



**GOLD
STAR
MISSION**

ANNUAL REPORT

★ 2025 ★

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

This report is for you, highlighting your role and contributions to make 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 memories and stories that the Gold Star Families share, are truly inspiring and push us to ride one more mile, run one more mile or just do one more event! 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!

**ALWAYS REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Letter from GSM President
3	Gold Star Families
4	About GSM
5	GSM Activities
15	Financials
19	Donors & Supporters
23	Scholarship Program
29	Board Members
31	Community Support

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS...

Each year, when I reflect on Gold Star Mission's work, I am reminded that our organization exists because some families have endured the unimaginable. Their loved ones—Illinois' fallen heroes—gave everything for our freedom. The weight of that sacrifice is something we can never fully repay, but we can Always Remember, Never Forget.

This past year, our mission continued with renewed purpose and deeper meaning. At every event, every scholarship presentation, every moment when a story was shared, or a name was spoken, we were reminded that remembrance is not passive—it is an act of love, gratitude, and duty. Gold Star Mission transforms that remembrance into action, helping ensure that the legacy of each fallen service member reaches far beyond their years on earth.



Our scholarships now carry the stories of our fallen into classrooms, careers, and communities across Illinois. Our runs, rides, and memorial events give people a way to honor heroes they may have never met but will never forget. And our volunteers—people of all ages and backgrounds—stand shoulder to shoulder with Gold Star Families, showing them that their loved ones' lives continue to inspire.

To our Gold Star Families: you have entrusted us with something sacred. Your courage, your strength, and your willingness to allow us to share your loved ones' stories humbles us. We carry those names with reverence. We speak them with honor. And we promise that we will Always Remember, Never Forget the sacrifices your families have made.

To our supporters, partners, and dedicated volunteers: you ensure that remembrance becomes legacy. Every step you take, every hour you give, every dollar you donate keeps these heroes' memories alive and supports the futures of young people who carry those legacies forward.

As we look to the year ahead, we remain steadfast. We will continue to expand our scholarships, deepen our connections with Gold Star Families, and broaden the reach of our programs so that Illinois' fallen are remembered not just today, but for generations.

Thank you for standing with us in this sacred mission. Together, with full hearts and unwavering purpose, we will Always Remember, Never Forget.

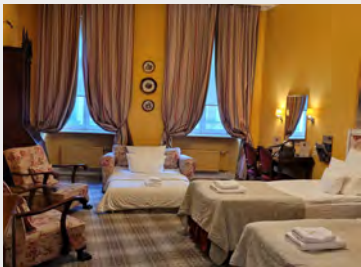
Barry Tobias, President, Gold Star Mission

GOLD STAR FAMILIES

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

Hello! We are Cheri Mirgaux and Jacque Dixon, the mother and sister of our personal hero Navy Chief Jason Huber. Jason proudly served our country for 17 ½ years. He left for bootcamp 10 days after his high school graduation and was still on active duty at the time of his passing in 2019.

In December 2025, we had the honor and privilege to travel to Poland on behalf of Gold Star Mission. The purpose of our trip was to represent the Fallen Heroes from Illinois, and to meet with and to bond with our fellow Poland Gold Star Families during their Annual Day of Remembrance of the Fallen. The connections we made with these people and families in such a short amount of time is truly remarkable and hard to accurately describe.



After a long flight we arrived in Poland and finally got to meet Lidia Kordasz-Garniewicz, her husband Merek (Mark), son Micol (Michael), and friend Marta. Lidia is the one from Poland that invited us over and coordinated our trip. We had a very lovely day sightseeing in old town Krakow, Wawel Castle, the National Art Gallery of Sukiennice, and their Christmas Market. They showed us St. Mary's Basilica, where the Krakow Anthem (known as Hejnał Mariacki) is played every hour on the hour four times in succession from the four cardinal directions by a trumpeter up in the highest tower of the cathedral. According to legends, this was to sound an alarm before the city was to be ambushed by the enemy. However, the trumpeter was shot in the throat before he completed the anthem, thus why the current performances end very abruptly. We ate traditional Polish savory pierogis for the first time and drank fruit compote. Very tasty! We did lots of walking this first day and were quite exhausted, we slept soundly in the beautiful historic Hotel Polski.



On our second day, Merek showed us more of Krakow including the Jewish quarter and Schindler's Factory. In the afternoon, we traveled to Lidia and Merek's home in Kozy and stopped in Wadowice at the childhood home of Pope John Paul II (the first ever non-Italian Pope) which is now a museum where we wore headsets that explained everything we were seeing in English. It was quite interesting. Then we continued our drive to their home and met their lovely daughter Patricia and had a nice dinner of Szaszlyz (kinda like a shish-kabob but on a salad) had "Pope-Cake" for dessert and tea. Tea is the preferred beverage in Poland. After dinner,



Lidia and Patricia took us to a Christmas concert in a nearby city. It was a lively and festive performance with a full orchestra and ten exceptionally talented singers. Most songs were obviously sung in Polish, but we were still able to recognize the tune even though we did not understand the words. One singer did a remarkable rendition of Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas" in English, and she 100% totally nailed it! Afterwards we walked thru the downtown area and viewed the many Christmas displays, the night was foggy which gave it a magical feel to it all.



Back at Lidia's home, we sampled and toasted ("Nostrovia") with local Polish vodkas and listened to Micol play the piano. He is an extraordinarily talented musician. It was another busy and exciting day and we both slept like babies that night.

CONTINUED...

Day 3 had us traveling to Warsaw, which was about a 4-hour drive. We stopped along the way at a gas station and Merek informed us that all “toilets” in Poland are free to use, unlike most other European countries. This was the cleanest, fanciest gas station we had ever seen in our lives. The food looked gourmet, like something you would expect at a 5-star restaurant not at a gas station! We also made a stop for a breakfast that was very traditional and tasty.

