, engage, do good, and honor your child as they would want you to. Then, you, too, can become a part of this extraordinary family.

With love,
Jo



VAVS – So Many Ways to Serve

*Pam Schaffer, Department of Colorado Treasurer,
Proud Mother of Sgt Andrew M. Schaffer, Army*

I am not very good being around sick folks and am uncomfortable at hospital settings (needles, blood and guts yucky) BUT I am great on the telephone. I recently completed training to be a member of the Compassion Care Team. The Compassion Care Team coordinators pair a volunteer with a home bound veteran. Volunteers call the veteran(s) once a week and talk with them on the phone (or internet system).



The VA Volunteer Spirit is Alive in Tampa Bay

Toni Gross, Proud Mother of Cpl Frank R. Gross, Army

A local sewing group has once again provided comfort and support to our veterans. In the past, this group of talented ladies has presented dozens of beautiful patriotic lap quilts to both the Fisher House and the inpatient veterans at James A Haley VA hospital, Tampa. This time, one crafter, Kim, singlehandedly, created 80 prayer squares, small crocheted or knitted yarn squares with a short paper prayer attached to each one.

Through teamwork, the prayer squares made their way to the perfect destination where they would do the most good. In this photo, Donna K, blue star mother and member



of the sewing group is holding the precious items and about to give them to a member of AGSM, TB. This Gold Star Mom, who is a VAVS rep at James A Haley VA hospital, in turn, delivered the prayer squares to the VAVS specialists at the hospital. The Gold Star Mom



wasn't sure who or where the squares might be going to, but the VAVS specialists had the perfect destination in mind. Pictured in the second photo, they all chimed in together with the words, **THE CHAPLAIN** there at the hospital...where the prayer squares will find a perfect destination.

VAVS: Encourage, Educate, and Inspire

Karen Zook, Proud Mother of Cpl Ian Zook, USMC



On February 18th, the AGSM, Inc., Department of FL/PR, Treasure Coast Chapter, hosted their first VAVS Luncheon in Palm Beach County. This luncheon was planned by the Department of FL/PR VAVS Representative, Toni Gross, and Karen Zook, VAVS Representative for the West Palm Beach VAVS Medical System. AGSM National President Jo Ann Maitland, founder of the Treasure Coast Chapter, was able to take part in and enjoy the luncheon. National VAVS Representative

Janice Chance was our special guest and speaker for the event. The West Palm Beach VA Medical Center Director/CEO, Cory Price, was also our honored guest. Additionally, we were grateful to have Heather Murphy, West Palm Beach VA Medical Center Chief of Development and Civic Engagement, speak about how to become a VAVS Volunteer and share many areas of volunteer opportunities within the VA Medical System. Lastly, the West Palm Beach VA Fisher House Manager, Shelley Prickett, spoke about how the Fisher Houses came into existence, what their mission statement is, and

how volunteers are an important part within the Fisher House. All in all, it was a beautiful day of encouragement, education, and inspiration for our AGSM, Inc., Treasure Coast Chapter, and all our guests.



VAVS: You Get Out More Than You Put In!

Janice Chance, National VAVS Representative and Pam Stemple, National 2nd Vice President

It is a distinct honor to serve as the AGSM National Representative to the VAVS program. This role has afforded me the opportunity to learn what is happening nationally in the VAVS program. Prior to my appointment, I served over seven years, and continue to serve, as the VAVS Representative for the Baltimore VA Medical Center; Deputy Representative for the Loch Raven VA Medical Center, Maryland; and a volunteer at the Perry Point VA Medical Center in Maryland. So, while I am no stranger to VAVS, serving as the AGSM National Representative has provided increased advocacy opportunities on behalf of veterans at the national level. It also allows me to support and encourage our dedicated and loyal VAVS Representatives and Deputies, share information about the VAVS program and help with recruiting efforts for new VAVS Representatives. I also have the privilege to serve on the National Executive Board with colleagues who also demonstrate a commitment to fulfilling AGSM's mission. The scope of my responsibilities includes representing AGSM by serving on the VA Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee and the National Veterans Day Committee, as well as other committees.

Serving not only invigorates me, but also enables me to proudly carry on the legacy of selfless service and sacrifice modeled by my son, the late CPT Jesse Melton III, USMC, KIA in Afghanistan

09/09/2008. To be honest, serving has become a way of life. Therefore, as I am able, I seize every opportunity that I believe God provides.

