



## Honoring Gold Star Mothers


28 – 29 September 2013

For nearly a century, the Gold Star tradition has reminded all Americans of the men and women who have sacrificed their lives in the service of our Nation. During World War I homes, businesses, schools and churches displayed flags bearing a blue star for each service member serving in harm's way. When a service member was killed in the line of duty, a gold star was stitched over the blue one on the flag in his or her home. From this simple expression of community solidarity, the Gold Star Mothers – an organization comprised of mothers who have lost a son or daughter in the service of our Nation – was born.

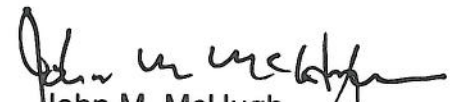
Being a Gold Star Mother is a distinction that no mother wants. But, in the face of their unimaginable personal sorrow, the women of the Gold Star Mothers inspire us all through their grace and selflessness. Their commitment, courage and constant vigilance ensure that America does not forget the sacrifice of its fallen sons and daughters.

The United States Congress has designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day." It is celebrated this year on September 28-29 with a number of events scheduled in Washington, D.C. Over this weekend, we will pause to commemorate the continued service of the Gold Star Mothers – women who have been forever changed through the sacrifice of their children.

The Gold Star Mothers, as well as all Family members who bear the enormous burden of loss, will always be cherished members of our great Army Family. We maintain our commitment to support these Families while honoring the legacy of our fallen Soldiers.

  
Raymond F. Chandler, III  
Sergeant Major of the Army

  
Raymond T. Odierno  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

  
John M. McHugh  
Secretary of the Army