

# News and stories

## We've Broken Ground on a Memorial for Gold Star Families

Aug. 16, 2016

E. B. Fergurson III, The Capital | [Task and Purpose](#)

**In breaking ground on the memorial in Annapolis, Maryland, officials called it "something no one wants, but that all of America needs."**

For all too many families every day is Memorial Day.

On Monday dignitaries and others gathered outside Annapolis to break ground for a memorial monument honoring Gold Star families who bear the burden of losing a loved one in war.

"We are here on their behalf to break ground on something no one wants, but that all of America needs," Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs George Owings told those gathered at the monument site, just uphill from the World War II Memorial on Route 450 across the Severn River from the city.

When men and women choose to serve in the military their families can display a Blue Star service banner to denote their loved one's service.

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Not one of them wants to become a Gold Star family, denoting that a family member has died in war.

“Thousands of Marylanders have made the ultimate sacrifice and countless others bear visible and invisible wounds of war,” Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford said.

“With this monument we continue to vow never to forget the loved ones who are left behind and bear the wounds of their own,” Rutherford continued. “We remember their bravery and the tremendous debt we owe them.”

Several of the organizers pushing the event credited Owings and Gov. Larry Hogan for relatively quick action to get the monument rolling.