

Gold Star Mothers Day Sept. 30

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The Gold Star tradition has been in our country for nearly a century as a reminder of the men and women who have sacrificed their lives in the service of their nation. During World War I, flags were displayed in homes, businesses, schools and churches bearing a blue star for each military service member. A gold star was stitched over the blue one when one of the

members of the military had given their life for their country. From this simple expression of community solidarity, the Gold Star Mothers - an organization comprised of mothers who have lost a son or daughter in war - was born.

The Army joins all Americans in support of the 2012 Gold Star Mothers Day on Sunday, September 30. This weekend is dedicated to women who have been forever changed by the pledge their children made to lay down their own lives to defend the values and ideals that define us as Americans. Memorial events will be held at Arlington National Cemetery, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Please take time on this day to remember both those who have given their lives in the service of our country and the loved ones they have left behind.

“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,” said Gen. Raymond Odierno, Chief of Staff of the Army. “We maintain our commitment to support them while honoring the legacy of the fallen -- our Soldiers and their children.”

Gold Star Mothers are an inspiration to all Americans because they exemplify courage, grace and fortitude in the face of incalculable sorrow. The Army is dedicated to providing long-term support throughout the grief process. The Army's Survivor Outreach Services deliver a coordinated, comprehensive, and standardized program across the force that meets survivors needs with dedicated resources and a commitment to first class service for as long as the family desires.

Groups like the Gold Stars Mothers who support the families of the fallen send the critical message that those we have lost will not be forgotten. On behalf of a grateful nation, we salute America's Gold Star Mothers. They are, and always will be, members of our great Army family. The Army, along with our nation, recognizes their courage, and we renew our commitment to support them as we honor the legacy of the fallen - our Soldiers, their children.

The Army's [Survivor Outreach Services](#) has oversight on these programs.

The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. are hosting an event at Arlington National Cemetery Sept. 30, at 2 p.m. For more information visit

<http://www.goldstarmoms.com/Events/GoldStarMothersSunday/GSMSunday2012/GSMSunday2012.htm>

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