I am looking forward to meeting the VAVS Representatives and Deputies attending the AGSM National Convention in June in West Palm Beach, Florida, to express my gratitude and to acknowledge their accomplishments. I must mention the elephant in the room, the pandemic triggered by COVID-19 that has restricted access to serve veterans face to face. The safety and health of the veterans and the employees is a top priority for the VA Health Care System. It is also important to us. However, it did not stop AGSM volunteers, Chapter members and VA voluntary service staff from finding innovative ways to serve and support our heroes. Thankfully, in recent months, some of the restrictions have been modified due to the decrease in the COVID-19 numbers in several states, thus allowing VAVS representatives to return to on-site service.

Our veterans selflessly served us, and I am proud that members of AGSM are committed to serving and supporting them in honor of our children. As shared by our National 2nd Vice President, Pam Stemple, "I have been volunteering at the VA since 2009. I love the stories that they share. You will get more out of volunteering at the VA than you could ever put in!"





Memorial Day 2022

★ Rolling to Remember Ride ★
Luncheon at WIMSA
Rolling to Remember Concert
War Memorial Wreath Layings

Please watch the Memorial Day2022 page at [GoldStarMoms.com](https://www.GoldStarMoms.com) for details and events.

Join Us in Our Nation's Capital as We Honor Fallen Heroes

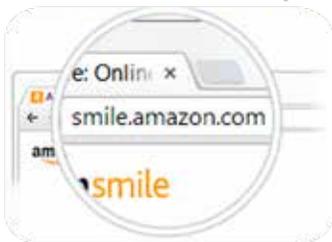


Do You Shop on Amazon?

Did You Know **Amazon Smile** will donate .5% of eligible purchases to **American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.** at no cost to you.

1. Shop at Smile.Amazon.com
2. Select **American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.** as your charity.
3. Start Shopping

It's That Easy!



The Midst of the Raging Storm...

Karen Zook, Proud Mother of Cpt Ian T. Zook, Marine Corps

An accessible refuge in a time of an emergent need is a welcome relief to those who find themselves in the midst of the raging storm. This is what the Fisher House is to those in the military community who find themselves facing a challenging or catastrophic medical event. Those who reside at the Fisher House during this trying time in their lives find relief from the worry of additional, non-planned expenses, as their stay at the Fisher House is completely free of charge.

Most Fisher Houses are within walking distance of military hospitals, and if not, transportation is provided to and from the hospital. An added bonus to the guests is the sense of community that flows within the Fisher House walls. In addition to meeting others in similar situations, the sanctuary of the Fisher House yields encouragement, friendship, and camaraderie.

The Fisher House concept was developed in 1990 after Pauline Trost, wife of Admiral Carlisle Trost, observed the family of an injured sailor land at the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda. As Mrs. Trost watched the scene, she



knew that the added expense of a lengthy hotel stay would be a tremendous strain on the family during this medical crisis. Mrs. Trost shared her concerns with her husband, who presented this need to Zachary Fisher, a renowned builder and philanthropist who was already a generous and steadfast supporter of the United States Armed Forces. Immediately, Fisher, along with his wife, Elizabeth, dedicated \$20 million to the construction of comfort homes for families of military personnel who are hospitalized.

The first Fisher House was opened in 1991 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and, to date, the 35 Fisher Houses in the United States and one in Germany have offered more than five million days of lodging to over 180,000 families. Fisher Houses are gifted to the United States government and operated under the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Members of AGSM, Inc., volunteering

through the VAVS (Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services) system may choose to serve within the Fisher House system.



PHOTO CREDIT FISHERHOUSE.ORG



PHOTO CREDIT FISHERHOUSE.ORG



PHOTO CREDIT FISHERHOUSE.ORG



Chapter Grant Updates!

The Freedoms Heroes Chapter used their Grant to provide pajama pants, T-shirts, hats, and gloves delivered by Pam Fleming and Kay Creager to veterans at the Memphis VA Medical Center.



The Southwest Florida Chapter used their Grant to host a Picnic in the Park to celebrate Women Veterans. They hosted over 50 Woman Veterans and their families for this 2nd Annual event.



