



# THE GOLD STAR MOTHER

Perpetuating the Noble Principles for Which They Fought and Died

ISSUE NUMBER 224

JULY-AUGUST 2023

## 2023-2024 National Executive Board



*Front Row L-R: Joyce Paulsen, National Sgt-at-Arms, Patti Elliott, National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President,  
Pam Stemple, National President, Annette Kirk, National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President,  
Lee-Ann Forsythe, National IT Chair, Jeanette Nazario, National Banner Guard*

*Back Row L-R: Jennifer Avery, National VAVS Representative, Chanta Vasquez, National Secretary,  
Cathy Bordeaux, National Chaplain, Rose Duval, National Treasurer*

*Not Pictured: Teresa Bullock, National Flag Guard*



# From the Desk of the National President

*Pam Stemple, National President*

## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DASH



First things first, I want to thank my family for being my rock during the past six years. Being on the National Board is not an easy task. It takes you away from your family and friends. I can't tell you the number of birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays I have missed doing AGSM business, but it is worth it to me.

Second, I want to thank every National Officer I have been fortunate enough to serve with, but I especially

want to thank the Past National Presidents I served under.

Becky Christmas - You taught me grace and to always hold my head high. Don't take any guff and keep the meeting under control. Do the right thing and don't give up. Thank you.

Mona Gunn - You taught me how to be a nicer person. I watched you and learned that you don't have to make demands to get your way. People will look to you for guidance. Be organized. Do the right thing and don't give up. Thank you.

Cindy Tatum - You taught me to follow my heart and find ways to get things done for the betterment of the Organization. History matters. Do the right thing and don't give up. Thank you.

Jo Ann Maitland - You taught me that no matter how hard it may look right now, it will get better. People may hurt you, but you stick with the plan. Do the right thing and don't give up. Thank you.

Sarah Taylor - You taught me how to laugh, how to love other people I may not be comfortable with and how to have a softer side. Do the right thing and don't give up. Thank you.

When you are elected to the National Board, you start thinking of a motto if you are ever elected as National President. I had two that mean the world to me. While the first is more in line with the mission of AGSM, "Honor Your Hero Through Service," the second one is a personal one and is the one I selected. If you know me at all, you know that the word "DASH" means everything to me. We all have a dash, especially our Heroes. I think we forget that sometimes. A few years ago, the motto was "Every Star Tells a Story." I think in every DASH is THE story.

On April 13, 2015, when I laid my Hero, SFC Tomas Avey, to rest in Colorado, his Ranger Platoon came from Camp Rudder in FL to be his escorts and pallbearers. His Chaplain came, too. The Chaplain said something to me during the funeral I will never forget. It's my story and I want to share it with you.

As I was sitting in my chair at the graveside going through the motions of the Military funeral, Tomas's Chaplain was speaking. I wasn't really listening. I didn't want to look away from the flag-draped coffin in front of me. Suddenly, the Chaplain got my attention. He called out my

name a few times until I looked up at him and he said these words to me, just me: "Pam, I want you to listen to me. Are you listening?" I indicated I was, and he asked this question: "What was the best day of your life with Tomas?" I said the day he was born. He then asked this question: "What is the worst, most unimaginable day in your life with Tomas?" I said the day he died.

He then said these words I will never forget: "I want to tell you something. Tomas's life is not about the day he died. Don't remember just that day. That is just one day in his life. His life is all about the DASH, the life he lived between those two dates, February 9th, 1981, DASH March 29th, 2015."

Ladies, I want you to remember that our Heroes were all about their DASH. I am serving and volunteering because Tomas can't. I would love for each of you to remember that your Hero was all about his or her DASH. Let's serve in their honor.

After being Membership Chair for four years, I have read and heard about all your Heroes. I love each and every one of them. I often wonder what they did in 5th grade, how they were with their grandparents, did they have blue eyes, were they tall or short, what or who gave them a heart for Service to this Country.

Speaking of Service, we have to get back to working together. To make all our Chapters strong again, we need great leaders to step up and take on this DASH we are living. If you are in a leadership position at the Chapter and/or Department level, you need to mentor your members. Teach them how to get things done. I would love to see our membership grow, not because I want to report how many members we have, but I want us to say how many members we have serving our Mission. I promise if you are helping others, you will get more out of it than they do. Don't just go to events where you are honored. It's like ripping the Band-Aid off every time when that is all you do. Go find things to help our Veterans, Active Duty and their families. It's survival for you. Believe me.

One of my initiatives this year will be to assign each member of the NEB responsibility for Departments and the Chapters within those Departments to mentor and help with whatever questions you may have. I love the Outreach Program we started during Cindy Tatum's year, but Outreach should be more than just birthday and anniversary cards.

The hardest thing I have had to hear and respond to is "What does AGSM do for me?" Honestly, we don't DO anything for each member individually. While the NEB is tasked with ensuring that the Constitution and Bylaws are followed, we are also tasked with volunteering in our own Chapters and Departments and in the DC area. Our Chapters and Departments are where the real work happens, so we need to get back to that.

I would like to challenge each of you with a few things. First, never forget you are in a very



*Department of Colorado 2023 National Convention (PHOTO CREDIT: SUSAN PATTEN)*

unique group of women. We raised Heroes who signed on the dotted line to serve their Country to protect what they loved most. Let's make our number one priority to serve in their honor because they can't continue what they started.

Next, we are all in this together. We are inclusive. We each lost our beloved Hero because of their service to our Country. You belong here, helping and serving others. Finally, before you say anything to any member, new or old, check your message. You would be surprised how many new members don't renew after the first year because they did not feel welcome. We should be the last group on this planet to have cliques. Never forget you were once the new one at the meeting. Be nice and help each other. Don't segregate our members and make them feel less than.