Upon our arrival in Warsaw, we checked into the Regent Hotel where all the families of the Fallen were staying. Merek escorted us to the Veterans Center where we were given a tour of their museum by Tomas, a military historian. He was truly knowledgeable, much like Aubrey who was awarded a Gold Star scholarship in Jason’s name in 2024. (Aubrey has since completed her master’s degree in military history from the Citadel.) Here they had a framed photo of Jason in his uniform alongside various uniforms Polish troops have worn. There was even a display of memorabilia and badges from U.S. troops and Special Forces from when they worked together. It was very touching and emotional seeing Jason’s framed picture.

At dusk, we attended a ceremony outside at the Veterans Center to honor and remember the Fallen. There stood a magnificent monument surrounded by flowers, wreaths, and candles dedicated to memory of the Fallen. Behind the statue was a memorial wall that listed all the names of the Polish Fallen that have been killed in combat or missions outside their borders. Here Jason’s photo was once again proudly displayed, surrounded by candles.

During the ceremony, there were numerous Polish dignitaries and family members of the fallen giving speeches. Lidia was one who gave a speech which she later sent to us in English. Each Fallen Hero’s name was read, and as this roll-call began, a very gentle light rain began to fall. Merek said the rain was tears from Heaven. The last name read aloud was our personal hero, Jason Huber. It was very moving. Everyone in attendance stood in absolute silence and reverence during the hour-long ceremony. Although we could not understand the words being spoken, the honor, love, respect, and commitment to the memory of these fallen heroes rang loud and clear, transcending the language barrier.

Following the ceremony everyone was transported to the Royal Castle, a historic site that is the King’s former summer Palace, for a wonderful feast of traditional Polish foods and desserts. After dinner, we toured the Palace grounds that were very beautifully decorated with stunning Christmas displays. The vivid colors and intricate patterns really created a festive and magical vibe. Just the grandeur of it all blew us away!



END OF TRIP...

On Sunday, we attended the Christmas Mass at the Field Cathedral of the Polish Army. It was beautiful historic church, both on the inside and outside. It was neat to witness such a beautiful and formal mass service.

After the mass, everyone was taken back to the Veterans Center for the Remembrance Day ceremony. All five branches of the Polish military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Special Forces, and Territorial Defense Forces) were represented in full uniform. The way these young soldiers moved with such precision and sang together in unison the Polish National Anthem (called "Mazurek Dąbrowskiego") was especially neat to witness. Here we even got to meet the Prime Minister of Poland.

Following the ceremony, all the families and military personnel were transported to a large indoor venue for a military (wearing full dress uniforms) band concert. The band entered by playing 76 Trombones. Once the band was seated on stage they played many lively Polish tunes. There was even a featured male vocalist and 3 female backup singers as well. It was a very enjoyable experience.

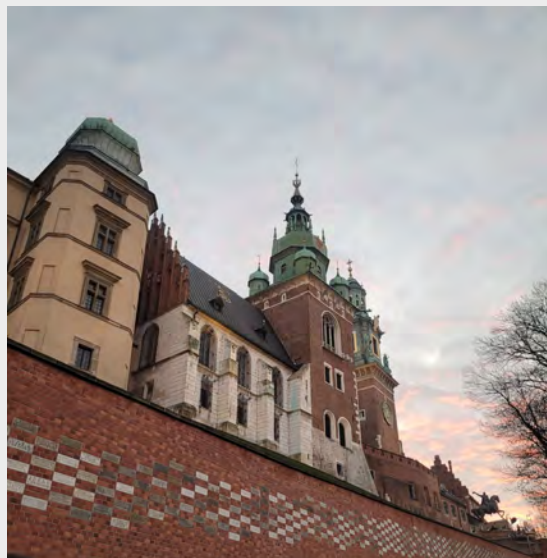
Following the concert, we proceeded upstairs to the reception area where all everyone gathered for a meal with a wide variety of hors d'oeuvres, fruits, meats, cheeses, fried fish, Jewish carp, pierogis, beetroot soup, and many desserts including apple pie. We also got to experience a traditional Christmas wafer ceremony where everyone extends good wishes to each other for the coming year.

We were very honored to attend the beautiful Remembrance ceremony, the concert, and to dine with all the Polish Gold Star Families and military members.

Although our visit was short, yet packed full, we learned that Poland is incredibly rich in both culture and history and has many lovely traditions that have been kept alive for centuries. We are so incredibly blessed to experience such warm hospitality and open hearts from all our newfound Polish friends. The connection of hearts, understanding of the grief and love lost spoke volumes. We are forever grateful to Gold Star Mission, Lidia Kordasz-Garniewicz, and everyone in Poland for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Always Remember. Never Forget.

Sincerely,
Cheri Mirgaux & Jacque Dixon
(mother and sister of Jason Stanley Huber)



CASEY, ILLINOIS SCAVENGER HUNT

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

This event took place on June 21, 2025 in Casey, Illinois. 10 Families, a total of 31 Gold Star Survivors participated in this event. Additionally, 26 Volunteers from Gold Star Mission helped make the event a success.

The Casey City Communications Director provided a scavenger hunt game sheet. In addition, we added 2-to-3- Illinois Fallen Hero Placards at each location. Participants, after arriving at a "Big Thing", provided a fact about one of the Fallen represented on the placards. This required, in most cases families to do research and learn more about our Fallen Heroes. The premises of this event were to bring the Gold Star Families together, provide up to date resource information for the State of Illinois and continue the legacy of each of the Fallen. Military Once Source and Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs both attended with additional resources.

After opening remarks, participants set out on golf carts and tiny bus arriving back approximately 1.5 hours. The local VFW provided lunch, music was provided, local sponsors for this event included: Inklusive, Model T's, Bank of Casey, Cody Galloway Music, Gold Star Mission, and friends and family of Survivor Outreach Services.



Army Directive:

Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) is the official Army program designed to provide long-term support to Families of fallen Soldiers. If you are a surviving Family member, we are here for you. Survivors developed this program, and it is continually refined based on Survivor feedback and senior Army leader involvement.

SOS is a "one" Army program. Survivor Outreach Coordinators and financial counselors provide outreach and support to survivors, regardless of a loved one's Army component, duty status, location or manner of death. SOS serves Army National Guard, Army Reserve and active component Families at SOS offices across the country.