15 JUNE 2022
DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR
YOUR CHAPTER GRANT!



Deadlines to apply for your Chapter Grant
15 June 2022

The Awardees for the January - March 2022 Chapter Grant term are Southwest Florida who will recognize and honor the service of women veterans and Albuquerque Gold Star Mothers will offer their support of Horses for Heroes who assist veterans through equine therapy.

We wish them much success as they continue the mission of supporting our veterans. Let AGSM help you with your service work by applying for the Chapter Grant

It's easy to apply!
 Go to GoldStarMoms.com
 Click on the "Chapter Grant Application", complete the form, and submit.
 Apply Today!

Available now in Mother's Cupboard!
 Crossed AGSM Logo Flag and US Flag \$5
 Gold Star Banner Lapel Pin \$5



AGSM Logo Patch with Supporter Rocker \$20

****ALL NEW ITEMS AVAILABLE**
2022 NATIONAL CONVENTION WEEKEND**
 See what's new at GOLDSTARMOMS.COM



AGSM Department of Georgia Goes to the Georgia Aquarium

Carolyn Cagle, Department of Georgia Treasurer, Proud Mother of LCPL John Cagle, USMC

Under the leadership of President Lisa Jenkins and the Georgia Aquarium's Military Event Coordinator, Adam Rosbury, Gold Star families from several states enjoyed a day of events at the Georgia Aquarium hosted by The Home Depot Foundation. This event was first held on September 26, 2021, and again on February 13, 2022, and included free admission and parking to the Georgia Aquarium, a complimentary continental breakfast, a \$25.00 lunch voucher, and gratuitous special event fees.

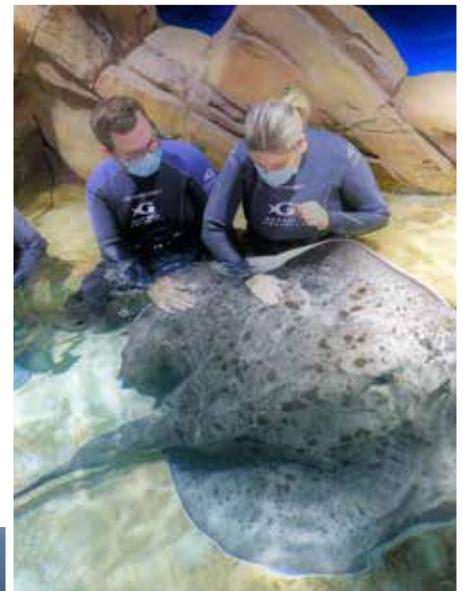
One hundred and fifty Gold Star Family Members participated in special events such as the Shark Cage Dive, the Shark Swim Dive, the Dolphin Encounter, the Penguin Event, the Dolphin Show, along with other Georgia Aquarium events. Adam and his staff, along with volunteers, worked very hard to make sure that Gold Star Families were warmly greeted upon their arrival and treated to a complimentary continental breakfast in the Ocean's Ballroom. Adam also coordinated



the Aquarium event schedule, making sure that all Gold Star families were able to participate in the special events of their choice. The families were welcomed by Adam and Georgia Chapter President Lisa Jenkins, along with SOS Coordinator Melissa Mckensie who was vital in the support for this event.

Technology support was provided by Pheleshia Martin-Arline, a friend of the Georgia AGSM and Aunt of Fallen Hero Spc. Fredrick Jenkins III. A slideshow featuring each family's Fallen Hero was presented, honoring the sacrifice of life given by each Gold Star Family. Gold Star Families will be invited back on June 5, 2022, and September 25, 2022. Gold

Star families can check the Georgia American Gold Star Mothers website, www.georgiaagsm.org, in April 2022 for information about registering for the June 5, 2022, event day. The Georgia Chapter of the AGSM is very grateful and honored to be associated with the Georgia Aquarium and The Home Depot Foundation.



