



## GOLD STAR FAMILIES

[Gold Star families](#) are the relatives of US military members who died in battle. Starting in World War I, the families of US soldiers and sailors often flew flags that had a blue star for each member of the family that was serving in the military. If one of them died in battle, the blue star was changed to a gold star. In August 1947, the United States Congress authorized the military to present a gold star lapel pin to the family members of those killed in action. The military continues to award Gold Star lapel pins to the family members or next of kin of service members who die during military service. At least one Gold Star family has an engraved paver located on the Monument in honor of their son.