



GOLD STAR MISSION
2017-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

**Welcome to the first "Annual Report"
for The Gold Star Mission!**

**This report is for you, highlighting
your role and contributions into
making The Gold Star Mission
successful! Your participation in an
event, volunteering to make things
happen, your ongoing donations, and
most importantly your continued
sacrifices, have been unwavering as
we honor our Fallen Heroes and their
Gold Star Families!**

**The past four years have taken us on
an inspiring journey of community
connection, camaraderie, and new
memories with Illinois' Gold Star
Families of our Fallen Heroes. We
deeply appreciate each one of you
taking us along. The Gold Star
Mission will remain relevant and
focused on serving Gold Star Families
and be poised for future success due
to your continued support!**

**Starting in 2021, The Gold Star
Mission will complete the Annual
Report yearly.**

**ALWAYS REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET**

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Great ideas often have humble beginnings. Gold Star Mission started with Jake...

A LETTER FROM GSM PRESIDENT

SSgt Jacob Frazier became the Illinois National Guard's first Service member killed in action, post September 11th, 2001. He was 24 years young when he selflessly sacrificed his life in service to our great nation on a battlefield in Afghanistan March 29th, 2003. For many years I kept SSgt Frazier's photograph on my office wall at Camp Lincoln, in Springfield, Illinois. Far too often, people with no direct military affiliation, came to my office for meetings. Later gesturing towards Jake's picture, they'd ask, "Who's that?" I would always tell the same story, how he was the first post 9/11, how he was a



tactical combat controller, how he was Illinois' only Air Guard member killed in action to date, as they listened intently about this amazing Service member. Jake sacrificed himself on foreign soil while most his age were finishing college, starting careers and families. Moreover, as time wore on, realization struck me, I knew little about the man myself, I actually needed to know much more about him. I needed to, for I wanted to tell the story of Jake's 'dash', the short line between his birth and death that so defined him. I wanted to accurately tell, and ensure that his story, who he was, how he lived, would Always be Remembered and Never Forgotten.

To remember our Fallen Heroes, ensuring that their names and legacies live on forever, a group of veterans and military supporters held a small informal gathering in early spring of 2017. From this inauspicious group, Gold Star Mission was created. All present shared a vision. The vision became our mission: Amplify the voices for countless numbers of Gold Star Families, friends, and communities who knew these Fallen Heroes. Gold Star Mission endeavors to share the stories of the Fallen, to fill in the gap between the dates.

In becoming that amplifier, ensuring these stories broadcast to the widest audience, Gold Star Mission chose to take on physically challenging events. Gold Star Mission developed events which became symbolic testaments to the sacrifices, hardships, and loss endured by those who knew these Fallen Heroes. The original event, a 500-mile, four day cycling event known as the Gold Star 500 would be theorized, planned, and executed in less than nine months, coinciding with Gold Star Mother's Day in September 2017. In 2018 we added a 20-hour, 200+ mile cycling event known as the General Logan 200. Next, 2019 would see the addition of a multi-distance run known as the Illinois Gold Star Run for the Fallen. Gold Star Mission further added our voice to several other events, another way of broadcasting the names of these great American's to the largest possible audience.

During each of these events, donations were collected with the intent of awarding academic scholarships to young men and women pursuing higher education or trade skills, these young men and women exhibiting the same selfless service and dedication to others as the fallen Service members. Our ultimate measure of success became academic scholarship recipients learning about the Soldier, Airman, Sailor or Marine for whom their individual scholarship is named in honor of. The process of getting to know the survivors, listening to their stories and passing them along to scholarship recipients, all while hearing scholarship recipients share their quest for knowledge and understanding, allowed us to broadcast to a much greater audience.

Our mission, our hope is that our Fallen Heroes are forever remembered, that scholarship recipients long remember and never forget, while sharing the stories of our Fallen, saying their names, so that in truth, these Heroes never truly die. Gold Star Mission has become so much more than an organization, it is a way to ensure those who made the Ultimate Sacrifice did not do so in vain, and that Americans everywhere Always Remember, and Never Forget the sacrifices of those who make this great country what it is today - a symbol of freedom around the world.

David Helfrich - President, Gold Star Mission

GOLD STAR FAMILIES

EVERYTHING IS DONE TO AMPLIFY THE VOICES OF ILLINOIS' GOLD STAR FAMILIES. WE ARE HONORED TO JOIN THEM IN THEIR JOURNEY.

NITA CROSS

I feel very privileged to be associated and a part of the Gold Star Mission. My name is Nita Cross, a Gold Star mom of SFC Kyle Wehrly, who was KIA in Iraq on November 3, 2005. Only those who have experienced this life changing tragedy can relate to what it is like to walk in our shoes.

My husband, Rick, and I always make a point to attend the Gold Star ceremony on Veterans Day at the Illinois State Fair. Attending the fair back in 2017, I was very impressed by a group, Gold Star Mission, that had set up a display of their upcoming bicycle ride to honor the fallen. I was introduced to a great person, Tyler Glynn, who was going to ride his bicycle 500 miles in honor of my son, SFC Kyle Wehrly. He put my son's name on his bicycle and later his helmet to remember him. Tyler had never met my son but wanted to ride in his honor, he also made arrangements to come to Galesburg and meet Janet, my daughter-in-law and Kylee, their daughter. We have made a lifetime friendship from this.



