



THE GOLD STAR MOTHER

Perpetuating the Noble Principles for Which They Fought and Died

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The attack upon Korea makes it plain beyond all doubt that communism has passed beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations and will now use armed invasion and war.

(Statement by the President, Truman on Korea 27 June 1950)



From the Desk of the National President

Sarah Taylor, National President



"Nothing Gold Can Stay"
Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower,
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down today,
Nothing gold can stay.

Robert Frost

We are taught in high school that the poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay" refers to the aging and decaying of life over time. Everything changes. Life is short and we must learn to appreciate the things and people around us. Now, as a Gold Star Mother, I find that each line and my connection to it has taken on a new meaning. The Gold is our children. Our hardest hue to hold is the realization that our children will begin to change their hue as they develop their own personalities. They are a flower but only so an hour. We look back and realize that our gold is only a child for such a brief moment. We blink and they've become adults...leaf subsides to leaf. Our Eden, our garden, our babies are gone and all we know at that moment is grief.

When the sun set on the day we learned of their passing, we knew that nothing gold could stay. We are all too familiar with the human progression from birth and innocence to death. We've learned that our gold, our flowers, are just transient visitors passing through our lives. The fugacious life we were able to share with them has passed and we have learned how to become the narrators of their Legacy. We share their impact on the world with others through our stories and our choice to continue to serve. Henceforth our actions reflect our pride in them and our determination to keep their memories alive. I'm so proud of each of you for not just surviving but for thriving. Your perseverance through this unexpected adversity is a testament to the fortitude you each possess. When those dark days make it past your wall of strength, please reach out to others because we can make it through this together.

For our members who were unable to join us in West Palm Beach, you missed a wonderful convention. Jo Ann Maitland and her team were well prepared, offered fun activities and great entertainment. While preparing to depart at the end of convention, I couldn't help but notice how full and satisfied I was feeling. I absorbed an immense amount of love, stories of our Heroes, knowledge from the workshops, new meaningful friendships, and the congenial atmosphere. After saying our goodbyes, Jo Ann and I set out for DC to attend the Daughters of the American Revolution's

131st Continental Congress National Defense Night. Denise Doring VanBuren, President General of the DAR, presented AGSM with a Certificate of Honor recognizing our members for their patriotism, service, and sacrifice. To be acknowledged with this award from a 132-year-old patriotic organization constituted of 190,000 women is immense. This accolade is a credit to each of you for all that you give to the organization, our Veterans, Active Duty Military and other Gold Star Mothers even though you have already given the best part of you, your Gold.

Supported by the love, camaraderie and commonality shared among our members, we strive to keep our Gold, our Heroes, alive and honor their sacrifice through the work we do in our communities, states, and in Washington, DC. My hope is that many of you will join us in DC for Gold Star Mothers Day weekend, visiting and taking in your national headquarters, participating in the slate of amazing events and sharing your dedication to our mission while showcasing who we are and what AGSM is about. The weekend starts off on Friday, 23 September, with an open house at headquarters. On Saturday we pick up the pace with a 2.2 mile walk around the National Mall to bring awareness to military suicide, followed by reflections at Section 60 at Arlington National Cemetery and an evening banquet at Ft Myers. We will return to ANC on Sunday for our prestigious Gold Star Mothers Day Commemoration ending with a reception at Patton Hall.

With every member's Gold in our hearts and as our driving force, your 22-23 National Executive Board is working toward a bright future for AGSM. We are focused on moving forward with getting compliance for chapters and departments in full swing, exploring new opportunities for members to serve our veterans in their communities, forming peer support groups, updating our brochures, sharing ideas for partnerships that will enable us to further fulfill our mission, and preparing for AGSM's participation in the upcoming "Welcome Home! A Nation Honors Our Vietnam Veterans and Their Families" events on the National Mall, 11-13 May, 2023 with the United States of America Vietnam Veteran 50th Commemorative. If you, your chapter, or department have any ideas, events or topics you would like to discuss, please reach out to us. We are always looking for and appreciate any input our members want to share. We are a team. We each bring our gifts and unique talents to the table that keep us in the game.

I look forward to what the Fall will bring...cooler temperatures, the beauty of the changing foliage, preparing for an in-person meeting with the NEB and sharing Gold Star Mothers Day with our members. As the daylight hours grow shorter, may your dreams last longer with visits from your Hero. Please reach out to us if you need anything. Stay Golden.

