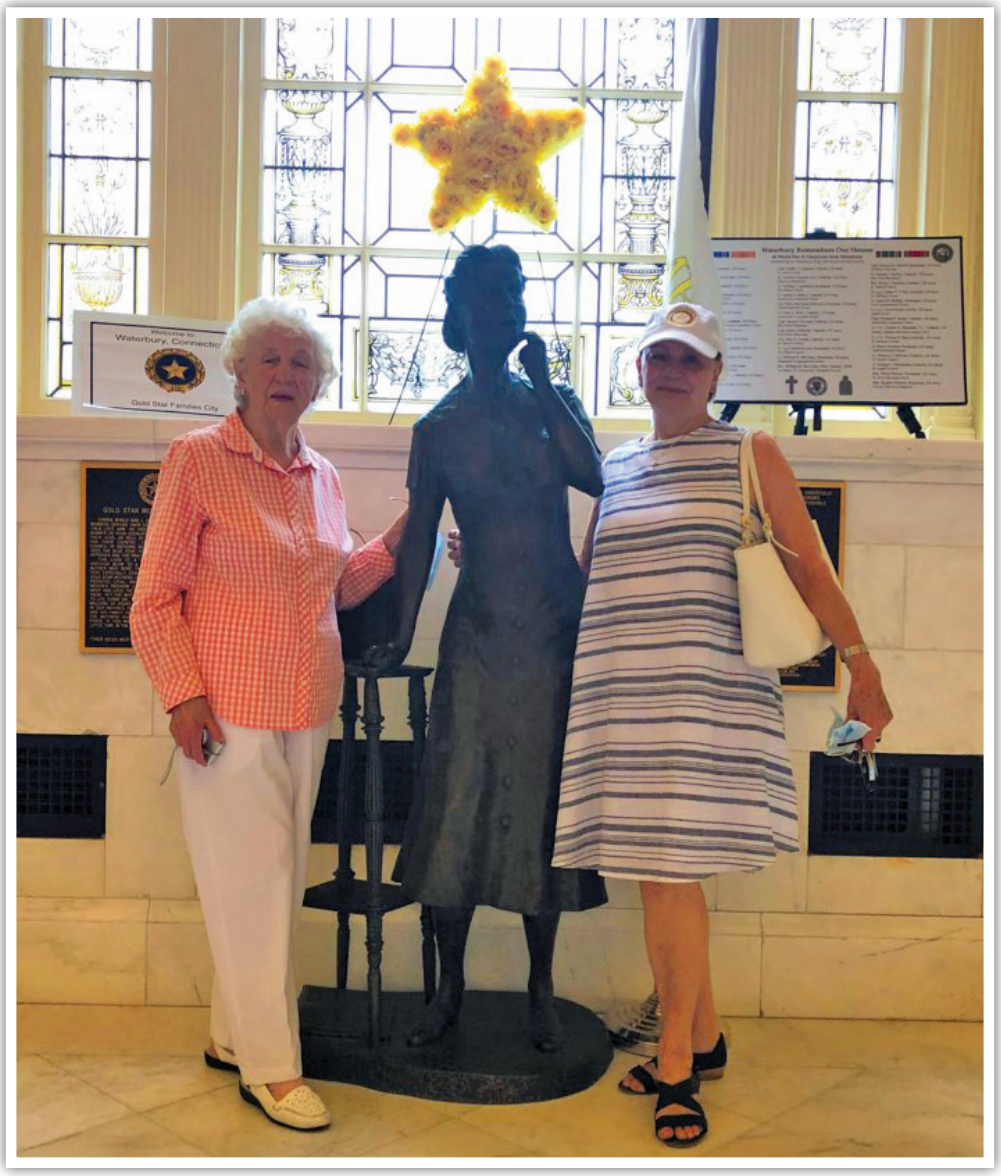
The Gold Star Mother

PERPETUATING THE NOBLE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH THEY FOUGHT AND DIED

March-April 2021 ★ Issue Number 210 2128 Leroy Place, NW, Washington, DC 20008



Long-serving CT Dept. President Mary Kight of Waterbury, CT made the transfer of the department's current and historical records to now CT Dept. President Helen Keiser-Pedersen of Madison, CT special with a "COVID-19-safe" visit to the bronze Gold Star Mothers Memorial statue in Waterbury's City Hall. Created by sculptor Andrew Chernak of Philadelphia, a Vietnam War veteran, the statue of a WWI mother receiving the telegraph of her son's death represents the timeless shock and grief of all Gold Star mothers including Mary whose son WO Michael A. Kight was KIA, May 17, 1967, Vietnam, and Helen whose son CPT Andrew Pedersen-Keel was KIA, March 11, 2013, Afghanistan. But these dedicated CT department presidents whose sons died 46 years apart have and still turn their grief into a positive force for our veterans and Gold Star mothers and their families.