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
85th Annual National Convention
23 - 26 June 2022
West Palm Beach, FL



Registration Is Open until 1 June 2022

GoldStarMoms.com

Hilton Palm Beach Airport
150 Australian Ave, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Schedule of Events

Thursday 23 June

Opening Ceremony of The Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall

Friday 24 June

Service Project
Workshops

Changes in Latitudes Welcome Party and Dinner



Saturday 25 June

Member Business Meeting
Guest Tour

American Gold Star Mothers Gala
and
Every Star Remembered Concert



Sunday 26 June

Memorial Service
Continental Brunch

Installation of 2022-2023 National Executive Board

All Scheduled Activities are Subject to Change



Change Your Latitude

Go To GoldStarMoms.com for Details



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

2022 National Convention Registration Form Thursday 23 June – Sunday 26 June 2022

Deadline for Registration 1June2022 – Mailed Registration must be post marked by 1June2022

Register Online at GoldStarMoms.com or AmericanGoldStarMothers.org



Member's Name	
Address	
City, State, Postal Code	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Is this your first AGSM Convention? YES NO	Chapter _____
T-Shirt Size S M L XL XXL	Department _____
Are You a Veteran? YES NO	Member elected as a DELEGATE ALTERNATE NEITHER
	If yes, branch of service _____ Years Served? _____

<u>Convention Registration includes:</u>	Member Registration Fee: \$125	
Changes in Latitudes Welcome Party and Dinner ★ VAVS Luncheon (Members Only) Guest Tour and Lunch (Guests Only) ★ Gold Star Dinner and Gala Sunday Continental Brunch ★ Event T-Shirt (Members Only)		
Thursday 23 June @6pm Opening Ceremony of the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall	YES	NO
Friday 24 June @ 5.30p Changes in Latitudes Welcome Party, Buffet, and Entertainment	YES	NO
Saturday 25 June @ 12pm VAVS Luncheon (Members Only)	YES	NO
Saturday 25 June @ 6pm (Cocktail Party 6pm-7pm Dinner 7pm) Gold Star Gala	YES	NO
DINNER: Filet Mignon with Bordelaise Sauce Vegetable Napoleon Pasta Primavera	YES YES	(Circle One)
Sunday 26 June @ 9am Memorial Service, Continental Brunch, and Installation of Officers	YES	NO
Guest Name	Guest	Associate
	Guest Registration Fee: \$125	
Thursday 23 June @6pm Opening Ceremony of the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall	YES	NO
Friday 24 June @ 5.30p Changes in Latitudes Welcome Party, Buffet, and Entertainment	YES	NO
Saturday 25 June @ 10am Guest Tour (Guest and Associates Only)	YES	NO
Saturday 25 June @ 6pm (Cocktail Party 6pm-7pm Dinner 7pm) Gold Star Gala	YES	NO
DINNER: Filet Mignon with Bordelaise Sauce Vegetable Napoleon Pasta Primavera	YES YES	(Circle One)
Sunday 26 June @ 9am Memorial Service, Continental Brunch, and Installation of Officers	YES	NO

Payment Options	Register and Pay Online at GoldStarMoms.com
Check: Make Payable to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc	
Mail To: AGSM National Headquarters 2128 Leroy Place NW Washington DC 20008	
Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Account Number: _____	
Expiration Date: _____ Charge Amount: _____ Card Holder's Name _____	
Signature _____	



2022 Convention Call Details

REGISTRATION / CREDENTIALS:

All Members and Guests must register and pay the convention registration fee by **1 June 2022**. The Registration Fee of \$125.00 is non-optional and should be paid by all Members, Guests and Associate Members. A late fee of \$25.00 should be paid on all registrations received after the 1 June 2022 deadline. The registration fee covers the costs of all convention-related activities. **Register online at GoldStarMoms.com or mail completed registration form with fees** to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., ATTN: Lee-Ann Forsythe, National Service Officer, 2128 Leroy Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20008. Members 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 and the National Membership Committee will determine eligibility of delegates. Chapter Presidents and Department Presidents are responsible for communicating the election of said delegates in writing by **24 May 2022** to Pam Stemple at 2ndVP@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org or mail to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., ATTN: Pam Stemple, National 2nd Vice President, 2128 Leroy Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.

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 **1 April**

2022 to be published in the May/June issue. Amendments to the C&BL not published in *The Gold Star Mother* 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: secretary@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 **24 May 2022**. Send to Patti Elliott, National Resolutions Chair by email: secretary@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org or mail to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., ATTN: Patti Elliott, National Resolutions Chair, 2128 Leroy Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20008. 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 departed members since the last convention and pays tribute in memory of the fallen. Department Chaplains are responsible for ensuring the accurate reporting of names of all departed members and associate members by **24 May 2022** to Elaine Brattain, National Chaplain, chaplain@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org or mail to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., ATTN: Elaine Brattain, National Chaplain, 2128 Leroy Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.

