



THE GOLD STAR MOTHER

Perpetuating the Noble Principles for Which They Fought and Died

ISSUE NUMBER 227

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024


Thank You!
2023
Operation Holiday
Salute
Card Total
19,037

From the Desk of the National President

Pam Stemple, National President

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DASH



2024! What can you do this year to make it better for your spiritual and physical health, just life in general? Are you going to join a gym? Maybe start a walking program? Go back to Church? Write your Hero's story? Write your story? Make a commitment to VOLUNTEER???? Get off the couch or La-Z-Boy recliner?

Every year about this time we start thinking about starting something new to make our life better. A fresh start.

I would like to ask you to start a fresh year with American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Think of ways to help your Chapter. Contact other Ladies in your Chapter and start meeting for lunch or grab a coffee. I think this Organization could be a wonderful place to help each other if we put it as a priority. We need to make a new commitment to be there for each other. Do we have to like everyone in the Organization? No, we don't. But we should be able to come together to be with each other and be helpful.

The American Gold Star Manor is doing awesome work for us. They are helping us with some chimney repairs on Headquarters. They are always there for us. Please contact them if you would like information on moving to Long Beach, CA, and living in that wonderful complex. There are apartments available and they would love to help get you settled in a new affordable place. Think about it and give them a call.

I can't wait to see you all in Colorado Springs for the 2024 Convention. This year, we are going to do things a little different. Lee-Ann Forsythe, your National IT Chair and National Service Officer for Events, came to see Colorado Springs to do a site visit. We put our heads together and got just about everything planned. More to follow on that. All I can say is, the View is Spectacular!

I will close by saying I hope everyone found a little JOY this holiday season. Every time I went in a store, I not only looked for white clothes and gold stars, I also looked and found JOY on something. It was a wonderful reminder that our kids were present!

HAVE A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR! 2024 WILL BE AN EVENTFUL YEAR IF YOU MAKE IT ONE!

God Bless America, Pam



The National Executive Board would like to thank every Gold Star Mother, family, friend, and supporter for their participation in our winter service project, Operation Holiday Salute. Cards arrived from across the country sharing love and appreciation for our nation's veterans in hospice care.

We are proud to announce that we collected 19,037 cards for 2023! Given the huge magnitude of YOUR efforts, Veterans Last Patrol made AGSM an honorary SPONSOR of 2023's OPERATION HOLIDAY SALUTE. The AGSM logo was printed on the insert card, explaining their gratitude, that was placed inside many of the card packets that were delivered to these special veterans.



2023 AGSM National Convention
A Hayes
AGSM
AGSM Dept of Colorado
AGSM Greater SE Texas Chapter
AGSM Maryland Chapter
AGSM St Louis Chapter
AGSM SWFL Chapter
AGSM Upper State Chapter
Aileen Adragna
ALA Liberty Unit 122

Louisville, KY
Wilmington, DE
Department of NM
Colorado Springs, CO
Dept of Texas
Dept of MD
Dept of Missouri
Dept of FL-PR
Dept of South Carolina
Orion, MI
Owings Mills, MD

ALAux Carroll Unit 31
American Legion
American Legion Aux #184
American Legion Aux 153
American Legion Aux 464
American Legion Aux Federal Unit 19
American Legion Aux Unit #129
American Legion Aux Unit #39
American Legion Aux Unit 47
American Legion Aux Unit 8
American Legion Aux.