Survivor Outreach Mission Statement:

The SOS Program demonstrates the Army's commitment to Families of the Fallen, utilizing a holistic and multi-agency approach to delivering services and support for as long as the Family desires.

Duties:

- Provide long-term case management support for Survivors
- Work closely with the Casualty Assistance Center (CAC), Benefits Coordinators, and Casualty Assistance Officers (CAO) to ensure the Survivor receives the necessary services and support
- Assist Survivors with navigating benefit questions and managing benefit milestones
- Partnership with local agencies, and nonprofit organization to better serve Families.
- Liaison to DOD Agencies and Benefit Coordinators such as Defense Health Agency, Veterans Affairs and Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS)



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**

GENERAL LOGAN 200

By: Beth Hicks

This summer, I had the privilege of joining the Support and Gear (SAG) crew for the Gold Star Mission's General Logan 200 bicycle ride. It's an overnight endurance event that honors our Fallen Service Members and supports their families. The ride began late Friday night, July 11, 2025, at Camp Lincoln in Springfield. From there, our small but mighty team of riders, Brian Monahan, Kyle Hessenauer, Matt Jones, and Greg Oelrichs, set off into the dark, aiming to cover 200 miles before the next afternoon.

I rode behind them with the support crew, helping set up nutrition stops, handing out water, and cheering them on through the night. The riders maintained an incredible 18.5 mph average pace, fueled by sheer determination, Casey's breakfast pizza, and Jane Nicoletta's famous protein cookies. Watching them push forward mile after mile, through quiet country roads and sleeping towns, was nothing short of inspiring.

We were also joined by incredible partners from the Illinois State Police, who cleared the way and kept the riders safe on the dark roads through the night. Their professionalism, coordination, and support gave everyone peace of mind and allowed the riders to focus on the mission.

Along the route, we stopped several times to read aloud the names of fallen soldiers. Each name was spoken with reverence, followed by a moment of silence. Then together we said our familiar chant three times: Always Remember. Never Forget. They say a Hero dies twice, once when they take their last breath, and again when their name is no longer spoken. We speak their names so that second death never happens.



GENERAL LOGAN 200 CONTINUED...

As the hours stretched into early morning, fatigue began to set in. Staying awake, driving carefully behind the riders, matching their pace, it takes its toll. But every time I felt tired, I reminded myself why we were there. The ache from a sleepless night is nothing compared to the pain that Gold Star Families live with every day.

By the time we reached the General John A. Logan Museum in Murphysboro, the sun was high, and the sense of accomplishment was overwhelming. It was the perfect place to end. Logan was a Civil War Veteran and the founder of Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day. His legacy and mission mirror ours, to honor and remember those who gave everything for their country.

Before leaving Murphysboro, the riders and SAG teams gathered at 17th Street BBQ to share a well-earned meal and reflect on the accomplishment. There was laughter, a few quiet moments, and a deep sense of gratitude. It was a fitting close to a powerful journey.

I've supported the longer Gold Star 500 ride before, which spans several days, but this one felt different. The General Logan 200 is fast, focused, and emotional in its own way. One long, unbroken push through the night. Watching the riders' endurance and resolve reminded me just how powerful purpose can be.

I drove home tired, but grateful. Grateful for the riders who gave their all, for the families whose sacrifices inspire us, and for the chance to play even a small part in keeping their memory alive.

Always Remember. Never Forget.



GOLD STAR 500

Another great year for the Gold Star 500! We visited many old friends and family, but also met many new friends and Gold Star Families along the way! Twelve of the communities we visited were first times AND they rolled out the red carpet showed that they understand and support our mission! Another amazing year of building the Gold Star Mission Family!

To say we had great weather was an understatement! With the exception of about a 10 minute torrential downpour just outside of Gibson City on the first day, the weather was great! The Gold Star 500 Team, coming from 5 States to spread this mission, appeared to be a well oiled machine! Even first timers, quickly assimilated into the team, grasped and embraced the mission, as evidenced by the actions at numerous school engagements!



ALWAYS REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET

9th Annual
GOLD STAR 500
September
23rd - 27th, 2025

The Gold Star Mission GS500 is a journey like no other! This fully-supported, 500-plus-mile journey across the state honors and preserves the memories of our fallen heroes. All funds raised go directly to support the fallen heroes history and project videos and educational scholarship programs.

This Year's Route Info:

- DAY 1: Springfield, Lincoln, and Clinton to Gibson City
- DAY 2: Gibson City, Rantoul, and Danville to Paris
- DAY 3: Paris, Olney, and Noble to Flora
- DAY 4: Flora, Mt. Vernon and Duquoin to Pickneyville
- DAY 5: Pickneyville, Highland, and Marine to Litchfield

WE OFFER 1-DAY, 3-DAY, OR 5-DAY RIDE OPTIONS

Included With Your Entry:

Custom Primal	Baggage
Wear Jersey	Transfer
All Meals	Constant Ride
Snacks, Water/	Monitoring by
Gatorade	Ride Captains
State Police	SAG/Mechanic
Escort	Support
Overnight	Lasting
Accommodations	Friendships

Consider giving up a week to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice!

For details and to register or volunteer go to:
goldstarmission.org
or scan QR code below.

This year again we had a few one day and three-day riders, which we know will grow our five-day rider numbers. Nearly every participant said they'd be back and bring friends! Similarly, every community or school that we engaged, asked Gold Star Mission to return! They all had ideas on how they could do more to help us raise awareness and remember our Fallen Heroes! These are the true unquestioned and meaningful measurements of success we enjoy!

The 2025 Gold Star 500 was a tremendous success thanks to so many! We truly couldn't achieve these successes without the support of our riders, volunteers, donors and sponsors and most importantly our Gold Star Families!

"THE GOLD STAR 500 ISN'T JUST A RIDE ACROSS ILLINOIS - IT'S A MOVING MEMORIAL, A LIVING PROMISE THAT WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER, NEVER FORGET."