Unfortunately my husband and I were unable to attend the first ride from Cairo, IL to the Chicago, IL area. Tyler kept us informed along the route, so I felt I was truly with them on this long 500 mile journey. We told the Gold Star Mission group we wanted to be a part of this event and to count us in for the next year. This was one of the best decisions I've made to help others and myself.

Words can not describe how dedicated these individuals are in riding for the fallen soldiers and keeping their memory alive along with educating the public, to never forgetting what they have done for our country. Personally, I've been able to meet other Gold Star families and hear their stories of the loss of their loved ones and their lives. I wonder if the Gold Star Mission riders realize just how many lives they have touched from this life changing journey they make. It has also brought up great memories of my son and how proud I am of his life and his dedication to his National Guard Unit. I have both laughed with this spectacular group of individuals and also cried with them. So many great memories, and Rick as a professional photographer has captured so many precious moments of the past few rides for everyone.

I truly missed not having the Gold Star 500 ride this past year because of Covid-19. I am looking forward to the upcoming ride in September. This Gold Star 500 ride and the individuals who attend touches me personally, it may have been 15 years since the loss of my son in Iraq but the hurt and the pain are still the same today. I have shared with so many in this group and other Gold Star families that the pain and loss never goes away, but you just learn to live with it. Also we need to make sure your loved ones memory is remembered and keep the pride of them serving.

Thank you Gold Star Mission for keeping the memory of fallen Service members alive also with the handing out of scholarships to young individuals, this is a part of helping our next generation to remember and never forget. In closing I want to thank everyone who has touched my life from the Gold Star Mission, I miss everyone and wish everyone a safe journey until we meet again, you will never know how much you have encouraged Rick, myself and my family.

ABOUT GOLD STAR MISSION

The Gold Star Mission was established in 2017 in Springfield, Illinois after several veterans and friends, moved by stories of the Gold Star Families that lost a loved one in Afghanistan or Iraq, took action to help others in need. What started as a desire to provide scholarships for surviving children has evolved into widespread effort to assist Gold Star Families and others in need in order to preserve the memory of our Fallen Heroes.



Gold Star Mission Strategy

Mission: Inspire people and mobilize resources in service to others; as a lasting remembrance of our Fallen Military Heroes.

Vision: A nation of communities inspired to Always Remember, Never Forget the names of Fallen Military Heroes, value their sacrifices, and honor their families.

Objectives:

- Provide Support to Gold Star Families;
- Ensure Lasting Remembrance of our Fallen Heroes;
- Mobilize Resources;
- Inspire People.

Values:

Honorable - Be worthy of the trust and esteem of Gold Star Families, the Public, and our Fallen Military Heroes.

Relevant - Be pertinent to the matter at hand; in our case, devotion to pursuing our objectives to achieve the mission of remembrance of our Fallen Military Heroes.



ACTIVITIES

**ALWAYS REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET**

2017 ACTIVITIES



EVENT	DATE	HIGHLIGHTS
Gold Star 500	SEP 26 - 29	38 RIDERS
		26 VOLUNTEERS
		17,000 MILES
		26 CITIES ACROSS IL

GOLD STAR 500

The best way to start describing the Gold Star 500 is with a quote usually attributed to Albert Einstein.

"I never made one of my discoveries through rational thinking."

The initial concept of GS500 was not built on rational thought with simple goals. As this idea evolved into an organized event with veterans, state troopers, donors, and volunteers fully committed to participate, one of the greatest discoveries was about to occur.



In its infancy GS500 began as a 500+ mile endurance bicycle event, not an uncommon athletic experience for active cyclists. However, the rational thinking quickly left the room when these next parameters were added on:

1. 500 miles, across the state of IL, completed in 4 days.
2. Veteran only cyclists, no previous bike race experience required.
3. Cyclists dismount their bikes every 12-20 miles to interact with communities.
4. Organize sleep accommodations in National Guard Armories, on cots.

The concept of the Inaugural Gold Star 500, according to Einstein's thinking, was poised to make great discoveries and did so with an unexpected twist on Day 1 of the ride. Temperatures. The riders of the first Gold Star 500 endured temperatures that far exceeded the norms, hitting the mid 90's daily! However, the team quickly learned that the physical grueling aspects of the 2017 Gold Star 500 would be relatively mild in comparison to the unexpected emotional journey!

Riders and support teams were continually blessed to be introduced to stories and memories of our Illinois Fallen Service members and their Gold Star Families. It was a great Honor to learn more about our Fallen Heroes from their families and friends! For this reason, the team was never short of inspiration and focus!

Although the ride started out to pay Honor and Preserve the memories of the 34 Fallen Illinois National Guardsmen, the team quickly realized that the Gold Star 500 must be bigger and more inclusive. It must be in honor of all our Fallen Heroes, which to date is over 290 Service members since 9/11!

