

# News and stories

## Gold Star Families to unveil new monument

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Madelyn Edwards | [Weatherford Democrat](#)

During Gold Star Families Remembrance Week, Parker County Gold Star Families are doing their part to remember fallen soldiers and their families.

The local nonprofit plans to host an unveiling ceremony of a new Gold Star Memorial Monument at 9 a.m. Saturday at Weatherford's Soldier Spring Park, 200 Thrush St. The monument was built on Friday.

This week was recently named "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week" per a U.S. Senate resolution.

Earlier this year, Parker County Gold Star Families dedicated another Gold Star Monument and Prayer Garden.

The black granite monument portrays a hollow cutout of a soldier standing in salute and is inscribed: "A tribute to gold star mothers, fathers and relatives who sacrificed a loved one for our freedom."

Parker County Gold Star Families President Kaye Jordan previously saw one of the monuments while traveling in the U.S. and she said the group needed their own memorial for their park.

The monument means everything to Parker County Gold Star Families, Jordan said. A Gold Star mother herself, she said Gold Star Families want to ensure that their children's sacrifices are remembered.

"We wanted to make sure that our kids' sacrifices weren't forgotten, and that people support our military and are aware of the sacrifice," Jordan said. "Some people seem to forget why we have our freedom, and it's because of our military and ultimate sacrifices that are made."

The back of the monument, which will be revealed at the ceremony, has images that represent family and sacrifice, Jordan said.

The Hershel "Woody" Williams Congressional Medal of Honor Education Foundation helps establish these monuments across the country. Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments are dedicated in 39 states, and 45 monuments are in progress, according to the foundation's website.

Williams, who served in the Marine Corps during World War II, remembers delivering War Department telegrams to families, telling them their loved ones had died in war. This experience, among others, inspired him to establish his foundation to help communities establish monuments, he said.

"This honors every member who is related to that individual who sacrificed his life in the armed forces," Williams said. "I try to educate, if you will, because our young people need to know the price that's been paid so they can do what they do."

Williams attempts to be at every groundbreaking and dedication ceremony of these monuments, he said. He is scheduled to speak at Weatherford's monument dedication.

Jordan said she hopes people will attend the ceremony on Saturday.

"We have suffered the worst loss you can suffer, and our healing is

ongoing,” Jordan said. “It helps to have people come out and support us and show that they care, and that they do respect and honor the sacrifice that was given for their freedom.”

America’s Gold Star Families Founder Patti Smith said the best thing people can do to honor fallen soldiers is to honor their survivors.

“When we remember in these ways, it comforts the family because they have but one request: never forget, always remember,” Smith said. “They need to know that their hero’s sacrifice was worth it, and we demonstrate that by not forgetting.”