I am so honored to be in this Organization. I hope you are, too. One thing I learned while in the Navy was to leave every

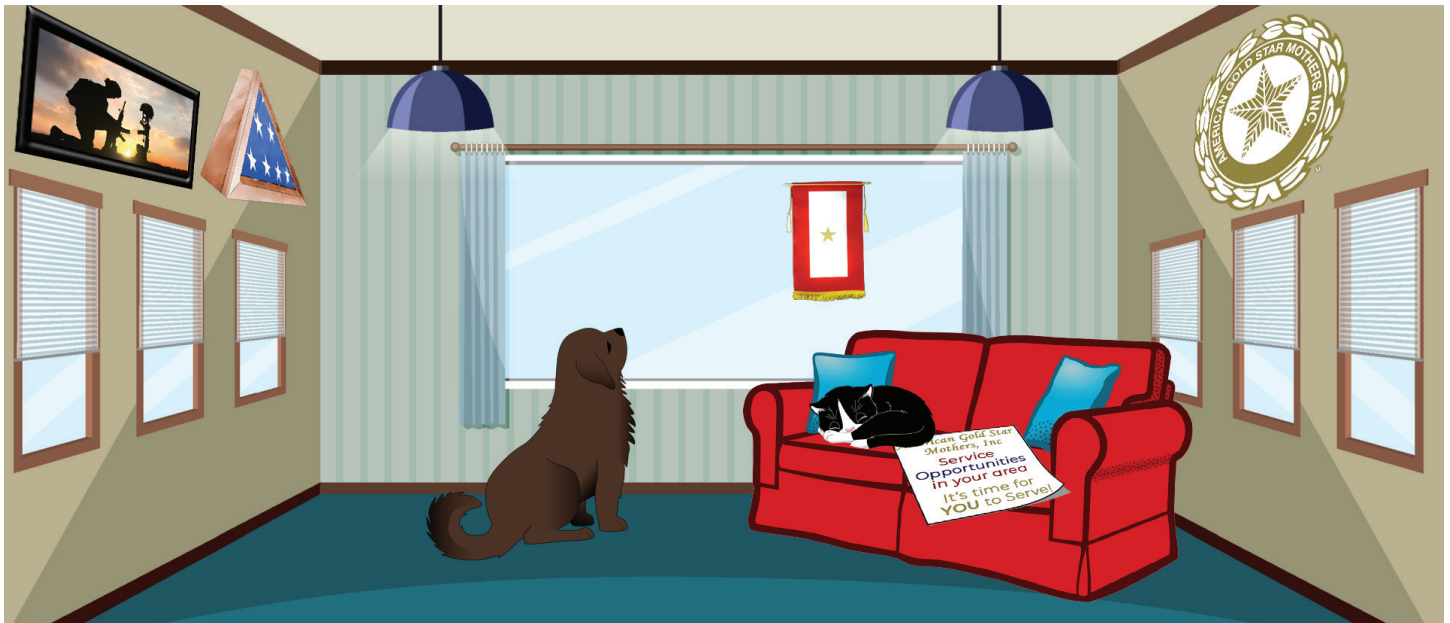
place better than you found it. I will do my very best to make that happen this year. I will make mistakes. The NEB will make mistakes. But we get up every day and know that this Organization is so very important and why it is. As I look out at the sea of white, it gives me inspiration to remember every Mother who stood before us and every Hero that is gone from their families. They are so missed, but with each other standing tall side by side, we can get through this together.

We are almost at our 100-year anniversary. It is quite an accomplishment for an Organization to stay together that long. Stop and think about that. Did they always get along? No. Did they honor each other and the Heroes that died? Yes

In closing, I hope to see you all in Colorado Springs next year.

**REMEMBER, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DASH!!!!**

Pam



*How will you serve in your community?*

## Welcome to our **NEWEST MEMBERS**

*“No one wants to become eligible to join American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. However, we find strength in the fellowship of other Gold Star Mothers who strive to keep the memory of their beloved sons and daughters alive by serving the Veteran, Military, and Gold Star communities.”*

— National Executive Board

First Name	Last Name	Chapter	Department	Type of Membership
Andrea	Mason	Mid-Michigan	MI	Member
Jackie	Mainard	Central/Eastern OK	TX-OK	Member
Kim	Ball	Greater Southeastern TX	TX-OK	Member
Rebecca	Riffle	West Virginia	WV	Member
Sandra	Dawson	Hampton Roads	VA	Member
Michelle	Galasso	Camden	NJ	Associate
Rickie	Davis	Western New York AGSM	NY	Associate
Allison C.	Wirka	Southwest Florida	FL-PR	Member
Benita	Reed	Kentucky GSM	KY	Member
Linda Kay	Becnel	Greater Southeastern TX	TX-OK	Member
Zabrina	Schaefer	St Louis	MO	Member
Carlos A.	Hernandez	Greater Southeastern TX	TX-OK	Associate
Dr. Carl R.	Ball	Greater Southeastern TX	TX-OK	Associate
Jodi	Przytulski	Gulf Coast	FL-PR	Member

**Members frequently ask who to contact with questions. This list provides email addresses for the Officers on the National Executive Board. Please reach out to us if you have questions.**