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 25 April 2022.**

If you have questions, please email Lee-Ann Forsythe, publications@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org

RECOMMENDED DRESS CODE:

Thursday Evening: Business White (Outdoor Event)
Friday Registration: RED Friday T-Shirt
Friday Evening: Tropical Attire
Business Meetings: Business White
Saturday Evening: Formal / Semi-Formal
Memorial Service: Business White
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 Lee-Ann Forsythe, National Service Officer, at nso@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org. A member in good standing may be considered for nomination to a National Office when a letter of endorsement from the candidate's Chapter or Department is sent to the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Becky Christmas, by email at beckyxmas@aol.com, or mailed to PO Box 173, Wagon Mound, NM 87752 and **received by 24 May 2022**. 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, 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 her request in writing to the National Executive Board of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., for their consideration 15 days before opening of the convention, **10 June 2022**. Any member wishing to appear before the Executive Board at their scheduled meeting on 23 June 2022 must request permission in writing 15 days before the opening of the convention stating purpose and intent. Requests for additions to the business agenda and presence at the National Executive Board meeting must be sent to Jo Ann Maitland, National President, at president@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org or mail to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., ATTN: Jo Ann Maitland, National President, 2128 Leroy Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.

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 2021 National Convention) available at GoldStarMoms.com

PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY:

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

All mailed submissions must be postmarked by the stated deadlines.



Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION:

1. Page 8, Article VII, Section 2 (Submitted by the National Executive Board)

Currently Reads:

Additional National Officers, including a National Service Officer, VAVS National Chairman, Americanism Chairman, Director of Publications, Legislative Chairman, Historian, Community Service Chairman and Parliamentarian, may be appointed by the incoming National President with the consent and approval of the National Executive Board.

Proposed Amendment:

Additional National Officers, including a National Service Officer, VAVS National Chairman, Americanism Chairman, Information and Technology Chair, Legislative Chairman, Historian, Community Service Chairman and Parliamentarian, may be appointed by the incoming National President with the consent and approval of the National Executive Board.

Rationale:

See proposed change to National Bylaws #1 below.

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

NATIONAL BYLAWS:

1. Page 15, Article II, Duties of Officers, Section 2(m)
(Submitted by the National Executive Board)

Currently Reads:

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS shall publish or have published the official organization publication "*The Gold Star Mother*". She shall mail or have mailed to each member in good standing, and each Associate Member who elected to pay for the publication, a copy of each issue. She shall be responsible to and under the direction of the National Executive Board.

Proposed Amendment:

THE INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY CHAIR shall have published the official organization publication, "*The Gold Star Mother*." She shall have a copy of each issue of the publication mailed to each Member in good standing and each Associate Member who elected to pay for the publication.

She shall be responsible for creating, publishing, and managing social media posts on all American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., official social media accounts.

She shall be responsible for updating content on all American

Gold Star Mothers, Inc., websites. She shall oversee the production of or produce all graphic, photo, or video content used on National websites and social media provided to partner organizations or news media. These activities include, but are not limited to, managing and producing print and digital media, to include flyers, programs, journals, invitations, and registrations for activities and events hosted by the National Executive Board. She will also be responsible for maintaining brand integrity across all media platforms and ensuring all AGSM materials have consistent branding. She will also be responsible for database management and administration of other third-party software, digital, and cloud accounts.

She shall be responsible to and under the direction of the National Executive Board.

Rationale:

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.'s current and future electronic communications will be met by having in place a designated and capable individual for the position of Information and Technology Chair. No other position on the NEB has the word "Director" in the title, so changing the position to "Chair" is consistent with other positions set forth in the NEB structure. IT managers are responsible for coordinating, planning, and leading computer-related activities in an organization, not communication.



The American Gold Star Manor

3021 Gold Star Drive
Long Beach, CA 90810

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.