From the Desk of the National President

Strengthen One Another

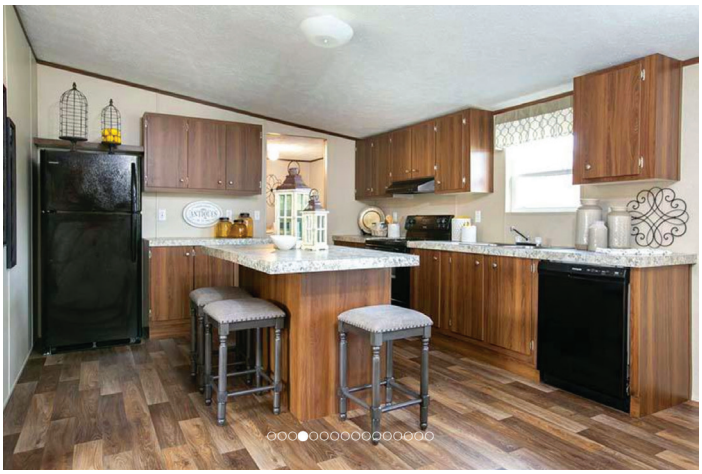
Cindy Tatum, National President

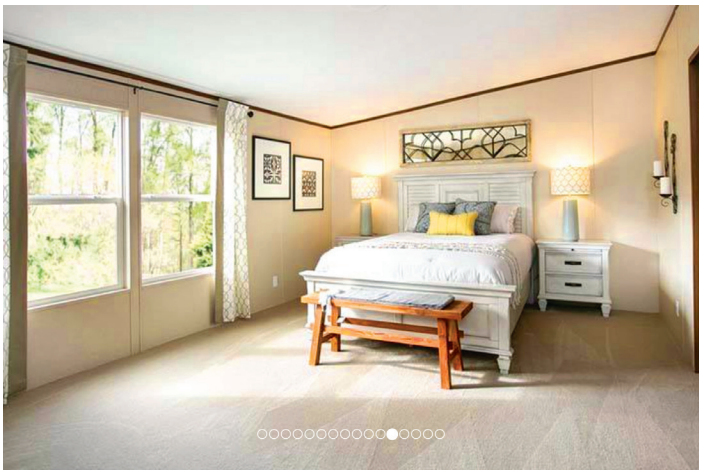
As I write this message, the county I live in had its first days of zero new Covid-19 cases since last year! I am praying you are experiencing something similar in your "neck of the woods."

I am so proud of all our Chapters who continue to fulfill the mission of AGSM during this global pandemic! Whether you have applied for a Chapter Grant and used those funds to purchase winter coats for veterans or volunteered to help Operation Gratitude fill boxes, you have continued to "Strengthen One Another" through service during unprecedented times.

Never think your commitment to our veterans, active-duty military, their families, and one another does not matter or that it is too small to be appreciated, it is often the smallest, unexpected gesture that means the most, if you don't think so, just ask the members of our Outreach Committee. This small, dedicated group of Past National Officers including Janice Chance, Lorna Harris, Sherrie McGhee, and Patricia O'Kane Trombley are some of the most dedicated Gold Star Moms I know. They diligently and passionately fulfill our mission of service to other Gold Star Moms under the guidance of NEB members Lee-Ann Forsythe and Pam Stemple. I am so proud of the work of this committee, and their contributions in helping us to "Strengthen One Another."

The National Executive Board met virtually for the February Board Meeting. I continue to be amazed at the many accomplishments of our NEB members. Carol Resh, National Treasurer reached out to Robert Schwartz, Sr. Program Manager for Helmets to Hardhats in the fall to see if they could complete some needed repairs at our National Headquarters. Helmets to Hardhats is a national program that connects transitioning active-duty military





members, veterans, National Guard and Reservists with skilled training and quality career opportunities within the construction industry." H2H hit the ground running, and so did Carol! Not only has she coordinated with Rob to be present at headquarters to meet the many different work crews, including plumbers, carpenters, painters, and tile installers, on occasion, she even bakes them cookies and orders them pizza! The workers have donated their time, and Rob worked to have all the materials donated for the repairs as well, including a new tankless hot water system. A big Thank You goes out to Carol, Rob, the companies who donated materials and the workers who donated their time and talents on behalf of AGSM.

Recently I sent out a short survey to members regarding our national convention. I am happy to report 67% of participants in the survey stated they preferred to attend an in-person convention, with safety precautions in place; 30% said they preferred to attend a virtual convention, and .03% said they would attend neither. We discussed the 84th Annual American Gold Star Mothers Convention during the NEB meeting and decided to proceed with the

plans for an in-person convention based on that data. We have put a deadline of April 1 in place to make the final decision about an in-person convention based on Covid-19 data at that time. The in-person registration fee will be $100.00. We will also be adding a virtual component for those who prefer to attend virtually, the registration fee for the virtual convention is $25.00. Registration for both will be available online at www.goldstarmoms.com, under the 2021 Convention tab. Please check the website frequently for updated information.

