

# News and stories

## Gold Star Families honored in Beebe with monument ground-breaking

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BEEBE, Ark. (KTHV) -- To honor the families of servicemen and women who died while serving in the military, a new monument will sit in Beebe.

Saturday some Gold Star Families came together to witness the groundbreaking of the project. The monument will be the first of its kind in Arkansas.

"I didn't understand what a Gold Star Family was until that day and it's become a whole new passion of mine, just finding ways to be there for other Gold Star Families and support them," said Chelsey Marshall whose late husband, Sergeant Jason Swindle, was killed in 2012.

Medal of Honor recipient, Hershel Woody Williams, is behind the monument. He's made it his mission to honor Gold Star Families across the country.

"Your presence says to those who lost a relative serving America that they are the true heroes of America," said Williams.

With the city of Beebe voting Friday to donate the last \$10,000

needed towards the project, nearly \$44,000 has been raised to make the project possible. Construction is set to begin Monday.

"Their pain never stops. There's no medication you can take to stop their pain so it's just something that's got to be done," said Bubba Beason who lead the effort in Beebe.

There will be a dedication ceremony for the monument on February 23. A similar monument is slated to go up on the state capitol grounds in Little Rock.