At precisely 6am on Wednesday September 23, 2017 the Inaugural Gold Star 500 kicked off from the southern most tip of Illinois, Fort Defiance Park in Cairo. After four long, hot days and 500+ miles later, the 38 riders arrived at Mt. St. Mary Park in St. Charles at the State's Annual Gold Star Family Recognition Day Ceremony!

Like Einstein's quote, the Gold Star 500 was not created with sensible parameters which has led our GS500 teams to countless unexpected discoveries. After four GS500's, the team has realized that each ride is uniquely different and better than the previous. While some might consider GS500 riders lacking rational thought, the many riders, supporters and families know better. Not irrational, but determined and driven, pushing through physical pain and emotions to honor and recognize the life, service, and sacrifices of our Fallen Service members and our Gold Star Families!

"Always Remember ~ Never Forget"

2018 ACTIVITIES



EVENT	DATE	HIGHLIGHTS
SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET	FEB 29	138 ATTENDEES
NGAI CONFERENCE	APR 20 - 21	144 ATTENDEES
VFW STATE CONFERENCE	JUN 13 - 17	3 ATTENDEES
AMERICAN LEGION STATE CONVENTION	JUL 11-14	3 ATTENDEES
INAUGURAL GENERAL LOGAN 200	JUL 13 - 14	9 RIDERS 2 VOLUNTEERS
IL STATE FAIR GOLD STAR FAMILY + VETERAN'S DAY	AUG 12	6 ATTENDEES
GOLD STAR 500	SEP 25 - 29	68 PARTICIPANTS

GENERAL LOGAN 200

In 2018, Gold Star Mission embarked on another endurance event to ensure our Fallen Service Men and Women would never be forgotten. Named in honor of General John A. Logan, the ride pays homage to the Murphysboro native whose General Order No. 11, called for a national day of remembrance for the Civil War casualties, which is the basis for what is now celebrated as a national holiday on Memorial Day.

The Inaugural General Logan 200 challenged cyclists to ride from General Logan's statue at Grant's Park in Chicago to the Vietnam Memorial located in Springfield in under twenty hours.

The 227 mile journey was started and completed by seven riders, with assistance from a small support team. The riders began their journey at midnight and successfully rode into Springfield less than eighteen hours later. As the riders navigated through the northern portion of the state, and along old route 66, they stopped in multiple communities and spread the word and mission of the organization. In addition to sharing, at every rest stop the riders paused to honor the Fallen Service Members from that area. The ride culminated at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield where they hope to help establish a Gold Star Families Memorial monument.

Working alongside the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, the Gold Star Mission aims to raise both awareness and funds to support the establishment of a Gold Star Families Memorial monument in Springfield, IL. The Gold Star Family Memorial monument will provide a place of permanence for Gold Star Families to gather and utilize as they see fit. The memorial will also demonstrate to Gold Star Families that their community cares for them and appreciates their sacrifice while also honoring the ultimate sacrifice paid by their Loved Ones. Another purpose of the memorial is to strengthen Gold Star Family communities through Gold Star Family outreach events associated with each monument location. Ultimately the memorial is an enduring way to inform the community about the Gold Star Families' sacrifices and the ultimate sacrifice made by their Loved Ones .



2019 ACTIVITIES



EVENT	DATE	HIGHLIGHTS
SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET	MAR 9	148 ATTENDEES
NGAI CONFERENCE	APR 26	124 ATTENDEES
RUN FOR THE FALLEN	MAY 11	397 PARTICIPANTS
GENERAL LOGAN 200	JUL 13 - 14	8 RIDERS 6 VOLUNTEERS
IL STATE FAIR GOLD STAR FAMILY + VETERAN'S DAY	AUG 11	8 ATTENDEES
GOLD STAR 500	SEP 23 - 28	54 PARTICIPANTS

RUN FOR THE FALLEN

As if conducting an annual 500 mile five day and 200 mile overnight endurance bicycling events wasn't enough, the Gold Star Mission eagerly jumped into a running event in 2019! When Candice White, the Gold Star Mission Run for the Fallen Run Director, was first informed of this opportunity, she jumped right in and nearly single handedly made it a tremendous success!

The inaugural "Gold Star Mission Run for the Fallen" was conducted on Saturday May 11th, 2019. The half marathon, 5K (run/walk) and 3K (youth run/walk) drew 397 participants, raising over \$12,000 for the Gold Star Mission Scholarship program! The participants ranged in ages from 4 to 75, coming from 68 different communities around the Rockford area!

This success would not have been possible without the great support Candice received from the community! Her major Supporters and Sponsors included: Cherry Valley Fire Department, Winnebago County Forest Preserve, Runner's Image, Carlyle Brewery, Culligan Water, Rockford Lithuanian Club, Rockford Wildcats, along with many Veteran Service Organizations and Scouts.



2020 ACTIVITIES



EVENT	DATES	HIGHLIGHTS
SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET	MAR 9	202 ATTENDEES
VIRTUAL RUN FOR THE FALLEN	MAY 1 - 31	269 PARTICIPANTS
GENERAL LOGAN 200	JUL 10 - 11	9 RIDERS 10 VOLUNTEERS
VIRTUAL GOLD STAR 500	SEP 1 - 30	72 PARTICIPANTS + 747 RIDES 26,000+ MILES

EVEN IN A PANDEMIC...ALWAYS REMEMBER

"Virtual" appears to be one of the most used words in 2020! As schools, work, meetings, family reunions and holidays, etc., all went virtual! Gold Star Mission was no exception and was pushed into "virtual" as well.

