

News and stories

New monument at NH veterans cemetery honors Gold Star families

Oct 7 2018

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BOSCAWEN, N.H. — The New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen has a new monument to honor Gold Star families and the loved ones they've lost.

"It is the first monument here to recognize that our fallen military heroes have entire families that miss them, and entire communities that feel the loss," said Stephanie Ouellette, director of the Gold Star Family Monument.

Ouellette lost her brother in 2009. Since then, she has worked to create the Gold Star monument, which was paid for through local fundraisers.

"We wanted the people of New Hampshire to honor the fallen, and they did in spades," she said.

The idea for the monument was thought up by World War II veteran Hershel "Woody" Williams, a Medal of Honor recipient. Williams has taken the idea nationwide.

"They all serve the same purpose, to recognize and honor those who gave so much for us," Williams said.

Since 2013, Williams has helped create monuments in 37 states. He said he won't stop until all 50 states have them.

"It would be such a wonderful, wonderful thing. We would have to have a great celebration when that happens. It's going to happen, and we will have a celebration at that time," Williams said.

He added: "For people to do this and come out shows they have a big heart, they love what they are doing and they love America and they love each other."