GoldStarMoms.com



CHAPTER NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA/HAWAII

The Department of SoCal/ HI recently held its Department Convention and is proud to announce its new Department Board. Christina Nichols Wainright – President, Teresa Bullock – 1st Vice President, Vickie Castro – Secretary, Elain Krepp – Treasurer, Elaine Brattain – Chaplain



DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Department President Helen Keiser- Pedersen and Dave Daniels, a Vietnam War veteran and volunteer with the West Haven Veterans Hospital's Volunteer Services, met on Valentine's Day and National Vietnam War Veterans Day to distribute greeting cards designed by Gold Star Mother and CT artist Kathryn T. Cross and printed with the generous support of U-Haul. The 75 Valentine's Day cards and 150 National

Vietnam War Veterans Day cards remembered the service of the hospitalized veterans with a special message of tribute to them. Thank you for what you do for all our Gold Star Mothers!

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA/PUERTO RICO

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER

The Tampa Bay Chapter presented Valentine goodie bags to the VA Police who serve at the Tampa VA Hospital. Officer J is standing by his cruiser that is parked in the Fisher House parking lot. The almost completed, much needed BED TOWER can be seen behind Officer J. Recently, the Tampa Bay Chapter also made snack and goodie bags for the Covid vaccine clinic staff at the hospital too. As busy as they were when the bags were dropped off, they immediately stopped what they were doing and thanked us for thinking about them in such a SWEET WAY!



DEPARTMENT OF IDAHO

STAR GARNET CHAPTER

Although the AGSM Idaho Star Garnet Chapter has not been able to get together in person (restrictions, distance) they meet via Zoom continuing to assist Veterans. These are some of the donations, given and acquired, for the Military Family Basics/Winter Weather Foundation Campaign.

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS/RHODE ISLAND

Massachusetts Gold Star Mothers (left to right) Robin Abbott, Doris Syrakos, and Kathy Marden attend the annual Ahern Family Foundation St. Patrick's Day Gala. The Foundation donates the proceeds to The Fisher House of Boston and The New England Center and Home for Veterans.



Massachusetts Gold Star Mothers come together every year to make ribbons bearing the names of the state's fallen heroes. These ribbons are pinned to the rucksacks of those who participate in the yearly tough ruck sponsored by Military Friends Foundation. Tough Ruck Nation is group of military, first responders and civilians whose sole purpose is to Ruck in honor and in memory of our Fallen Service Members, Police, Firefighters and EMTs, while raising funds to support our warriors and families of the Fallen. They will march with their Rucks and carry the names of our Fallen comrades for 26.2 miles.



DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO – ALBUQUERQUE

AGSM Albuquerque Chapter was hosted by the VFW Auxiliary Post 2951 in Santa Fe on April 9. The proceeds of the High Tea/Bingo will be given to our Chapter to help us continue to fulfill our mission. It was a wonderful and fun event attended by friends, family and Veterans. The Gold Star Mothers attending were Becky Christmas, Shirley Tetreault, Pat Merville, Kay Coleman and Lisa Bowles. Thank you, ladies.



DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

ALBANY CHAPTER

Sunday March 19th. The New York, Albany Chapter Gold Star families met with Gold Stars from the Hudson Chapter Vivian and Bob Allen and Renate DeAngelis at West Point for a tour.

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CHAPTER NEWS

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Brittney Allen, Army Community Service Specialist from the Survivor Outreach Program was able to schedule time for the Mothers to get their ID's and Vivian and Renate was able to show off their handsome sons on the Wall of

Honor. From there we went to the Purple Heart Hall of Honor and finally to share a meal at a wonderful BBQ Restaurant. So nice to be out and about again.

DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE

VOLUNTEER CHAPTER

Brenda Shelton and I attended the ceremony today for the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day held at the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery on Gov John Sevier Hwy. It was a wonderful ceremony in which we met with Bill Robinson who endured 7 years and 4 months of imprisonment in Vietnam - the longest POW interment in US military history. Of course, we said the names of our chapter's Vietnam Heroes - PFC Frank Walden (Iris Walden), SP4 Harvey Crabtree (Sarah Crabtree), and ILT John Wilkinson (Marion Wilkinson). Their mothers are now in heaven with them, so Brenda and I carried on for them! SAY THEIR NAMES!



DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON/OREGON/ALASKA WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER



WA State AGSM supported the celebration of the Capt Joseph House, a place for Gold Star families to connect in Port Angeles, WA. At the celebration, Monica McNeal presented Betsy Schulz with the WA State AGSM Challenge Coin for the Capt Joseph House Pictured: Patti Nowaczyk, Andrew Nowaczyk, and Monica McNeal.