GS500 HIGHLIGHTS

**6 GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBERS
PARTICIPATED IN ALL FIVE DAYS**

**503 MILES RIDDEN IN
5 DAYS**

**36+ COMMUNITIES
ENGAGED**

**23 FALLEN HEROES FAMILY
MEMBERS PARTICIPATED**

**5 DAYS RAISED
\$30K FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

**19-25 RIDERS ON THEIR
BICYCLES EACH LEG**

**OVER A DOZEN
K-12 SCHOOLS EN ROUTE**

**COUNTLESS MEMORIES
CREATED + SHARED**

**HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF
COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGED**

**ZERO COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH
SALARY OR FACILITIES**

GOLD STAR 500 TESTIMONIAL

Rider / Volunteer – Jess Fermon-Noble

As a part of the Gold Star Mission we ride to honor all Illinois Fallen service members and their families. We say their names, we meet their families, we laugh with them, cry with them, and some years, have the privilege to pedal next to them. We spread the word about the true meaning of freedom, sacrifice, and honor.

Being in high school in the early 2000s, many of my classmates bravely and boldly decided to enlist in the military after 9/11. Some continued their service with multiple deployments in the years that followed. A town just south of mine, Paris, was home to the 1544th US Army National Guard Transportation Company that deployed to Iraq in December of 2003. I didn't know of the 1544th until they came home. They were heroes in our community and were welcomed home accordingly. I knew that five had been killed, 32 others wounded. I knew that I couldn't even comprehend a day in their boots. Years later, thanks to Gold Star, I would meet several survivors from the 1544th, and consider their convoy commander, Ray Butler, a friend... a brother.

My cousin, Matt, was deployed multiple times, as a medic. We did all of the things any good family could, we wrote letters, sent packages, voiced our support. Each trip home was different. A piece of the Matt we once knew was gone. His last trip home it seemed as if there was no Matt left. I watched my family, myself, struggle not knowing how to help him or even connect with him again. He was... is... withdrawn, suffering from untreated PTS, multiple injuries resulting from IEDs, and gunfire, guilt, and grief. Being a part of Gold Star helps me understand him better, and helps me feel like I can support others, when I can't be there for him.

One of my classmates, "Bub" Nichols, who I knew as an energetic guy who thrived playing football, rode a Harley, and who seemingly was afraid of nothing, became Sergeant Nichols assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson, Colorado. Sergeant Nichols deployed to Iraq in 2006 and again to Afghanistan in 2008. December 1, 2009 enemy forces attacked his unit in Kunar province with small arms and fire and rocket-propelled grenades and Bub... Sergeant Nichols was killed. He was 2 weeks away from a trip back home for Christmas. He left behind four small children.

Never did I think I could begin to contribute anything to these hurting families all over US, let alone my own community, or even my own family... until I was introduced to Gold Star Mission. It all started when I saw some guys (my dad included) as they finished riding 200+ miles overnight and through the next day. I thought, well, that seems crazy! Im going to do that! So I did the General Logan 200 the next two years! I have pedaled with Gold Star in some capacity around 1500 miles in their organized cycling events. I could never have imagined the experience. Each person involved contributes, each unknowingly participating in the healing environment that has been created. Grieving hearts and minds are free to feel with strong support and love.

GOLD STAR 500 TESTIMONIAL CONTINUED...

In the very beginning, maybe the very start to the very first day, I thought I was riding to show my support for the military, fallen, their families, the survivors, and my county, but it turns out, Gold Star Mission had much more in store! Though I am a civilian and have never experienced the brutality of deployment, grief and loss are universal. Not only does my heart heal enormously (I imagine it being kind of like the Grinch!) every September, but I am a better person for having interacted with people along the ride. Each story connects all of us and everyone has something to add to make each ride unique. This year, a last minute detour brought me to the circle drive of my high school where the entire student body and staff were outside cheering for us. Bub, Sergeant Nichols, would have been thrilled to have the opportunity to share his story, his love and sacrifice for this county, his family, and our freedoms.

I was able, after 7 years, to get one of my best friends Aaron, a Marine, to commit to 1 day of an organized ride. Not only did he love it, but his wife ended up staying on the support team for the whole day and can't wait to join next year! I know facing memories of deployment, and all that come with it, must be extremely difficult, so I was grateful for him to be there.

Gold Star Mission 500 is not an easy ride, not in preparation, physically or mentally. The gravity and perspective of suffering is evident - I wake up with a headache, my feet hurt, I'm hungry, and my shoes are wet... but I look across the room and see a Gold Star mom. She's up and moving, packing her bags, smiling after sleeping on a deflated air mattress. She's been dealt an unimaginable loss... and I am quickly reminded that all of the struggles that come along with 5 days of nomadic, group riding, eating, and sleeping are very temporary... it's all much bigger and deeper and I have so much to be thankful for.

In the short 5 days, we, participants of the Gold Star 500, grow the community of supporters, comfort aching hearts, excite and educate young school children to love the USA in a way they may have never known, and continue to say the names and share the stories of those we have lost. I say these words from the depths of my soul... Always Remember, Never Forget. God Bless America.

"The Gold Star 500 isn't just a ride across Illinois - it's a moving memorial, a living promise that we will Always Remember, Never Forget."



GOLD STAR 500 EXPERIENCE

Rider / Volunteer Testimonial – Lonnie Lucas

As a Casualty Notification/Assistance Officer, I have accompanied survivors through their most difficult moments, each experience leaving a mark on me. Despite my training, nothing could truly prepare me for the emotional toll. As the notifications increased, I found myself searching for a way to process the grief I carried.

Gold Star Mission became that outlet. In 2018, I joined my first ride to honor SGT Jessica Housby, a fellow Soldier I had served with in Iraq from 2004 to 2005. I wasn't sure what I would discover, but what I found was a community where I could finally let my guard down and be myself.

Vulnerability fostered intimacy, trust, and authenticity among riders, volunteers, and Gold Star Families. At each stop, survivors shared stories and memories, and the names of Fallen Service Members were read. These tributes inspired me to share my struggles, drop the act of being "okay," and show my true self. GSM is a genuine and safe connection.

The motto, "Always Remember, Never Forget," will be etched in my heart forever. Thank you GSM.



