



The concept of Gold Star Mothers originated shortly after World War I when a small group came together to support those mothers who lost sons in the war and to provide loving care for hospitalized Veterans. The name came from the custom of families of service members hanging a Service Flag in the window of their homes. The Service Flag had a star for each family member in the United States Armed Forces. Living service members were represented by a Blue star, and those who had lost their lives were represented by a Gold star.

### Why the Monument?

The mission of the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation (GSMNMF) is to honor the Mothers whose sons and daughters gave their life in military service to our nation. The monument will honor all Mothers and Families, whether members of an organization or not, who know the grief of losing a loved one and will promote a bond of kinship among those who memorialize our nation's defenders.

The Gold Star Mothers have collectively served millions of hours in volunteer work, personal service in our nation's Veterans hospitals, and to Veterans and their families in their local communities. In serving this way, the Mothers have turned their grief and loss into a positive force for others.

Today, there are hundreds of Gold Star Mothers and Families across the country continuing to honor their sons and daughters through service to Veterans and support to patriotic events.



The Gold Star Mothers Family Monument was authorized to be located on Federal land within the National Capitol Region by PL 112-239, Section 2859. The legislation also specified that Federal funds will not be used to establish the commemorative work. Therefore, we are relying on private donations from Veteran and civic organizations, corporations, local businesses, private groups, and individuals to help make the monument a reality.



The conceptual centerpiece (not yet final) will be the statue of a grieving Mother grasping the dreaded Western Union telegram in her hand while looking off into the distance and cherishing the memories of her warrior child (picture on the table). The paneled area to the rear is planned to hold 4 to 6 large bronze reliefs telling the Gold Star history and honoring the family. The statue will face away from the panels and in the general direction of the visible graves.

Working with the various government commissions and Federal agencies, the monument will be placed adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery near the Visitor Center where it will be visible and easily reached by visitors to the cemetery. The exact size and configuration of the monument are yet to be determined, and the final cost will depend, in large part, on those decisions.



*Be a part of honoring Gold Star Mothers and Families. Be a part of the educational outreach. Be a part of answering the all too often asked question: 'What is a Gold Star Mother or Family?'*



<https://youtu.be/3ez0PD7Qt-E>

Gold Star Mothers are patriotic, loyal, and compassionate. They understand that the freedoms we enjoy as individuals and as a nation are not to be taken for granted. The grief and loss these ladies have endured never leaves them, yet they rise above their pain in tribute to the lives of current service members, Veterans, and their Families.

We welcome you to be a part of this national effort to honor those who have given so much.

Perpetuating the noble principles for which they served and died.

Sponsored by  
**Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation**

The GSMNMF is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Architectural Concept  
 Final version may change.



to honor their sacrifice and service to America