

The Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation

Gold Star Families Memorial

HAWAII PROJECT



Hershel "Woody" Williams
Medal of Honor Foundation
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Donations: www.hwwmohf.org
(Designate funds for the Hawaii Project)

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Many monuments have been built as tributes to soldiers who have died while in military service, but few are dedicated to the families who continue to grieve for their deceased loved ones.

The Gold Star Families Memorial Monument honors Gold Star families whose loved ones were lost while serving in the Armed Forces.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GOLD STAR FAMILIES Memorial Monument is to preserve the memory of the fallen and to honor their families, standing as a stark reminder that Freedom is not free. This stunning black granite monument will reflect our community's own Gold Star families. At the center of this tribute is the most distinct feature of the monument: the cutout, representing the loved one who paid the ultimate price in the name of Freedom.





MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT
Hershel "Woody"
Williams

BATTLE OF IWO JIMA
OCTOBER 5, 1945

The Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation

Formed in 2010, the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization pursues the vision of Hershel "Woody" Williams to establish Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments throughout America to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Armed Forces and their families who endured their loss.

Mr. Williams' devotion to duty, service members, veterans, and their families began long before the Battle of Iwo Jima and before he entered the Corps. As World War II began, Woody came into direct contact with families in his own community when he delivered Western Union telegrams informing Gold Star families of the death of their loved ones. He noted that "consideration and recognition of the families of those lost in war was very inadequate." This, along with his personal commitment to veterans and their families, led him to help create the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation in 2012.

His foundation is focused on honoring Gold Star families by establishing Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments in communities in all 50 states, offering scholarships to Gold Star children, sponsoring outreach programs and events, and educating communities about Gold Star families and their sacrifices.

CITATION (in part)

Quick to volunteer his service ... Cpl. Williams daringly went forward alone to attempt the reduction of devastating machine-gun fire from the unyielding [pillboxes]. Covered only by 4 riflemen, he fought desperately for 4 hours under terrific enemy small arms fire and repeatedly returned to his own lines to prepare demolition charges and obtain serviced flame throwers, struggling back frequently to the rear of hostile emplacements to wipe out one position after another. On one occasion, he daringly mounted a pillbox to insert the nozzle of his flame thrower through the air vent, killing the occupants and silencing the gun; on another he grimly charged enemy riflemen who attempted to stop him with bayonets and destroyed them with a burst of flame from his weapon. His unyielding determination and extraordinary heroism in the face of ruthless enemy resistance were directly instrumental in neutralizing one of the most fanatically defended Japanese strong points encountered by his regiment and aided vitally in enabling his company to reach its objective.



Artist's rendition of the Gold Star Monument at Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery in Kaneohe.

The Hawaii Project

The U.S. Military and Hawaii have a long and complex history. Large numbers of Hawaii-born men and women have served in all branches of the U.S. military. According to U.S. Defense Department data (May 2016), Hawaii has over 40,000 active duty military members. Our goal is to erect a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument to honor and remember our own fallen heroes and acknowledge the sacrifice of their families. The monument will be erected near the entrance of the State Veterans Cemetery in the Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery with a target date of March 2018.

Become A Gold Star Family Partner

Visit our website to learn more about how you can become involved.

www.hwwmohfoundation.org/kaneohe-hi.html