2020 started with a big bang for Gold Star Mission! Thanks to our tremendous donors and supporters, 61 Scholarships were awarded at the annual Scholarship and Appreciation Banquet in early March (prior to ugh...the introduction of COVID19)! With those 61 scholarships, the total awarded in three short years topped 125! Gold Star Mission is truly blessed with great support!

Almost immediately following the banquet, with uncertainty and restrictions, the world went "virtual" and Gold Star Mission did too. That was an extremely disappointing turn as 2019 was such a year of extreme momentum as we were introduced to new Gold Star Families, hosted a new event, and we saw a surge in school and community involvement in all Gold Star Mission activities.

The Run for the Fallen and Gold Star 500 were able to continue as virtual events and recruited new participants from different states. Even when the world was shut down more people became involved and understood the mission of preserving our Fallen Heroes' legacies. Our experience with virtual events has opened the conversation to continue including them in the future as a way to build upon the mission.

The General Logan 200 and weekend rides in September supported the 2020 virtual events. These "LIVE" events were smaller and met the State's COVID19 mitigation measures. The COVID19 mitigation measure that most negatively impacted Gold Star Mission was limited groups sizes and social distancing. The lack of interacting and engaging with the Gold Star Families and community was greatly missed! Gold Star Mission, like most everyone else in the world, very much looks forward to the hope of the new year.



2021 EVENTS



15 JAN	SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE	
1 APR	SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCEMENT	
5 APR	GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY	
23 - 24 APR	NGAI CONFERENCE	LOCATION
9 MAY	MOTHER'S DAY	
15 MAY	GSM RUN FOR THE FALLEN	
31 MAY	MEMORIAL DAY	
1 - 30 JUN	GSM VIRTUAL 500 (KICK-OFF ON MEMORIAL DAY)	
20 JUN	FATHER'S DAY	
4 JUL	INDEPENDENCE DAY	
9 - 10 JUL	GSM GENERAL LOGAN 200	
17 JUL	MOAA GOLF OUTING	
14 AUG	IL STATE FAIR VETERAN'S DAY	
14 - 15 AUG	12 HOURS OF ROAD AMERICA	
20 - 25 SEP	GSM GS 500	
	GOLD STAR FAMILY REMEMBRANCE WEEK	
26 SEP	GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY	

***OTHER DATES - TO BE PUBLISHED**
VFW STATE CONFERENCE
AMERICAN LEGION STATE CONFERENCE

FINANCIALS

**ALWAYS REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET**

Financial Statement of Activities 2017 - 2020

As a recognized tax-exempt nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, the Gold Star Mission seeks to be transparent in its financial operations by making the following information publicly available.

Revenues	Total
Individual Donations	\$302,892
Corporate Grants	\$58,305
Total Revenues	\$361,197

100% of your donation supports Gold Star Mission. 94% pays for programs, and the balance pays to support those programs. We are pleased to report over \$237 thousand went directly to programs designed to Always Remember, Never Forget the names of Fallen Military Heroes, value their sacrifices, and honor their Families.

Expenses	Total
Program Services (Scholarships and events)	\$237,535
General and Administrative	\$6,371
Office Expenses, Salaries, Facilities	\$0
Total Expenses	\$252,906

Net Assets as of 12/31/2020	\$108,291
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As a result of successful completion of an independent financial audit, Gold Star Mission achieved **Silver Seal of Transparency Rating** from the renowned GuideStar, a source of information on U.S. nonprofit organizations. The ranking accounts for the Gold Star Mission's efficiency, good governance, transparency and accountability.

**GUIDESTAR - SILVER
TRANSPARENCY RATING**

**CYCLED 74,929 MILES
SINCE 2017**

**PAID TRIBUTE TO THE 290+ FALLEN
HEROES IN ILLINOIS SINCE 9/11**

**\$127,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED**

**HUNDREDS OF MEMORIES
CREATED + SHARED!**

**RAN/WALKED 4,182 MILES
SINCE 2019**

**18 ACTIVITIES IN
FOUR YEARS!**

**1500+ AVERAGE
CONTACTS ON EACH
SOCIAL MEDIA POST!**

**NEARLY 2100
FACEBOOK FRIENDS!**

**HUNDREDS OF
COMMUNITIES ENGAGED**

**ZERO COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH
SALARY OR FACILITIES!**

**THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS
ENGAGED!**

**94 CENTS ON EACH DOLLAR RAISED
SPENT ON PROGRAM COSTS!**



DONORS AND SPONSORS

**ALWAYS REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET**



GSM SPONSORS + DONORS

Successful completion of an independent financial audit in 2020, led The Gold Star Mission, a 501(c)3 organization and member of ForeFront, to achieve the Silver Seal Transparency Rating by GuideStar.

DIAMOND

**ARCHER-DANIELS
MIDLAND COMPANY**



ELITE

LEVI, RAY & SHOUP, INC.

