

News and stories

Gold Star Families Monument unveiled at Camp Shelby

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Liz Carroll | [WJTV12](#)

HATTIESBURG, Miss - Mississippi's first Gold Star Families Memorial monument was unveiled at Camp Shelby Wednesday.

Governor Phil Bryant accompanied Mississippi's last WWII veteran Woody Williams at the event.

Williams started the Hershel-Woody-Williams-Medal of Honor Foundation which spearheaded plans for the monument.

Gold Star families are those who have lost family members in the military. Veterans there today say people often forget the sacrifices families make for their country. Governor Bryant told onlookers he hopes there will be another monument in the northern part of the state.

"We'd like to have one in Northern Mississippi so people up there in that area might be able to go and have a moment of silence to reflect on their lost family member.... So we don't want this to be the last time that we gather together to honor the Gold Star families with a monument as beautiful as this one," said Governor Bryant.

In addition to being a WWII veteran, organizer Woody Williams is also a Medal of Honor recipient from the Battle of Iwo Jima.

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