Much love and appreciation,
Sarah
Lean On Me



VAVS Update: A Call for Volunteers

Dee Thompson, National VAVS Representative

VAVS: What does it mean and why is it important to us as members of AGSM?

In 2015, I attended my first AGSM National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, where I learned about Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) at the VAVS luncheon. PNP Jennifer Jackman was the National VAVS Representative at that time and opened an opportunity for me to do something in honor of my son. Honor with Service. What an enlightening experience!

I went home and made the call to our local VA Medical Center, went through the process of filling out the volunteer application, fingerprinting, and background check. Then came the interview and welcome to volunteering at our local VA Medical Center. By the end of August, I was a regular volunteer, doing office work and later working at the front information desk, assisting the voluntary services staff and the chaplain with Memorial services, escorting veterans and many other tasks. Wherever they needed me, I would go so that I could serve our Veterans and their families.

Then COVID struck. In the last two years, we have had to learn how to support our veterans in a different manner. Feelings of isolation that so many of our veterans were experiencing dictated a need for a different way to connect with them. One working



solution is the Compassionate Care Program. This is a program where veterans and volunteers are matched by the VA social workers and local Chiefs of Voluntary Service. After the volunteer's training period, volunteers make weekly telephone calls to the veterans and new friendships develop.

Both veterans and volunteers have reported that they look forward to this weekly contact.

So why volunteer? In addition to fulfilling our mission of service to veterans and their families, volunteering is good for us. It keeps us active and involved and gives us a sense of purpose. Besides making new friends, you may also learn new skills! (Like me, such as office work!)



What can you offer with your own special skills set? What talents do you have that you could offer to your local VA facility to support our Veterans? Do you play an instrument? Are you into photography, videos, and/or graphics? What about driving a van off site for our veterans' medical appointments or working on campus transporting veterans from building to building? Bringing coffee carts around to various waiting rooms is another way to meet, greet, and serve our veterans and their families.

Or maybe you have an interest in acting. Yes, there is that opportunity too! Every VA Medical Center has what is called a Simulation Program. Participants, acting as a standardized patient, are given a scenario for a mock code such as heat exhaustion. This program helps the nursing staff triage different illnesses correctly, thereby improving care for our veterans.

So, as you can see, there are many opportunities for volunteers and the need is great. VA volunteer locations include medical centers, primary clinics and CBOCs (Community-Based Outreach Centers). Each VA facility has varying needs.

To find your nearest VA facility, go to www.volunteer.va.gov. If you are interested in becoming a Representative or Deputy Representative at your local VA, please contact me at agsmavas@americangoldstarmothers.org and I will walk you through the process of getting qualified.

Recognizing and thanking AGSM, Inc. Treasure Coast members, Karen Zook, Chapter President, and Valerie Collins for their excellence in service as the Dept of FL-PR newest VAVS Representative and Deputy Representative. Both members wasted no time applying to become certified VAVS members volunteering at the Fisher House at the West Palm Beach VA Health Care System.



CDCE
VA Center for
Development & Civic
Engagement

Not Forgotten

Sarah Taylor, National President

On Wednesday, 27 July, the nation came together for the 64th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that would halt the fighting of the Korean War. I was invited to attend the dedication ceremony for The Wall of Remembrance adjoining the Korean War Memorial in DC. This addition adds to the magnificence of the Korean War Memorial's façade and puts names with the faces that demand your attention as you walk past. The Memorial was dedicated 27 July, 1995 on the 42nd Anniversary of the Armistice and pays tribute to the 5.8+ million Americans in service during the three-year operation of the Korean War. As you approach the granite wall, you are met by 19 statues which depict a combination of our military who served in this war. There are 14 Army Soldiers, 3 Marines, 1 Navy and 1 Airman that represent multiple races and ethnicities who stand watch over the Korean Wall. Your next steps lead you down a path to the blackness of the wall featuring the most beautifully eerie etched faces and scenes that not only take you through the accounts of the war but show the faces of those who were willing to and did sacrifice it all in the name of peace and justice.

The Wall of Remembrance exhibits a list, in alphabetical order and by service branch, totaling 43,808 Heroes. Forever etched are the names of 29,857 US Soldiers; 4,522 Marines; 668 Sailors; and 1,587 Airmen, including the 7,174 Korean Augmentation to the US Army (KATUSA) who served alongside our Military. As of 23 June, the Department of Defense reports that there are still 7,541 US Service Members listed as Missing In Action.

Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation Chairman (Retired) General John H. Tilelli said of the dedication ceremony, "I hope that it is no longer the forgotten war, but the remembered victory that was caused by the Veterans." The term Forgotten War is used to reference the Korean War. A war weary nation, just coming out of

WWII five years earlier was focused on the manufacturing revolution that was taking place across the country. There was little media coverage about the war, and when our service men and women returned home, they felt as if they had been forgotten.

I would like to honor US Airman Joe H. Browder who served in Korea from 1953 until 1955. I would also like to recognize and honor Marine Sgt Thomas C. Dart, who spent two years in hell in Korea, according to his daughter, Gold Star Mother Kathy Dart-Wagner.

I was honored to meet Melody White, who is the niece of Army Sgt. Billy V. Rodgers, 7th Division, A Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment. Sgt Rodgers was in

the Chosin Reservoir and his Able Co. was part of the 31st Regimental Combat Team. He was reported Missing In Action 02 December, 1950, and presumpitively declared dead 31 December, 1953. Sgt Rodgers' remains were among the 55 boxes returned to the US in 2018 after the Singapore Summit. He was interred at Arlington National Cemetery 27 September, 2021 and will forever be honored on the Wall of Remembrance.



*US Airman
Joe Browder*

Sgt. Billy Rodgers

May all of the families who have a Hero on the Wall of Remembrance find some comfort knowing that their names will continue to be spoken as long as the memorial stands. AGSM members are forever grateful to these Heroes, their service and their sacrifice. They will not be forgotten and neither will the 5.8 million Veterans who served in Korea. We don't know them all, but we owe them all.



The Forgotten War, Korea

JUNE 25, 1950 – JULY 27, 1953

Pam Stemple, National 1st Vice President

Lee-Ann Forsythe, National Information and Technology Chair

On 25 June 1950, the Korean War began when more than 75,000 North Korean People's Army soldiers poured over the 38th parallel into the Republic of Korea in the south. By July, the United States had entered the war on behalf of South Korea. Korea was part of the Japanese Empire until the end of WWII when it was divided between the United States (south) and the Soviet Union (north). As soon as the United States joined the war, Military Commanders began peace talks at Panmunjom.

In three short years, nearly five million people died. Almost 40,000 Americans died and more than 100,000 were wounded. One of these Heroes was SGT George T. Gordon, who served in the US Army, 19th Infantry Regiment E Company, 2nd Battalion. George was killed in action on 1 December 1951 in the Kumsong Area of North Korea. George's mother, Frances Faith, was a Member of AGSM and our last Korean War Mother. Frances joined her son in 2021.

The Korean War officially ended on July 27, 1953. At 10 a.m., in

Panmunjom, the signors barely acknowledged each other. It was the end of the longest negotiated armistice in history: 158 meetings spread over two years and 17 days. That evening at 10 p.m., the truce went into effect. The Korean Armistice Agreement is somewhat exceptional in that it is purely a military document—no nation is a signatory to the agreement.



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



Grace Darling Seibold: A Family Legacy of Service . . . The Rest of the Story!

Patti Elliott, National 2nd Vice President and National Secretary

As members of American Gold Star Mothers, most of us have heard the story of Grace Darling Seibold and her son, 1LT George Vaughn Seibold. George volunteered in 1917 when the United States entered the war. George requested to serve in aviation and was sent to Canada to learn how to fly British planes because at the time, the United States did not have an air force. Eventually, he and his squadron were deployed to France, where he regularly wrote letters home to his family.

On the homefront, Grace began to visit returning servicemen in the hospitals. After correspondence from George ceased and the Seibolds were unable to find out anything about their son, Grace continued her work in the hospitals, clinging to the hope her son would return home injured and without identification. She visited hospitalized servicemen, hoping George would be in one of the beds. On October 11, 1918, a box marked "Effects of Deceased Officer 1st Lt. George Vaughn Seibold" was received by George's wife.

As a mechanism to cope with her grief, Grace continued her devotion to working in hospitals and focused on supporting other mothers who had lost a child in the war. This is the history of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., we all know.