Westminster, MD
Dept of Maryland
Wildwood, NJ
Poplar Bluff, MO
Hudson, OH
Baltimore, MD
Toms River, NJ
Bel Air, MD
Havre de Grace, MD
Clifton, NJ
Department of WY

American Legion Auxiliary	Westfield, NJ	Gordon Parker	Ocala, FL
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 129	Toms River, NJ	GSM Martha Goyet & Friends	Virginia Beach, VA
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 28	Millsboro, DE	Heckathorn	Tomball, TX
American Legion Post 449	Brookfield, WI	Helen Keiser-Pedersen	Madison, CT
Aneta Jeremiah	Bronx, NY	Inspira	Vineland, NJ
Anita Wallick	Haslet, TX	International School of Minnesota	Gallatin, TN
Ann Brothers	Syracuse, NY	J Meier	Fort Myers, FL
Ann Kelley	Merced, CA	James Hubbard	Lake Orion, MI
Anonymous	Towson, MD	Janice Altmann	Marshfield, WI
Anonymous		Janice Martin	Charlestown, NH
Anonymous	Woodlynne, NJ	Jean Grimm	Wisc Rapids, WI
Anonymous	Prescott Valley, AZ	Jean Wynne	ALA Unit 39
Anonymous	West Warwick, RI	Jeanette Poston	Gate City, VA
Anonymous	Salt Lake City, UT	Joyce Harvey	Temperance, MI
Anonymous	Billings, MT	Judith Paradis	Brecksville, OH
Anonymous	Memphis, TN	Judith Young	Moorestown, NJ
Anonymous	Ann Arbor, MI	Judy Gentz	Dept of Michigan
Anonymous	Atlantic Highlands, NJ	Julia Conover	Tracy, CA
Blue Star Mothers Chapter 7	North Metro MN	Julie El-Taher	Frederick, MD
Blue Star Mothers CT3	Cromwell, CT	K. Smith	
Blue Star Mothers Houston Area	Kingwood, TX	Kappa, Kappa, Kappa	Irvington/Indianapolis Zeta
Blue Star Mothers VA 4	Fredericksburg, VA	Iota Chapter	
Bradford Catura	Milwaukee, WI	Karen Reinke	Pikes Peak Chapter, CO
Brenda Daehling	Pikes Peak Chapter, CO	Kathleen Carpenter	Trumansburg, NY
BSM and GSM Liz Kryst	Waupaca, WI	Kathy Urso	Errol, NH
C. Harvanec	Strongsville, OH	Kaylene Schultz	Phoenixville, PA
Candee	Brookfield, WI	Kelley Phillips Post 569	Onskany Falls, NY
Carol Johnson	AGSM Dept of Michigan	Kleven	Holly, MI
Carol Skop	Western NY Chapter	Koch	Fayetteville, NC
Cathy Onsted	Jackson, MI	Laura De Roo	Dept of Michigan
Cheree Barrett	Ferris, TX	Lisa Jenkins	AGSM Dept of GA
Chicagoland Blue Star Mothers	Warrenville, IL	Liz Kaiser	Gulfport, MS
Christina Stoddard	Upper Marlboro, MD	Lorna Harris	Patten, ME
Claudette Rainey	West Hartford, CT	Lynda Lambert	Hesperia, CA
Clethelda Palmer	Hartford, CT	Lynda Thompson	Brookfield, WI
CM Johnson	Fowler Village, MI	Marilyn Billard	Phoenix, AZ
Conyers First UMC Preschool	Conyers, GA	Mary Ann Lapinski	Jackson, MI
D. Layfield	Rancho Cordova, CA	Mary Humpal	Clayton, NC
Deborah Duncan, Gold Star Mom	Fairfield Twp, OH	Mary Jacobus	Bridgewater, NJ
Debra Bolden	Temple Terrace, FL	Mary Norman	Aurora, OH
Dick & Mary Herrema	AGSM of Western MI	Mary Piker	San Antonio, TX
District #5 MI	Lake Orion, MI	Michele Kegley, PhD	Ohio Gold Star Mother
Doutje Linthorst	Hayward, CA	Michelle Dyer	Chesterfield, MO
E Titz	Beaver Dam, WI	Misi Moser	Pikes Peak Chapter, CO
East Brunswick Elks Lodge 2370	East Brunswick, NJ	Mission BBQ	Fort Myers, FL
Everett Wagar Senior Group	Grafton, NY	Nancy Cioch	Herkimer, NY
Faith Skufca	Holly, MI	Nancy Ronquillo	Ludington, MI
Faye Ausborn	Gadsden, AL	Nicole Cunningham	Pennsville, NJ
Gean Clunn Family	Wilburton, OK	P. Simon	New York
Girl Scout Troop 57481	Cottage Grove, MN	Pat O'Kane-Trombley	Illinois Gold Star Mom
Glovsky Family	Cedar Park, TX		