The National Fundraiser to build a kitchen for Working Dogs For Vets is progressing along, and I am in hopes we will meet our goal of $100,000. Please see photos in this edition of the newsletter of the progress made at their National Training Facility to meet the lodging needs of veterans who attend training events with their Service Dogs. AGSM members can be very proud of the contributions we have made to "Save Lives on Both Ends of the Leash." Whether you have participated in a Walk-a-Thon to bring awareness to the epidemic of Veteran and Active- Duty suicide, bought dog tags to honor your hero or purchased a Red Shirt Friday t-shirt to honor those who are currently deployed, your donations matter and they help us to "Strengthen One Another."

My prayers continue for each of you, and I look forward to seeing you in Memphis with elbow bumps and air hugs!

Until then, "Strengthen One Another,"

Cindy Tatum, National President

SUBMITTING INFORMATION FOR THE NEWSLETTER

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:

Information for the newsletter can be emailed to Teresa Bullock, Director of Publications at: publications@goldstarmoms.com OR regular mail at: 1900 Dill Rd., Apt 110, Barstow, CA 92311

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

Information for the May/June newsletter needs to be submitted no later than April 10, 2021.

2021 Convention Call Details

REGISTRATION / CREDENTIALS: All Members and Guests must register and pay the convention registration fee by May 22, 2021. The Registration Fee of $100.00 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 May 22, 2021 deadline. The registration fee covers the costs of all convention related activities. **Register online or mail completed registration form** with fees to: American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., ATTN: Pam Stemple, National Service Officer, 2128 Leroy Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20008 or through Pay Pal online. 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 has 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 May 22, 2021 to Sarah Taylor, 8019 Tillman Bethel Road, Henderson, KY 42420 or by email at 2ndvp@goldstarmoms.com

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS: Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Continued on page 4

2021 CONVENTION CALL DETAILS

Continued from page 3

must be published at least 30 days prior to Convention in *The Gold Star Mother*. Amendments to the C&BL can be made by a Department Board from the floor but must be passed by a unanimous vote of the convention body. For information on appropriate Robert's Rules of Order format, contact Jo Ann Maitland, National Parliamentarian by email: 1stvp@goldstarmoms.com prior to the convention start.

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 May 22, 2021. Ginger Emerson, National Resolutions Chair, 10139 West Forester Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351 or by email: secretary@goldstarmoms.com. 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 May 22, 2021 to Elaine Brattain, National Chaplain, 662 Elm St., Brea, CA 92821 or by email to: chaplain@goldstarmoms.com.

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.** If you have questions, please email Teresa Bullock, publications@goldstarmoms.com

RECOMMENDED DRESS CODE:
Friday Registration: Red Friday T-shirts
Friday Evening: Red, White & Blue Casual
Business Meetings: White Business Dress
Saturday Evening:
Memorial Service: White Business Dress
Installation of officers: White Business Dress
Banquet: Cocktail Attire

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 Pam Stemple, National Service Officer, at nso@goldstarmoms.com. A member in good standing may be considered for a nomination to a National Office when a letter of endorsement from the candidate's Chapter or Department is sent to the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Becky Christmas, PO Box 173, Wagon Mound, NM 87752 postmarked by May 24, 2021 or by email at beckyxmas@aol.com and received by May 24, 2021. 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 charted 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. Any member wishing to appear before the Executive Board at their scheduled meeting on June 24, 2021 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 mailed to National President, Cindy Tatum, 223 Walnut Grove Road, Milan, TN 38358 or emailed to president@goldstarmoms.com

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 bring their copies. A limited number of copies of the Constitution & By-Laws and The Little Gold Book will be available for sale at Mothers Cupboard.

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: Service animals, individually trained to aid an individual with a disability, are permitted at AGSM events, as per the Department of Justice statutes.

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

2021 In-Person National Convention Registration Form

Deadline to Register May 22,2021-Late Fee of $25.00 for Registrations received after May 22.

Member's Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Is this your FIRST AGSM Convention? YES NO	Chapter _____ Department_____ _____Member elected as a DELEGATE _____Member elected as an ALTERNATE

Registration Covers: Receptions, VAVS Luncheon, Banquet Meal, Convention Gift and Transportation to events. *Bring a framed 8"X10" picture of your "Fallen Hero" to the convention for display in the meeting room. Please include your name, their name, DOB & DOD on the back of the picture. _____ Also, if you would like your Hero's Picture included in the Convention Slide Show, please fill-in the Fallen Heroes Slideshow JotForm at www.goldstarmoms.com under the 2021 Convention Tab.	**REGISTRATION FEE: $100.00**
Friday, June 25	**ATTENDING**
• Red, White & Blue Suede Shoes Welcome Reception, 5:30-7:30	YES NO
Saturday, June 26	
• VAVS Luncheon, 12 Noon	YES NO
• Evening Event	YES NO
Sunday, June 27	
• Memorial Service, 9 AM-Reception Follows	
• Banquet, 7:00 PM. Please select your dinner entrée:	YES NO
• **Beef Chicken Vegetarian**	YES NO
Monday, June 28	
• Possible day trip/TBD	YES NO

