



### AMERICAN GOLD STAR MANOR

On January 24, 1957, the American Gold Star Home was incorporated as a charitable, nonprofit corporation for the purpose of providing a National home for members of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

In 1973 it became necessary to replace the old buildings which constituted the American Gold Star Home and a new six million dollar complex was built with the assistance of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. It was renamed American Gold Star Manor. In the new Manor there are nine beautiful three-story units and one two-story unit for a total of 348 Apartments. It is truly a showplace in the area. All the buildings are located in a secure 23-acre, park-like setting. Each apartment has its own kitchen with stove and refrigerator furnished.

Most indoor activities center around the Recreation Hall, where games, community songs, potluck dinners, card playing, movies and TV are enjoyed. There is also an adjoining library. The Arts and Crafts Building provides for many additional activities. Outdoor activities include croquet, shuffleboard and the popular therapeutic pool. A mini bus provides transportation throughout the grounds and to connecting public bus service.

Each of the ten apartment buildings is completely carpeted, has its own intercommunication system, elevator and laundry room on each floor. Individual apartments include wall-to-wall carpeting, draperies and electronic emergency signal systems, located in each bedroom and bathroom.

The grounds are completely fenced with security guards on duty 24 hours a day. In addition, apartment buildings are all locked, and there are double locks on each apartment door.

The Manor is situated in a quiet section of Long Beach, close to shopping centers, churches and medical facilities. Freeways provide easy driving to downtown Long Beach and Southern California points of interest. Rents vary according to income and assets and include utilities, ground care and routine maintenance. Those who would like to live in this unique residential community may obtain an application by writing or visiting the American Gold Star Manor, 3021 Gold Star Drive, Long Beach, California 90810.

The **National Headquarters** of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. is located in Washington, DC, not far from the Lincoln and Vietnam Memorials. It is situated at an ideal location just off Connecticut Avenue. The building was purchased by the organization on April 20, 1954.



Membership records and other organizational information are kept in a working office. The headquarters building also serves as the housing facility for the National Executive Board when its sessions are held. Also in September of each year, the Department Presidents meet with the NEB. Members, friends and relatives are cordially invited to visit the National Headquarters.

The **Gold Star Mother Newsletter** is published bi-monthly and copies are mailed to members in good standing. The publication consists of photographs and items of interest. It keeps the members informed of organizational events and functions.

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. is a member of the Advisory Board of the **Veterans Administration Voluntary Service**. Chapters of the American Gold Star Mothers give many hours of volunteer work and personal service.

A National Convention is held annually to elect officers for the ensuing year and to transact any and all business as may properly come before it.

In 1936, then President Franklin D. Roosevelt permanently established the last Sunday in September as **Gold Star Mothers Day**. The

organization conducts a service in Arlington National Cemetery on this day, honoring all Gold Star Mothers for the loss of their sons and daughters while in the service of their country. The National President of AGSM lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Throughout the country chapters hold appropriate services and attend the church of their choice.



# History and Information



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**Organized June 4, 1928**  
**Incorporated January 5, 1929**  
**Chartered by Congress June 12, 1984**

## HISTORY

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, George Vaughn Seibold, 23, volunteered, requesting assignment in aviation. He was sent to Canada where he learned to fly British planes since the United States had neither an air force nor planes. Deployed to England, he was assigned to the British Royal Flying Corps, 148th Aero Squadron. With his squadron, he left for combat duty in France. He corresponded with his family regularly. His mother, Grace Darling Seibold, began to do community service by visiting returning servicemen in the hospitals.

The mail from George stopped. Since all aviators were under British control and authority, the United States could not help the Seibold family with any information about their son.

Grace continued to visit hospitalized veterans in the Washington area, clinging to the hope that her son might have been injured and returned to the United States without any identification. While working through her sorrow, she helped ease the pain of the many servicemen who returned so war-damaged that they were incapable of ever reaching normalcy.

But on October 11, 1918, George's wife in Chicago received a box marked "Effects of deceased Officer 1st Lt. George Vaughn Seibold". The Seibolds also received a confirmation of George's death on November 4th through a family member in Paris.

On Sunday, December 15, 1918, nine days before Christmas Eve, the following obituary appeared in the Washington Star newspaper:

*Lt. George Vaughn Seibold, battling aviator, cited for bravery in action some time ago, lost his life in a fight in the air August 26, last. His father, George G. Seibold... has been officially notified of his son's death by the War Department.*

*Lt. Seibold was a member of the 148th U. S. Aero Squadron. He was first reported missing in action, though a number of circumstances led to the fear that he had been killed. Hope was sustained until now, however, by the failure to receive definite word.*

George's body was never identified.

