



HONORING OUR SURVIVORS: SYMBOLS OF HONOR AND RECOGNITION



Ms. Donna Engeman
Survivor Advocate
Family Programs IMCOM G9, Family and MWR Programs



AGENDA

- Purpose
- Gold Star Lapel Button
- Next of Kin Lapel Button
- The Service Flag



PURPOSE

To facilitate awareness among the military and civilian communities of the significance and protocol surrounding the symbols of honor bestowed on Survivors of a loved one who has died while serving in the armed forces of the United States.





ASK YOURSELF:



Do I know the meaning of this symbol?

Do others on my military installation,
and in my community, know what sacrifice was paid in
order to wear this button (pin)?



THE GOLD STAR LAPEL BUTTON



*“The Gold Star...
is a sobering
reminder that we are
at war and that
freedom is not free.”*

- STEPHANIE
GLOVER, SURVIVOR

“The Gold Star Lapel button consists of a gold star one-quarter inch in diameter, on a purple disc three-quarters of an inch in diameter, within a wreath of gold laurel leaves.”

“Established by Act of Congress, Public Law 80-306, in August 1947 for appropriate identification of Survivors of WWI & WWII and subsequent armed hostilities of the United States.”

Code of Federal Regulations,
Title 32, National defense, Chapter V,
Department of the Army (32CFR578.63),
Army Regulation 600-8-22



THE GOLD STAR LAPEL BUTTON



*Everyone has
their own way
of grieving.*

Criteria to Issue :

Presented to Family members of Soldiers who die while deployed in support of Overseas Contingency Operations, or who die from wounds sustained in theater

Eligible Survivors/Family Members:

The widow or widower, each parent, each child, stepchild, child through adoption, brother, half-brother, sister, and half-sister are entitled to receive and wear a Gold Star Lapel Button in recognition of their loss and the sacrifice of their loved one



THE GOLD STAR LAPEL BUTTON



*Recognize,
Respect
and Honor
Survivors
for their
Resilient Spirit.*

Eligible Survivors/Family members (continued):

The term “widow or widower” includes those who have since remarried.

The term “parents” includes mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis



THE GOLD STAR LAPEL BUTTON



Symbols
that remind us
of those
who paid the
ultimate sacrifice.

- Uniformed Survivors are authorized to wear the Gold Star pin on their Army Green or Blue uniforms - All Army Activities (ALARACT) Message -100-2008



NEXT OF KIN LAPEL BUTTON



“The Next of Kin Lapel Button consists of a gold star within a circle (commemorating honorable service) surrounded by sprigs of oak.”

“Presented to widows(ers), parents, and primary next of kin of armed services members who lose their lives while serving on active duty or while assigned in an Army Reserve or Army National Guard unit in a drill status. Authorized for issue retroactive to March 29, 1973.”

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, National Defense, Chapter V, Department of the Army (32CFR578.63); Army Regulation 600-8-22



SERVICE FLAGS



- The Blue Star Service Flag: Represents Hope and Pride. Patented by Army CPT Robert Queissner in 1917 to recognize his two sons serving in the military.

- The Gold Star Service Flag: Represents sacrifice for the cause of liberty and freedom. Created in 1918 after President Woodrow Wilson approved a suggestion allowing mothers who lost a child serving in the war to wear a gold gilt star on the traditional black mourning arm band.





SERVICE FLAGS



- Authorized by Congressional Act 36 U.S.C. 179-182 (1967)
- Usually displayed in a window of a home where an immediate Family member of a service member resides. Service flags may be displayed for the duration of the conflict.
- The number of blue stars corresponds to the number of individuals from the immediate Family who currently serve in the Armed Forces.



- The flag may be displayed vertically or horizontally
- A horizontally displayed flag will have the stars arranged in a horizontal line with one star point up



SERVICE FLAGS



- If an individual is killed or dies while serving, (*from causes other than dishonorable*) the star representing that individual will have a gold star placed over the blue so that the blue forms a border.

Note: Blue border around the Gold Star on the Flag at the left.



SERVICE FLAGS



- Organizations may also display service flags. These include, but are not limited to: churches, schools, colleges, fraternities, sororities, societies, and places of business from which the member of the Armed Forces was or is associated.
- Instead of using a separate star for each member, one star may be used with the number of the members indicated by blue Arabic numerals placed below the star.
- If any members are killed or died while serving, from causes other than dishonorable, a smaller gold star will be placed over the blue with Arabic numerals below to indicate the number of Fallen.



SERVICE FLAGS

Display



- The service flag shall be treated with dignity and respect. When displayed with the flag of the United States, the service flag shall be of approximately equal size but never larger than the flag of the United States. The flag of the United States will occupy the position of honor.
- When the service flag is displayed other than by being flown from a staff, it will be suspended either horizontally or vertically.
- The flag will not be embroidered on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, or otherwise printed on anything that is designed for temporary use and discarded; or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform.



These are just a few of the ways we recognize and honor our Survivors and the ultimate sacrifice of our men and women in uniform. There are many other ways in which an installation and community can honor both the Fallen and our Survivors.

