

# News and stories

## Gold Star Families Honored with Monument to Their Sacrifice

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For county Gold Star Mothers Gina Barnhurst and Kelly Swanson, who both lost sons in Iraq in 2006, Friday's dedication of the Maryland Gold Star Families Memorial Monument was a comfort — and a relief.

Although the memorial is meant for the families left to wrestle with the tragedy of war, the two — both members of the Maryland Gold Star Mothers organization — were thinking not of themselves, but of their sons.

"Like someone said, our greatest fear is they might be forgotten. Now this memorial guarantees they won't be forgotten," said Barnhurst, whose son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Eric Herzberg, a Severna Park High School graduate, was killed 10 years ago.

"It reminds people of the real cost of war and that these brave men and women all have families, moms and dads, brothers and sisters."

Swanson — whose son, Army Staff Sergeant Christopher Swanson, was killed while on patrol July 22, 2006 — said that having the memorial in Annapolis is fitting.

"It is an awesome monument, something we can come see on a regular basis," she said. "I hope it makes people remember who our children were."