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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	Membership
Karen	Dallas	FL-PR - Tallahassee	FL-PR	Member
Juliette	Dolence	FL-PR - Tallahassee	FL-PR	Member
Sharon	Kidd	FL - Tampa Bay - Tampa, FL	FL-PR	Member
Debbie	Thrash	FL - Treasure Coast - Stuart, FL	FL-PR	Member
Kristen	Giordano	DE - Wilmington - Wilmington	MD-DE	Member
Mary K.	Johnson	MN - MN GSM - St Paul	MN-ND-SD	Member
Courtney Ann	Chavez	NC - Gardenia - Raleigh	NC	Member
Paula	Meek	NC - Gardenia - Raleigh	NC	Member
Dana	Sabatini	NJ - Camden - Camden, NJ	NJ	Member
Wilma	Nagengast	NY - NY City Gold Stars - Manhattan, NY	NY	Member
Debra	Etheridge	PA - Central PA GSM - Harrisburg, PA	PA	Member
Ronald	Etheridge Sr.	PA - Central PA GSM - Harrisburg, PA	PA	Associate
Kimberly	Bounds	TX - Northeastern, TX, Tyler, TX	TX-OK	Member
Grace	Kotalik	TX - Greater Houston Texas, TX	TX-OK	Associate
John	Kotalik	TX - Greater Houston Texas, TX	TX-OK	Associate
Noah	Kotalik	TX - Greater Houston Texas, TX	TX-OK	Associate
Rafe	Kotalik	TX - Greater Houston Texas, TX	TX-OK	Associate
Reed	Kotalik	TX - Greater Houston Texas, TX	TX-OK	Associate
Emily	Cribb	WA - Washington State GSM -Lynnwood, WA	WA-OR-AK	Member
Tuyet	Vance-Ruffin	WI - Milwaukee - Milwaukee, WI	WI	Member

AGSM Store

Associate Pin *Friend Pin*

Tote Bags

Note Cards *Beanie*

And More...

Table Runner *Wireless Charging Pad*

AmericanGoldStarMothers.org

Pins! Pins! Glorious Pins!

The AGSM Store is introducing two new pins.

The “Associate” Pin – There is a lot of associate support in our chapters. So, we thought we should design a pin that makes them stand out and reflects them as part of our beloved organization. An associate can purchase one for themselves or, better yet, a Chapter can order some for their associates. These pins are \$8 each.

The “Friend of AGSM” Pin – How many people have been supporters of your chapters and just give and give? Now you have a way to recognize these big-hearted Friends of AGSM, from the restaurant owner to the florist to the printing shop. This is really a special pin that shows our organization’s logo and the supporter as a “friend”. Order a bunch because we know there are a lot of special people that we call friends! These pins are \$8 each.

Both pins are available on the AGSM Online Store!

AmericanGoldStarMothers.org

The First Strike for the National WWII Memorial

Lee-Ann Forsythe, Information & Technology Chair

On Wednesday 13 December 2023, 1st Vice President Patti Elliott and IT Chair Lee-Ann Forsythe had the honor to join Friends of the National World War II Memorial Chairman Jane Droppa, and Executive Director Holly Rotondi, United States Mint Deputy Director Kristie McNally, National Mall and Memorial Parks Superintendent Jeffrey Reinbold, WWII Veteran Harry Miller, “Rosie the Riveter” Mae Krier, and WWII Gold Star Daughter Roberta Nolan at the US Mint in Philadelphia for the ceremonial “first-strike” of the Greatest Generation Commemorative Coins.