2025 EVENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY
19 FEB	GSM MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
25 FEB	SCHOLARSHIP OML PRESENTED TO THE BOARD
19 MAR	GSM MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
22 MAR	ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AND APPRECIATION BANQUET (SPRINGFIELD)
5 APR	GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY
16 APR	GSM MONTHLY BOARD MEETING -
20-26 APR	NATIONAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION WEEK
25-26 APR	ANNUAL NGAI CONFERENCE (PEORIA)
26 APR	WATSEKA GOLD STAR FAMILY MONUMENT GROUNDBREAKING (WATSEKA)
2 MAY	GOLD STAR FAMILY MONUMENT TELETHON (SPRINGFIELD)
2 MAY	WALTONVILLE HS AWARDS CEREMONY
15 MAY	ROTARY PRESENTATION (KEWANEE)
21 MAY	GSM MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
29 MAY	ROTARY PRESENTATION (QUINCY)
30 MAY-1 JUN	SURVIVOR OUTREACH RIVER CRUISE EVENT (HANIBAL)
6 JUN	ILLINOIS DAV STATE CONVENTION (SPRINGFIELD)
6-8 JUN	ILLINOIS VFW STATE CONVENTION
8-13 JUN	POLISH DAY OF REMEMBRANCE BICYCLE RALLY (POLAND)
18 JUN	GSM MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
21 JUN	GOLD STAR FAMILY SCAVENGER EVENT (CASEY)
11-12 JUL	GENERAL LOGAN 200
10-12 JUL	ILLINOIS AMERICAN LEGION STATE CONVENTION
16 JUL	GSM MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
18-19 JUL	GIBSON CITY AMERICAN LEGION FESTIVAL
26 JUL	SURVIVOR OUTREACH RIVER CRUISE EVENT (CHICAGO)
1 AUG	GOLD STAR CHILDREN'S DAY
10 AUG	VETERANS & GOLD STAR FAMILY DAY ILLINOIS STATE FAIR (SPRINGFIELD)
13 AUG	STATE FAIR GATE FUNDRAISER (SPRINGFIELD)
20 AUG	GSM MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
24 AUG	VETERANS & GOLD STAR FAMILY DAY ILLINOIS STATE FAIR (DUQUOIN)
17 SEPT	GSM MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
23-27 SEPT	2025 GS500 (CENTRAL-EAST-SOUTH)
28 SEPT	GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY
11 OCT	LINCOLN LAND CHAPTER MOAA GOLF OUTING (PETERSBURG)
18 OCT	GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT DEDICATION (SPRINGFIELD)
1 NOV	SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION WINDOW OPENS
7 NOV	GSM CHRISTMAS TREE INSTALLED AT WHITE OAKS MALL (SPRINGFIELD)
11 NOV	VETERANS DAY (VARIOUS)
15 NOV	GOLD STAR FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING (PEORIA)
19 NOV	GSM MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
29 NOV	CANTIGNY PARK CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
2 DEC	"GIVING TUESDAY" (ONLINE)
6 DEC	KANKAKEE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
7 DEC	DOUG RINEY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
8 DEC	IDVA CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING (SPRINGFIELD)
13 DEC	WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (VARIOUS)
17 DEC	GSM MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
18-22 DEC	POLISH REMEMBRANCE DAY (POLAND)
22 DEC	WHITE OAKS MALL "MAKE IT & TAKE IT ORNAMENTS" (SPRINGFIELD)

SINCE THE BEGINNING...

My GSM story begins in 2017, the year Gold Star Mission began. I was currently serving in the Illinois Air National Guard, a bicycle shop owner, and an endurance athlete and avid cyclist. I was contacted early in the year about an "idea for an amazing event that I think you should be a part of." This "event" was the inaugural Gold Star 500. I really didn't hear anything more until about a month before the start of that event when I was asked if I was riding it. I am very happy to say that agreeing to ride in that event that year was a very good decision and has positively impacted my life ever since.



The inaugural group of riders, volunteers, and staff came together that September morning in Cairo, Illinois, at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, mostly ready to embark on a 4-day journey covering an average of 125 miles per day. Not a single rider in that group, nor any of the staff or volunteers, had ever attempted such an adventure. Even though I had already completed many marathons and Ironman triathlons, doing something like the GSM 500 was well outside my comfort zone. But through determination, support, grit, and some luck, we made it to St. Charles four days later. We had covered more than 500 miles, endured weather extremes and physical pain, and we made thousands of memories. Most importantly, we remembered...we remembered those who had given the ultimate sacrifice defending our way of life. We remembered and honored the Gold Star families that carried on. And we began a lifelong journey of service before self, helping those who'd given and lost so much.

I am blessed that I have been able to participate in so many Gold Star events. As a ride captain for each year of the GSM 500, I am honored to directly support the riders throughout the week of the event, both on and off the bike. I get to help the riders enjoy a safe and enjoyable ride while helping with mechanical or physical issues that may arise. Each event brings us together with Gold Star families across the state, and sometimes from out of state. We provide them the opportunity to share experiences and memories, or to simply shake hands and get hugs. Emotions are always present when those families get the opportunity to not only speak about their loved ones, but to witness so many people that are associated with the organization and its events where every effort is to remember those that we have lost and to support those that have been impacted. Every year my schedule revolves around the GSM 500. I will adjust everything to ensure I can get out there on the bike and help make the event successful.



SINCE THE BEGINNING...

As a retired veteran of the Illinois Air National Guard, I have a special place in my heart for those that serve, and that place is even more important for those that have given the ultimate sacrifice. Hearing their stories, learning about their service, and connecting with the families are things I cherish and look forward to every single year. I have made new friends across world through this journey and continue to build friendships with our dearest friends from the Polish Veterans service that is now hosting their own memorial bicycle event to honor their fallen and families. I am truly honored, grateful, and thankful for all that I have been given and blessed beyond measure thanks to Gold Star Mission.

