

News and stories

MOH Recipient's Goal: Tributes to Gold Star Families in All 50 States

With Sunday's dedication of the Pennsylvania Gold Star Families Memorial in Valley Forge, Pa., a project that got its direction from a Medal of Honor recipient's chance meeting with a grieving father is taking a big step forward.

Marine Corps veteran Hershel "Woody" Williams, the last surviving recipient of the nation's highest military honor from the pivotal World War II Battle of Iwo Jima, was giving a speech to a veterans group.

His goal at the time was to find ways to honor Gold Star Mothers, those who lost children in combat.

But afterwards, a man approached him. The man's wife had died before their son joined the military, and when the son was killed in Afghanistan the father was left to grieve alone.

"Tears were rolling down his cheeks," Williams recalled. "The only thing he said to me was, 'dads cry, too.'"

