

News and stories

Marine awarded Medal of Honor featured at luncheon to raise funds for Gold Star Families Memorial Monument here

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[Plain Dealer](#)

CLEVELAND, Ohio - Hershel "Woody" Williams, the last surviving Marine awarded a Medal of Honor during World War II, will be the featured guest speaker June 6 at a luncheon to raise funds for construction of a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument here.

Williams established the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation Inc. in 2013 to erect monuments to families who have lost loved ones in the service, in communities across the country.

A Gold Star family is a contemporary reference to the service flags/banners first flown by families during World War I.

A Blue Star signified that an immediate family member was serving in the military during war. If that loved one died, the Blue Star was replaced by a Gold Star.

Before joining the Marines, Williams delivered telegrams informing families of their loss in the war.

He would later note, "Consideration and recognition of families of

those lost in the war was very inadequate."

His foundation has created 35 Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments across the U.S., with another 42 monument projects planned.