Now here's the rest of the story! Grace was the daughter of Brigadier General Edward Washburn Whitaker. Edward was born on June 15, 1841, in Killingly, Connecticut, one of 16 children. His great-



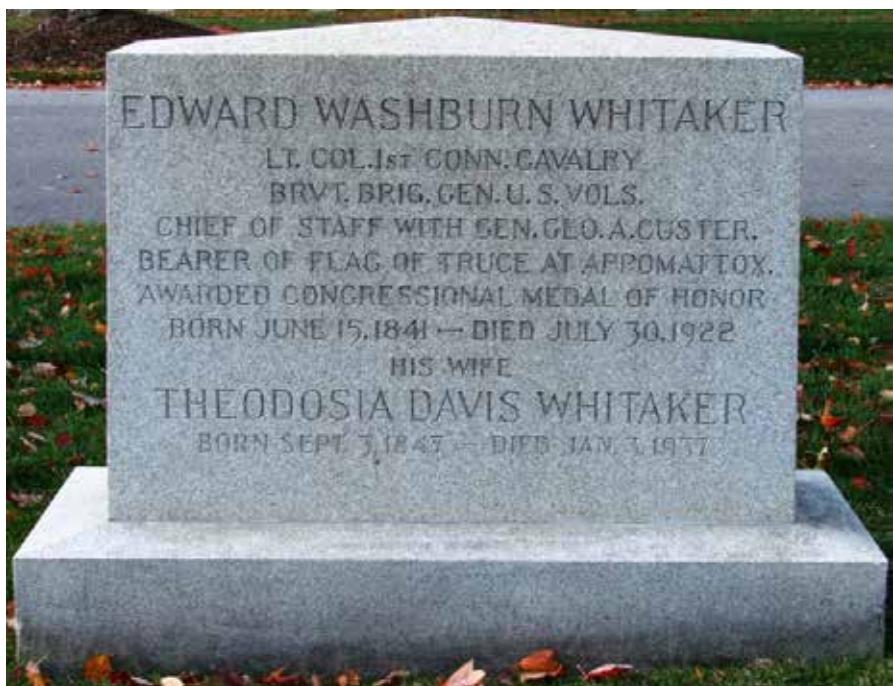
grandfather was an officer in the Revolutionary War, Lieutenant Richard Whitaker.

Edward was one of four brothers who enlisted in Union Regiments in the Civil War. He fought in 82 engagements during the course of the war. As a captain, Edward rode through enemy lines to deliver dispatches to Major General George Meade, the Commander of the Army of the Potomac. His actions during a battle at Reams Station, Virginia, on June 29, 1864, would later earn him the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor was awarded to him on April 2, 1898, almost 34 years after his actions.

"While acting as an aide, voluntarily carried dispatches from the commanding general to Gen. Meade, forcing his way with a single troop of cavalry, through an infantry division of the enemy in the most distinguished manner, though he lost half his escort." (Captain Edward Washburn Whitaker Medal of Honor Citation)

Edward served as the chief of staff for General George Custer at the time of the surrender of General Robert E. Lee's forces on April 9, 1865, at Appomattox. At the age of 23, Edward was brevetted, an honorary promotion, as a brigadier general of volunteers for meritorious service during the war. He was one of the youngest generals in the Civil War.

The honorable service to our nation's military from this family is truly a legacy that continues to have an impact on the work we do today as American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.!



Chapter Grant - Gardenia

The Gardenia Chapter, Department of North Carolina, was the recipient of a Chapter Grant. Kendra Monden, Chief of Voluntary Services at the Durham VA Hospital, contacted the Gardenia Chapter with a list of needs. Patients housed on the Mental Health Care Unit have a new requirement to dress in appropriate clothes each day. Many of these patients do not have these basic items needed.

In addition to the Chapter Grant from AGSM National, members of the Gardenia Chapter secured donations from American Legion Auxiliary Unit 52, Franklinton, NC; members of the Planters Walk Subdivision in Knightdale, NC, from a Memorial Day collection drive; and personal AGSM member donations to purchase basic clothing needs for patients.

On July 28, 2022, members of the Gardenia Chapter delivered the items to the Durham VA.



Pictured left to right: Rene Adams, Christina Allison from Durham VA Voluntary Services, Julie Webb, Deborah David and Cathy Bordeaux, and behind the camera, Patti Elliott.

Chapter Grant - Azalea

AGSM Member Maria Myers, Azalea Chapter, Department of North Carolina, has been baking treats for deploying Marines at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina, for many years. The Chapter recently received a Chapter Grant from AGSM National to help defray the costs of these small comforts provided to our Marines as they prepare to head off for parts unknown to defend our nation.



