

News and stories

Campaign launched to honor Gold Star Families

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Mike Gooding | [WVEC](#)

NORFOLK, Va. (WVEC)-- Dating back to the Revolutionary War, the United States has lost more than 2.8 million military men and women in various wars, battles and campaigns.

That's 2.8 million families who forever have a member missing.

There are monuments and statues aplenty to honor the fallen heroes.

But here in Hampton Roads, there is nothing to salute their families. Until now.

"We always forget about our loved ones that we leave behind and they're still there although we're not," said Navy veteran Joe Wafford. "So, we need to leave something for them to know that they're not forgotten."

The idea, working with the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, is to build the Gold Sta Families Memorial Monument, and place it in Wisconsin Square in Norfolk, in the shadow of the famous battleship, amid several other tributes that are already in place there.

The effort is being led by Wafford, and former Navy SEAL and Combat Wounded Coalition founder Jason Redman, who say, such a marker is long overdue.

"I look at so many of the granite walls and think that my name should be on it. That could be my wife, my family that's going through the pain," said Redman. "So yes, we want to take care of them, the Combat Wounded Coalition strives to take care of them and this is just an extension of that, honoring them and remembering them."

Of course, such an undertaking is not free. Organizers are trying to raise \$60,000 through the non-profit Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation.