



# The Gold Star Mother

**PERPETUATING THE NOBLE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH THEY FOUGHT AND DIED**

September-October 2021 ★ Issue Number 213

2128 Leroy Place, NW, Washington, DC 20008

## INVISIBLE WOUNDS MEMORIAL

Dedicated to those brave hearted  
men and women who have  
honorably served this great  
nation and have suffered  
and continue to battle the  
"INVISIBLE WOUNDS OF PTSD/TBI."

"Let their service and sacrifice  
never be forgotten."



**Invisible Wounds Memorial • Palm Coast, FL**

# From the Desk of the National President

Jo Ann Maitland, National President



I hope that this newsletter finds everyone well.

Your National Executive Board has hit the ground running since returning from Convention in Memphis.

We want to welcome new NEB members Army Veteran Annette Kirk from the Tampa Bay, FL, Chapter, as Banner Guard; Joyce Paulsen from the Albuquerque, NM, Chapter, as Flag Guard;

and returning to serve is Janice Chance from the DE-MD Chapter, appointed as VAVS National Chairman; and from the Department of S. CA- Hawaii, Saddleback Chapter, Vickie Castro, as Treasurer. We are blessed to have these amazing women join the NEB, and we are looking forward to continuing the work that the previous boards have started, along with forging new paths for the continued success of AGSM, Inc.

We hope you will consider joining us for our Gold Star Weekend events. We will focus on Military Suicide Awareness with our 2.2-mile walk on Saturday morning, September 25. If you can't come to Washington, form a local group and walk with us virtually. Our team has designed a new t-shirt for this walk that is available to all for a short time online. So help bring awareness of the heartbreak of the more than 22 daily military service members and veterans who are suffering and ultimately dying from the invisible wounds of their service.

Recently there have been questions and unfortunate assumptions of who is eligible to become a member of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. The following are the guidelines of our AGSM, Inc., bylaws:

## “ARTICLE IV

### Eligibility and Membership

Sec.1. Natural Mothers or adoptive mothers, who were citizens or legal residents of the United States or of the Territorial and Insular Possessions of the United States at the time of their sons' or daughters' induction into the United States Armed Forces and whose sons or daughters became missing in action, died while on active duty, or died as a result of such service are eligible for membership in American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.”

The Membership Committee has followed these guidelines in the most recent years diligently. With the epidemic of military suicide, it has been heartbreaking to turn down any Mother that does not meet the above criteria. There is no room in American Gold Star Mothers to judge or confront those that you may feel do not belong. This behavior is hurtful and unacceptable. Please read the historical article that PNP Candy Martin wrote on this distinction. If you have questions regarding a

member's status, contact me. I hope that we would embrace any Mother that has lost a child, no matter what the circumstances, member or not.

Revision of our Constitution and Bylaws is completed and can be found on our website. We are working on revisions to the Little Gold Book.

Speaking of convention, Memphis presented a warm, welcoming atmosphere, beginning with billboards along the highway and exceptional hospitality at many of the venues and restaurants. We were blessed with the support from the business community in Memphis along with those that presented their nonprofits that support the Gold Star Community and Veterans. They included MOH Recipient Hershel Woody Williams, Wreaths Across America, Quilts of Valor, Columbia Southern University, Honor and Remember, and Working Dogs for Vets. Their efforts are extraordinary and always appreciated. Elvis was in the building, wrapping us in scarves and enabling some to dance and enjoy our memories of this special Veteran.

I will close by echoing my opening - I wish you well and issue a mandate to take care of yourself. Self-care is not selfish. Do what makes you happy and continue the legacy of your Military Hero by volunteering if you can. Remember, AGSM is a family, warts and all, and you are a treasured part.

Familia Sumas,  
Jo



### Information for the newsletter

can be emailed to  
**Lee-Ann Forsythe,**  
Director of Publications at:

**publications@americangoldstarmothers.org**

**OR regular mail to:**

**2606 NW 22nd Terrace,**

**Cape Coral, FL 33993**

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

# AGSM - It's Not About the Pin!

*Candy Martin, Past National President*

*[Reprinted from September-October 2014 issue]*

Membership in American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., is not about the pin, nor does your membership have anything to do with HOW your son or daughter died. We are an organization whose sons and daughters served and died while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, or died as a result of such service, or were missing in action.

From our history, we know the name of our organization came from the Gold Star Service Banner in the year 1928. Nearly twenty years later, an Act of Congress established the Gold Star Lapel Button, in August 1947, for the public identification of family members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives in WWI, WWII, and subsequent armed hostilities of the United States. The Next of Kin Deceased Personnel Lapel Button is authorized and issued by each respective branch. In 1976, the Navy was the first to design and approve the issue of the Next of Kin Lapel Button for the Next of Kin of Deceased Personnel to honor those who lost their lives while serving on active duty, to include reserve components in active duty and drill status, as a result of a non-combat death. Within a year, the Army and Air Force concurred with the concept and together the service branches worked on the design and development.

Both pins bear a similarity - a five-pointed gold star in the center of the pin. Both pins identify family members of those who served and died while on active duty. Social media, along with 21st Century technology, has afforded as many opinions as there are Gold Star Mothers as to what constitutes membership within our organization. The history of AGSM identifies charter members whose sons died of influenza, pneumonia, explosions, as well as those killed in action in WWI. All members of AGSM bear a common bond - the loss of a son or daughter who died on active duty, no matter the circumstances.

Membership within AGSM is not about the pin. Membership within AGSM is about service - service to our veterans. Our Founder, Grace Darling Seibold, never wore a Gold Star Pin, but she did rally fellow Gold Star Mothers to care for the war-wounded. Our 86-year-old organization is a time-honored institution among Veterans Service Organizations, doing what they all do - serve veterans. It is time to direct our energy to support our veterans. They need us!



*Gold Star and Survivor Lapel Pins*

# The Wellness Corner

*Elaine Brattain, National Chaplain*

In the book of Psalms, David writes in Chapter 139, Verses 13 and 14: “For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother’s womb. I will praise You because I have been fearfully and wonderfully made.” Every aspect of our being has been woven together and designed to work as one as a master plan for our wellness.

The mind-body-spirit connection means that overall “wellness” involves three aspects of our being. Our physical health is the most obvious. Are we eating healthy meals, experiencing restorative sleep, and listening to the internal moans and groans of our unique aging process? Mental health involves our state of mind, what we think on, and how we engage new information. Lastly, our spiritual health requires that we attend to our inner voice of moral and ethical values, practice our individual spiritual customs and stay true to what we consider the “sacred self.”

I found the following examples of ways the mind, body and spirit work in unison toward wellness.

- Many of us will get a headache when we are stressed – that is a perfect example of how your mind is affecting your body.
- People who exercise regularly – whether it’s a daily walk, a long run, an hour of yoga, or time in the gym strength training – will often experience depression if their exercise routine is interrupted by injury, travel, or anything that prohibits them from getting the activity their body has come to expect and rely on for stress relief.
- Are you a “stress eater”? I am sure many people who working from home or who have had their normal routines disrupted during this time are facing that challenge today.
- Remember that amazing feeling you had last time you pampered yourself by having a massage, getting your nails done, or having your hair cut, colored, and styled? That’s your mind and your body and possibly even your spirit all working together to make you feel great.
- People with a strong faith who practice their faith feel good after they attend services or perform their regular devotions. They feel “whole,” happy, and focused.

Follow the link at the end of this article for more information on how to find wellness through the mind-body-spirit connection.

In the next issue of *The Gold Star Mother*, we will explore how meditation facilitates wellness through the mind-body-spirit connection.

Mehr, B; Barton, D. (2020, March 24). *The Importance of the Mind-Body- Spirit Connection During Times of Stress and Anxiety* Retrieved from <https://blogs.cooperhealth.org/ehealth/2020/03/24/the-importance-of-the-mind-body-spirit-connection-during-times-of-stress-and-anxiety/>

# 1918 Patriotism is Alive Again

*Pam Stemple, National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

## 100 Years Ago - WWI Changed America with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Have you noticed that the last few years have had numerous anniversaries of commemorative events related to World War I, the War to End All Wars? **Patriotism is Alive!**

The 100-year anniversary of the end of WWI was just a few short years ago, November 11, 2018. There are no WWI American Gold Star Mothers alive to share the memories of their children they lost. It's for the current American Gold Star Mothers to remember and share their stories. Please Google WWI remembrance pages and please say the names you find. **Patriotism is Alive!**