Grace, realizing that self-contained grief is self-destructive, devoted her time and efforts to not only working in the hospital but extending the hand of friendship to other mothers whose sons had lost their lives in military service. She organized a group consisting solely of these special mothers, with the purpose of not only comforting each other, but giving loving care to hospitalized veterans confined in government hospitals far from home. The organization was named after the Gold Star that families hung in their windows in honor of the deceased veteran.



On May 28, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson approved a suggestion made by the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defenses that, instead of wearing conventional mourning for relatives who have died in the service of their country, American women should wear a black band on the left arm with a gilt star on the band for each member of the family who had given his life for the nation.

"The **Service Flag** displayed from homes, places of business, churches, schools, etc., is to indicate the number of members of the family or organization who are serving in the Armed Forces or who have died from such service. Service flags have a deep Blue Star for each living member in the service and a Gold Star for each member who has died." Thus, the Gold Star and the term Gold Star Mother, as applied to mothers whose sons or daughters died in World War I, were accepted; they have continued to be used in reference to all American military engagements since that time.

The idea of the Gold Star was that the honor and glory accorded the person for his supreme sacrifice in offering for his country, the last full measure of devotion and pride of the family in this sacrifice, rather than the sense of personal loss which would be represented by the mourning symbols.

After years of planning, **June 4, 1928**, twenty-five mothers met in Washington, DC to establish a national organization, **American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.** — a nondenominational, nonprofit and nonpolitical organization. On **January 5, 1929**, the organization was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia.

There were many small groups of Gold Star Mothers functioning under local and state charters. When these groups learned of a national organization with representation in nearly every State in the Union they wished to affiliate with the larger group and many did so. This group was composed of women who had lost a son or daughter in World War I.

During the 1942 National Convention, the membership was opened to mothers who had lost a son or daughter in World War II and was again opened after the Korean conflict to those mothers. The Vietnam conflict mothers began to join and were influential in helping to get the Vietnam Wall built. Now the mothers from the Global War on Terror and Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom are finding their way to our organization.

The success of our organization continues because of the bond of mutual love, sympathy, and support of the many loyal, capable, and patriotic mothers who, while sharing their grief and their pride, have channeled their time, efforts and gifts to lessening the pain of others.

We stand tall and proud by honoring our children, assisting our veterans, supporting our nation, and healing with each other.



On **June 12th, 1984**, the Ninety-Eighth Congress of the United States granted the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. a charter. Section 3 of the charter lists the objectives and purposes for which the corporation is organized. The following articles promise a continuing commitment on a national basis.

- Keep alive and develop the spirit that promoted world services.
- Maintain the ties of fellowship born of that service, and to assist and further all patriotic work.
- Inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, State, and Nation.
- Assist veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict, Vietnam, and other strategic areas and their dependents in the presentation of claims to the Veterans Administration, and to aid in any way in their power the men and women who served and died or were wounded or incapacitated during hostilities.
- Perpetuate the memory of those whose lives were sacrificed in our wars.
- Maintain true allegiance to the United States of America.
- Inculcate lessons of patriotism and love of country in the communities in which we live.
- Inspire respect for the Stars and Stripes in the youth of America.
- Extend needful assistance to all Gold Star Mothers and, when possible, to their descendants.
- To promote peace and good will for the United States and all other Nations.

## MEMBERSHIP

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., is an organization of Mothers, who are citizens or legal residents of the United States of America or of the Territorial and Insular Possessions of the United States of America, whose sons and daughters served and died while in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States of America or its Allies, or died as a result of such service

Adoptive or step-mothers who assumed the responsibility of a son or daughter under the age of fifteen years, and reared this son or daughter who served and died in the line of duty in the Armed Forces are eligible to join.

There are no honorary members. Husbands of members and siblings of the servicemen who died may be enrolled as Associate Members, paying no dues, holding no office nor having a vote, but may be appointed as a Deputy to the Representatives at the VA Medical Centers. There is no form or class of membership except as active membership and dues are paid annually. The minimum membership of a new Chapter shall be five eligible members. Departments are composed of Chapters within their respective States or such other Chapters as the National Executive Board shall approve.