EMAIL ADDRESS	CONTACT / PURPOSE
President@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National President Pam Stemple</b>
Istvp@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National 1st Vice President Patti Elliott</b>
2ndvp@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National 2nd Vice President Annette Kirk</b>
Secretary@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National Secretary Chanta Vasquez</b>
Treasurer@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National Treasurer Rose Duval</b>
Chaplain@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National Chaplain Cathy Bordeaux</b>
Flagguard@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National Flag Guard Teresa Bullock</b>
Bannerguard@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National Banner Guard Jeanette Nazario</b>
Sgtatarms@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National Sgt at Arms Joyce Paulsen</b>
NSO@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National Service Officer (Events) Lee-Ann Forsythe</b> Please use this email address for any questions related to AGSM National Events or Activities including National Convention, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Gold Star Mothers Weekend, NEB Meeting Schedules, etc.
Info@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National Service Officer Joyce Paulsen</b> Please use this email address for any general questions regarding AGSM <b>NOTE:</b> This email is provided on the AGSM website for general inquiries from the public.
Membership@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National Service Officer (Membership) Joyce Paulsen</b> Please use this email address for any questions related to AGSM Membership including new applications, application status, Dues and Per Capita, Chapter or Department Rosters, etc.
AGSMVAVS@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National VA Volunteer Services Representative Jennifer Avery</b> Please use this email address for questions related to AGSM Representative, Deputy, or volunteer information
IT@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National Information &amp; Technology Chair Lee-Ann Forsythe</b> Please use this email address for questions related to AGSM National website content, National social media accounts, National email addresses, etc.
Publications@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National Information &amp; Technology Chair (Newsletter) Lee-Ann Forsythe</b> Please use this email address for questions related to the National Newsletter, printed or digital products, branding, marketing, etc.
AGSMGrants@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National Grant Committee Chair Annette Kirk</b> Please use this email address for questions related to Chapter Grant and Giving Grace Grant applications or policies and procedures
Compliance@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National Compliance Committee Chair Annette Kirk</b> Please use this email address for questions related to EIN or 501(c)3 reporting, questions, or referrals for assistance
Communityservice@americangoldstarmothers.org	<b>National Community Service Committee Chair Chanta Vasquez</b> Please use this email address for questions related to Community Service reports, processes and procedures, or requirements

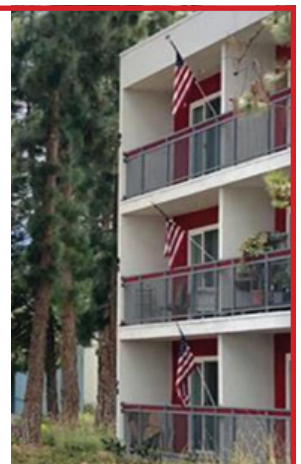
The American Gold Star Manor/Home was incorporated as a charitable, non-profit corporation for the purpose of assisting in the support of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. and providing a national home for American Gold Star Mothers.

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.



[GoldStarManor.org](http://GoldStarManor.org)





**COLUMBIA  
SOUTHERN**  
UNIVERSITY

# Grace Darling Seibold Scholarship

## Honoring Mothers of Fallen Heroes who continue the service of their sons and daughters

Columbia Southern University is partnering with American Gold Star Mothers to offer a scholarship to one of its members. The scholarship will cover up to one online degree program (associate, bachelor, or master). The scholarship will be applied directly to the recipient's tuition for up to 60 semester hours or 36 consecutive months in the selected online degree program, whichever comes first. This scholarship covers tuition. Textbooks and fees will be the responsibility of the scholarship recipient.

### Eligibility

An American Gold Star Mothers member in good standing for the last two years and must retain membership while on scholarship.

### Application Essay Questions

Applications and essays will be evaluated exclusively by three senior staff members each of CSU and verified by members of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. National Executive Board, whose decision is final.

1. How are you currently serving Veterans and how would this scholarship further your opportunities to serve the Veteran community?
2. What are your projected goals for the next five years and how do you see college contributing to the achievement of these goals?
3. How would receiving this scholarship change your life?

### Verification Documents

1. Military Service Member's Name
2. Military Service Member's Branch of Service
3. Military Service Member's Rank/Title

**Apply Now**

The deadline to apply is **August 31, 2023**.

Please visit [ColumbiaSouthern.edu/GDS](https://ColumbiaSouthern.edu/GDS) for application materials and additional information.



### Important Dates

#### Applications Accepted

June 15–August 31, 2023

#### Award Presentation

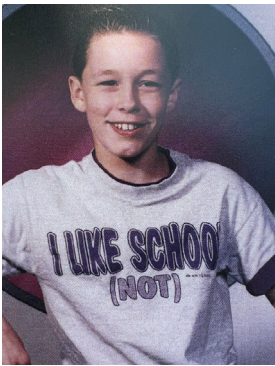
The award presentation will coincide with the Gold Star Mother's Day activities each September in the National Capital Region (Washington, D.C.)

### Online Degree Programs at CSU

- » Business
- » Fire Administration
- » Criminal Justice
- » Emergency Medical Services Administration
- » Health Care Administration
- » Occupational Safety and Health
- » Human Resource Management
- » Public Administration

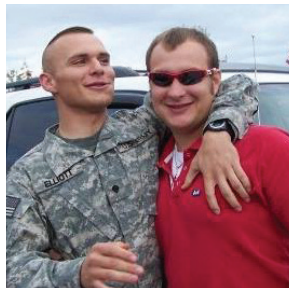
# Moments from the Dash

National Executive Board



Pam Stemple, National President - I'm sure I didn't allow Tomas to take his school pictures with this shirt. Imagine my surprise when the pictures came home! He once asked me in February if he could wear shorts to school yet? I said not yet. I got a call that day from his teacher, and she told me Tommy was wearing shorts. She figured I didn't allow that but wanted me to know. He had worn shorts under his jeans and took the jeans off after he got to school. He said he wasn't cold. I told him I was hiding all his shorts until Spring! That Boy was something else!