NAME	**ASSOCIATE**	**GUEST**	**REGISTRATION FEE: $100.00**
Friday, June 25			**ATTENDING**
• Red, White & Blue Suede Shoes Welcome Reception, 5:30-7:30			YES NO
Saturday, June 26			
• Dad's & Guests Tour 10:30-3:00 PM (Lunch Provided)			YES NO
• Evening Event			YES NO
Sunday, June 27			
• Memorial Service, 9 AM-Reception Follows			YES NO
• Banquet, 7:00 PM. Please select your dinner entrée:			YES NO
• **Beef Chicken Vegetarian**			
Monday, June 28			
• Possible Day Trip/TBD			YES NO

PAYMENT OPTIONS: ■ **CHECK** payable to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Mail before May 22, 2021 to AGSM National Headquarters, 2128 Leroy Place NW, Washington DC 20008. **After May 22, 2021 additional charge of $25.00 per registration, mail to: Pam Stemple, 2855 Freewood Pt., Apt. 9, Colorado Springs, CO 80920.**

■ **CREDIT CARD**: o VISA o MasterCard Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Amount $ _____ Signature_____

Print Card Holder's Name _____

Billing Address: _____

■ **PAYPAL**- log on to www.goldstarmoms.com and go to 2021 National Convention Tab.

2021 Virtual Convention Registration Fee is $25.00. Registration for the Virtual Option is available online only www.goldstarmoms.com click on the 2021 Convention Tab.

2021 CONVENTION JOURNAL PUBLICATION INFORMATION

OUR JOURNAL is a full color publication containing convention information. In addition, funds received from memorials and ads placed in the Journal will be used to help defray expenses of the Convention. Departments, Chapters and Members are encouraged to place memorial ads. Other service organizations and public officials should be invited to support us as well.

MEMBER PRICES FOR MEMORIAL ADS

Full Page	5 x 8	$55
Half Page	5 x 4	$40
Quarter Page	2.5 x 4	$30
"In Memory of" Ribbons		$25

NON-MEMBER PRICES FOR ADVERTISING AND TRIBUTES

Full Page	$110
Half Page	$90
Quarter Page	$50

EXAMPLE OF A MEMBER AD

EXAMPLE OF A NON MEMBER AD

Deadline for ads and memorials is May 10, 2021. ***Early mailing and camera-ready copy are much appreciated.*** **Please send all ad copy, pictures, text, etc. to Teresa Bullock, 1900 Dill Rd., Apt. 110, Barstow, CA 92311 OR Email: publications@goldstarmoms.com**

*High resolution scans of photographs at 300dpi are best for clear reproduction in the journal. If you wish to place the same memorial ad from the last year journal published, no need to re-send the ad, simply email Teresa Bullock that you want to keep your ad the same.

PAYMENT OPTIONS: Check/Money Order/Credit Card or PayPal

☐ Check/money order enclosed: $ _____ Check payable to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. **Mail before May 10, 2021** to National Treasurer, Carol Resh, National Headquarters, 2128 Leroy Place NW, Washington DC 20008

☐ Please charge my credit card account: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Account Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Amount: $ _____ Signature: _____

Print Card Holder's Name: _____

Billing Address: _____

_____

☐ PayPal - log on to www.goldstarmoms.com and go to 2021 Convention.