This past September, in Washington DC, members of the National Executive Board were asked to participate in the unveiling of the coin designs. During the ceremony, President Pam Stemple and Senator Jeanne Shaheen unveiled the obverse of the gold coin while Patti and Lee-Ann unveiled the reverse. It was during that event that we were invited to participate in the first strike. We were unsure what to expect, but I can assure you that this experience exceeded every expectation.

After a beautiful program highlighting the contributions and patriotism of the Greatest Generation, we watched as the first coin was struck by US Mint Deputy Director Kristie McNally. Imagine our surprise and excitement when we were told that we would also have an opportunity to strike a coin! We donned safety glasses and white gloves as we stepped up to a huge machine that uses more than 35 metric tons of pressure to strike one coin. The sound is satisfying. The coin is warm and glistens in the overhead light. The weight of the coin is unexpected, but the weight of the moment is one that makes your heart skip a beat. Honoring the brave men and women who served at home and overseas is a gift. I can imagine a family receiving a coin and sharing stories with children and grandchildren about the Greatest Generation.

To sign up for coin updates on the U.S. Mint website at:
<https://catalog.usmint.gov/greatest-generation-commemorative-coin/>



Greatest Generation Commemorative Silver Coin die (stamp) (PHOTO CREDIT: US MINT)



“Rosie the Riveter” Mae Krier with Patti & Lee-Ann (PHOTO CREDIT: US MINT)



WWII Veteran Harry Miller (PHOTO CREDIT: US MINT)



United States Mint Deputy Director Kristie McNally, Friends of the National World War II Memorial Chairman, Jane Droppa, and National Mall and Memorial Parks Superintendent Jeffrey Reinbold (PHOTO CREDIT: US MINT)



First Strike Greatest Generation Commemorative Silver Coin (PHOTO CREDIT: US MINT)



WWII Gold Star Daughter Roberta Nolan with Patti and Lee-Ann



Greatest Generation Commemorative Silver Coin sculptor Phebe Hemphill and Patti



Patti and her stylish steel shoe covers



2024 Greatest Generation Commemorative Coins from the United States Mint

MOU with American Legion Auxiliary In Action

For several years now, the Gardenia Chapter, Department of North Carolina, of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. (AGSM), has hosted cookouts for the clients of the Raleigh Vet Center around Memorial Day. When AGSM National 1st Vice President, Patti Elliott, got the call in October asking if they could put together an event for Veterans Day, the scramble began. It was short notice and many of the AGSM members were unavailable for the selected date (November 3). Immediately, Patti, also a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 52, Franklinton, NC, contacted the Unit 52 members. The Auxiliary, well aware of the newly minted Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with AGSM, jumped right onboard with the plan. Soon, the Legionnaires in Post 52 were right alongside, taking care of the most important logistics - the food!!!

On the day of the event, Unit/Post 52 members and AGSM members were joined by North Carolina Department VA&R Chair Joan Galbraith and Unit 109's (Benson, NC) Wanda Moore, who brought great door prizes.

The Vet Center clients enjoy these cookouts as time of fellowship and bonding, but more importantly, it gives us a time to sit down and listen to their stories. One client, a Vietnam Veteran, shared with an AGSM member that there were times when he was in Vietnam that his mind went to dark places and he considered taking his own life. He said what stopped him were thoughts of his mother and what it would do to her. How profound that was!

According to Rebekah Solomon, a Readjustment Counselor with the Raleigh Vet Center, these events are "especially important for our Vietnam Vets, who did not receive acknowledgement for so long for their service." For those not familiar with the Vet Centers, Vet Centers are small, non-medical, counseling centers conveniently located in the community. They're staffed by highly trained counselors and team members dedicated to seeing you through the challenges that come with managing life during and after the military. They offer one-on-one counseling and group sessions. They are supervised/governed by the VA Hospital system. The Vet Center is a resource frequently given to service members who are still serving. They can take advantage of the counseling services the Vet Center offers and it will not be reported to their chain of command unless there's a danger of harm to themselves or others. They are also one of the few resources where family members can go for counseling.



