Gold Star Mothers

Shortly after [World War I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I) the **American Gold Star Mothers Inc.** was formed in the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) to provide support for mothers who lost sons or daughters in the war. The name came from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a banner called a [Service Flag](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_flag) in the window of their homes. The Service Flag had a star for each family member in the [United States Armed Forces](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Armed_Forces). Living servicemen were represented by a blue star, and those who had lost their lives were represented by a gold star. Gold Star Mothers are often socially active but are non-political. Today, membership in the Gold Star Mothers is open to any American woman who has lost a son or daughter in service to the United States. On the last Sunday in September, **Gold Star Mother's Day** is observed in the U.S. in their honor.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gold_Star_Mothers#cite_note-0) The group holds a [congressional charter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congressional_charter) under [Title 36 of the United States Code](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Title_36_of_the_United_States_Code).

The WWII Memorial Star Sign was dedicated February 5, 2011 and placed on the WWII Memorial on February 9, 2011.

**What do the stars represent?**

There are 4,048 gold stars; each one represents 100 American military deaths. That means that more than 400,000 soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and military personnel lost their lives or remain missing in action in World War II. Of 16 million men and women in military service during the time, that number represents 1 death out of every 40. When an American went off to fight, the family often displayed in their window a flag bearing a blue star on a white field with a red border. If one of those dreaded telegrams arrived informing them of their family member's death, they would replace the blue star with a gold one; revealing that family’s sacrifice. “Here We Mark The Price Of Freedom” is inscribed below the Freedom Wall.