National Executive Board Meeting Minutes, February 5-6, 2021

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- The meeting was called to order on Friday, February 5, by President Cindy Tatum at 10:04 a.m. EST.
- A motion was made by 2nd Vice President, Sarah Taylor, and seconded by Treasurer, Carol Resh, to dispense with the meeting ritual. Motion carried.
- Chaplain Elaine Brattain opened with prayer.
- 2nd Vice President Sarah Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Sgt-At-Arms Teresa Bullock reviewed procedures for this virtual meeting.
- Minutes from the previous NEB meeting were approved by E-vote and no need to review.
- Treasurer Carol Resh gave the Treasurer's Report. The financial position of AGSM is good at this time. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Treasurer Carol Resh gave the Finance Committee Report. 1st Vice President JoAnn Maitland reported group exemptions are not moving forward at the IRS at this time. The recommendation to add a $1 convenience fee for online dues via PayPal was tabled for further study. A motion was made and seconded by to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.
- Sarah Taylor, Headquarters Chairman, gave the Headquarters report. At 12:07 p.m., a 10-minute break was taken. Reconvened at 10:17 EST. Carol Resh introduced Rob with Helmets to Hardhats, supervisor for the renovation work being conducted at Headquarters, who reported on projects completed at no charge to AGSM. A motion was made and seconded by to accept the Headquarters report. Motion carried.
- Ginger Emerson, Standing Rules Chairman, presented the Standing Rules Report. The proposed language change was tabled to reconsider the wording.
- Elaine Brattain, Constitution and Bylaws Chairman, gave the Constitution and Bylaws report. *(The voting record on each amendment proposal may be found on the AGSM website in Attachments to the minutes.)*
- Lunch break was taken at 1:00 p.m. Reconvened at 1:49 p.m. EST.
- Sarah Taylor, Legislative Committee Chairman, gave the Legislative Report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Legislative Report. Motion carried.
- Elaine Brattain, Ways and Means Committee Chairman, gave the Ways and Means report. A motion was made and seconded to purchase 40 each 4imprint 3-pocket aprons with logo at a cost of $579.02. Motion carried. A motion was made and seconded to purchase 100 each 4 x 4 Build A Sign window clings at $2.21 each, totaling $234.73. Motion carried. Purchase of Gold challenge coins was tabled until pricing established and will E-vote later.
- Pam Stemple and JoAnn Maitland, Membership Committee Co-Chairmen, presented the Membership.
- Committee report. Approval of revisions for the AGSM Charter Application and Chapter Transfer Request forms were tabled until forms are finalized. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Membership Committee report. Motion carried.
- Dinner break was taken at 6:02 p.m. EST. Reconvened at 7:05 p.m.
- Teresa Bullock, Director of Publications, presented the Publications report. Lee-Ann Forsythe, Webmaster, gave the Webmaster report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Publications/Website/Social Media reports. Motion carried.
- Pam Stemple, National Service Officer, presented the NSO report. Until further notice, National plans for Memorial Day weekend are going forward. Recommendations were tabled until we have more information. It was suggested to send out a JotForm to members who may be attending national Memorial Day events in D.C. A motion was made and seconded to accept the NSO report. Motion carried.
- Ginger Emerson, Community Service Chairman, presented the Community Service Committee report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Community Service report and recommendations for changes on CSR documents. Motion carried.
- Ginger Emerson, Resolutions Committee Chairman, presented the Resolutions Committee report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Resolutions Committee report and recommendation. Motion carried.
- Cindy Tatum, Historian, gave the History Committee report. All issues of *The Gold Star Mother* have been digitized, and our oldest issues now in storage need to go to the Library of Congress as soon as COVID restrictions are over. A motion was made and seconded to accept the History Committee report. Motion carried.
- Pam Stemple, VAVS National Representative, presented the VAVS report. COVID has made it difficult to accumulate VAVS hours for members, and awards at National Convention may be done differently. A motion was made and seconded to accept the VAVS report, including the three (3) recommendation for expenditures. Motion carried.
- Elaine Brattain, National Chaplain, presented the Chaplain's report. The newly developed "Member Death Notification" form was discussed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Chaplain's report and the recommended form.

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National Executive Board Meeting Minutes

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- Break was taken at 8:11 p.m. and reconvened at 8:21 p.m. EST.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Lee-Ann Forsythe, Outreach Committee Chairman, gave the Outreach Committee report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Outreach Committee report and approve the four (4) recommendations made. Motion carried.
- JoAnn Maitland, National Fundraiser Committee Chairman, gave the National Fundraiser Committee report. Carol Resh will purchase a Remember Everyone Deployed shirt to show our appreciation for Rob with Helmets to Hard Hats. A motion was made and seconded to approve the National Fundraiser Committee report. Motion carried.
- Ginger Emerson, Chapter Grant Committee Chairman, gave the Chapter Grant Committee report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Chapter Grant Committee report. Motion carried.
- Sarah Taylor, Chairman of the George Wise Memorial Fund Committee, gave the George Wise Memorial Fund Committee report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the George Wise Memorial Fund report. Motion carried.
- President Cindy Tatum gave a report on the 2021 National Convention to be held in Memphis, TN June 24-27. April 1 may be the deadline to determine whether the convention will be held in person or virtually. Webmaster Lee-Ann Forsythe discussed technology for virtual elections, live streaming for delegates, etc. Discussed the possibility of charging a fee for members attending convention virtually. A motion was made and seconded to approve the National Convention report, including the three (3) recommendations. Motion carried.
- JoAnn Maitland gave a report on the 2022 National Convention to be held in Palm Beach, FL. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2022 National Convention report. Motion carried.
- Cindy Tatum, the Grace Darling Seibold Scholarship Chairman, gave the Grace Darling Seibold Scholarship report. The window for submitting applications opens on June 15 and closes at midnight on August 15, 2021. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Grace Darling Seibold Scholarship Committee report. Motion carried.
- The meeting (Session 1) was adjourned at 11:07 p.m. EST Friday night, February 5.
- The meeting (Session 2) reconvened at 11:01 a.m. EST on Saturday, February 6.
- Chaplain Elaine Brattain opened with prayer.
- Ginger Emerson, Standing Rules Committee Chairman, presented new language for the Standing Rule proposal that was previously tabled. A motion was made and seconded to accept the revised language. Motion carried.
- JoAnn Maitland gave the Gold Star Coalition report. AGSM will continue participating in the coalition with the hope that benefits are mutual to all parties and we will be furthering our mission. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Gold Star Coalition report. Motion carried.
- Special guests, Victoria Thompson and Gerald Smiley from the Chip-In Program joined our meeting. Jeff Powley also joined the group. Gerald Smiley demonstrated how the Chip-In Program works as a fundraiser for AGSM, with no cost to our organization. Questions and answers followed. If implemented, the Chip-In Program could help support various goals in our Strategic Plan. After their presentation, guests Thompson and Smiley left the meeting.
- Jeff Powley reviewed the status of the Strategic Plan, outlining projected timeframes, then left the meeting.
- Break was taken at 12:02 p.m. Reconvened at 12:35 p.m. EST.
- Ginger Emerson, National Secretary, gave the Secretary's report and read National correspondence.
- Ginger Emerson presented a Policies and Procedures report. New Forms Management Procedures were presented. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Policies and Procedures report, including Forms Management Procedures. Motion carried.
- Break was taken at 3:22 p.m. Reconvened at 3:32 p.m. EST.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- JoAnn Maitland, Chairman of the Virtual Chapter Committee, gave the Virtual Chapter Committee report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Virtual Chapter Committee report, including the recommendations. Motion carried.
- JoAnn Maitland reported on the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The centennial commemoration will feature a series of events leading up to a ceremony at the tomb on November 11, 2021. We will be playing a role in these events and are honored to be included. More information will follow regarding these events, including a tour available to France in October. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier centennial report. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- President Cindy Tatum discussed the need for the NEB to meet again, prior to the National Convention.
- A motion was made by Patti Elliott and seconded by Teresa Bullock to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginger Emerson,
National Secretary