Patti Elliott, National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - As brothers will do, Lucas loved to irritate his older brother, Brad. Lucas was three years younger but loved that around the time of his first deployment in 2009 that he was finally the "bigger" (read - taller) brother!



Annette Kirk, National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - I don't think there is anything more special than your adult child wanting to include you in their birthday celebration, especially when it's a milestone, such as turning 21. Music was life for Paul and as the stars aligned for him, his favorite band, Angels and Airwaves (AvA) along with 15 others played on his 21st birthday in Tampa, Florida. He was thrilled

to get a backstage pass to meet his favorite musician, Tom DeLonge, from AvA and Blink-182. What a memorable day for both of us, one I will always cherish because I know how happy he was! Cheers, it's all in the dash!

Rose Duval, National Treasurer - While stationed in Germany, my then husband would always complain about his supervisor at the dinner table. Never realizing that Scott was a little tape recorder. We had an occasion to stop at my husband's office one day and as we entered the office his supervisor came out from around his desk to greet us. He gave me a hug and warm greeting and then he bent down and shook Scott's hand and said



hello. Scott very politely replied, "Hello A\$\$hole". Without a pause, the supervisor smiled and replied, "Well, sounds like you have been listening to your father." I was mortified and so embarrassed and told Scott that was not nice to say and apologized profusely. But after listening to his father refer to him by that name it was hard to be mad at Scott. All the time his father was at his desk witnessing this display and silently laughing and rolling on the floor.



Lee-Ann Forsythe, National IT Chair - Our Marc is a character, and his hysterical one-liners live on in our family lexicon. When Marc was about 2 and he got mad or frustrated he would stomp his feet, look you in the eye, and say "back-a-bed!" He would then stomp off, making as much noise as possible, and go to his bedroom. We never had to send him to his room. Marc took care of it for us! To this day, when one of us is frustrated or angry, we look the parent or child in the eyes and say "back-a-bed!". We have all outgrown the stomping. Well, most of us...

Jeanette Nazario, National Banner Guard - Zachary was always so fun. My children Diego, Zachary & Mariah along with my Husband Patrick & I were all visiting my Sister Mary & her Husband Wade (Zachary's Aunt & Uncle) in Virginia. It snowed briefly, Zachary loved the snow especially since he was born and raised in Florida. Zachary wanted to build a snowman; we were all saying, "but there's not enough snow". Zachary said sure there is! He rallied everyone and we had the best time building a snowman even taller than we were! (Pictured here from left to right: Diego, Mariah & Zachary)



Chanta Vasquez, National Secretary - My Gianni loved Halloween and dressing up for Halloween. The crazier the better, one year in High School Gianni and a friend decided to be characters from the show Reno 911. Now my Gianni was never afraid of wearing anything "risqué", so it came as no surprise to me that he would choose the character Lieutenant Jim Dangle. The name is obvious once you see him in those

ridiculously short shorts. His friends thought it was hilarious and his younger brothers and I just shook our heads knowing he would be out proudly representing in his Halloween costume!!!



Joyce Paulsen, National Sergeant-at-Arms - My Hero was a builder from the start. Matthew Q McClintock loved, loved, loved Legos, and always hit the ground running when he received one or bought one. The more complex the better. He would plan his attack in getting the Lego built. He would patiently lay out the parts, he would painstakingly flip the instruction pages as he proceeded to put the Lego

together.

Matthew was always excited for his birthday and Christmas because he just knew he was getting Legos. As you can see from the picture below, he was smiling that Christmas. Matthew would keep the instructions and put all his sets on shelves in his room. As a Green Beret he was a "Charlie" that label meant he was tasked in setting up camps, putting up the buildings and logistically getting things in place. That job was right up his alley. Matthew loved his Army job, and he knew from a little boy that he wanted to be a soldier. I don't know where he got his drive to be in the special forces, but he did it. Matthew had a saying "Don't Quit." I have a tattoo with the special force's emblem and the words "Don't Quit." We recently bought a Lego for Matthew's son Declan who is autistic and built his first Lego. What a joy it was to experience that with him!



Cathy Bordeaux, National Chaplain - Just like all of you, all we have left are our memories of our sons and daughters. My son was an MA in the Navy and was stationed in Norfolk for two years before going to Naples, Italy. An MA in the Navy is a Master at Arms and is in the security forces. While stationed in Norfolk he drove the police boats and performed harbor patrol. One day while doing this, his Master Chief radios and tells him one of the high value asset ships has reported something orange next to their ship. Phillip is sent to

investigate immediately and report back. He reports back. "Master Chief, it's an orange". His Master Chief asked him what he meant, and he responded again with "It's an orange. Would you like me to bring it to you for your lunch?" To which Master Chief responded, "Roger that, carry on Bordeaux" That was just one of many stories he told of patrolling the harbor while stationed in Norfolk.

Teresa Bullock, National Flag Guard - Christopher was the big brother to his sister and brother, but he had the knack of attracting other young children that wanted or needed a mentor or big brother. Anytime there was a gathering you would see a trail of children following him. That trait followed him into his adult years, as a recruiter and team leader in the Army it wasn't uncommon for him and his wife to invite recruits and young soldiers to their home or on outings with them. Many of them reached out to me after his death to tell me stories of how he helped them go in a better direction in life than they had been headed. One day he called me while I was driving to work and said, "mom I have some news that I think you are going to like." I could hear the joy and happiness in his voice when he announced he and Shalan were having a baby! It wasn't an easy pregnancy and Shalan spent a lot of the time in the hospital, always with the threat that we could lose her or the baby. Shalan told me of one time in the hospital when Chris saw an elderly lady lying in a bed by herself scared and crying, he asked Shalan if he could go sit with her for a while to comfort her. When the big day finally came, and he sent me pictures he was all smiles. He was due to leave for Iraq 2 months after Mary was born and he spent every moment he could holding and loving that baby girl until he left. Unfortunately, a short 4 months later the end of his "dash" came, and we have watched Mary grown into a beautiful young lady who is so much like her daddy it's uncanny. This summer she will be mentoring young campers at a camp she has attended every summer since she was 5. He would definitely be proud.