Attention All Members

Did your Chapter or Department host or participate in a service project?
Share the experience in
The Gold Star Mother!

**Due to your overwhelming response,
only Service Projects will be included in
Chapter and Department News**

You may include any activity in which you are involved that helps the Military and Veteran Community and/or their Families; the Gold Star Community; and your local Community.

Send Your Submissions to
Lee-Ann Forsythe
Information & Technology Chair
publications@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org

*Please include Your Name and Email
*Please submit photos in PNG or JPG format
*Please send all documents in Word or PDF

Show Us YOUR Service!

**Deadline to apply for your
Chapter Grant
30 September 2022**

Let the Chapter Grant help you
continue the mission of supporting our veterans!
Let AGSM help you with your service projects.
Apply for the Chapter Grant TODAY!

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

Tribute to Fallen Soldiers

Donna Lowell, President, Wilmington Chapter Department of MD/DE



In 2009, Tribute to Fallen Soldiers Northwest began an incredible journey of honoring and paying tribute to America's fallen service members. At the time, Oregon had more than 120 fallen service members throughout the state. The group's ambition was to acknowledge each Hero's service and sacrifice and to remind each Gold Star family that their loved one wasn't forgotten.

As part of the trip each year, riders schedule an exclusive visit with families along their route as a way to say "thank you" and remind the families there are still grateful Americans across the country who care and are lifting them up. The 2022 ride left Eugene, OR, on July 9 and arrived at Arlington National Cemetery on August 7. This year's ride honored 68 Fallen Heroes.

Warren Williamson, Executive Director, explains "At each scheduled family visit, we present the family members with our Memorial Plaque of Distinguished Service to graciously acknowledge their service member's sacrifice and to remind

[the family] your Fallen Hero hasn't been forgotten."

The Fallen Soldiers Memorial Flame is lit at the beginning of the ride and remains lit for the duration of the ride and was extinguished in closing ceremonies at ANC. According to Williamson, "The Fallen Soldiers Memorial Flame represents the life, spirit, service, and sacrifice of all our fallen service members. We escort the Memorial Flame with a tremendous amount of respect, care, and grace as we make these very special family visits."



On August 4, the ride stopped to honor John W. Lowell, son of AGSM member Donna Lowell and her husband, Jim, in New Castle, DE. Jim and Donna were joined by John's daughter, Rachael; son, Daniel; and granddaughter, Hailey, as riders visited with the family at War Memorial Park at the Delaware Memorial Bridge. Family, friends, and local dignitaries joined in the celebration of John's service and sacrifice as the family was presented with a plaque, canvas picture of John, and commemorative patch.



Meet Our Members

IT IS ALWAYS INTERESTING TO GET TO KNOW ANOTHER GOLD STAR MOTHER. HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ABOUT THEIR FAVORITE COLOR? HOW ABOUT THEIR FIRST CAR? FAVORITE SUPER-HERO? EACH ISSUE WE WILL MEET OUR MEMBERS AND GET ANSWERS TO SOME OF THOSE QUESTIONS AND MORE!

Where is Your Department and Chapter?

- **Sarah Taylor**
Kentucky / Kentucky Chapter
- **Julie El-Taher**
Maryland/Baltimore Chapter
- **Pam Stemple**
Colorado/Pikes Peak GSM Chapter

Your Hero's Name, Rank, and Branch of Service

- **Sarah Taylor**
SPC David W Taylor, US Army
- **Julie El-Taher**
Patrick G Stellitano Airman Apprentice, US Navy
- **Pam Stemple**
SFC Tomas Avey, US Army

Where is the most interesting place you've visited?

- **Sarah Taylor**
Jardins du chateau de Versailles...Garden of Versailles
- **Julie El-Taher**
Ireland
- **Pam Stemple**
Ireland

If someone were to play you in a movie, who would you want it to be?

- **Sarah Taylor**
Meryl Streep- she can be so serious and in other movies she's so funny
- **Julie El-Taher**
Julian Anderson
- **Pam Stemple**
Doris Day

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

- **Sarah Taylor**
To mend broken hearts
- **Julie El-Taherr**
Wisdom
- **Pam Stemple**
Being able to eat cookies and not gain weight

What are you most likely to be famous for?