***Attention Members: If you wish to review the full set of minutes and attachments, you may find them on the AGSM website at goldstarmoms.com in the Members Only section.*

Chapter and Department News

FLORIDA

➔Recently, AGSM, Inc. Gulf Coast Chapter President, Kathy Wagner (wearing the white blouse), was invited to attend an EXCOM meeting of AUSA Suncoast Chapter, Tampa. Kathy spoke briefly about AGSM and then presented a copy of her recently published book to another AGSM, Inc. member, Toni Gross, Tampa Bay Chapter. Toni is also an officer of the AUSA Suncoast Chapter as Vice President of the JROTC Programs.

←Kathy was then presented a very generous donation check from the AUSA Suncoast Chapter President, Eric Lien, and members.

➔ALPHA HOUSE CHRISTMAS DINNER - The Southwest Florida Chapter had the honor of feeding Heroes at Alpha House Transitional Housing in Naples, FL. on Christmas Day. SWFL Chapter Members and local Blue Star Mothers cooked a traditional Christmas dinner. Chapter Members also crafted stockings and filled them with gift cards and the hero's favorite treats. The Chapter has had the pleasure of feeding these brave young men for holidays and birthdays, but there is nothing like the joy of sharing Christmas!

←Although we are limited on what we can do and how we can serve, because of COVID-19, American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Tampa Bay expressed appreciation in the form of snack and goody bags. The Tampa Bay chapter, which is made up of several veterans, Annette, Mary, and Barbara, and members wanted to show our gratitude for each of the vaccination clinic health care staff at James A. Haley VA Hospital. A group effort ensued…the chapter voted to approve the goody bags, Catherine shopped for and purchased the goodies, and then assembled the bags. Barbara, (in the pink t shirt, was at the hospital for the second of the two COVID-19 vaccinations), presented them to the head nurse in the blue shirt.

American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc. Donates $37,000 proceeds from 2nd Annual Walk-A-Thon for Military/Suicide Awareness. Proceeds from the American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc. 2nd Annual Walk-A-Thon for Military/Veteran Suicide Awareness have been donated to the Dogs for Life "Veteran PTSD Recovery

and Support Group"; the Mental Health Association's "Veteran's Meet Up"; and the Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County. The generosity of our sponsors, donors and participants enabled the Gold Star Mothers of IRC to donate the $37,000 proceeds from the walk among these groups. We are grateful for their support to our cause and their love of our struggling veterans.

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Chapter and Department News

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The Dogs for Life "Veteran PTSD Recovery and Support Group" in collaboration with the Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County's meetings continued virtually throughout COVID-19 until the DFL center could reopen. Those who attend are opening up, sharing with others and understanding that they are not alone with their struggles. These sessions are expected to expand first, to a women's only group and then, to add an additional night of the week for the general meetings as the number of veterans who are attending is increase. The meetings give attendees additional support because they are facilitated by licensed Veteran Therapists.

There are 22 Military/Veteran deaths by suicide every day in the United States and these numbers are rising due to COVID-19 and the unrest in America. One suicide a day is a TRAGEDY; 22 is UNACCEPTABLE.

Our American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc. will continue to do everything we can to help our struggling veterans. They gave up so much for us. They DESERVE our help.

The check presentation was held at the January Veterans Council of Indian River County meeting.

Pictured from left to right are: Bottom: James Mann, Next Generation Veterans of IRC, Treasurer. Amy Wagner, Mental Health Association of IRC, Events Coordinator; Angela Guzenski, Mental Health Association of IRC, Chief Operating Officer; Diana D'Angelo, American Gold Star Mothers of IRC, Secretary/ Treasurer; Michelle Dale, American Gold Star Mothers of IRC, President; Shelly Ferger, Dogs for Life, CEO & Director of Programs. Top: Veterans Council of Indian River County Board of Directors, Samantha Brackett; Curtis Holden, Vice Chairman; Martin Zickert, Chairman; Carroll Oates, and Sam Kouns.

