



MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT/UNDERSTANDING (MOA/MOU)

Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

and

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

This is an agreement between Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (SHGTUS), hereinafter called SHGTUS or Society and American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., hereinafter called AGSM.

I. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this MOA/MOU is to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of each party as they relate to supporting common missions and plans for continuing to educate America about the service and sacrifices of our nation's warriors and their families; how the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is the national point of remembrance and honor; and such other new initiatives that support the missions of SHGTUS and AGSM as amended from time to time.

This MOA/MOU is intended to outline areas where SHGTUS can partner with AGSM and use its resources, media and social media to:

- Disseminate information about these initiatives and about the history of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (TUS)
- Assist SHGTUS in outreach and education initiatives
- As an outgrowth of this support, SHGTUS expects to increase its educational opportunities to discuss, honor, or memorialize the service and sacrifice of members of the uniformed services of the United States of America in all wars or armed conflict.

II. BACKGROUND

The Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was founded in 1999 as a 501(c)(3) educational organization by former members of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier platoon to support the mission of the TUS platoon and past, current, and future members of

the Honor Guard that stand watch as directed by Congress since 1926 and the eternal vigil since 1937. The Society's mission, like the meaning of the Tomb, is to ensure that America never forgets nor forsakes those millions who served or sacrificed on behalf of America in times of war or armed conflict.

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., is a Congressionally chartered veterans service organization registered in the United States Patent Office, Legislative Branch of the United States Congressional Library and the United States World Book Almanac with a mission to keep alive and develop the spirit that promoted world services; maintain the ties of fellowship born of that service and to assist and further all patriotic work; inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, State, and Nation; and to aid in any way in their power the men and women who served and died or were wounded or incapacitated during hostilities; perpetuate the memory of those whose lives were sacrificed in our wars; maintain true allegiance to the United States of America; inculcate lessons of patriotism and love of country in the communities in which we live; inspire respect for the Stars and Stripes in the youth of America; extend needful assistance to all Gold Star Mothers and, when possible, to their descendants; and to promote peace and goodwill for the United States and all other Nations.

Both SHGTUS and AGSM have a mission to ensure the service and sacrifices of America's military are honored and never forgotten.

III. SHGTUS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOA/MOU

- Promote SHGTUS and AGSM initiatives
- Jointly list in print/social media as supporting partners due to our unique commonalities, further being listed as a resource for our Nation's Gold Star Mothers
- Provide SHGTUS committee chairs and directors with information about AGSM initiatives and encourage them to incorporate them into their local outreach and educational efforts
- Where possible, provide guest speakers or presentations at AGSM events
- Where possible, provide a SHGTUS presence at AGSM events
- Include AGSM on information updates about activities and projects
- Encourage AGSM national and chapter leadership to support SHGTUS-developed activities, to include, but not limited to:
 - The National Salute Project - encouraging individuals, AGSM members, communities, and organizations to ring bells 21 times and have a moment of silence during Veterans Day Programs (preferably at 11:00 AM local)
 - Establishment of Never Forget Gardens in local communities and AGSM members' residences as a visual way to demonstrate remembrance of the sacrifices of America's veterans, first responders and their families
 - Other community outreach and support programs that advance the mission of

both the Society and AGSM

- Leverage social media platforms to disseminate information on SHGTUS and AGSM projects
- Assist with the design, planting, and dedication of a Never Forget Garden at the AGSM National Headquarters
- Participate in, where possible, AGSM outreach activities
- Promote AGSM activities that support and foster the missions of both AGSM and SHGTUS
- Provide AGSM with SHGTUS logos for partner recognition opportunities

IV. AGSM RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOA/MOU

- Jointly list in print/social media as supporting partners due to our unique commonalities, further being listed as a resource for our veterans
- Include SHGTUS in invitations and announcements about AGSM supported activities
- Offer SHGTUS recommended, TUS relevant documentary film showings at appropriate times
- Promote the original music “Journey Home,” written by Sara Corey
- Promote the dramatic reading of “In Arlington” and “The Vigil”
- Promote and encourage chapters to develop a Never Forget Garden at their personal residences or within their community
- Design, plant, and dedicate a Never Forget Garden at the AGSM National Headquarters
- Encourage AGSM chapters to reach out and schedule free educational presentations from former Tomb Guards through the SHGTUS Community Outreach program
- Provide SHGTUS with AGSM logos for partner recognition opportunities

V. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT

- This MOU/MOA may be modified or canceled at any time at the request of either party.
- The MOU/MOA will be in effect until either party determines that it be amended superseded or canceled.

VI. FUNDING:

- No funding is required or requested by either party to support this MOU/MOA.

- This partnership does not entail fundraising on behalf of either party in support of the other.
- Funding opportunities will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURE: This MOA/MOU shall be effective upon the signature of AGSM and SHGTUS authorized officials. It shall be in force from September 24, 2022, or until one or both of the parties determines it expired.

Sarah Taylor
National President
American Gold Star Mothers, Inc

Lonny LeGrand
President
Society of the Honor Guard,
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier