

News and stories

Funds Sought for Gold Star Monument

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Buster Wolfe | [Hub City Spokes](#)

The Lamar County Board of Supervisors is considering donating toward the purchase of the Gold Star Families monument that will be placed at Camp Shelby this year. Leonard Scardino, who has been working the past two years to have the monument built, said \$3,000 is remaining to pay for the display.

“One of the things we hope that the board will be able to help us with is to get us over the hump,” said Scardino, who is spearheading the effort for the state’s first Gold Star Families monument. “We are right at \$3,000 short. Anything that anyone can do would be appreciated. We do need your help. The presentation of the monument is set for May 16.”

The cost estimate for the monument is \$42,600.

“Camp Shelby has taken on the cost of placing monuments,” Scardino said. “They already have prepared it; it is ready for it to come.”

The monument is 6.5 feet tall and 8 feet long.

The Gold Star Families monument is “for all parents that have lost a child or husband or wife in the military all the way back to World War I.”

Scardino's 27-year-old son, Tony, had died of a heart attack while participating in a Land Navigation training exercise at Fort Gordon, Georgia. The four-panel granite monument that is a tribute to the families that have lost loved ones in service. Cut out of the panels is the silhouette of a soldier who is saluting, symbolizing those troops that didn't return to their families.

In Mississippi, there are 1,121 Gold Star families.
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