



Office, Chief Information Officer/G-6

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
107 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0107**

22 SEP 2017

To the CIO/G-6 Team:

On September 24th, the military recognizes Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day to honor surviving parents and families of fallen service members – specifically those who have died while on active-duty. On this day, we honor the mothers and families who carry forward the memories of those willing to lay down their lives for the United States and the liberties for which we stand.

The origin of day dates back to World War I. The name "Gold Star Mothers" was derived from the custom of military families who put a service flag near their front window during wartime. In 1918 President Woodrow Wilson approved the wearing of black arm bands bearing a gilt star by those who had a family member who died in the military service to the United States. American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. began in 1929 with 25 mothers living in the Washington, D.C., and soon expanded to include affiliated groups throughout the nation. On June 23, 1936, a joint Congressional resolution designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day, a holiday that has since been expanded to include families of fallen Warriors, as well.

The Army is indebted to these mothers and families who are the resilient legacies of their service member's ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. Despite their broken hearts, the families of these fallen warriors continue to serve their communities and comfort our troops, veterans, and other military families. We are constantly inspired by their incredible resilience, and in their example we see the very best of America.

Gold Star Mothers and Families receive either the gold star lapel button or the lapel button for next of kin – symbols of honor and great distinction from the Department of Defense in remembrance of their service members who gave their lives to our Nation. When you see someone wearing these symbols of honor, please recognize their loved ones ultimate sacrifice in their service to their country.

We all are part of the Army Family. Honoring the mothers and families of those who have protected our liberty with their lives is a duty we hold dear to our hearts. Please join Dianne and me in honoring all of the Gold Star Mothers and Families within CIO/G-6, Army-wide and across all the services.

Very Respectfully,

LTG Bruce T. Crawford
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Chief Information Officer/G-6