Welcome to our NEWEST MEMBERS

"No one wants to become eligible to join our organization. However, we find strength in the fellowship of other Gold Star Mothers who strive to keep the memory of their sons and daughters alive by working to help the veterans. We look forward to meeting all the new members listed below. Getting to know you better and helping you in any way possible is our goal."

— National Executive Board, Familia Sumus

Evelyn Brady, Member - FL-PR, Tampa Bay
Iris Saravia, Member - WA-OR-AK, Washington State GSM
Shirley Tetreault, Member - NM, Albuquerque
Kathy Combs, Member - FL-PR, Peace River
Marie Garcia, Member - KS, Wichita
Angela Bell, Member - VA, Hampton Roads
Jeanette Coho, Member - NM, Albuquerque
Arune Gierke, Member - GA, Cobb
Tracy DePasquale, Member - MD-DE, Maryland

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

Information for the newsletter can be emailed to
Lee-Ann Forsythe, Director of Publications at: publications@americangoldstarmothers.org

To ensure your information is included
please send all information in Word format and pictures as JPEG.



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.

FRIENDS OF AGSM

Korean War Veterans Association,
Kansas Chapter 1-181



Veterans Council of
Hillsborough County, Inc.



Georgie Krell

Brad and Becky Christmas

Miami Military Museum at Zoo Miami

Allen Clancy

Alexander Boyd

Paul Marra

Jessica Nevins

Pamela Carter

William and Leeann Pollard

Tiffany Powley

Dedicated Financial GBC



Vietnam Veterans of
America Chapter 195, Inc.



Marco Island Chapter DAR



We Hold in Loving Memory

*These members have, on the wings of eagles, soared beyond the rainbow,
and are reunited with those who have gone before...*

Name	Date of Death	Chapter	Department
Mother Alzrio McDonald	6/27/2021	Central PA	Pennsylvania
Grace Darling "Bambi" Williams	3/13/2022	Granddaughter of our beloved founder, Grace Darling Seibold	
Mary Wheeler, PNP	3/25/2022	Utica #56	New York

1Cor 2:9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"

Note to all Chaplains - All Death Notices go to:

Elaine Brattain, National Chaplain
chaplain@americangoldstarmothers.org
Cell Number: 714-356-2176 • 622 E. Elm Street • Brea, CA 92821





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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.

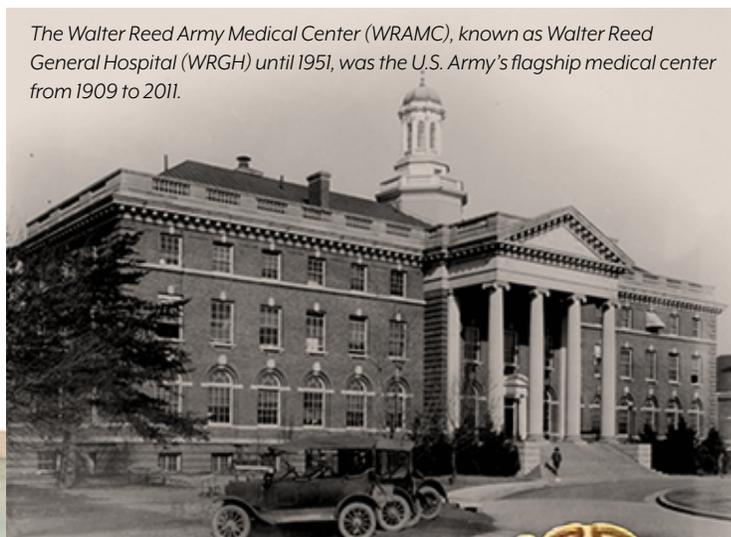
SHOULD MY AFFILIATION WITH THIS ORGANIZATION CEASE IN ANY WAY, I SHALL CONSIDER THIS PLEDGE A LIFELONG OBLIGATION.

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.



AGSM VAVS armband originally worn by our Member Volunteers



The Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC), known as Walter Reed General Hospital (WRGH) until 1951, was the U.S. Army's flagship medical center from 1909 to 2011.



The first National Home, now VA's oldest hospital, opened near Augusta, Maine, on November 1, 1866. They provided medical care and long-term housing for thousands of Civil War Veterans.



AGSM VAVS lapel pin currently worn by our Member Volunteers