Since that first year I have only missed one GSM 500 and I have participated in several General Logan 200's, a virtual Run for the Fallen 1/2 marathon, and several other events. I am now proudly serving on the board to help ensure the Gold Star Mission continues to serve Gold Star families, grow to provide continued service and support, and of course to "Always Remember, Never Forget". - Tom Jackson



FINANCIALS

**ALWAYS REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET**

FINANCIAL REPORT 2024-2025

EXPENSES	2024	2025	CUMULATIVE
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$126,127.00	\$79,951.00	\$766,203.00
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE	\$8,013.00	\$3,752.00	34,664.00
OTHER EXPENSES, SALARIES, FACILITIES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$134,140.00	\$83,703.00	\$800,867.00

REVENUE	2024	2025	CUMULATIVE
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	\$67,510.00	\$59,728.00	\$680,526.00
CORPORATE DONATIONS/GRANTS	\$40,126.00	\$17,430.00	\$253,855.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$107,636.00	\$77,158.00	\$934,381.00

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 above information publicly available.

As a result of the successful completion of an independent financial audit, Gold Star Mission continues to achieve positive transparency ratings. In 2024, GSM received the Silver Seal of Transparency Rating for the fifth year in a row. Then in 2025 Gold Star Mission earned the Gold Seal. These ratings come 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.





GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT

Dedicated on 18 October 2025, the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in Springfield, Illinois, is more than a structure—it is a community promise. It stands as a perpetual tribute to the sacrifice of our Fallen Service Members and the Gold Star Families and Relatives who loved them. The dedication ceremony that was attended by over two hundred people included the presentation of national colors by the local veterans group Black Tiger Honor Guard and then their Battlefield Cross Ceremony and playing of Taps. Over sixty Gold Star Families said the names of their Fallen Service Member and laid yellow roses at the base of the Battlefield Cross.



The ceremony was emceed by David Dennis and included speakers Richard Revell - Member of the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Committee, Vonda Rodgers - Gold Star Mother of SGT Joshua Rodgers, and Mark Harris - President and CEO Woody Williams Foundation. Invocation and Benediction were conducted by Sergeant First Class (Retired) Lonnie Lucas.

Richard Revell highlighted the committee's dedication and honor to see this long project through to its unveiling. And how this location underscores the monument's significance. Placed within the hallowed grounds of Oak Ridge Cemetery, the resting place of President Abraham Lincoln and the nation's second most-visited cemetery, the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument joins a powerful assembly of state and national memorials. This location also ensures that the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument is a focal point of reflection, tying the sacrifices of all eras together in one deeply patriotic landscape.



Help Build the Springfield Gold Star Families Memorial Monument

A new Gold Star Families Memorial Monument (GSFMM) honoring the families of servicemen and women who gave their lives in service is planned for Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL, with other memorials for World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, and Purple Heart Recipients.

Thanks to previous support, the granite monument and benches are funded. We now need the community's help to raise the funds for the final stage: construction of the memorial.

Construction Cost Fundraising Goal: **\$35,000!!**

Honor their sacrifice with your support

Support our ongoing mission by donating at:
<https://www.woodywilliams.org/monuments/springfield-il.html>

Join Our Fundraising Telethon!
Date: May 2, 2025
Radio Station: 1450 AM
Casey's Pub, Meadowbrook Lane,
Springfield, IL
6am - 9am

WOODY WILLIAMS FOUNDATION



CONTINUED...

Vonda Rodgers, spoke about not only her son, Josh's life before his passing, but also the chapters of his life lived through her interactions with many other Gold Star Families, veterans organizations, and various communities. She also spoke to the significance of the location. "The names on the monuments we see around us capture those who died in battle. But our Gold Star Family community is bigger than that. We represent families who stood behind the names and families of active service members who died by accident, training, or illness."

Representing the Woody Williams Foundation, Mark Harris, spoke of how Hershel "Woody" Williams devoted his life to honoring and serving Gold Star Families. That devotion started well before his service in the Marine Corp and his actions at Iwo Jima, when he came into direct contact with families in his own community when he delivered Western Union telegrams informing the Gold Star Families of the death of their loved one. These observations and later in his service to veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs and their families brought about the creation of the Woody Williams Foundation. The foundation now assists in the promotion, creation, and implementation of Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments in over 153 communities in every State and U.S. territory with another forty three in progress.

Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments are a two-sided tribute made of black granite. One side bears the words: Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, a tribute to Gold Star Families and Relatives who sacrificed a Loved One for our Freedom.

The other side tells a story through the four granite panels: Homeland, Family, Patriot, and Sacrifice. At the center of this tribute, is a silhouette of a saluting service member which represents the Legacy of the Loved Ones who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our Freedom. Together, these features tell each community's unique story based upon the Pillars of the Foundation.

The monument is located with the other War Memorials at Oak Ridge Cemetery, 1500 Monument Ave. - Oak Ridge Cemetery Springfield, Illinois 62702.



DONORS AND SPONSORS

**ALWAYS REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET**

PARTNERS 1/4

Bob Ridings Ford in Taylorville
Casey's General Store
Farm and Home Supply - Springfield West
Greco Graphics Company
Heartland Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Kwik - Wall
Mel-O-Cream Donuts - Springfield
MJ Kellner
Nikles Of Petersburg
Primal Wear, Inc.
PS Printing & Copy Center
Turasky Meats
U-Haul (6th Street Springfield)
Meijer
American Legion Post #905 - Kincaid
VFW Post #11463 - Rochester
AMVETS Post #94 - Springfield
VFW Post #10302 - Springfield
Auxiliary VFW Post #10302
Williamsville Fire Department
Williamsville Police Department
Illinois State Police
Illinois National Guard
Survivor Outreach Services
Fresh Visions Community Church - Springfield
Lincoln Police Department
Lincoln Fire Department
Lincoln High School Agriculture Department and FFA
City of Lincoln
Central Illinois Veterans Commission
State Senator Sally Turner's Office
Logan County Veterans Assistance Commission
Beason Fire Department
Georgetown-Ridge Farm High School



AND MANY MORE COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS. THANK YOU ALL!

