

News and stories

Gold Star Memorial Dedication in Marietta

June 23 2018

Brittany Morgan | [The News Center](#)

MARIETTA OH (WTAP)- A gathering in Marietta early Saturday held a special meaning to the community.

“This Afternoon, this morning, we were very blessed to be able to unveil and dedicate the Gold Star Memorial that’s here in Marietta Ohio, to Gold Star families,” says Jonathan Hupp, event organizer.

Gold Star Families include people who have lost a family member in service to the county. Gold Star families were in attendance and helped with the unveiling of the monument.

“For them fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters and wives that lost these people; I think it’s just a wonderful dedication for them,” says Tom Kukulka, an event spectator.

The dedication ceremony included speeches from Gold Star Member Karen Kelly and Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel Woody Williams. The theme throughout the ceremony reiterated remembering and honoring those that gave all.

“These people that we are memorializing, passed away- had been

killed in World War II, Maybe Vietnam. We'd like to make sure we can keep remembering what they've done for us," notes Paul Beardsley Jr., Carlin's Battery D member.

The memorial in the park stands as a reminder of the price paid by those who serve and their families.

"Well it's important to remember our history. Freedom is not free. Freedom is paid with the blood of patriots, it always has been. It's a blood sacrifice that builds nations and it still goes on today. We have men and women all over the world that are standing guard at the gates of freedom on our behalf," said Bill Johnson of the US House of Representatives.

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