The bringing home of our WWI Fallen Soldiers from Europe started 100 years ago. A family received a card from the War Department asking if they wanted to repatriate their loved one home to the US. Almost half said yes. This May and June, American Gold Star Mothers was asked to help locate the graves and participate with the Homecoming '21 activities to honor the anniversary of the Transport Ship Wheaton bringing home 4,000 of the Fallen from France. Many more ships went back and forth from Europe to the US for the next couple of years. If you were able to help with that, thank you. **Patriotism is Alive!**

October 2021 is the 100-year anniversary of the selection of the WWI Unknown Soldier that was brought back to Arlington from France for burial. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Society has a wonderful trip planned in October to honor those who lost their lives and visit the American Cemeteries in France. There are numerous events that have started over the past couple of years leading up to this. **Patriotism is Alive!**

One of the preplanned projects is the WWI Never Forget



Gardens throughout the United States. See this link to put one in your neighborhood. They are all over America right now.

This year, for Veterans Day in Washington, DC, there will be a huge event for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier's 100th Anniversary. More details can be found at the website: <https://tombguard.org/centennial/projects#us-capitol-historical-society-project> The website has ideas for things you can do in your community to honor the Fallen from WWI and remember them not just this year but every year. **Patriotism is Alive!**

A lot of things have changed in the last 100 years. Many more wars have happened. Many have fallen in Military Service to our great Country. **However, the feeling of Patriotism or National pride -- the feeling of love, devotion, and sense of attachment to a Country -- has not changed. God Bless America!! Patriotism is Alive!**



# Serving Our Heroes in Spite of the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Janice Chance, VAVS National Representative*

In March of 2020, the decision was made to temporarily stop the Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS) program due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This action was taken with the intent of protecting our heroes, the staff and volunteers at all Veterans Healthcare Medical Centers, Community Living Centers and Outpatient Clinics. Although it was the right decision, it was heartbreaking because it prevented our VAVS volunteers and other regularly scheduled and occasional volunteers from doing what we love, serving and supporting our heroes in person; in short, “HONORING THROUGH SERVICE.” But more importantly, it negatively impacted the veterans emotionally. This was confirmed by reports from the Voluntary Service Program Managers that the veterans expressed that they missed the volunteers very much.

However, I am delighted to report that although we were not permitted to volunteer in person, we were still able to support our heroes. The challenging times resulted in our members and the Voluntary Service staff coming



*Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center, Long Beach, CA*

Representative, Deputy Representative or regular volunteer because our HEROES need the support. We will need more moms serving in person as the Centers allow the return of volunteers.

I started serving as a regular VA volunteer. Then, after several years, I agreed to serve as a VAVS Representative. Becoming a volunteer was one of the best decisions I have ever made because I see the difference my service makes to our HEROES and the great joy it brings me each time I volunteer. If you are interested in becoming a VAVS representative or a VA volunteer, please contact me (Janice Chance) at [agsmvavs@goldstarmothers.org](mailto:agsmvavs@goldstarmothers.org). I would love to answer your questions and/or direct you to the appropriate contact person to help you to start the journey of becoming a volunteer. You can also obtain information by going to this link: <https://www.volunteer.va.gov/>.

**GET ON BOARD “THE LOVE BOAT OF SERVICE” WITH YOUR FELLOW SISTERS!!!**



*Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center, Miami FL*

up with a variety of creative ways for volunteers to stay connected and to support our heroes that resulted in mutual satisfaction. Some examples were the veteran phone buddy program, virtual music, exercise, art, and other classes. Also, volunteers composed and sent “*Thank you for your service*” cards and letters; provided specially requested items, holiday and special gifts on the service branch birthdays; sent goodies, games, puzzle books; did “drive by” events and other things.

It has been approximately 16 months since the pandemic began. The VA Medical Centers have recently started a slow phase-in of the return of volunteers. However, only fully vaccinated volunteers will be permitted to serve in the medical centers. That said, there are a few opportunities for volunteers to perform other services offsite. Check with your VA Voluntary Service Specialist or Program Managers to find out in what areas you will be permitted to serve. Please seriously consider becoming a VAVS



*Cpl. Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA*

# National POW/MIA Recognition Day

*Sarah Taylor, National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

“You are not forgotten.” That is the central phrase behind POW/MIA Recognition Day. It is a day to honor the sacrifices made by American prisoners of war, those who are still missing, and their families who are still awaiting their return. These men and women served to uphold our Constitution, maintain our freedom, and must be remembered until they are all accounted for.

