



Gold Star Families Memorial Monument

A tribute to

Gold Star
Mothers,
Fathers,
and
Relatives

who sacrificed
a Loved One
for our Freedom.



National War Council

“Repair the Breach”



GOLD STAR FAMILIES

Service members don't serve alone. In 2015, there was a reported total of 1,728,710 family members who served alongside their Active Duty service member. Of that number, there were 1,076,803 children and 641,639 spouses. Whether you live in a prevalent military community or not, chances are you know a family member of someone that serves in the Armed Forces.

What is a Gold Star Family?

A Gold Star Family is the immediate family member(s) of a fallen service member who died while serving in a time of conflict.

A Gold Star Family can display a Gold Star Service Flag for service members who were killed or died, while serving in the Armed Forces, from causes other than dishonorable. The number of gold stars on the flag corresponds to the number of individuals who were killed or died. A gold star is placed over the blue star on a Blue Star Service Flag so that the blue forms a border and creates Gold Star Service Flag. The U.S. Department of Defense also issues Gold Star lapel pins to immediate family members of a fallen service



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member of the military. These pins are worn by spouses, parents, and children of service members killed in the line of duty and contain a gold star on a purple circular background. 5

A former Marine, and member of a Gold Star Family, I was thirteen (13) when opening the door after hearing a knock. Two men in military uniform were standing before me. I had no idea what they wanted as they asked if my mother was home. Answering yes, they went inside and asked if I would wait outside. That day, and the chilling scream of my mother, is forever etched in my memory. Her firstborn had made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam and that day, a part of my mom died as well. The next few weeks were a blur but I remember the 21-gun salute, the casket being lowered into the ground and an officer handing my mother the flag (folded) that had draped my brother's casket. Our family was never the same.

Against the wishes of my mother, I served our nation and keep the memories alive of what Gold Star Families go through. A brother or sister is one thing; now being a parent, I cannot imagine the pain and loss we would feel losing our only child. Hearing “free college” for everyone from liberals, socialists and other “politicians” (who probably never served or had that knock on their door) gave me the idea of the Eagle 1 Program for this President that genuinely cares about our veterans and Gold Star Families.



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The Eagle 1 Program:

As described, “a Gold Star Family is the immediate family member(s) of a fallen service member who died while serving in a time of conflict.” Meeting entry requirements and maintaining pre-established academic criteria, any member of the immediate family of the service member who died or is 75% disabled will have the entire cost of their selected college, university or trade school paid for by the U.S. Government. The program will have no “hidden costs” or “surprises” while registering or at the conclusion of each semester. As with the Special Operations Foundation, the family member may remain qualified through post-graduate work and completion of a PhD.

Three suggestions:

- 1) The Eagle 1 Program would be administered by a 501 (c) 3 organization that is currently operating a similar program. Organization must show 95% of the funds go directly to benefit Gold Star Members. Budget from Congress for scholarships and administration would be in ten year increments.**
- 2) The President create a senior level position in the White House to oversee the Eagle 1 Program and serve as a liaison for the President to other related programs.**
- 3) The President announce the Gold Star Eagle 1 Program at the GOP Convention for 2020.**



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