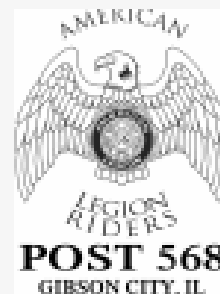


PREMIER

**GIBSON CITY AMERICAN LEGION POST
568 & AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

PLATINUM

**VFW POST 10302
DOT FOODS**



GOLD

**AT&T VETERANS (ILLINOIS)
MEMORIAL BRACELETS**



PARTNERS

American Legion and Auxiliary-IL
American Legion and Auxiliary Post 905
BeckTech Communications
Bob Ridings Automotive
Carlyle Brewing Company
Chatham Tax Services
Cherry Valley Fire Department
Friendly Chevrolet
Greco Graphics
Green Family Stores
IL Department of Veteran's Affairs
IL Elks Association
IL Patriot Guard Fallen Heroes Traveling Memorial Wall
IL National Guard
IL State Police
Law Office of William Hotopp
McGraws Enterprises
Military Officers Association of America
 Lincoln Land Chapter
National Guard Association of Illinois
Primal Wear
PS Printing
Rockford Road Runners Club
Runner's Image
Staab Funeral Home
Survivor Outreach Services Program
Trailer Masters
TROXELL
U-Haul Moving and Storage
Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary-IL
Vitese Cycle Shop
Wheel Fast Bicycle Company



AND MANY MORE COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS. THANK YOU ALL!



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**ALWAYS REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET**

SCHOLARSHIP + APPRECIATION BANQUET

Imagine sitting at a table with.....

A Gold Star Family

A Vietnam War Veteran

A kind person

A Teenager + their family

And each person is there to remember those who died in service of our nation. Our Scholarship + Appreciation Banquet bridges generations as we amplify the voices of our Gold Star Families. We also take the opportunity to thank all who make each event possible: participants, volunteers, donors, and partners.

We all come together to Remember and Carry on Our Fallen Heroes' Legacies through investing in the next generation and sharing the lives of those who have gone before them.



THE FAMILY OF ARMY SGT. ANTHONY R. MADDOX JEROME & FRANCES (GOLD STAR PARENTS) AND AMBRIA & VICTORIA MADDOX (GOLD STAR SISTERS)

To the Gold Star Mission Board of Directors,
Thank you for your commitment to support Gold Star Families, and preserving the memory of Fallen Heroes. As a Gold Star Family, we are humbled and honored that you have made tribute and will never forget Sgt. Anthony R. Maddox, and other fallen military heroes.

Last year, Anthony's youngest sister Ambria Maddox received the Gold Star Mission scholarship in honor of CWO2 Christopher B. Donaldson. Likewise, you presented a scholarship to Spencer Meenen in honor of our son and brother Sgt. Anthony R. Maddox. This blessed our family in many ways.

We are grateful you include siblings as scholarship recipients. Many Gold Star scholarships are limited to spouses and/or the dependents of the fallen. Your scholarship has financially supported Ambria's educational goals, and we are excited to report the success of her 1st semester. She was named on the fall 2020 Dean's list at Heartland Community college!

With sincere gratefulness,
The family of Army Sgt. Anthony R. Maddox
Jerome & Frances (Gold Star Parents)
and Ambria & Victoria Maddox (Gold Star Sisters)





KYLEE WEHRLY

I cannot thank you enough for the time and effort you have put into making all of this possible. The money you have raised for this scholarship means my mom and I have to worry a little less about finances this year. I will be putting the money towards books for the 2019 fall semester. While these scholarships are greatly appreciated by myself and the rest of the recipients, as a family member of one of the soldiers you ride for, it means more. It means they, my Dad, is/are not forgotten and their legacies lives on a while longer. For that, I also thank you!!

