



## **American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.**

2025 - 2026 National Executive Board

Meeting Minutes - January 21, 2026

The business meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm (EST) by President Annette Kirk (see agenda in *Attachment 1*) A motion to dispense with the ritual was made by Joyce Paulsen and seconded by Sherrie McGhee . The motion carried.

Chaplain Sherrie McGhee offered the opening prayer, and Sergeant-at-Arms Denise Torbert led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Chanta Vasquez conducted the roll call of officers. Eleven members of the NEB were present: President, Annette Kirk; First Vice President, Joyce Paulsen; Second Vice President, Teresa Bullock; Treasurer, Theresa Karlson; Secretary, Chanta Vasquez; Sergeant-at-Arms, Denise Torbert; Chaplain, Sherrie McGhee; Flag Guard, Evelyn Baltierra; Banner Guard, Tammy Bell; NSO, Rose Duval; VAVS National Chair, Carla Wicks; and IT Chair, Nichole Chilton absent with permission.

### **Mid-year Reports**

Officer and Committee reports are due into the Drive by February 2, 2026

### **Travel to DC**

February Board Meeting agenda:

Sunday, February 15, 2026 arrival

Monday, February 16th Meeting

Tuesday, February 17th Meeting follow up if necessary and project break outs.

Wednesday, February 18th Departure

Sherrie McGhee will be attending the February Board Meeting via Zoom and the IT Chair will not be in attendance but will be available for questions regarding her reports.

## Legislation

- I. Madam President presented a Bill proposed by the Military of Purple Heart as a joint venture with AGSM. Inc. (See attachment 2-5) Madam President asked the board to read over the provided attachments for an upcoming discussion and vote.
- II. Madam President shared that the Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Act passed January 20, 2026. AGSM, Inc. had sent a letter of support for this back in 2022. This endorsement underscores the importance of safeguarding veterans and their families from deceptive practices.

## DWG Proposal for AGSM, Inc.

A motion was made by Teresa Bullock to go into Executive Session and seconded by Carla Wicks, Following no discussion, motion carried.

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Sherrie McGee and seconded by Teresa Bullock. After no discussion, motion carried.

Madam President asks the NEB to join a joint discussion on Zoom on January 28, 2026 with the Centennial Committee and representatives from DWG.

## Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

## New Business

- I. **A motion was made by the Ways and Means Committee to spend \$1,251.25 to purchase Gold Star Decals, Large Biker style patches sets and 4" logo patches with supporter rocker. Following no discussion, motion was carried.**
- II. Madam President shared that the HQ cell phone needs to be replaced as it has physical and functional damage. Annette and Theresa Karlson will research phone options for future purchase. Until the purchase of the new phone Madam President will forward the HQ line to her personal cell.

Chaplain Sherrie McGee closed the meeting with a prayer

Meeting adjourned at 9:25PM

Respectfully submitted, Chanta Vasquez,  
National Secretary

NEB Approved date: January 30, 2026

<u><i>Chanta Vasquez</i></u>	<u>1/21/2026</u>
Chanta Vasquez	Date



## *American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.*

2025-2026 National Executive Board Meeting

January 21, 2026

Agenda

Call to Order Special Meeting

Motion to Dispense with the Ritual

Opening Prayer - Sherrie McGhee

Pledge of Allegiance – Denise Torbert

Roll Call of Officers – Chanta Vasquez

- I. Update on mid-year reports (Officer & Committee)
  - a. Due February 2, 2026
- II. Travel to DC/update schedule in Drive
- III. Legislation
- IV. DWG Proposal for AGSM, Inc. Centennial Committee

Unfinished Business

New Business

Good of the Order

Motion to Adjourn

## **Proposed Legislation**

### **Short Title**

The Purple Heart Gold Star Recognition Act

### **A BILL**

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide a visible and standardized distinction on the Purple Heart medal and certificate when awarded posthumously, recognizing his or her sacrifice and honoring the enduring sacrifice borne by the surviving family of the fallen hero.

### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Purple Heart Gold Star Recognition Act.”

### **SECTION 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

Congress finds the following:

1. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded or killed as a result of hostile action in defense of the United States.
2. When a service member is killed in action, his or her sacrifice is permanent and is carried forward by the surviving family, who are recognized as Gold Star family members.
3. The Purple Heart certificate and medal currently do not contain a visible distinction to identify recipients who were killed in action.
4. A modest, dignified visual distinction on the Purple Heart certificate and medal would honor his or her sacrifice while formally acknowledging the enduring sacrifice of the fallen hero’s family.
5. Such a distinction may be implemented with minimal cost and administrative burden while holding profound symbolic and commemorative value.

### **SECTION 3. GOLD STAR DISTINCTION ON PURPLE HEART CERTIFICATE.**

- A. Requirement.—In the case of a posthumous award of the Purple Heart to a service member killed in action, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the accompanying citation certificate includes a Gold Star or gold wreath distinction recognizing his or her sacrifice and the sacrifice borne by the surviving family.

- B. Form.—The distinction may be implemented as:
  - 1. An embossment, placed on the certificate in a dignified and permanent manner consistent with existing military awards and heraldry standards.
- C. Uniformity.—The form, size, and placement of the distinction shall be standardized across all branches of the Armed Forces.

#### **SECTION 4. GOLD STAR DISTINCTION ON PURPLE HEART MEDAL RIBBON.**

- A. Requirement.—In the case of a posthumous award of the Purple Heart to a service member killed in action, the Secretary of Defense shall provide for the inclusion of a small Gold Star or gold wreath device affixed to the ribbon of the Purple Heart medal, and not to the medal itself.
- B. Purpose.—The device shall serve as a visible and respectful indicator that the Purple Heart recipient was killed in action and that his or her sacrifice continues through the sacrifice endured by the surviving family.
- C. Design Limitation.—The device shall be:
  - 1. Subtle and dignified in size;
  - 2. Consistent with the historic character of the Purple Heart; and
  - 3. Uniform across all branches of service.

#### **SECTION 5. PRESENTATION TO NEXT OF KIN.**

The Purple Heart certificate and medal bearing the Gold Star distinction shall be presented to the designated next of kin in the same manner as other posthumous Purple Heart awards.

#### **SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTATION AND COST CONSIDERATIONS.**

- A. Implementation.—The Secretary of Defense shall implement the requirements of this Act not later than 180 days after enactment.
- B. Cost Control.—Implementation shall be accomplished using existing award production and distribution systems to the maximum extent practicable.

#### **SECTION 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to:

- 1. Alter eligibility criteria for the Purple Heart;
- 2. Affect the precedence, wear, or status of the Purple Heart; or
- 3. Diminish recognition afforded to service members wounded in action.