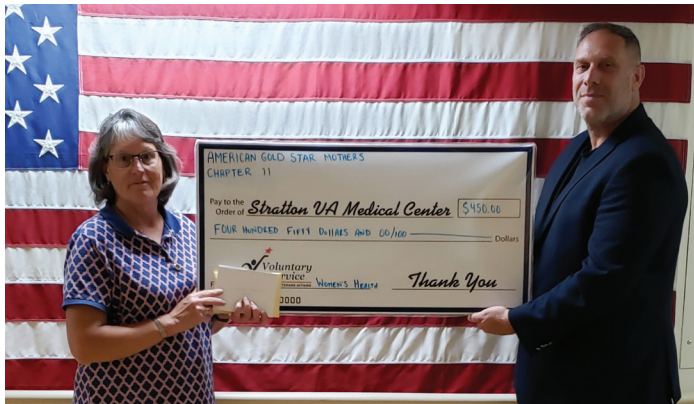
If you would like more information on how to partner with the Auxiliary, e-mail Patti Elliott at 1stvp@americangoldstarmothers.org. There are many AGSM National initiatives Auxiliary Units can also get involved in. Together, we are stronger and can all meet our mission of supporting those who have given so much to our country!



Chapter Grant

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK – ALBANY CHAPTER #11

Albany Chapter #11 received the National Chapter Grant which they used to purchase gift cards for the Stratton VA Women's Health and Maternity Department. The Chapter previously donated about \$1,000.00 worth of baby clothes, diapers and diaper bags for the Woman's Health and Maternity Department which filled the VA's small closet for upcoming needs. With the help of National and Department of NY grants, the Chapter purchased \$25 gifts cards for Walmart. The VA will be able to distribute the gift cards to Women Veterans for a variety of emergency needs. Carrie Farley, Albany Chapter #11 President, said "We are so happy to help our female population at the hospital".



DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA-PUERTO RICO – GULF COAST CHAPTER

The Gulf Coast Chapter received the National Chapter Grant to purchase 6 bicycles and donated them to Bay Pines VA Medical Center. They had the opportunity to present 2 in person and the remaining 4 bikes will be distributed to other needy Veterans at a VA sponsored standdown.



VETERAN'S LAST PATROL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Pat Parry | Stamford, CT |
| Patrice Destefano | Phoenixville, PA |
| Patricia Hinds | Avondale, AZ |
| Patricia Wolfsie | Denver, CO |
| Peace River Chapter | Department of FL-PR |
| Pete Chapman | Bolingbrook, IL |
| Phyllis Miller | Burbank, CA |
| Pikes Peak Chapter | Department of CO |
| Renee Brainerd | Crystal Lake, IL |
| Rensselaer County Department
of the Aging | East Greenbush, NY |
| Rhona Thomas | Haverstraw, NY |
| Rocky Mountain Chapter | Fort Collins, CO |
| Roma Anderson | Grosse Pointe, MI |
| Rosalie Romen | Nashville, TN |
| Rosemary Martin | Elkhorn, WI |
| Sally Dixon | GA Chapter |
| Sally Dixon, AGSM | Alpharetta, GA |
| Sandie Love | Strongsville, OH |
| Sandra Johnson-Leu | Clayton, NC |
| Sea Breeze Cares Group | Forked River, NJ |
| Sharon Rowe | Waxahachie, TX |
| Shelly Rivera | Story City, IA |
| Shirley Stephenson | Jackson, MI |
| Smalley Bros. VFW Post 6123 Aux. | Windsor Locks, CT |
| Spillman Family | Herndon, VA |
| Splendora Jr High | Splendora, TX |
| St Jude Heritage Medical Group | Santa Ana, CA |
| St Michael the Archangel School | Leawood, KS |
| St Paul's Episcopal Church | Henderson, KY |
| Stacie Beals & Friends | Pennsville, NJ &
Salem County NJ |
| Starr King Elementary | Eastvale, CA |
| Suzanne Loftus | Prospect, CT |
| Suzanne Loftus | Prospect, CT |
| Terry Chapman | Colorado Springs, CO |
| The Wilsons | Cranston RI |
| Unknown | Southwest FL |
| VFW Auxiliary | Guilford, CT |
| VFW Auxiliary 8075 | Prospect, CT |
| Volunteer Chapter | Department of TN |
| Widefield High School | Colorado Springs, CO |
| Wilburton Middle School | Wilburton, OK |
| William Fleischhauer | Litchfield, NH |
| Windsor Locks Women's Club | Windsor Locks, CT |
| Woodlawn PCB Church | Panama City Beach, FL |