SCHOLARSHIP

2018

Adams, Cailyn
Army SSG Ivory Phipps, 3/17/2004, Chicago, IL

Bunting, Emily
Army SGT Lukasz Saczek, 5/10/2009, Lake in the Hills, IL

Farnsworth, Clair
Army SGT Christopher Abeyta, 3/15/2009, Midlothian, IL

Galloway, Austin
Army SGT Joshua Harris, 9/17/2008, Romeoville, IL

Grohler, Madison
Army SSG Paul Smith, 6/19/2009, East Peoria, IL

Hamrick, Tiffany
Army SPC Jeremy Ridlen, 5/23/2004, Maroa, IL

Harris, Jacob
Army 1LT Jared Southworth, 2/8/2009, Oakland, IL

Harris, Kalyn
Army SSG Joshua Melton, 6/19/2009, Carlyle, IL

Kuetemeyer, Colton
Army SGT Schuyler Patch, 2/24/2009, Galva, IL

Kuetemeyer, Hayden
Army SGT Brian Romines, 6/6/2005, Simpson, IL

Martin, Baylee
Army SSG Kevin Grieco, 10/27/2008, Bartlett, IL

Martin, Blayne
Army SSG Jason Vazquez, 9/17/2008, Chicago, IL

McMullin, Adam
Army SGT Robert Weinger, 3/15/2009, Round Lake Beach, IL

Meenen, Mitchell
Army SSG Jason Burkholder, 2/8/2009, Marshall, IL

Miller, Brady
Army SGT Scott Stream, 2/24/2009, Mattoon, IL

Monaham, Connor
Army SPC Charles Lamb, 9/5/2004, Casey, IL

Munyer, Clara
Army SGT Jessica Housby, 2/9/2005, Rock Island, IL

Nuckols, Cassidi
Army SGT Shawna Morrison, 9/5/2004, Champaign, IL

Oliver, Brittani
Army SGT Jessica Cawvey, 10/6/2004, Normal, IL

Overton, Kyle
Army SFC William Chaney, 5/18/2004, Schaumburg, IL

Robinson, Cassandra
Army SPC Brandon Ramsey, 8/8/2003, Calumet City, IL

Sanders, Austin
Army SGT Landis Garrison, 4/29/2004, Rapids City, IL

Tilstra, Meara
Army 1LT Brian Slavenas, 11/2/2003, Champaign, IL

Tracy, Ellen
Army SPC Brian Wright, 12/6/2005, Keensburg, IL

Wehrly, Kylee
Army SFC Kyle Wehrly, 11/3/2005, Galesburg, IL

Wheeler, Allison
Air Force SSgt Jacob Frazier, 3/29/2003, St. Charles, IL

Williams, Derlysa
Army SGT Simone Robinson, 3/1/2009, Dixmoor, IL

Williams, Olivia
Army SPC Norman Cain III, 3/15/2009, Freeport, IL

Young, Nadia
Army SPC James Grijalva, 10/12/2005, Burbank, IL

SCHOLARSHIP

2019

Kern, Avery
Marine Corps CPL Christopher Boyd, 08/19/2010, Palatine, IL
Groehler, Madison
Navy PO1 Regina Clark, 06/23/2005, Colona, IL
Ramirez, Ariana
Army SSG Pedro Colon, 02/19/2007, Cicero, IL
Bates, Brooke
Marine Corps LCPL Jesse De La Torre, 04/16/2007, Aurora, IL
Lindsay, Shavontae
Marine Corps CPL Benjamin Desilets, 05/22/2007, Elmwood, IL
Wheeler, Emily
Army SFC Shawn Dostie, 12/30/2005, Granite City, IL
Sage, Brittani
Marine Corps SSG Jordan Emrick, 11/05/2010, Hoyleton, IL
Crawford, Ariel
Army PFC Leonard Gulczynski, 09/17/2008, Carrol Stream, IL
Meenen, Mitchell
Army CPL James Hale, 08/13/2008, Naperville, IL
Leonard, Lauryn
Army CPL Casey Hills 06/24/2008, Salem, IL
Schutte, Kimberly
Army Private PFC Gunnar Hotchkin, 06/16/2010, Naperville, IL
Wehrlyn Kylee
Army SGT Chester Hosford, 07/06/2009, Hastings, IL
McMullin, Adam
Army SPC Cory Hubbell, 06/26/2003, Urbana, IL
McMullin, Bridget
Army CPT Kevin Landeck, 02/02/2007, Wheaton, IL
Siddles, Tyler
Marine Corps CPL Connor Lowry, 03/01/2012, Chicago, IL
Pollard, Kateland
Marine Corps CPL Alex Martinez, 04/05/2012, Elgin, IL
Wheeler, Allison
Marine Corps LCPL Kevin Opatowski, 08/18/2010, Wheaton, IL
Vo, Wilson
Army SSG Ivory Phipps, 03/17/2004, Chicago, IL
Arteaga, Andrew
Marine Corps PFC David Pietrek, 06/14/2008, Bensenville, IL
Robinson, Cassandra
Marine Corps LCPL Hector Ramos, 01/26/2005, Aurora, IL
Foster, Brittani
Army SFC David Robinson, 10/25/2011, Winthrop, IL
Melgoza, Olivia
Army SGT Mark Simpson, 09/26/2010, Peoria, IL
McPherson, Ashlyn
Army SGT Gerrick Smith, 07/29/2009, Sullivan, IL
Nickols, Cassidi
Army SGT Christopher Talbert, 07/07/2009, Galesburg, IL
Harris, Jacob
Army PFC Adam Thomas, 08/31/2003, Palos Hills, IL
Leonard, Chloe
Army SGT Robert Weinger, 03/15/2009, Round Lake Beach, IL
Brody, Daniel
Army PV2 Dewayne White, 12/04/2007, Country Club Hills, IL
Griffin, Benjamin
Army SPC Kristofer Walker, 10/02/2006, Creve Coeur, IL
Behrent, Kolton
Army PFC Jeffrey Wallace, 05/24/2005, Hoopeston, IL
Blanton, Alexis
Army SGT Jesse Tilton, 07/16/2010, Decatur, IL



ADAM MCMULLIN

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for awarding me this scholarship. I was a recipient last year, and it had an immense impact on my ability to succeed at Harvard. Moving forward, this scholarship will allow me to continue to be able to focus on my education and enriching extracurricular activities. Next year, I plan to spend a lot of time on robotics and engineering clubs. Without this scholarship, I would have to spend less time on projects and more time at a job. This scholarship truly is allowing me to make the most out of the opportunities that I have at school. I always think about what I can do to contribute to society and the United States, and this scholarship in the name of our Fallen Heroes continues to push me to go as far as possible.

