

News and stories

Monument to Honor Son's Memory, Gold Star Families

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Phil Wieland | [NWI Times](#)

When their son David was killed in Afghanistan in 2012, Andrew and Patti Nowaczyk, of Dyer, began looking for a way to honor him and all the Gold Star families who have lost loved ones in battle.

Staff Sgt. David Nowaczyk was killed when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off under the mine resistant assault protected vehicle in which he was riding along with five other soldiers in Afghanistan as part of the Enduring Freedom campaign. Nowaczyk was the only one killed.

He was just 33 at the time and on his third tour of duty in Afghanistan, Andrew Nowaczyk said.

"After 9/11 he had only one focus, and that was to go into the Army," Nowaczyk said of his son.

Born and raised in Northwest Indiana and a graduate of Lake Central High School, Sgt. Nowaczyk left behind his wife, Rachel, daughter Kiley, now 6, and stepson Conner, now 12.

In 2012, Nowaczyk's parents saw a statue at Fort Hood, Texas, showing a battlefield cross formed by a soldier's rifle, boots and helmet with a soldier kneeling in front of it. A young girl stands behind the soldier reaching out to him.