

News and stories

Cedar Park Wants Monument to Honor Gold Star Families

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An American Legion post in Cedar Park wants to make sure it is the first city in Texas to have a monument honoring Gold Star families. American Legion Hunter-Morris Memorial Post 911 is raising \$80,000 for the monument to be placed in Veterans Memorial Park on land donated by the city of Cedar Park, said Mary Lopez Dale, a past commander of the post. The legion has raised more than \$30,000 since March for the memorial to honor Central Texas Gold Star families, she said.

The monument cost \$50,000, but the shipping and construction costs to erect it on the site will be around \$25,000 to \$30,000, Dale said.

A Gold Star family is one with an immediate relative killed during active duty in the U.S. armed forces. Chuck Rogers, a member of the legion post in Cedar Park, said he proposed the monument because he felt Gold Star families weren't getting attention. "I wanted to pay tribute to their suffering," he said.

Rogers said the monument will be built with plans from the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation. Rogers said he knows Williams, a retired Marine who received the Medal of Honor for

combat on Iwo Jima in World War II, and is impressed by his foundation, which provides communities with a design for the Gold Star monuments.

Gold Star monument similar to this would be erected in Cedar Park after supporters raise \$80,000.