



Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

This Sunday will mark the 80th year our nation has set aside a special day to honor mothers who've lost a son or daughter in service to their country.

The Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day is our time to recognize the sacrifice that all Gold Star Family members have made. The term "gold star" began during World War I when it became a symbol of mourning for a family's blue star service flag to be replaced by a gold star flag when their loved one died. Today, gold star mothers, fathers, children and other family members honor their loved one by volunteering and fundraising for causes that support our veterans.

There are 300 Gold Star members in Ohio, and our Army Survivor Outreach Services team supports more than 2,200 mothers and family members who represent more than 1,200 fallen service members. Survivor Outreach Services provides grief counseling, benefit assistance and any other support a family needs, while keeping them connected with the military and other survivors for as long as they wish.

A public ceremony will be held on Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Gold Star Memorial Shrine located in the Mohican-Memorial State Forest in Ashland County. The ceremony has been held annually since 1947 when the stone building, which holds historical books listing the names of Ohio's fallen heroes, was dedicated. The shrine is open 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Our Military Families provide the strength and support we need to serve our missions. Gold Star Mothers and Families show strength in their sacrifice, and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman
Adjutant General