VETERANS

Members of the National Executive Board were honored to participate in Veterans Day activities around Washington D.C. from our father to National Headquarters. Next, we celebrated Women Veterans at the 30th Anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. The best part of the weekend was the opportunity to share hugs, stories, and laughter with



Sigma Nu Alumna Weston Waite and his proud father



Taps is played at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier after the Presidential wreath laying

(PHOTO CREDIT: DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS)



Parade of Flags at the National Veterans Day Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Amphitheater

(PHOTO CREDIT: DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS)



National Flag Guard Teresa Bullock and National Information & Technology Chair Lee-Ann Forsythe, both Veterans, lay the AGSM Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



Members of the National Executive Board visit with friends including Kim Mitchell at the Veterans Day National Committee luncheon

(PHOTO CREDIT: KIM MITCHELL)



Sharing AGSM History



Vietnam Veteran and AGSM NEB Member, Rose Duval at the Vietnam Women's Memorial (PHOTO CREDIT: PATRICK HUGHES)



Native American blessing at the Vietnam Women's Memorial 30th Anniversary



Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Amphitheater (PHOTO CREDIT: DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS)

MEMORIAL DAY 2023



on DC 10 & 11 November 2023. First, we welcomed Duquesne University Sigma Nu Alumna Weston Waite and his proud women's Memorial. Finally, we participated in wreath laying and commemoration ceremonies at war memorials and together with our nation's Heroes.



Memorial Day Observance at Memorial Amphitheater



Members of the Veteran Service Organization Parade of Flags on the steps of the Memorial Amphitheater



Veteran Service Organization wreaths waiting to be laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
(PHOTO CREDIT: DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS)



Vietnam Women's Memorial (PHOTO CREDIT: PATRICK HUGHES)



Members of the NEB at the Vietnam Women's Memorial 30th Anniversary (PHOTO CREDIT: PATRICK HUGHES)



(PHOTO CREDIT: DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS)



President Joseph Biden lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
(PHOTO CREDIT: DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS)



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Community Service Reporting Guidelines

Thank you for all you do for our military and veteran communities and their families, your community, and our organization. Reporting these volunteer hours, miles and donations reflects the effectiveness of our organization in fulfilling our mission. Numbers from each Member, each Chapter and each Department add up to make a big difference, and we are grateful for your dedication and service.

Timeline for Community Service Reporting:

- **February 1:** Deadline for each AGSM Member to complete and submit previous year's Community Service Tally Sheet (Form #CSR1) to her Chapter CSR Rep or Chapter President
- **March 1:** Deadline for Chapter CSR Rep or President to complete and submit the Chapter Year-End Summary (Form #CSR2) to the Department CSR Rep or Department President
- **April 1:** Deadline for Department CSR Rep or President to complete and submit the Department Year-End Summary (Form #CSR3) to the National CSR Chair

Below are a few guidelines and FAQs as you complete your reports:

You may count any activity in which you are involved that helps the Military and Veteran Community and/or their Families; the Gold Star Community; and your local Community. An EXCEPTION is Church activity and giving. These hours and/or dollars are not to be included in AGSM reporting as these are treated differently by IRS reporting guidelines.

You do not need to report VAVS volunteer hours on your AGSM Community Service Report. Volunteers registered with the VA Hospitals are tracked by the VA System and your VAVS volunteer hours are automatically sent to the National VAVS Rep.

