

News and stories

Gold Star Family Memorial Unveiled in Barboursville

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Taylor Stuck | [Herald-Dispatch](#)

BARBOURSVILLE - As a dozen white balloons were released into the air, one woman dressed in all white blew a kiss to the sky.

"See you later, Benjamin," she cried as she waved to the drifting balloon.

Belinda Jividen was one of 10 Gold Star mothers honored Sunday at the unveiling of West Virginia's third Gold Star Family Memorial at Barboursville Park.

A Gold Star Family member is a wife, husband, mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, parent through adoption, foster parents who stand or stood in place of parents, children, stepchildren, children through adoption, brothers, sisters, half-brothers, half-sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, grandchildren and grandparents of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who sacrificed their life for our way of life, while serving in the United States military.

The Cabell County Committee for the Gold Star Memorial Monument, run by brothers Jerry and Jody Beckett and Chuck Zerkle, raised \$50,000 for the memorial - all from community donations. The committee didn't have to use any funds from the

Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, which supports efforts around the country to erect Gold Star family memorials.