MARYLAND

➔The Maryland Gold Star Mothers adopted a Veteran for the 2020 Christmas Holiday. On Thursday, December 24, 2020, Maryland Gold Star Mothers, Janice Chance and Paula Davis surprised Navy Veteran, Raymond Humphrey with Christmas joy and presents. We learned Mr. Humphrey lived alone in Senior Housing, and had no living biological family, so we decided to adopt him for the Holidays. Mr. Humphrey proudly served on the USS Hooper and had expressed a desire for a Navy face mask. We were able to oblige! Mr. Humphrey expressed his appreciation and was grateful for the gifts of household items, including a coffee maker, toaster, dishes, towels, washcloths, and clothing. The Gold Star Mothers expressed their appreciation for Mr. Humphrey service, and we were honored to be able to bring some Holiday cheer to him. We thanked him for his service to our Country and told him we are his Family now.

➔Maryland Chapter moms were invited by the Operation Gratitude (OG) organization CEO, Lt. Col Kevin Schmiegel (Ret) and COO, Col Paul Cucinotta (Ret) USMC Veterans to participate in their special "Veterans Day" Gift distribution to the Heroes at the Maryland Center For Veterans Education and Training (MCVET) Homeless

Shelter. Gloria Crothers, Donna Robinson and Janice Chance represented the MD Chapter. The men and women were very appreciative that we visited them, to thank them for their service and to give gifts on Veterans day. It had been several months that the moms were not able to visit the residents due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Masks and social distancing were required, but we were thankful to be able to enjoy a brief visit with our Heroes! It was a memorable event and the OG team and moms are looking forward to the next visit.

Since COVID-19 canceled our annual crab feast fundraiser, we decided to organize a virtual 5K. Approximately 260 people, as well as several sponors and Gold Star families, participated and provided donations towards our mission to Honor through Service. Teams and participants could run or walk on their own time and location. The entry fee included medals and T-shirts, with also an option to make a donation to our Chapter. It was a great event as we raised over $15,000!

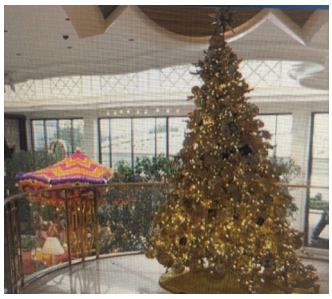
(*Pictured – Maryland Chapter President, Kelly Swanson wearing her race t-shirt)*

MASSACHUSETTS / RHODE ISLAND

➔Gold Star Mothers Doris Syrakos and Robin Abbott volunteer every other Wednesday giving out boxes of food to veterans and Gold Star Families donated by Massachusetts Military Foundation's Food 4 Vets program.

←Gold Star Mothers Joan Seymore, Robin Abbott, and Doris Syrakos participated in the annual DAV 5K at Fort Warren during Veterans Day weekend.

🡻This year's dedication of the Gold Star Family Tree, made possible by Military Friends Foundation, took place virtually. However, the tree was on display at The Encore Resort and Gold Star families were able to have pictures of their fallen soldiers displayed on the tree.



NEW JERSEY

←Dianne Hammond and Judy Faunce, AGSM, Dept of NJ, at the Town of Whitehall, Middletown, DE to greet the Wreaths Across America Convoy.

➔Dianne Hammond, Dept of NJ and Joyce Richmond, Dept of Maine.

🡻We had a short ceremony to welcome the Convoy, organized by Judy Faunce. Wreaths recipients, the Woresters and 'Cupcake', (front and center), Chief Janine Roberts for her last WAA Convoy Command.

NORTH CAROLINA

➔Azalea Chapter Wilmington NC - Karen Van Dreumel, Gold Star mother of Cpl Joseph A. Van Dreumel US Army Kia Afghanistan 8/14/2011 receiving baby blankets from Elaine Lacourse, a friend of our chapter. Elaine donated baby blankets she has made to be distributed by our chapter to new babies and expectant mothers at Camp Lejeune Jacksonville NC. We also receive blankets and lap robes from another friend Betty Flavin and friends that is distributed to VA hospital and veterans in nursing homes. The Azalea chapter thanks Elaine and Betty and her various friends for their generosity.

TEXAS / OKLAHOMA

←Members and associate members of the Alamo Area Chapter (TX/OK Department) participated in Wreaths Across America at the San Antonio National Cemetery on December 19.

Pictured L to R: John and Ruth Holler, Marcy Voss, Ed and Candy Martin.

VIRGINIA

On December 12th Gold Star Mothers Mary Strong, Marty Cabe, Darlene Kelly, Laurie Miner, Sharon Patterson, Mona Gunn, Susan McColley, and Myra Moore wrapped 80 lap blankets and wrote personal Christmas cards to the veterans in the Spinal Injury and Residences Wards at the Hampton Veterans Hospital.