- **Sarah Taylor**
I can assure you that it won't be for my cake making skills! I can see the headlines now...Local woman wins America's Got Talent for her kazoo rendition of Hotel California while riding a unicycle on a wire over a pit full of hungry tigers...or woman jailed for snatching pie out of White House kitchen
- **Julie El-Taher**
Nurse Practitioner
- **Pam Stemple**
Cross stitching

Where's Waldo?

- **Sarah Taylor**
Hopefully buying a new shirt because that red and white sweater has to be hot during these summer months.
- **Julie El-Taher**
New York?
- **Pam Stemple**
Colorado

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

- Flora Berrian**, Member - Grace Darling, DC
Alberta J. Simmons, Member - Grace Darling, DC
Iliana G. Nin, Member - Dogwood, NC
Eva Briseno, Member - Alexandria, VA
Rita A. Sutton, Member - Milwaukee, WI
Ralph Ross, Associate - Tampa, FL-PR
Joseph Briseno, Associate - Alexandria, VA

CHAPTER NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA/ PUERTO RICO GULF COAST CHAPTER

Less than a year after the loss of her daughter, USN LT Rhiannon M. Ross, new AGSM Member Holly Ross has immersed herself in the spirit of volunteerism. Holly worked tirelessly to set up arrangements for an airport runway return of a local fallen soldier. Additionally, Holly has completed the application process to become a VAVS volunteer at Bay Pines VA HCS and volunteers at the Fisher House twice a week!



GULF COAST AND TAMPA BAY CHAPTERS

Members of the Tampa Bay Chapter and the Gulf Coast Chapter, Department of Florida/Puerto Rico, worked together to create two scholarships to honor the memory of three heroes. Tampa Bay Chapter member Evelyn Brady created a scholarship in memory of her son, USN Airman Mohammed S. Haitham. Evelyn wanted her son's memory to live on through a scholarship to a young athlete, as her fallen son was a well-loved and known local track star at the high school he attended.



Gulf Coast Chapter member Cheryl Sitton and Tampa Bay Chapter member Toni Gross joined forces to create a scholarship at the high school where both of their sons attended. US Army SSG Matt Sitton died one year after US Army CPL Frank Gross, both in Afghanistan. These two moms continue the mission of their sons by honoring through service and generously giving to others.



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CHAPTER

The Southwest Florida Chapter hosted a backpack event for their 4th Annual Operation Back to School giveaway. This year, they were able to provide school supplies for 26 children of local Veterans

and Gold Star Families! A special new part of the project this year is "Gerardo's Shoes." Last year, Gerardo, son-in-law of member

Sheara Hamilton, donated amazing shoes to one Op BTS Family. Shortly after this generous donation, Gerardo lost his battle with Covid. This year, in his



honor, the SWFL Chapter provided Op BTS shoes to a family.

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND



On Thursday, May 26, 2022, HUD held its annual Memorial Day Ceremony to honor Fallen Heroes at their Headquarters in Washington, DC. In attendance were American Gold Star Mothers President Jo Ann Maitland and American Gold Star Mothers 1st Vice President Sarah Taylor, along with Gold Star Mothers Kelly Swanson and Yvonne Green and Gold Star Dad Garry Green, as well as several Gold Star Wives. After a moving ceremony of music from the United States Army Band and remarks from Major General Gregg F. Martin, United States Army, Retired, Mental Health Advocate, the Gold Star Mothers and Wives were presented with beautiful certificates in honor of their Fallen Heroes. Jo Ann Maitland and Potomac Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. President Donna Eldridge placed a Memorial Wreath. Taps was played by Tom Sneeringer from Bugles Across America.

Maryland Patriot Guard (MDPG) leaders Ann and Ted Nettles provided another opportunity for Maryland Gold Star Chapter Mothers to "Honor Through Service" at their first Big BBQ event



that was held at the U.S. Vets Organization Transitional Housing Facility. Maryland Gold Star moms Khadija Keita, Janice Chance, Gloria Crothers and Donna Robinson joined the MDPG Dedicated Team to serve some of our country's veteran heroes.



After their bi-monthly meeting, Maryland Chapter Gold Star Moms Donna Robinson, Khadija Keita, Paula Davis, Theresa Carlson,

Kelly Swanson, and Delaware Chapter Gold Star Mom Donna Lowell prepared packages for 15 Blue Star Families. These families will be attending an event to be held at the B&O Railroad Museum on Saturday, April 30th. We are honored to support active duty military families.