As of July 23, 2021, there are still more than 81,600 Americans missing in action, with over 41,000 declared lost at sea. Missing from each war: WWII, over 72,000; the Korean War, over 7,500; the Vietnam War, 1244, with 470 being categorized as nonrecoverable; the Cold War, 126; Persian Gulf and Iraq, 5.

Through a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, National POW/MIA Recognition Day was established and is recognized with an annual presidential proclamation on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of September each year. In 1987, President Bill Clinton made official that the POW/MIA flag is required to be flown over all government buildings on National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

This year, we recognize and honor WWII Veteran and

former POW Dudley Riley, who volunteered at 18 years old and was sent to Ft Knox on June 11, 1940. Mr. Riley served with the 16<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division. After two years of training in a tank for war, he was sent to North Africa. During a three-day engagement with Rommel’s troops, Mr. Riley’s unit was captured and made to walk 70 miles to Tunis to board a Ju88 German Aircraft to Palermo, Italy. After being crammed 60 men deep in a boxcar, he was taken to Germany, becoming Prisoner Number 110199 at Stalag VII B. After 2 weeks, he found himself being loaded into another boxcar to be transported to Stalag III B, near the Poland border, where he spent two years and four months. At midnight, January 31, 1945, the prisoners were made to walk to Stalag III A. The journey took six days with eight inches of snow on the ground and resulted in frostbite to Mr. Riley’s face, hands, and feet. After spending two months there, while being paraded to a new Stalag, the prisoners came upon the Russian Army, who freed them on April 22, 1945, their Liberation Day.

Now free and roaming from home to home in the German countryside, begging for food and shelter, Mr.



*Dudley Riley*



*William Stroven*



*Kenneth Stonebraker*

Riley heard there were Americans some 25 miles away. He gathered 12 of his buddies and started walking to find the Americans. They were finally picked up by a US convoy and flown to La Havre, France. After spending six weeks in recovery, Mr. Riley was flown home to Dawson Springs, Kentucky. Due to a metal shortage, Mr. Riley did not receive his Purple Heart at that time. On July 11, 2018, 73 years later, Mr. Riley was finally awarded his Purple Heart. At a spunky 98, Mr. Riley resides at the Joseph "Eddie" Ballard Western Kentucky Veterans Center, and I can guarantee there isn't a person around who can beat him in checkers.

I would also like to honor two who are missing in action from the 11<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 432<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Wing: CPT William H. Stroven and LTC Kenneth A. Stonebraker. On October 28, 1968, pilot CPT Stroven and his navigator, LTC Stonebraker, set off in a RF-4C Phantom II (Tail Number 65-0846, call sign Diode) set off on a photo reconnaissance over North Vietnam. While over the Quang Binh Province, the Diode was lost from radar. After an unsuccessful search and rescue, both Stroven and Stonebraker were declared missing in action and remain unaccounted for. Both these Heroes are memorialized with their names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 40W, Line 51. May they never be forgotten and one day returned to their families.

Please keep our POWs/MIAs and their families in your prayers not only on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, but every day until they all come home!



Join  
*American Gold Star  
Mothers, Inc.*

in Washington DC or  
Virtually from YOUR  
Community

**Saturday 25 September**

**@ 9:30am ET**

**ONE A DAY IS A TRAGEDY**



**A DAY IS  
UNACCEPTABLE**

**Friends, Family,  
AGSM Supporters,  
Veterans,  
Service Members  
and their families**

**Everyone is**

**WELCOME**

**to Join the Walk!**

**Register at**

**GoldStarMoms.com**

**Your dedication will be  
read on Facebook LIVE  
from a Washington DC**

**War Memorial**

**Registration \$10**



**Deadlines to apply  
for your Chapter Grant**

**31 March**

**30 June**

**30 September**

**31 December**

**It's easy to apply!**

Go to [GoldStarMoms.com](http://GoldStarMoms.com)

Click on the "Chapter Grant Application"  
complete the form, and submit.

It's that easy!