Some examples of **Service to the Military and Veteran Community** might include:

- Miles traveled, hours spent, money spent Christmas shopping for military children
- Attending a Wreaths Across America ceremony
- Soliciting sponsors for Wreaths Across America
- Picking up donations for military families and delivering them to a military installation
- Attending the funeral of a Fallen Hero or veteran
- Attending a Veteran's Day ceremony or parade
- Helping organize a dinner recognizing service members and/or veterans
- Donations to your local USO
- Caregiving for a veteran (including providing transportation, shopping, preparing meals, cleaning, etc.)

Some examples of **Service to the Gold Star Community** might include:

- Visiting chapter members who are sick or homebound
- Sending cards or letters to others in the Gold Star Community
- Attending Chapter or Department meetings
- Participating in events with Survivor Outreach Services
- Caregiving for others in the Gold Star Community (including providing transportation, shopping, preparing meals, cleaning, etc.)



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Community Service Tally Sheet

For Chapter members to record Community Service activity from January 1 to December 31 annually. Additional pages may be added, if needed. Submit completed record to your Chapter President or Chapter Community Service Rep no later than February 1 each year. See Community Service Report Guidelines (AGSM Form #CSR4) for details and FAQs.

Member Name: _____ Chapter: _____
Reporting Year: January 1 to December 31, 20_____

Service to the Military and Veteran Community:

Table with 5 columns: Date of Service, Activity, Hours, Miles Traveled, Monetary/In-Kind Donation Value. Includes a TOTALS row at the bottom.

Service to the Gold Star Community:

Table with 5 columns: Date of Service, Activity, Hours, Miles Traveled, Monetary/In-Kind Donation Value. Includes a TOTALS row at the bottom.

Service to the Community:

Table with 6 columns: Date of Service, Activity, Hours, Miles Traveled, Monetary/In-Kind Donation Value, Total Pints of Blood Donated. Includes a TOTALS row at the bottom.

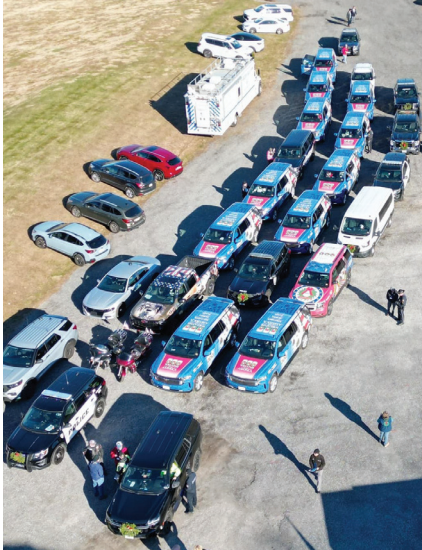
Wreaths Across America 2023

Pam Stemple, National President

I would like to thank all our AGSM members that joined Wreaths Across America, December 16th. Can you imagine the impact we could make in all 4,000+ cemeteries across the Country if we had all our members go to these cemeteries? If we were up to 4000 members maybe we could hit all these Veterans and say their names. If only.

This year I had the honor of going on the Convoy from Maine to Arlington. I will tell you right now, that patriotism is not over in America. I have never seen so many US Flags flying! It was

inspiring to see the kids standing out in the cold waving those flags. It was inspiring to see the older people standing with them waving their flags. Fire trucks on over passes with that big old flag flying! If you want to see what is truly going on in small town American sign up for this trip. Your heart would be filled with JOY and love. Wreaths Across America loves Gold Star Families. And we love the Wreaths Across America crew! They continue to say the names of the Heroes!