## Mother's Cupboard

Mother's Cupboard is moving to...

**AmericanGoldStarMothers.org**  
Shopping will be unavailable until "construction" is complete.

We look forward to a grand re-opening in August.



Watch for Updates at  
**AmericanGoldStarMothers.org**



2023 National Convention Banquet at Churchill Downs  
(PHOTO CREDIT: SUSAN PATTEN)



Sarah Taylor, 2022-2023 National President  
packing backpacks for In-Need and Homeless  
Veterans for the National Service Project  
(PHOTO CREDIT: SUSAN PATTEN)



Aboard the Mary M. Martin riverboat cruise  
(PHOTO CREDIT: SUSAN PATTEN)



Hats and Fascinators at Churchill Downs (PHOTO CREDIT: SUSAN PATTEN)



The party begins at Churchill Downs  
(PHOTO CREDIT: SUSAN PATTEN)



Welcome to Churchill Downs (PHOTO CREDIT: SUSAN PATTEN)



The 2023-2024 National Executive Board is installed. (PHOTO CREDIT: SUSAN PATTEN)



The 2022-2023 NEB with Tres Waterfield, Humana Division  
Lead – Northwest, Marketing Strategy and Activation  
(PHOTO CREDIT: LEE-ANN FORSYTHE)



George Lutz, Honor & Remember, presented flags to 2 AGSM  
Members (PHOTO CREDIT: LEE-ANN FORSYTHE)



Humana hosted AGSM and Guests for lunch at their Corporate Headquarters in Louisville Kentucky  
(PHOTO CREDIT: LEE-ANN FORSYTHE)



# NATIONAL CONVENTION – LOUISVILLE, KY ★



Enjoying time together at Churchill Downs (PHOTO CREDIT: SUSAN PATTEN)



Wreaths Across America Education Trailer (PHOTO CREDIT: SUSAN PATTEN)



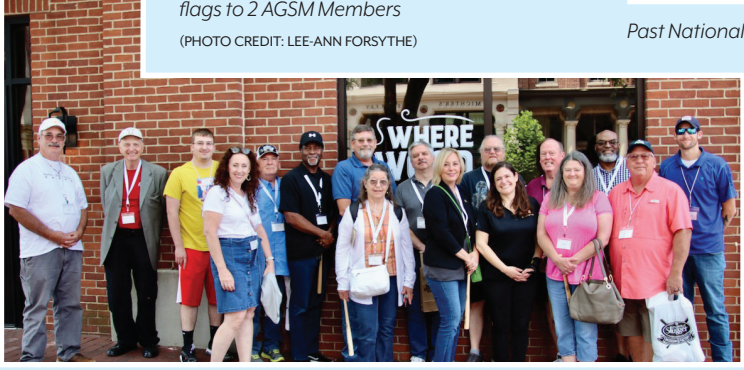
Members have their photos taken at the iconic Spires at Churchill Downs (PHOTO CREDIT: LEE-ANN FORSYTHE)



George Lutz, Honor & Remember, presented flags to 2 AGSM Members (PHOTO CREDIT: LEE-ANN FORSYTHE)



Past National Presidents (PHOTO CREDIT: SUSAN PATTEN)



Guests enjoyed a tour of the Louisville Slugger Factory and Barrels and Billets Distillery (PHOTO CREDIT: SUSAN PATTEN)



Packing backpacks for In-Need and Homeless Veterans for the National Service Project



National Convention Gold Star Mothers and Guests at the Humana Corporate Headquarters (PHOTO CREDIT: LEE-ANN FORSYTHE)



# American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

## 2022-2023 National Executive Board

### Meeting Minutes - June 15, 2023

The business meeting of the AGSM National Executive Board was called to order at 8:13 a.m., on June 15, 2023, by Sarah Taylor. A motion to dispense with the ritual was made by Patti Elliott and seconded by Dee Thompson. The motion carried.

Joyce Paulsen opened the meeting with prayer. Patti Elliott led members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Patti Elliott conducted the roll call of officers. There were eight members of the NEB present and no guests: President, Sarah Taylor; 1st Vice President and NSO (Membership), Pam Stemple; 2nd Vice President and Secretary, Patti Elliott; Treasurer, Robin Abbott; Sergeant-at-Arms, Annette Kirk; Banner Guard, Joyce Paulsen; Flag Guard and VAVS Chair, Dee Thompson; and IT Chair and NSO (Events), Lee-Ann Forsythe.

Robin Abbott reviewed the Treasurer's report and financial statements. There was a review of outstanding Convention expenses that will be paid in the coming days. All NEB members must get any outstanding reimbursement requests to Robin no later than 6/29/23.

#### **Standing Committee Reports:**

1. Headquarters. Details are still being worked out for delivery of the donated mattresses to HQ. This will remain an item of unfinished business.
2. Standing Rules, Little Gold Book, Constitution and Bylaws. The process for voting on the proposed amendments was reviewed.

