

# News and stories

## Memorial Honoring Gold Star Families Dedicated in Vienna

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Brett Dunlap | [Parkersburg News & Sentinel](#)

VIENNA — Honoring the families who have lost a family member in service of their country was the focus for the dedication of a special memorial Sunday in Vienna.

Over 300 people gathered at the new Spencer's Landing Park along River Road in Vienna for the dedication of the new Gold Star Families Memorial.

The special memorial was placed to honor the families who have lost family members in war.

Shirley White, founding member of West Virginia Gold Star Mothers, said there were many people who have worked over the last few months to make sure the memorial was placed in Spencer's Landing Park. White had lost two of her children in service to this country.

*"They worked tirelessly to make this happen,"* White said of the Vienna project.

The memorial project was the idea of Hershel Woodrow “*Woody*” Williams, a retired United States Marine from West Virginia, who received the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II. Williams has the goal of getting at least one Gold Star Families monument in every state.