*If your Chapter would like to do something  
special for Veterans Day  
now is the time to apply for your  
\$200 Chapter Grant!*

The recommendations to the Constitution and Bylaws approved at the 2021 AGSM Convention have been updated and the completed document is now available on the website under the Members Only tab. The committee appreciates your ongoing participation and contribution to this living document.

*Have you visited*

*Mother's Cupboard lately?*

*AGSM Logo Apron  
\$20*

*AGSM Bling Pin  
\$18*

*AGSM Logo  
Garden Flag  
\$20*

*AGSM Logo  
Luggage Tag  
\$10*



*AGSM Logo  
Challenge Coins  
\$9*

*Members Only Area of the Cupboard  
See what's new at  
**GOLDSTARMOMS.COM***

*AGSM Logo  
Window Cling  
\$6*



*American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.  
Gold Star Mother's Weekend Schedule of Events  
24-26 September 2021*

**Friday 24 September**

Open House at National Headquarters 6:00pm  
2128 Leroy Place NW, Washington, D.C.

*Dress Code: Casual / RED Friday*

**Saturday 25 September**

2.2-Mile Military Suicide Awareness Walk at the Lincoln Memorial 9:30am

Vietnam Wall Wreath Laying 11:30am

Reflection at Section 60, Arlington National Cemetery 12:15pm

*Dress Code: 2021 MSA T-Shirt or White AGSM T-Shirt*

Gold Star Banquet at Patton Hall, Ft. Myer  
Cocktail Hour 6:00-7:00pm  
Dinner 7:00-10:00pm

*Dress Code: Cocktail / Semi-Formal / Dress Uniform*

**Sunday 26 September**

Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown 12:15pm

Commemoration Service, Amphitheater Lawn 1:00pm

Reception at Patton Hall, Ft Myer 2:30-4:00pm

*Dress Code: Business White / Dress Uniform*

**For Hotel Information and Event Registration Links Please Go To:**

**GoldStarMoms.com** – 2021 Gold Star Mother's Weekend

Washington Hilton – 1919 Connecticut Ave, Washington DC 20009

The Churchill Hotel – 1914 Connecticut Ave., Washington DC 20009

*Transportation will be available for most events by registration only.  
Please specify if you need transportation to each event.*

**T**HE WOODY WILLIAMS FOUNDATION is a charitable 501c3 nonprofit organization that pursues the vision of Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody"

Williams to establish Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments (GSFMM) in communities throughout the country, sponsor Gold Star Family outreach programs, provide Living Legacy scholarships to eligible Gold Star Children, and to advocate for educational benefits for all Gold Star Family members.

The impact of the Foundation's work helps to raise public awareness about Gold Star Families' enduring sacrifice and the ultimate sacrifice made by their Loved One. The Foundation wishes to educate the community about these sacrifices, reminding us all that freedom has not been and is not free.

This mission is pursued through three focused programs; Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, Outreach, and Education.

#### GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT

Initially the Foundation's goal was to establish a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in founder Woody Williams' home state of West Virginia. Once that monument was complete, a new mission became clear to Woody and those at the Woody Williams Foundation to establish these monuments in as many communities as possible in all 50 states and US territories.

The Gold Star Families Memorial Monument provides a place of permanence for Gold Star Families to gather and utilize in honor and remembrance of their Loved Ones who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the US Military. They are intended to achieve the following goals: demonstrate to Gold Star Families that their community cares for them and appreciates their sacrifice while also honoring the ultimate sacrifice paid by their Loved Ones; establish and

**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
To honor, recognize, and serve Gold Star Families and the legacy of their Loved Ones who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

strengthen local Gold Star Family communities; and educate the general public about Gold Star Families' enduring sacrifices and the ultimate sacrifice made by their Loved Ones. As of April 2021, there are 79 GSFMMs which have been established with an additional 80 GSFMMs In-Progress spanning a footprint of 50 States and Guam.

These Monuments are a two-sided tribute made of black granite. One side bears the words: Gold Star Families Memorial Monument a tribute to Gold Star Families and Relatives who sacrificed a Loved One for our Freedom. The other side tells a story through the four granite panels: Homeland, Family, Patriot, and Sacrifice. At the center of this tribute is a silhouette of the Loved One who paid ultimate sacrifice in the name of Freedom.