PARTNERS 2/4

Clinton Auto Auction – Abbey & Lance Schmid
Bismarck Community Fire Protection District – Henning Fire Station
Clinton Fire Department
Clinton Police Department
Clinton High School National Honor Society
Rikk Knowles – Clinton
Blue Ridge High School – Farmer City
Farmer City Fire Protection District
Bellflower Community Center
Gibson City Melvin Sibley (GCMS) School District CUSD #5
GCMS Middle School
GCMS High School
American Legion Post #568 – Gibson City
Auxiliary American Legion Post #58 – Gibson City
American Legion Riders Post #58 – Gibson City
Sons of the American Legion Post #568 – Gibson City
City of Gibson City
Harvest Fest Gibson City
Paxton Fire Department
Lincoln's Challenge Academy
Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School – Paxton
Gifford Grade School
Village of Henning
City of Clinton
Henning Police Department
City of Danville
American Legion Post #210
Auxiliary American Legion Post #210
Commercial News – Danville
Ford County Chronicle
The Courier



PARTNERS 3/4

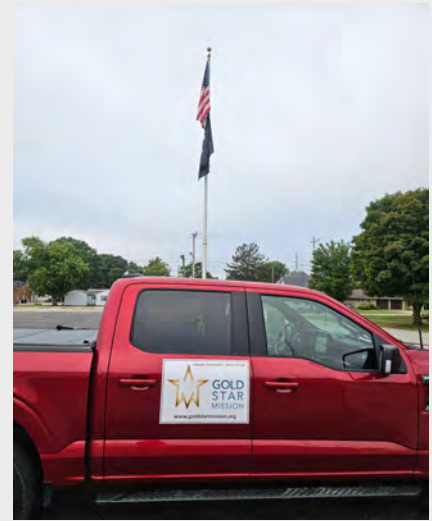
American Legion Post #203 - Georgetown
Auxiliary American Legion Post #203 - Georgetown
American legion Post #477 - Chrisman
Auxiliary American Legion Post #477 - Chrisman
VFW Post #3601 - Paris
Auxiliary VFW Post #3601 - Paris
City of Paris
Bob Sinclair - Paris
The Paris REC Center
Prairie Press - Paris
Paris High School
1544 Transportation Company - Paris
VFW Post #5975 - Marshall
York Township Community Center - West Union
Robinson High School
VFW Post #4549 - Robinson
Robinson Township Fire Protection District
City of Robinson
American Legion Post #932 - Ste Marie
VFW Post #4226 - Olney
Olney City Fire Department
Richland County High School JROTC
City of Olney
Clay City
Clay City Community Center
Oil Belt Christian Service Camp - Flora
VFW Post #3999 - Flora
American Legion Post #14 - Flora
City of Flora
Cisne High School
Cisne Fire Department
VFW Post #4535 - Fairfield
Fairfield Community High School
Fairfield Fire Department



AND MANY MORE COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS. THANK YOU ALL!

PARTNERS 4/4

Wayne Fire Department
Wayne City Community School District
Elks Lodge #819 - Mt Vernon
Mt Vernon Fire Department
City of Mt Vernon
VFW Post #1376 - Mt Vernon
American Legion Post #141 - Mt Vernon
Waltonville Fire Protection District
Waltonville Community Unit School District
VFW Post #9153 - Waltonville
Village of Waltonville
VFW Post #4753 - Sesser
American Legion Post #560 - Sesser
City of Sesser
Sesser Fire Protection District
Sesser-Valier High School
American Legion Post #2504 - Pinckneyville
City of Pinckneyville
Pinckneyville Fire Department
Pinckneyville Community High School
Grecian Steak & Seafood House - Pinckneyville
Pinckneyville Garden Club
American Legion Post #110 - Nashville
American Legion Post #233 - Okawville
American Legion Post #233 Auxiliary - Okawville
American Legion Post #321 - New Baden
American Legion Post #321 Auxiliary - New Baden
VFW Post #5694 - Highland
VFW Post #5694 Auxiliary - Highland
City of Highland
Highland High School
Marine Township Senior Citizen Center
Marine Community Fire Protections District
VFW Post #1241 - Staunton
Staunton Fire Protection District
Staunton High School
City of Litchfield
VFW Post #3912 - Litchfield
VFW Post #3912 Auxiliary - Litchfield
Litchfield Tourism Department
Litchfield Fire Department
AMVETS Post #16 - Litchfield
TROXELL Insurance - Springfield
Unhinged Motorcycle Club





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.



