

News and stories

Group raising money to erect memorial for gold star families

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Cam Tranchemontagne | [WMUR9](#)

Hope to unveil memorial in September

BOSCAWEN, N.H. —A special groundbreaking at the State Veterans Cemetery will be held Sunday morning for a new monument paying tribute to the sacrifices made by Gold Star families.

Marine Cpl. Michael Ouellette, of Manchester, was killed in action in Afghanistan in March 2009. He was mortally wounded by insurgents in an attack involving an improvised explosive device and heavy small-arms fire. He died to ensure others would survive.

"My brother tied his own tourniquet, called in his own nine-line, air support, kept control of his men," Michael's sister, Stephanie, said. "And he would not be evacuated until they were all safely out of there."

Stephanie said the pain of losing her brother to war eight years ago remains fresh but she's channeling her grief into an effort to recognize families like hers.

"If you look at all the people New Hampshire has lost in service to this country in all wars and conflicts it's hundreds, if not thousands, and every one of those people had a family. Every one of those people had a story," she said.