Miller, Jacob
Army SPC Andrew Wade, 03/09/2011, Antioch, IL
Condon, Sydney
Army SGT Albert Ware, 12/18/2009, Chicago, IL
McPike, Alyssa
Army SGT Schuyler Patch, 02/24/2009, Galva, IL
Galloway, Austin
Army 1LT Derwin Williams, 07/06/2009, Chicago, IL
Petre, Michaela
Army SGT John Penich, 10/16/2008, Beach Park, IL
Lee, Courtney
Army SPC Justin Penrod, 08/11/2007, Mahomet, IL



JACOB HARRIS - RECIPIENT TURNED SOLDIER

The Gold Star Mission has been an experience like none other. I have participated in multiple GSM events. During these events I have witnessed extreme patriotism, and honor. There are many ways that we remember our fallen, but GSM does it best. Being active in this group has changed my entire life. It was while riding the Gold Star 500 in 2019 that I was finally inspired enough to join the military. Because of the conversations I've had, and the things I've seen while on the gold star rides it makes me appreciate my uniform more than the average soldier. Not everyone understands the extreme sacrifices that have been made. I look forward to working very closely with the group in the future. I hope to see more involvement from our younger crowd in 2021.

SCHOLARSHIP

2020

Toyne, Victoria
 Marine Corps SSGT Christopher Antonik, 07/11/2010, Crystal Lake, IL
 Sanguedolce, Sophia
 Army SPC David Badie, 08/01/2008, Rockford, IL
 Headon, Aubrey
 Army SGT Michael Bartley, 01/15/2011, Barnhill, IL
 Griffin, Abigail
 Marine Corps LCPL Jordan Bastean, 10/23/2011, Pekin, IL
 Doll Jaycox, Isabella
 Army PV2 Matthew Bush, 08/08/2003, East Alton, IL
 Condon, Andrea
 Army SPC Miguel Carraquillo, 08/09/2005, River Grove, IL
 Crawford, Ariel
 Marine Corps SGT David Caruso, 11/09/2004, Naperville, IL
 Longhta, Lucas
 Marine Corps LCPL Alec Catherwood, 10/14/2010, Byron, IL
 Kuetemeyer, Sloan
 Marine Corps LCPL Kenneth Corzine, 12/24/2010, Bethalto, IL
 Seiter, Abigail
 Marine Corps LCPL Nickolas Daniels, 11/05/2010, Elmwood Park, IL
 Marsh, Kolby
 Army SSG Edwin Dazachacon, 02/13/2006, Belleville, IL
 Maddox, Ambria
 Army CW2 Christopher Donaldson, 05/05/2006, Effingham, IL
 Alize, Tseitlin
 Army SGT James Dorsey, 02/08/2009, Beardstown, IL
 Lindsay, Sarah
 Army SPC William Dusenbery, 11/15/2003, Lake Zurich, IL
 Harris, Kalyn
 Army PFC Wyatt Eisenhauer, 05/19/2005, Pinckneyville, IL
 Blanton, Alexis
 Army SGT Blake Evans, 05/25/2008, Rockford, IL
 Winslow, Hailey
 Army SSG Donald Farmer, 12/19/2004, Zion, IL
 Castro, Corina
 Army SPC Ryan Garbs, 02/18/2007, Edwardsville, IL
 Cloin, Addisyn
 Army SPC Ronald Gebur, 05/13/2006, Delavan, IL
 Bates, Brooke
 Army 1LT David Giaimo, 08/12/2005, Waukegan, IL
 Peters, Logan
 Army PFC Gregory Goodrich, 04/09/2004, Bartonville, IL
 Lee, Courtney
 Army SSG Daniel Gresham, 02/24/2005, Lincoln, IL
 Lindsay, Shavontae
 Army SFC Ronald Grider, 09/18/2010, Bethalto, IL
 Dickerson, Derek
 Marine Corps LCPL Raymond Holzhauer, 03/15/2007, Dwight, IL
 Etter, Baylee
 Army PFC Robert Liggett, 05/29/2007, Urbana, IL
 Edgar, Thomas
 Marine Corps CPL Jamie Lowe, 01/11/2010, Johnsonville, IL
 Munyer, Clara
 Army SPC Jacob Lowell, 06/02/2007, New Lenox, IL
 Haarman, Alexandria
 Army CPL Bryant Luxmore, 06/10/2012, New Windsor, IL
 Meenen, Spencer
 Army SGT Anthony Maddox, 07/22/2013, Bloomington, IL
 Robinson, Amanda
 Marine Corps LCPL Sean Maher, 02/02/2005, Grayslake, IL