#### **Special Committee Reports:**

1. Membership. Chair Pam Stemple reported that we have 950 active members as of 6/15/23.
2. Outreach. Chair Joyce Paulsen shared positive feedback she has received from those receiving the outreach cards.
3. Community Service. Details of the Community Service/VAVS luncheon were reviewed.
4. Compliance. There will be a Presidents and Treasurers meeting on Friday afternoon to review some final steps in the compliance process to prepare for the future audit.
5. Grant Committee. We received notification on 6/13/23 that we have been awarded the Steven Barmakian Grant from the Columbus Foundation in the amount of \$15,000 for the Giving Grace Grant. Applications for Giving Grace are currently closed.

The 2023-2024 NEB will determine when the next application period will begin.

6. Ways and Means. Chair Joyce Paulsen has been researching ways to operate inventory going forward. She will bring proposals to the 2023-2024 NEB for decisions. The revised plan for Mother's Cupboard at Convention was discussed.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

1. President Sarah Taylor shared we will be signing a MOU with the American Legion Auxiliary during the Saturday luncheon.
2. All the assistance Humana has provided for the 2023 Convention was reviewed. We are extremely grateful for their assistance.
3. The Grace Darling Seibold Scholarship application period opens today (6/15/23). An announcement will be made during Convention and links to apply will be sent out after Convention.
4. Veterans Last Patrol. We will have Christmas cards for people to sign at Churchill Downs.

#### **New Business:**

A motion to approve all Officers and Committee Year-End Reports as submitted was made by Pam Stemple and seconded by Annette Kirk. The motion carried.

#### **For the Good of the Order:**

1. Lee-Ann Forsythe announced that our 2021 Grace Darling Seibold Scholarship recipient, Patti Elliott, has officially graduated from Waldorf University with her Master's degree in Organizational Leadership.
2. The 2022-2023 NEB presented President Sarah Taylor with an original pressing of "Lean on Me" and original sheet music.

There being no further business to come before the NEB, a motion to adjourn was made by Patti Elliott and seconded by Lee-Ann Forsythe. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Elliott, Secretary

Approved by NEB: 6/15/2023



# American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

## 2023 National Convention

### Meeting Minutes - June 17, 2023

The business meeting for the 86th Annual National Convention of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Sarah Taylor.

Convention Chaplain Elaine Brattain offered a prayer and opened the Bible. Americanism Chair Patti Elliott led members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. 1st Vice President Pam Stemple read the Preamble to our National Constitution and Bylaws. 2nd Vice President Patti Elliott read the mission statement of the organization.

Secretary Patti Elliott conducted the roll call of officers. 2nd Vice President Patti Elliott conducted the roll call of delegates. She reported there were 114 delegates.

The Oath of Obligation was led by President Sarah Taylor. National Sergeant-at-Arms Annette Kirk read the Convention Rules. President Sarah Taylor added two additional rules allowing the Flag Guard and Banner Guard to have their cell phones at their station for the purposes of voting and directing that no laptops or tablets should be open until time for voting.

President Sarah Taylor announced that Jennifer Jackman would serve as the Parliamentarian for the meeting. Parliamentarian Jennifer Jackman advised she has reviewed all Convention Rules and finds them to be in proper order and reminded the membership to abide by same.

All Officer and Committee Reports will be attached to these minutes as Attachment 2.

Treasurer Robin Abbott presented the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activity. A motion was made by Pam Stemple, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, NEB, and seconded by Lee-Ann Forsythe, IT Chair, NEB, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion carried and the report will be filed subject to audit.

#### **Report of Standing Committee**

Finance and Budget Chair Robin Abbott referred members to her written report.

#### **Report of Standing Committee**

Membership Chair Pam Stemple reported we have a total of 950 members, with 150 in the over 80 category. She recognized the Departments of TX-OK, SC and NJ who have recently reorganized chapters to operate more efficiently. The Department of WA-OR-AK will soon be undergoing a reorganization process. We have welcomed 68 brand new members to AGSM this fiscal year.

Compliance Chair Patti Elliott thanked the Chapters and Departments for their assistance in completing the steps to bring their entities into compliance in accordance with IRS and banking regulations. All Chapters and Departments must be off of National's EIN by 6/30/23. She will work with those Chapters and Departments who need assistance up through that time to wrap up the fiscal year

before turning Compliance over to the 2023-2024 Chair.

Grants Chair Patti Elliott updated the membership on the Giving Grace Grant program. In addition to the written report, we have just received notification from the Columbus Foundation that we will receive a \$15,000 grant from the Stephen Barmakian Fund. The first round of grants for the 2023-2024 fiscal year will be announced following Convention. She encouraged Chapters to apply for the Chapter Grant this year.

Nomination Committee Chair Cindy Chip presented the slate of officers and called for nominations from the floor.

Nominees were:

1. Pam Stemple, Department of CO, nominated for National President
2. Patti Elliott, Department of NC, nominated for 1st Vice President
3. Annette Kirk, Department of FL-PR, nominated for 2nd Vice President
4. Nichole Chilton, Department of NC, nominated for Secretary  
Chanta Vasquez, Department of CO, nominated for Secretary
5. Rose Duval, Department of VA, nominated for Treasurer  
Robin Abbott, Department of MA-RI, nominated for Treasurer
6. Joyce Paulsen, Department of NM, nominated for Sergeant at Arms
7. Cathy Bordeaux, Department of NC, nominated for Chaplain  
Joyce Turner, Department of KS, nominated for Chaplain
8. Margie Taylor, Department of TX-OK, nominated for Flag Guard  
Lisa Moncur, Department of SoCal-HI, nominated for Flag Guard
9. Jeanette Nazario, Department of FL-PR, nominated for Banner Guard

The Nomination Committee presented the credentials for those candidates competing for the same position.

