



HWW Medal of Honor Foundation Delaware River and Bay Authority



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release**

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Gold Star Families of Delaware, Hershel 'Woody' Williams Medal of Honor Foundation Break Ground for New Tribute Memorial

NEW CASTLE, Del. - Today, the Gold Star Families of Delaware representatives and officials with the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation broke ground for a new Gold Star Families Memorial Monument to be located at the Delaware River and Bay Authority's Veterans Memorial Park in New Castle, Delaware. For the past seven months, the local memorial monument committee, co-chaired by Judy Campbell and Valerie Huot, have focused their efforts on raising \$45,000 to fund the project. The new memorial is expected to be dedicated in late September 2018.

"As a country, we owe a debt of gratitude to those who served and those who paid the ultimate price so we may live in freedom," said Judy C. Campbell. "When a service member gives their life in defense of our country, it's the family members who deal with the loss on a daily basis. The Gold Star Families Memorial honors the Gold Star Families who have lost a loved one in defense of the United States and helps preserve the memory of the fallen family member."

The Gold Star Families Memorial is a stunning black granite monument featuring two sides. One side bears the words: Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, a tribute to Gold Star Mothers, Fathers, and Families who have sacrificed a Loved One for our Freedom. The other side tells a story through the four granite panels: Homeland, Family, Patriot, and Sacrifice. The scenes on each panel are a reflection of each community's Gold Star Families and their fallen Heroes. At the center of this tribute is the most distinct feature of the monument, a saluting silhouette which represents the Loved One who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the name of Freedom.

In October 2017, the Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) agreed to set aside land in Veterans Memorial Park adjacent to the Delaware Memorial Bridge and install related infrastructure for the project. Once the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument is dedicated, DRBA will maintain the memorial and its associated landscaping.

"We're honored to be able to work with the Gold Star Families of Delaware and the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation to find a suitable location on the grounds of Veterans Memorial Park for this new memorial," said Thomas J. Cook, Executive Director for the DRBA. "A place of remembrance, tranquility and honor, Veterans Memorial Park is home to many monuments, memorials

and statues that pay tribute to our country's finest. Each one of them serves as an eternal reminder that freedom isn't free. We look forward to the dedication of this special memorial monument in September."

The Gold Star Family Memorial Monument was created by Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams to remember those families who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Contributions to aid the Gold Star Families of Delaware memorial project can made at www.hwwmohf.org/wilmington-de.html.

About the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation

Formed in 2010, the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that pursues the vision of Hershel "Woody" Williams to establish Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments throughout America to honor and recognize those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Armed Forces and their families who endured their loss. In addition to the monument initiative, the Foundation also provides scholarships to Gold Star Children as well as sponsors and hosts outreach programs and events aimed at honoring, recognizing, and serving our nation's Gold Star Families.

About the Delaware River and Bay Authority

The DRBA, a bi-state governmental agency created by Compact in 1962, owns and operates the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the Cape May- Lewes Ferry, and the Forts Ferry Crossing. The DRBA also manages corporate and aviation properties through its economic development powers - two airports in New Jersey (Millville Airport and Cape May Airport) and three in Delaware (New Castle Airport, Civil Air Terminal and Delaware Airpark). All DRBA operating revenues are generated through the bridge, ferry and airport facilities. For more information, visit www.drba.net.

The members of the Delaware Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Committee: Judy C. Campbell, TJ Healy II, Val Huot, Billie M. Meeks, and Thomas J. Murray, Jr. For additional information, please feel free to contact: Judy Campbell at HerdSis1@gmail.com or Chad Graham at chad.graham@hwwmohf.org

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Gold Star_Chad Graham.jpg: Mr. Chad Graham, president of the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation and grandson of the Medal of Honor award recipient, recognizes and thanks the Delaware Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Committee for making today's groundbreaking a reality.

Gold Star_Groundbreaking.jpg: Participating in the groundbreaking for the new memorial are (left-right) Tom Daws, Gene Truono, T.J. Healy, Valerie Huot, Rocky and Donna Graves, Margaret Hohmann, Dave Skocik, Judy Campbell, Christine Balon, Holly Hitzig, Larence Kirby, Pat Little, Colleen Aungst, Bob Hill, Ken Jones, and Chad Graham.

Gold Star Memorial.jpg: Prototype of the Gold Star Memorial Monument, which is expected to be dedicated in September 2018.