SCHOLARSHIP

2020

June, Luke
Marine Corps CAPT Nathan Mchone, 01/19/2012, Crystal Lake, IL
Harris, Tyler
Army PFC Andrew Meari, 11/01/2010, Plainfield, IL
Oliver, Jordan
Army SGT Steven Mennemeyer, 08/09/2006, Granite City, IL
Edwards, Kathryn
Air Force SRA Daniel Miller, 01/07/2007, Galesburg, IL
Pier, Ryan
Army SGT Kenneth Nichols, 12/01/2009, Chrisman, IL
Sims, Wyatt
Army SFC James Ochsner, 11/15/2005, Waukegan, IL
Brinkoetter, Grace
Navy SCPO William Owens, 01/29/2017, Edelstein, IL
Mumaw, Donald
Army CPL Jacob Palmer, 02/24/2005, Springfield, IL
Hyde, Jackson
Marine Corps LCPL Andrew Patten, 12/01/2005, Byron, IL
Bean, Addison
Navy PO2 Brian Patton, 11/19/2009, Freeport, IL
Durbin, Kyle
Army SSG Andrew Pokorny, 06/13/2003, Naperville, IL
Avent, Tricia
Army SGT Michael Ristau, 07/13/2012, Rockford, IL
Behrent, Kolton
Army SGT Douglas Riney, 10/29/2016, Fairview, IL
McCauley, Madalyne
Marine Corps CPL Allen Roberts, 11/28/2007, Arcola, IL
Najdek, Rachel
Army SGT Joshua Rodgers, 04/27/2017, Bloomington, IL
Stockton, Abigail
Army SPC Brandon Rowe, 03/31/2003, Roscoe, IL
Haskell, Marisa
Army SSG Christopher Rudzinski, 10/16/2009, Rantoul, IL
Swinford, Zachary
Army MSG Wilberto Sabalu, 05/06/2007, Philomath, IL
Williams, Denise
Army SGT Dean Shaffer, 04/19/2012, Pekin, IL
Kratovich, Jack
Army PFC Christopher Sisson, 09/02/2003, North Riverside, IL
Hopper, Avery
Marine Corps SGT Benjamin Smith, 09/22/2004, Carterville, IL
Marinelli, Peyton
Air Force SRA Bradley Smith, 01/03/2010, Troy, IL
Griffin, Holly
Army CPT Joshua Steele, 06/17/2007, North Henderson, IL
McPhearson, Ashlyn
Air Force LTC John Stein, 03/23/2003, Bardolph, IL
Wobig, Kaylee
Army SGT Andrew Tobin, 08/24/2011, Jacksonville, IL
Davis, Landon
Army PFC Omar Torres, 08/22/2007, Chicago, IL
Schutte, Kimberly
Army SSG Matthew Weikert, 07/17/2010, Jacksonville, IL
Borders, Nate
Army SPC Wesley Wells, 09/20/2004, Libertyville, IL
Fink, Noah
Marine Corps SGT Jeannette Winters, 01/09/2002, Chicago, IL
Barry, Adrianna
Army CPL James Young, 11/03/2010, Rochester, IL
Sage, Brittani
Army SPC Daniel Zizumbo, 02/27/2007, Chicago, IL



LAURYN LEONARD RECIPIENT

I am honored to have been a recipient of the the Gold Star Mission Educational Scholarship. Your generous gift has expanded my opportunities in college and further solidified my dedication to serving my community.

In all that I do, Corporal Casey Hills' name is now in my heart guiding me to pursue greatness and uphold his legacy. I am grateful to have been considered worthy of continuing his name, and I am proud to spread awareness for your Mission."

**\$127,000
AWARDED
IN HONOR OF
ILLINOIS'
FALLEN HEROES
IN 3 SHORT YEARS**

**ALWAYS REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET**

BOARD & COUNCIL

**ALWAYS REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board provides guidance and direction to the Gold Star Mission by contributing to the organization's culture, strategic focus, effectiveness, and financial sustainability, as well as serving as ambassadors and advocates. Beyond fulfilling legal duties, board members are important resources for the organization.

Current Board Members

President – David Helfrich
Vice President – Andrew Adamczyk
Secretary – Matt Jones
Treasurer – Larry Stone
Director of Operations – Eric Murray

Former Board Members

Director of Operations – Chuck Kitson, Loren Easter
Secretary – Tristen Myers
Treasurer – Ted Tracy, Reggie Black

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Trish Russell (Current)
Calvin Young
Justin Alford

GSM 500 Director

Eric Murray
Trenton Thompson

GSM Run For The Fallen

Candace White

Volunteer Director

Julie Spradlin (Current)

Scholarship Director

Tyler Glynn (Current)
Brian Monahan

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The advisory council involves thoughtful leaders who regularly provide advice to the Gold Star Mission Leadership, and serve as a resource to help guide the direction of the organization and navigate its future.

Major General (ret.) Daniel Krumrei
Former Adjutant General of Illinois National Guard

Major General (ret.) William Enyart
Former Adjutant General of Illinois National Guard

Brigadier General (ret.) Mark Rabin
Former General in the Illinois National Guard

Brigadier General (ret.) Steven Huber
Former Deputy Commanding General, 1st Army Division East

Colonel (ret.) Troy Philips
Former Commander of 404th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO
HELP US SPREAD THE
MESSAGE TO...**

**ALWAYS REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET**

COMMUNITY + VOLUNTEER SUPPORT





FIND US ON THE WEB OR ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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STAR
MISSION**

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