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS/ RHODE ISLAND



Gold Star family members attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the future Gold Star Families bridge dedication hosted by Military Friends Foundation and spearheaded by Dept of MA/RI Historian Doris Syrakos.



Rhode Island Gold Star Mothers (left to right) Regina Roberts, Sharon Serio Valente, Lynn St. Germain-Lundh, and Sharon Toner, along with fellow committee members, attend the dedication ceremony of the Rhode Island Gold Star Families Memorial Monument.

Dept. of MA/RI President Robin Abbott and Gold Star Mother and Gold Star Wife Irene Finneral volunteer at the Boston Common to help plant 37,000+ flags. Each of the 37,000+ flags planted at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument represents every brave Massachusetts service member who gave his or her life defending our country since the Revolutionary War.



DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

70 families attended the Honor and Remember flag presentation and brunch on May 2. Attending were AGSM members Nancy Madison, Sally Allan, Barb Yllescas and Deb Herold, along with representatives from Survivor Outreach Services.



DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

The Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall Grand Opening Wreath Ceremony, July 9, 2022 in Randolph, New Jersey. L-R NJ Assemblywoman Aura Dunn, Gold Star Mother, NJ Paterson Chapter member Charlene Cosgrove-Bowie and Department of New Jersey President Patricia Bye lay a wreath at the Memorial Wall.

Department of NJ Gold Star Mothers and Families attend Military Appreciation



Night at the Blue Claws Baseball Game on July 7, 2022, sponsored by Wreaths Across America. The Blue Claws team players wore game jerseys bearing the names of our fallen heroes which were presented to the families following the game.

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



AGSM members Dorothy Reid, mother of SSG Nicholas Reid, and Carrie Farley, mother of SSG Derek Farley, of New York traveled to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, for the Explosive Disposal Memorial Weekend.



They were able to touch their children's names on the EOD Memorial Wall and view the new expansion area with the bronze statue of an EOD Technician in a bomb suit.

The Department of New York convention attendees cruise Lake George.

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CHAPTER NEWS

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DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA AZALEA CHAPTER



Norma Luther, Patricia Slape, Vivian Scharver, Maria Myers, and Vickie Mazza.

The Men's Golf Association at PNO Vivian Scharver's golf club selected the Azalea chapter as their charity for two golf tournaments this year. The first one was held in July with 75 golfers. Some of the ladies in the club gathered at various holes to watch and support the players. At their year-end banquet, they will present us with a check. Great way to get our message out!

Mission BBQ in Jacksonville, NC, recently hosted members of the Azalea Chapter. After the customary playing of the National Anthem at noon, Manager John Marks introduced members to all the patrons in the restaurant. Pictured are Iris Winters, PNP



DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER



Saturday, March 26th Hampton Roads Chapter held a Vietnam War Commemoration Pinning Ceremony at the City of Chesapeake City Park. One Vietnam Veteran and two Gold Star Siblings were pinned by PNP Mona Gunn, Mary Strong, Nancy

Stets, Maggie Stickland, and Patty Lutz.

Sunday, May 29th, Hampton Roads Chapter members Mary Strong, Maggie Sticklen, and Angela Bell were presented Plaques of



Appreciation, flowers, and American flags by Freedom Church, Virginia Beach, Lead Pastor Frederick Virtucio.



Monday, May 30th, Memorial Day Ceremony at Chesapeake City Hall, PNP Mona Gunn, Maggie Sticklen, Angela Bell, and Mary Strong presented an arrangement during the City of Chesapeake's Memorial Day Ceremony. Also on Monday, May 30th, Memorial Day Ceremony at Harbor Park, Norfolk, PNP Mona Gunn, Maggie Sticklen, Mary Strong, Dianne McDaniels, and Darlene Kelly were honored at the City of Norfolk's Memorial Day Ceremony at Harbor Park.



Saturday, June 25th Hampton Roads Chapter held our 6th Annual Memorial Poker Run where we raised over \$1,900!

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN



Department of Wisconsin held their Annual Convention in Eau Claire, WI. Members visited the Veteran's Memorial Park in May.



MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

The Chapter attended a Memorial Day ceremony at Woods National Cemetery. Top row – Julia Rutili and Lynda Thompson. Bottom row – Janice Dahlke and Colleen Lemke

DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER



WA State American Gold Star Mothers participated in the Seahawks Veteran Career Event.

