

News and stories

Manchester Gold Star Family Keeps the Spark Alive for Memorial

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Shawne K. Wickham | [Union Leader](#)

MANCHESTER - A Manchester family is leading an effort to honor New Hampshire's Gold Star families - those whose loved ones died in service to their country. For them, the mission is deeply personal.

Marine Cpl. Michael Ouellette was killed in action in Afghanistan on March 22, 2009.

Now his sister, Stephanie, mother Donna and brother Alan are raising funds to build a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery.

After Michael died, Stephanie said, "We made a really conscious decision to celebrate his life."

Her mother agreed: "We chose to make something good happen from the worst day of our lives."

That meant throwing themselves into charitable activities that benefit veterans and service members. "Doing good work in the name of your loved one is an awesome way to honor their memory," said Stephanie, a dispatcher for the Manchester Police Department.

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