SCHOLARSHIP

MATTHEW BARKER

ARMY SSG ROBERT J PAUL, 8/9/2006, THE DALLES

MADELINE DEITERS

NAVY LCDR PATRICK JUDE MURPHY, 9/11/2001, CHICAGO HEIGHTS

SAMUEL DEITERS

ARMY SPC DAVID ALLEN SCHAEFER JR, 5/16/2009, BELLEVILLE

TRYTON FASSETT

MARINE CORPS SGT NICHOLAS RUDOLPH WALSH, 5/26/2007, MILLSTADT

KYLEE GARRETT

MARINE CORPS CAPT ADAM EDWARD MILLER, 1/22/2004, MIDOTHIAN

DAX GOETTEN

MARINE CORPS CPL CHRISTOPHER WARD BELCHIK, 22/8/2004, BRIGHTON

ELIJAH HARRIS

MARINE CORPS SGT MATTHEW ADAMS, 24/7/2004, MOLINE

NOLAN HICKS

MARINE CORPS CPL JOSEPH STEVENSON III, 10/28/2007, DOWNERS GROVE

HUNTER HILDEBRAND

ARMY SSG RYAN E HAUPT, 17/10/2006, PHOENIX

AUGUSTINE HYDE

ARMY SSG MARIO JUDE BIEVRE, 23/6/2006, GLENDALE HEIGHTS

JACKSON HYDE

ARMY SGT GRZEGORZ JAKONIUK, 30/11/2005, SCHILLER PARK

JALEN INLOW

MARINE CORPS LCPL ADAM WADE KAISER, 1/12/2005, NAPERVILLE

TAYLOR JUSTISON

NAVY CDR DAN FREDERIC SHANOWER, 9/11/2001, VIENNA

ALIVIA KENT

NAVY NCFC CHERIE L MORTON, 20/4/2008, BAKERSFIELD

ROBYN KOPENY

ARMY SPC CHRISTOPHER PERRY SWEET, 2/6/2009, KAHULUI

ISABELL KRAUS

ARMY SFC JAMES THOMAS HOFFMAN, 27/1/2004, WHITESBURG

SEAN LOWDER

ARMY PFC HOWARD ANTOINNE JONES, 5/18/2008, CHICAGO

WILLIAM MAR

ARMY SSG RICHARD JOSEPH JORDAN, 3/16/2010, TYLER

WIAT MILLER

MARINE CORPS CPL MATTHEW ALAN WYATT, 12/3/2004, MILLSTADT

NICHOLAS MONAHAN

MARINE CORPS LCPL MATTHEW S MEDLICOTT, 8/25/2007, HOUSTON



The first time I heard of the Gold Star Mission was in 2017, when I watched my dad participate in and complete the 500-mile bike ride, honoring SSG Jason Vasquez on his jersey. Although I was too young at the time to fully grasp the magnitude of each fallen soldier's sacrifice, I understood it was important to remember our fallen.

Four years later, in 2021, I had the opportunity to honor those who served by painting a large public mural recognizing each branch of the military, as well as first responders. Through that process, many veterans shared their personal stories, and I learned how impactful it is to be remembered, represented, and respected.

I thank GSM for teaching me at a young age the importance of honoring fallen service members. Now, as I attend my first year at SIU, I am proud to continue representing GSM and LT. CMDR. Patrick J. Murphy. While the scholarship I received has greatly helped further my college education, the lessons GSM has taught me throughout my life have shaped me in ways no classroom ever could.

Maddie Dieters

SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUED...



Receiving the Gold Star Mission Scholarship is more than just financial help for me. It stands for sacrifice, service, and living with purpose in everything I do. This scholarship honors Fallen Service Member Cpl. Joseph E. Stevenson III, who gives my education special meaning, especially since we both went to the same high school. That connection makes his legacy feel personal and reminds me that his service came from someone who once walked the same halls as I did.

As an aviation major, this scholarship helps me work toward my goal of becoming an aircraft mechanic. Aviation is a technical field that needs precision, integrity, and a strong focus on safety. Our military also shows these. The Gold Star Mission Scholarship has made my education more affordable and lets me focus on building the skills I need for my future career.

More than just helping with costs, Joseph's sacrifice helps motivate me to work hard in school and live with integrity. I am very grateful for this scholarship and will honor Cpl. Joseph Stevenson. By staying dedicated to my school work and doing my best in my future career, I won't forget his sacrifice for this country.

-Nolan Hicks

LANDON NUGENT
ARMY SSG MICHAEL JOHN SUTTER, 26/12/2003, TINLEY PARK

JORDAN OLIVER
ARMY SPC RACHAEL ANNE MARIE LACY, 4/4/2003, LYNWOOD

OLIVIA REGENHARDT
ARMY SSG KEITH MATTHEW MAUPIN, 3/29/2008, BATAVIA

TOMMY ROBERTS
ARMY CPT JOHN EDGAR TIPTON, 5/2/2004, ST CLAIRSVILLE

MAYA ROUNDS
MARINE CORPS LCPL JAMES BRAY STACK, 10/11/2010, ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

CHLOE SANZONE
ARMY SGT JASON CHARLES DENFRUND, 25/12/2006, CATTARAUGUS

GUNNAR SCHAG
ARMY SSG CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER WILBUR, 12/8/2016, GRANITE CITY

ANNA SCHLEYHAN
MARINE CORPS CPL SCOTT J BIESTERFELD, 30/3/2008, AURORA

LEAH TILLMAN
MARINE CORPS CPL JOHN THOMAS OLSON, 21/02/2005, ELK GROVE

JEREMIAH TODD
ARMY CPL SHAWN THOMAS LASSWELL JR, 23/4/2006, RENO

JADEN TRUSSEL
NAVY CDR ADRIAN BASIL SZWEC, 12/4/2004, CHICAGO

EMERSYN WANGLER
ARMY SPC JA'MEL ANTWON BRYANT, 27/9/2008, BELLEVILLE

JORDAN WATTS
ARMY SPC ASHLEY SIETSEMA, 12/11/2007, MELROSE PARK



**\$317,000
AWARDED
IN HONOR OF
ILLINOIS'
FALLEN HEROES**

**ALWAYS REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET**

BOARD & COUNCIL

**ALWAYS REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET**

LEADERSHIP

Officers – Gold Star Mission Corporation
(All officers serve two-year term; terms may be extended
until successor has been elected)

Current Board

President – Barry Tobias
Vice President – Tom Jackson
Secretary - Rebecca Carter
Treasurer - Tim Barnhart
Operations - Eric Murray

Former Board Members

President - Trent Thompson (2020-2022)
President - Matt Jones (2022-2023)
Vice President – Brian Monahan (2019-2025)
Secretary - Chris Milchuck (2022-2023)

Other Key Leaders

Assistant to the Director of Operations - Chuck Kitson
Assistant Operations Logistics - Jeremy Tackett
Special Staff Advisor - Michelle Rutherford
Volunteer Director - Kate Hames
Webmaster - Anthony Mollusky
Social Media Director - Trish Russell
Marketing Director - Beth Hicks
Annual Report Editor - Trish Russell
Scholarship Committee Chair – Lonnie Lucas
General Logan 200 Director – Brian Monahan
Gold Star 500 Director - Eric Murray

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.) William Enyart
Former Adjutant General of Illinois National Guard

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

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

Brigadier General (ret.) Christopher Lawson
Vice Director JF, National Guard Bureau

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

Colonel David Helfrich
Founder and Former President Gold Star Mission

Colonel Andrew Adamczyk
Co-Founder and Former Vice President Gold Star Mission

**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



www.goldstarmission.org



www.facebook.com/GoldstarMission



www.instagram.com/goldstarmission



www.youtube.com





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STAR
MISSION**

ALWAYS REMEMBER, NEVER FORGET