#### OUTREACH

After the dedication of each monument the foundation is focused on keeping each local Gold Star Family community engaged through sponsoring and hosting outreach programs and events. Events include memorial events, 5K runs & walks, motorcycle rides from monument to monument, riverboat gatherings, school speeches, as well as events like the Gold Star Family Day at the Ball Park. These events provide opportunities for Gold Star Families to come together, honor their Loved Ones, and build a system of support while



also raising public awareness about Gold Star Families and their enduring sacrifice.



In addition to hosting and sponsoring public events, the Foundation has begun to explore and engage in additional efforts to serve and support Gold Star Families through direct outreach. Through

strategic partnerships with fellow nonprofits, charitable foundations, and corporate partners, these efforts provide a range of services including everything from home improvement for those Gold Star Families in need, to therapy animal placement among Gold Star Families who can benefit from that support.

#### EDUCATION

Another initiative of the Woody Williams Foundation is to honor the fallen by helping their children pay for their education through the awarding of Gold Star Living Legacy scholarships. Our scholarships are provided to an underserved group who are not be eligible for the Fry Scholarship and/or DEA (Dependents Educational Assistance). Our Gold Star Living Legacy Scholarships award amount is needs-based with a maximum award amount of \$5,000 per academic year.

In addition to scholarships, the Woody Williams Foundation works to advocate for educational benefits for all Gold Star Family members. This is accomplished by working with nonprofit partners and educational institutions as well as federal and state governments.

[www.WoodyWilliams.org](http://www.WoodyWilliams.org)

**Ceremonies at over 2,500 Locations Nationwide**  
Go to [WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://WreathsAcrossAmerica.org) To Find One in YOUR Area

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**DECEMBER 18, 2021**

**WREATHS across AMERICA**

**LIVE UP TO THEIR LEGACY**

[WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.ORG](http://WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.ORG)

*Photo Credit: Lee-Ann Forsythe*



## The Official Department of Defense Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial Commemoration Program of Events



### November 2020

Release of ANC Education Program Module,  
“The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,” featured at  
<https://education.arlingtoncemetery.mil>

### January through October 2021

Monthly Interpretive Presentations  
by ANC History Office  
(online or at Arlington National Cemetery)

### November 9, 2021

U.S. Naval District of Washington  
Historical Plaque Dedication, Naval Symposium  
and 21-Gun Salute Ceremony  
(Washington Navy Yard)

### November 11, 2021

U.S. Army Military District of Washington  
Joint Full Honors Procession  
(evoking elements of the WWI Unknown’s  
1921 funeral procession)

### November 2020

Inaugural Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony:  
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Exhibit,  
Memorial Amphitheater Display Room  
(Arlington National Cemetery)

### October 2021

Release of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier  
Commemorative Publication  
(in hard copy and online)

### November 9-10, 2021

U.S. Army Military District of Washington  
Public Flower Laying Ceremony at the  
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier  
(Arlington National Cemetery)

### November 11, 2021

Armed Forces Full Honors  
Wreath Laying Ceremony  
(Arlington National Cemetery)

### November 11, 2021

National Veterans Day Observance

**#ANCTUS100**



<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/TUS100>  
<https://education.arlingtoncemetery.mil>

# Chapter and Department News

## DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA/PUERTO RICO GULF COAST CHAPTER

↓Members of the Gulf Coast chapter delivered 30 pairs of new sneakers to the Bay Pines VA Medical Center for our veterans. Left to right is Kathy Wagner, president, Jean Uffalussy, Holly Ross, Yolanda Mercado, Evelyn Brady, and VA Voluntary Services employee Edgar Sollivan.



## MIAMI CHAPTER

→Past National President Georgie Carter-Krell met with The Honorable Denis R. McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, at the Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center in Miami. The Miami VA Medical Center is named for Georgie's son, a decorated Marine. Private First Class Bruce W. Carter served as a radio operator with Hotel Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines Division. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in combat in Vietnam on Aug. 7, 1969.



## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CHAPTER

↓For the third year in a row the Southwest Florida Chapter was honored to be able to purchase school supplies and clothing for seven children of local Veterans.



## TAMPA BAY CHAPTER

↓Annette Kirk, Tampa Bay Chapter, is the nation's first AGSM, Inc. Member to be accepted by the Veterans Treatment Court Program where she will serve as a court mentor to female veterans. These female veterans have broken the law and need legal representation and peer mentoring. Annette is an Army Veteran who served our nation proudly.



## DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS/ RHODE ISLAND

→President Robin Abbott of the Department of Massachusetts/Rhode Island visits the Boots on the Ground for Heroes Memorial at Fort Adams in Newport, RI.

Almost 7,000 combat boots adorned with flags and placards represents the life of a U.S. service member killed in action post 9-11 in the Global War on Terror



## DEPARTMENT OF MAINE



←Tribute to Fallen Soldiers Memorial Torch Motorcycle Ride Honoring & Remembering USMC CPL Devon Strout 5/8/1996-12/17/2016.

Gold Star Mothers in attendance: Lorna Harris, Edwina Strout, and Sue Stout.

**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN  
WESTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER**

The AGSM Western Michigan Chapter (Laura DeRoo, Mary Herrema, and Shelly Tropp) honored PVT John J Coughlin in New Troy, MI at 1 PM on May 22, 2021 PVT Coughlin's remains were returned on the USAT Wheaton in May 1921. We were joined by members of the Warrior's Oath, the Edwardsburg VFW Riders and Legion Riders, the Niles AMVET Riders and the New Troy American Legion.



Dedication of Gold Star Family Monument, Charleston, WV, June 20, 2021. Gold Star Mothers in attendance: Belinda Jividen, Karen Nicholas, Shirley White, Terry Cunningham, Brenda Thomas, Vicki Matics, Virginia Billiter, Emma Johnson, Rose Shilling, Barbara Ulbrich, Teresa Brown, Tammy Crum, and Kentucky Gold Star Mother Cathy Mullins.

**DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON/OREGON/ALASKA**

↓NBC aired a special on July 4<sup>th</sup>, The American Spirit. Artist Michael Reagan was featured and a few of the WA State GSM were also in the interview including Monica McNeal, Myra Rintamaki, Jane Hughes, Patrica McCarty and Linda Swanberg.



**DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

# 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*

NAME	MEMBERSHIP	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
Jill Williams	Member	CO	Pikes Peak
Julie El-Taher	Member	MD	Baltimore
Tina Jones	Member	SC	Jessamine - Columbia
Diane Olson	Member	WA-OR-AK	Washington State
Morhia Mote	Member	WA-OR-AK	Washington State

## *The Evers a poem on grief*

Some might ask, aren't you over this?  
I say no... never  
Some tell you time heals all wounds,  
some wounds... never  
They never lost someone they loved more than themselves,  
no... never  
The would haves,  
the could haves,  
the should haves,  
We will never have... not ever  
I miss your look,  
your smell,  
your laugh,  
the way your eyes light up and crinkle when your smile,  
your arms wrapped around me in a hug,  
saying I love you, mom ... forever  
My senses must always remember that last hug,  
those three words ... forever  
Because I will never again experience that embrace  
hear those three words... not ever  
I am not the same, I am a changed person... forever  
Because you remain in my mind,  
my heart,  
and soul... FOREVER

—Jean Uffalussy  
AGSM of SSGT Patrick Dolphin



# 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

AMVETS Post 103 Inc.

AMVETS Post 103 Inc. Ladies  
Auxiliary

Allen Clancy

John Siemers

H&W Manufacturing, LLC

Regina Cates

Jonathan Huntoon

Carlos O'Neill



## *We Hold in Loving Memory*

*“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence, there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” ~ Psalm 16:11*

It is with great joy that we have no members for remembrance in this issue of The Gold Star Mother. The bitter-sweet Memorial Service at the last convention honored 86 members and associates, and we will forever remember them as we continue to speak their heroes' names.

Note to all Chaplains – Please Submit All Death Notices to:  
Elaine Brattain, National Chaplain by using the online form at:  
[goldstarmoms.com/forms](http://goldstarmoms.com/forms)  
Or Mail to: 622 E. Elm Street Brea, CA 92821

PHOTO BY: PATRICK J. HUGHES



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.  
2128 Leroy Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20008-1893  
202.265.0991  
www.americangoldstarmothers.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 557  
HARRISBURG, PA

*Address Service Requested*

## **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**

## **3021 GOLD STAR DRIVE, LONG BEACH, CA 90810**

**THE AMERICAN GOLD STAR HOME/MANOR 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: WWW.GOLDSTARMOMS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