←Marty Cabe and Sharon Patterson writing personal

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Chapter and Department News

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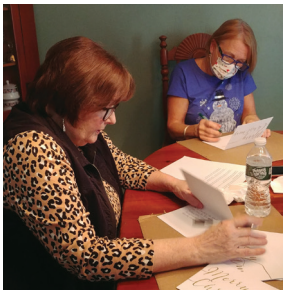

Christmas cards to the veterans in the Spinal Injury and Residences Wards at the Hampton Veterans Hospital.

🡻On December 17th Gold Star Mother's Mona Gunn, Mary Strong, Myra Moore and Laurie Miner presented the gifts to Judith Curtis, Chief of Voluntary Services at the Hampton Veterans Hospital.

WASHINGTON

🡻Wreaths Across America, Tahoma National Cemetery private ceremony. Only 7 Washington Gold Star Mothers could attend and no guest or ceremony.

Pictured left to right: Jody Flanig, Brenda Cook, Jane Hughes, Tammy Mabey, Melloney Ward and Lulu Rey.

Did You Know?

The first Medal of Honor recipient was Private Jacob Parrott, Company K, 33rd Ohio Voluntary Infantry, Union Army. In April 1862, Parrott, with 24 other volunteers, were ordered to go into enemy territory to destroy bridges and railroad tracks between Atlanta, GA. and Chattanooga, TN. They hijacked a train and accomplished their mission until the train ran out of fuel. The soldiers, including Parrott, were captured. Parrott was released in March 1863 and was awarded the Medal of Honor that same month.

Veterans Administration Volunteer Service

Have you had your COVID vaccine yet? If you have and you are looking to get out of the house and Serve somewhere wonderful, contact me - Pam Stemple at AGSMVAVS@goldstarmoms.com. I can get you connected with your local VA Medical Clinic, Hospital, Veterans Home, or Federal Cemetery. If you would like information on how to be an AGSM VAVS Representative or Deputy and get a little more information in the goings on in your VA Hospital or Clinic, let me know.

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

Be inspired, then make it happen

NAME	TYPE OF MEMBER	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
Lorraine Obregon	Member	AZ	Tucson
Tiffany Baker	Member	CA_S-HI	Bakersfield
Jennifer Gagne	Member	FL-PR	Tampa
Norma Perez	Member	NE	Nebraska GSM
Roberta McKee	Member	OH	Hancock
Bong Suh	Member	NY	NY City Gold Stars
Brenda Cook	Member	WA-OR-AK	Washington State GSM
Rosemarie Szprejda	Member	WA-OR-AK	Washington State GSM

ASSOCIATES

John Gagne	Associate	FL-PR	Tampa
Jeremy Gagne	Associate	FL-PR	Tampa

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The 2021 National Per Capita Membership Dues are just about wrapped up. If you have not paid your 2021 Membership, please send in a check to AGSM HQ or go online at www.goldstarmoms.com. If you are wondering if you paid or not, contact the NSO at nso@goldstarmoms.com. You will receive your membership card from your Chapter Leadership after you pay!

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

Adriane Orion

Peter Nicholas Jr. in honor of Jamie McManus

AGSM Albuquerque, New Mexico Chapter in memory of PNP Terry Davis

Irene DiCaprio in memory of PNP Terry Davis

Margie Hogue in memory of Millie Silverberg

Jennifer and Jack Jackman in memory of PNP Terry Davis

Nao Murabayasi

Scott Stroz

Melissa Dettling

Scott Burday

William and Elizabeth Ritthaler

Jonathan Huntoon

Jessica Vargas

Masami Yamada

Daughters of American Revolution, Santa Margarita, CA Chapter

Tiffaney Powley in memory of Michael Hardegree

Kerry Disalvatore in memory of Patricia Butcher

Ann Wolcott in memory of Emogene Cupp and Terry Davis

Mary Ann Gray in memory of Clara Hill

Gabrielle Byrd in memory of Christopher Kayser

Mason Ryan

Danielle Johnston in honor of CPT Todd Christmas and Becky Christmas

Kathleen Nelson

Scott Burday

Chris Ritthaler in the name of William and Elizabeth Ritthaler

Vickie Castro

AGSM Hampton Roads

NY-NJ Chapter in honor of Gen A C McAuliffe

VFW Post 799

Craig and Ursula Rhodes

Donations to Working Dogs for Vets Kitchen Project

Dale Johnson

St. Alexis Orthodox Church

Dedicated Commercial Recovery

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	DOD	CHAPTER	DEPARTMENT
Rita Vasquez	9/7/2019	Golden Gate	No. California
Doris Neal	5/20/2020	Newton	Massachusetts
Kenneth Reid, GS DAD	12/5/2020	Rochester	New York
Mildred Silverberg	12/14/2020	Worcester	Massachusetts
Rita Mae Simmons	12/14/2020	Utica #56	New York
Pauline Yeakley	12/18/2020	St. Joseph Valley	Indiana
Clara Hill McPherson	1/1/2021	Birmingham	Alabama

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."
Psalm 23:4

Note to all Chaplains - All Death Notices go to:
Elaine Brattain, National Chaplain
chaplain@goldstarmoms.com
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.

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.