A brief recess was taken. Following the recess, 2nd Vice President Patti Elliott conducted the roll call of delegates. She reported there were 120 delegates present.

#### **Old Business**

A motion was made by Jennifer Jackman, Department of KS, and seconded by Christina Nichols-Wainright, Department of SoCal-HI, for dues to remain at \$35. The motion carried.

#### **New Business**

Constitution and Bylaws Chair Patti Elliott discussed the process for reviewing the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. All proposed amendments were presented in the Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report previously referenced as included in Attachment 2.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION MEETING MINUTES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 1, a motion was made by Cindy Chip, Department of VA, and seconded by Cathy Bordeaux, Department of NC, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 2, a motion was made by Cindy Tatum, Department of TN, and seconded by Margie Taylor, Department of TX-OK, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 3, a motion was made by Mary Piker, Department of TX-OK, and seconded by Adrienne Bourland, Department of AL, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 4, a motion was made by Vickie Castro, Department of SoCal-HI, and seconded by Jennifer Avery, Department of CO, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion failed.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 5, a motion was made by Michelle Dyer, Department of MO, and seconded by Rose Duval, Department of VA, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion failed.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 6, a motion was made by Jennifer Jackman, Department of KS, and seconded by Robin Abbott, National Treasurer, NEB, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 7, a motion was made by Cindy Chip, Department of VA, and seconded by Margie Taylor, Department of TX-OK, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion failed.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 8, a motion was made by Theresa Karlson, Department of MD-DE, and seconded by Cathy Bordeaux, Department of NC, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion failed.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 9, a motion was made by Cindy Tatum, Department of TN, and seconded by Mona Gunn, Department of VA, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion failed.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 10, because Amendment # 9 failed, the amendment was not brought forward.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 11, a motion was made by Rose Duval, Department of VA, and seconded by Misi Moser, Department of CO, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 12, a motion was made by Vickie Castro, Department of SoCal-HI, and seconded by Sue Pollard, Department of SC, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 13, a motion was made by Mary Jane Seymour, Department of CT, and seconded by Beth Haely, Department of FL-PR, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 14, a motion was made by Holly Baker, Department of NY, and seconded by Cindy Roberts, Department of NY, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 15, because Amendment # 9 failed, the amendment was not brought forward.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 16, because Amendment # 9 failed, the amendment was not brought forward.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 17, a motion was made by Sandi Fox, Department of VA, and seconded by Adrienne Bourland, Department of AL, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 18, a motion was made by Mary Jane Seymour, Department of CT, and seconded by Nichole Chilton, Department of NC, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 19, a motion was made by Rose Duval, Department of VA, and seconded by Laura Stephens, Department of AZ, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion failed.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 20, a motion was made by Laura DeRoo, Department of MI, and seconded by Tammy Bass, Department of TN, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 21, a motion was made by Mary Jane Seymour, Department of CT, and seconded by Karen Alexander, Department of NM, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 22, a motion was made by Cathy Bordeaux, Department of NC, and seconded by Jamie Rauschenberger, Department of KY, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 23, a motion was made by Misi Moser, Department of CO, and seconded by Holly Baker, Department of NY, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 24, a motion was made by Nichole Chilton, Department of NC, and seconded by Joyce Turner, Department of KS, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 25, a motion was made by Cathy Bordeaux, Department of NC, and seconded by Laura Stephens, Department of AZ, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 26, a motion was made by Margie Taylor, Department of TX-OK, and seconded by Deb Herold, Department of NE, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 27, a motion was made by Sandi Fox, Department of VA, and seconded by Lisa Moncur, Department of SoCal-HI, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 28, a motion was made by Mary Jane Seymour, Department of CT, and seconded by Jamie Rauschenberger, Department of KY, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 29, a motion was made by Cindy Chip, Department of VA, and seconded by Beth Haely, Department of FL, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 30, a motion was made by Mary Jane Seymour, Department of CT, and seconded by Rose Duval, Department of VA, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 31, a motion was made by Mary Jane Seymour, Department of CT, and seconded by Tammy Bass, Department of TN, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 32, a motion was made by Rose Duval, Department of VA, and seconded by Cindy Roberts, Department of NY, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 33, a motion was made by Donna Lowell, Department of MD-DE, and seconded by Cindy Tatum, Department of TN, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 34, a motion was made by Mary Jane Seymour, Department of CT, and seconded by Laura Stephens, Department of AZ, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 35, a motion was made by Patricia O’Kane-Trombley, Department of IL, and seconded by Vivian Scharver, Department of NC, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 36, a motion was made by Margie Taylor, Department of TX-OK, and seconded by Adrienne Bourland, Department of AL, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 37, a motion was made by Mona Gunn, Department of VA, and seconded by Elaine Krepp, Department of SoCal-HI, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 38, a motion was made by Nichole Chilton, Department of NC, and seconded by Lisa Ensey, Department of KY, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 39, a motion was made by Yvonne Green, Department of MD, and seconded by Lynn Romans, Department of KY, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion carried.

A brief recess was taken. Following the recess, the pages reported all delegates were present and accounted for.

For scheduling reasons, a motion was made by Cindy Chip, Department of VA, and seconded by Sue Pollard, Department of SC, to table Proposed Amendments # 40-55. Following discussion, the motion carried.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 56, a motion was made by Mary Jane Seymour, Department of CT, and seconded by Cindy Tatum, Department of TN, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion failed.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 57 through # 59, because Amendment # 56 failed, the amendment was not brought forward.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 60, a motion was made by Mary Jane Seymour, Department of CT, and seconded by Misi Moser, Department of CO, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion failed.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 61 through # 64, because Amendment # 56 failed, the amendment was not brought forward.