L to R. AGSMs Monica McNeal, Jane Hughes and Iris Saravia.

WA State American Gold Star Mother Deonna Phillips and husband Mike were honored at the Rainiers Game. Never forget James T. Jackson.



Quilts of Valor were presented to American Gold Star Mothers of Washington Iris-Dora Saravia and Kristy Stender by the Vietnam Veterans of America at the Moses Lake Air Show. What an honor!!!!



WA AGSM Myra Rintamaki, Laurie Finlayson, Linda Swanberg and GSM Frances Carson attend the Memorial Day Service at the Garden of Remembrance in Seattle, WA. GSM Frances Carson honors and remembers her son, Sean P. Carson.



AGSM Monica McNeal was keynote speaker for the Memorial Day Service in Edmonds, WA

Gold Star Mothers Arbor and Plaque dedication - Greenacres Memorial Cemetery, Ferndale, WA



Calendar of Events

SEP 2 V-J Day (Victory over Japan)

SEP 5 Labor Day

SEP 11 Patriot Day
Outreach Meet & Greet

SEP 16 National POW/MIA Recognition Day

SEP 18 Air Force (USAF) Birthday
Air National Guard Birthday

SEP 23-25 Gold Star Mothers Weekend

SEP 25 Gold Star Mothers & Family Day

OCT 9 Outreach Meet & Greet

OCT 10 Columbus Day

OCT 13 U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday

OCT 26 National Day of the Deployed

OCT 27 Navy Day

For details on these events and more go to

GoldStarMoms.com

National Outreach Committee News

Joyce Paulsen, National Banner Guard & Outreach Committee Chair

The National Executive Board is excited to announce a monthly Zoom Meet and Greet focused on new members. Members of the National Executive Board will be on the call for you to meet. We want to connect with our newer members and give you the opportunity to get to know some of the leaders of our organization. If you have not attended a Meet and Greet before then feel free to attend. We would like you to have a picture of your hero and a story to share. The meetings will be scheduled every second Sunday of the month at 4pm PT/7pm EST.

If you are interested in joining one of these Meet and Greets, please RSVP to Joyce Paulsen, Outreach Committee Chair, using this email outreach@american goldstarmothers.org. Include your name, email, and Sunday you want to attend when you respond. You will then receive an invitation to join the Zoom call. We look forward to meeting you and greeting you.

The upcoming meetings will be held on Sunday September 11, 2022, followed by Sunday, October 9, 2022.



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TriumpH: Inmate Social Service Organization at State Correctional Institution at Coal Township

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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...



Mr. Terry Geiling – Gold Star Manor – 30 July 2022

Terry Geiling, former President, and CEO of the American Gold Star Manor (2009-2020) was a community leader and champion for veterans, military, and Gold Star Families in his Southern California community. General David H Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps, called Terry “a persistent, determined fighter focusing on caring for those unable to care for themselves. He was a champion for the little people. We could use more Terry Geilings in this world of ours.” Glen Patrick, who succeeded Geiling at the Gold Star Manor, said his predecessor was “one of the greatest leaders I’ve ever worked with.”

A Navy Veteran, Terry is survived by his wife of 59 years, Nancy, son Chuck, Daughter Sara, and three grandchildren.

Thank You for Your Dedication and Service Terry. We wish you fair winds and following seas.

Name	Date of Death	Chapter	Department
Jill P. Paredes	1/31/2022	Newton Chapter	Massachusetts/Rhode Island
Sally Monsoor	7/18/2022	Saddleback Valley	Southern California/Hawaii

Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Hebrews 11:1

“Our greatest glory is not in ever falling, but in rising every time we fall.”
Confucius

Note to all Chaplains - All Death Notices go to:

Suzanne Sheaffer, National Chaplain
chaplain@american goldstarmothers.org
GoldStarMoms.com/contact-the-national-chaplain





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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 Battle of Heartbreak Ridge, 13 September-15 October 1951
(PHOTO CREDIT: WE ARE THE MIGHTY)



The Frozen Chosin, Battle of the Chosin Reservoir 26 November 1950 – 13 December 1950 (PHOTO CREDIT: SGT. FRANK C. KERR/U.S. MARINE CORPS)



The Korean Demilitarized Zone is a strip of land running across the Korean Peninsula near the 38th parallel north. (PHOTO CREDIT: CORBIS)



Happy New Year From Korea 1952 (PHOTO CREDIT: GETTY IMAGES)