WAA Vehicles carried WAA staff, volunteers, veterans, and Gold Star families from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery

(PHOTO CREDIT: WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA)



(PHOTO CREDIT: WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA)



(PHOTO CREDIT: WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA)



(PHOTO CREDIT: WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA)



(Honouring Allies and Remembering Together) Ceremony at The Canadian Border, Lubec ME



National President Pam Stemple places a wreath during the Sunrise Service at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse (PHOTO CREDIT: WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA)



National President Pam Stemple placed a wreath at The Mother's Tree on Wreaths Across America Day



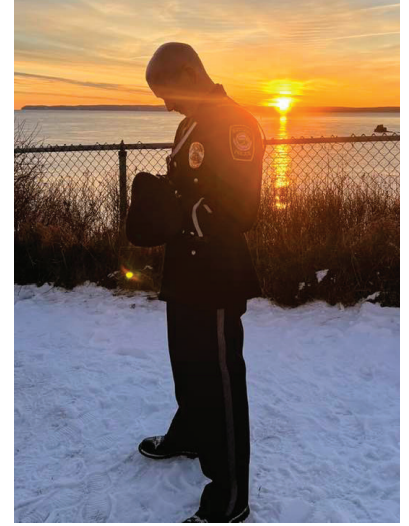
Wreaths Across America Day at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington DC



Delaware County Veterans Memorial, Newtown Square PA



Sunrise Service at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse, Lubec, ME. (PHOTO CREDIT: WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA)



Sunrise Service at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse, Lubec, Maine, is the easternmost point of the contiguous United States (PHOTO CREDIT: WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA)



National President Pam Stemple with WWII Navy Veteran HM3 Phyllis Gallant (102 years young), Auburn, MA



Delaware County Veterans Memorial, Newtown Square PA



National President Pam Stemple at the Canadian Border, Lubec ME



Volunteers begin arriving at Arlington National Cemetery on Wreaths Across America Day



West Quoddy Head Lighthouse (PHOTO CREDIT: WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA)



Liberation Monument, Jersey City NJ



The Canadian Border, Lubec ME



*American Gold Star
Mothers, Inc.
87th National Convention*

*Thursday 20 June-
Sunday 23 June 2024*

*The Antlers,
A Wyndham Hotel
4 S. Cascade Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903*

*Watch for details coming
February 2024
AmericanGoldStarMothers.org*

“It’s all about the dash.”

**January/February
Calendar of Events
and Important Dates**



- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1 January | New Year's Day |
| 15 January | Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday |
| 17 January | Ben Franklin Day |
| 26 January | Spouse's Day |
| February | Black History Month |
| 2 February | Groundhog Day |
| 3 February | Four Chaplains Day |
| 4 February | USO Birthday |
| 10 February | Chinese New Year |
| 11 February | National Salute to Veteran Patients Week |
| 13 February | Mardi Gras Begins |
| 14 February | Valentine's Day |
| 19 February | President's Day |
| 19 February | Coast Guard Reserve Birthday |

*For details on these events
and more go to
AmericanGoldStarMothers.org*

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





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.



OCTOBER 30 - DECEMBER 6, 2023

VFW Post 1114
 Disabled American Veterans Chapter 26
 Norwalk Village Green Chapter, National Society
 Daughters of The American Revolution
 Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
 Lincoln And Carrie Wallerstedt
 Richard And Macia Frank
 Beverlyly Ann And Clifford Brooks
 Pat and John Wolfsie
 Marilyn Stites

Kenny and Vicky Holt
 Gretchen Carlisle
 Cleo Carlisle
 Andrew and Janice Parnes
 Stacy Hall
 Holeman Family
 Linda Calvert
 Rhino's Sports and Spirits
 Faricy Boys
 Fay Ferguson



We Hold in Loving Memory

*"These Mothers will always be with us. Their race has ended but the legacy they leave behind continues!
 Many of us never met them personally but those that did, what an honor!"*

Name	Date	Chapter	Department	Membership
Kay Olson	9/5/2023	Eau Claire	WI	Mother
Winifred Bobula	8/10/2023	Pittsburgh	PA	

"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





American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
2128 Leroy Place, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1893
202.265.0991
www.americangoldstarmothers.org

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Address Service Requested

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.

In the next issue:

February NEB Meeting Minutes

2024 National Convention Details

2024 Memorial Day Weekend Updates