Honoring Gold Star Mothers

For nearly a century, the Gold Star tradition has reminded all Americans of the men and women who have sacrificed their lives in the service of our Nation. During World War I, homes, businesses, schools and churches displayed flags bearing a blue star for each service member serving in harm's way. When a service member was killed in the line of duty, a gold star was stitched over the blue one. From this simple expression of community solidarity, the Gold Star Mothers – an organization comprised of mothers who have lost a son or daughter in the service of our Nation – was born.

Being a Gold Star Mother is a distinction that no mother wants. But, in the face of their incalculable personal sorrow, the women of the Gold Star Mothers inspire us all through their grace and selflessness. Their commitment, courage, and constant vigil ensure that America does not forget the sacrifice of her fallen sons and daughters.

The Congress has designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day," which is celebrated this year on September 24-25, with a number of events scheduled in Washington, D.C. That weekend, we will pause to commemorate the continued service of the Gold Star Mothers – women who have been forever changed through the sacrifice of their children.

The Gold Star Mothers, as well as all family members who bear the great burden of loss, will always be cherished members of our great Army Family. We maintain our commitment to support them while honoring the legacy of the fallen – our Soldiers and their children.

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