

# News and stories

## Fundraising goes on for Gold Star memorial

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Megan Gray-Hatfield | [Gainesville Daily Register](#)

Fundraising continues for Gainesville's very own Gold Star Families Memorial Monument.

Today, Tuesday, Oct. 2, marks Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams' 95th birthday, and earlier this year, Williams was at Leonard Park for the monument's groundbreaking ceremony.

Cliff Yow, an honorary board member of the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, said in an interview with the Register on Monday that funds have been raised for the memorial itself, but money is still needed for the foundation and pad site.

The black granite monument honoring the families of servicemen and women killed while serving in the military has been ordered, Yow said.

"We hope to have it here in the next 120 to 150 days," Yow said, while adding that he hopes to have a dedication ceremony with Williams in February, if not sooner.

The monument consists of four panels, and in honor of Williams' birthday month, one panel will be revealed each Monday on the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Gainesville Texas Facebook

page.

Yow said the last two panel reveals will feature designs by locals Joe Conner and Gary Alexander.

Williams has made it his mission through the foundation to have at least one monument in all 50 states.

The first Gold Star Families Memorial Monument was erected in West Virginia in 2013. There are 42 monuments that have been dedicated — with 44 additional monuments in progress — representing a total of 39 states to date, according to the foundation's website.

Gainesville City Council members in December unanimously approved placement of the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument at Leonard Park, 1000 W. California St.

Donations can be made by sending a check or money order payable to the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation c/o Cliff Yow to PMB 309 1014 E. Highway 82 Gainesville, Texas 76240 or online by visiting <http://www.hwwmohf.org/gsfmm-fundraising-gainesville-tx.html>.