With regard to Proposed Amendment # 65, a motion was made by Robin Abbott, National Treasurer, NEB, and seconded by Vivian Scharver, Department of NC, to approve the proposed amendment. Following discussion, the motion failed.

Secretary Patti Elliott cast the ballot by acclamation for all candidates that were uncontested, with the exception of 1st Vice President. Parliamentarian Jennifer Jackman cast the ballot by acclamation for the office of 1st Vice President.

Following a vote of the delegates, Chanta Vasquez was elected

as Secretary, Rose Duval was elected as Treasurer, Cathy Bordeaux was elected as Chaplain, and Lisa Moncur was elected as Flag Guard.

### Good of the Order

President Sarah Taylor made closing announcements. A motion was made by Patti Elliott, 2nd Vice President, NEB, and seconded by Karen Alexander, Department of NM, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Convention Chaplain Elaine Brattain provided a prayer and closed the Bible. The Color Guard retired the colors and the business meeting of the 2023 National Convention was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Elliott, National Secretary  
Approved by the NEB: 6/21/2023

## July/August 2023 Calendar of Events and Important Dates



4 July	4th of July
27 July	National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
28 July	National Buffalo Soldiers Day
29 July	Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary
August	Antiterrorism Awareness Month
4 August	U.S. Coast Guard Birthday
7 August	Purple Heart Day
10 August	Agent Orange Awareness Day
10 August	Department of Defense Birthday
14 August	Navajo Code Talkers Day
14 August	VJ (Victory over Japan) Day
16 August	National Airborne Day
29 August	U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Birthday

For details on these events  
and more go to

[AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](http://AmericanGoldStarMothers.org)



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Just Us Few MC  
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AMVET Riders Chapter 67, Inc.  
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AMVETS Post 777  
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary 777  
American Legion Riders Post 125  
The Sons of the American Legion,  
Squadron #119  
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American Legion Post 30  
Frank Roach Post 34 American Legion  
Charles McGee Byrd Post 120  
American Legion, Inc.  
American Legion Post 125  
American Legion Post 129  
Lynchburg American Legion Post 140  
American Legion Post #182  
American Legion Post 178  
American Legion Hilton Head Post 185  
VFW Post 10319  
American Legion Post 197  
American Legion Riders Chapter 166  
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M-N-K Trucking, LLC  
Wallace Putkowski
- American Legion Riders Post 751  
Cain Automotive  
David M. Watto - Watto Chiropractic  
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Markers, Inc.  
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MMM Waste Removal, Inc.  
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Sun Motor Cars, Inc.  
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Loyal Order of Moose #1229  
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Frances M. Verstynen  
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Timothy Centers  
Shawn Smith  
Jonathan Huntoon  
Andrew Lavender  
Mary A. Nelson  
Sheila Reid  
Suzanne Kowarsch  
Ivan Queen  
Michael Hadfield  
Barbara Brusino  
Marie Drissel  
Ashley Whalen  
Mark Markowski  
Linda Laconto  
Julianne Nelson
- AGSM Dept. of MI  
AGSM Tampa Bay Chapter - Dept. of FL-PR  
AGSM Volunteer Chapter - Depart. of TN  
AGSM West Phoenix Chapter - Dept. of AZ  
AGSM Dept. of MD-DE  
AGSM Gardenia Chapter - Dept. of NC  
AGSM Dept. of KS  
AGSM SWFL Chapter - Dept. of FL-PR



Waldorf University is proud to support the American Gold Star Mothers through the Grace Darling Seibold Waldorf Warrior Scholarship.

The Grace Darling Seibold Waldorf Warrior Scholarship offers up to one Associates, Bachelor's, or Master's online degree from Waldorf University. This scholarship will be applied directly to the recipients tuition for up to 60 credit hours or 36 consecutive months, whichever comes first. This scholarship covers tuition only; any miscellaneous fees will be the responsibility of the recipient.

#### SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

- // AGSM member in good standing for the last two years. Recipient must retain membership for the duration of the scholarship.
- // Must have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED).
- // Scholarship applicants must begin their coursework within 90 days of the award date.
- // Recipients must maintain a 2.0 undergraduate GPA or 3.0 graduate GPA to continue to receive the scholarship.
- // Student must meet academic requirements for admission to Waldorf University and have completed the application.
- // Student must remain in good standing with the University for the duration of their degree program.
- // Current Waldorf University students who wish to apply must already meet these above requirements.

#### REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- // Color photo of AGSM membership card
- // Color photo of applicant's civilian photo ID

#### APPLICATION PERIOD

The Grace Darling Seibold Waldorf Warrior Scholarship application period opens June 15, 2023. All applications, scholarship essays, and transcripts must be received no later than 11:59pm CST on August 31, 2023.

Applications and essays will be evaluated exclusively by the Waldorf University Scholarship Committee. The scholarship award presentation will coincide with the Gold Star Mother's Day activities in September in the National Capitol Region (Washington D.C.).

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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.

*We Hold in Loving Memory*

*Heaven is being reunited with those we love...Author Unknown*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Department</b>
Betty Zane Van Dusen	5/14/23	Tampa Bay	FL
Cleo Aligood	5/10/23	Pikes Peak	CO
Ruth Manspile Perry	4/5/2022	Alexandria	VA
Perena Cianelli-Fair	6/14/23	Maryland	MD
Henry Winters	5/4/23	Azalea	NC

*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

**Revelation 21:4**

**Note to all Chaplains - All Death Notices go to:**

Cathy Bordeaux, National Chaplain  
 chaplain@americangoldstarmothers.org  
 AmericanGoldStarMothers.org/chaplain

