

Spouse's Full Name _____

Branch of Service: Army Navy Marine Corps Air Force Coast Guard Other
Required for Membership: Active Duty Service-Connected Disability

Make check payable to Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. for the appropriate amount:

1 Year (\$35) 2 Year (\$70) 3 Year (\$105)

Amount of Additional Donation*

*Donations to GOLD STAR WIVES OF AMERICA, INC. are not tax deductible

Life Memberships: Age 40 or under (\$500) Age 41-55 (\$400) Age 56-69 (\$350) Age 70 and over (\$200)

Please provide your Birth Date if joining as a Life Member: _____

I certify the above statements are true. Providing false information will result in an automatic denial or revocation of membership. A question of membership qualifications occurring after acceptance into the organization may result in rescinding membership. The membership committee of GSW may look to Titles 10 and 38 of the United States Code for guidance in its determination of eligibility.

Signature: _____



How We Are Financed

GOLD STAR WIVES dues are only \$35 per year so that every widow/widower can afford to join. Chapters and Regions engage in various fund-raising projects to support local charities and programs.

On a National basis, the major fund-raising project is the Stay-At-Home Tea. Each member is sent a tea letter and asked to mail a donation to the national headquarters. This is used to finance special military and veterans service projects and to underwrite some of the operating expenses of the GOLD STAR WIVES Birmingham and Washington offices. Memorials to honor deceased members or spouses are accepted.

Much of the work of GOLD STAR WIVES is carried out by members through out-of-pocket funds.



How We Are Organized

Local Chapters carry out programs of service to their members and communities and are the "back bone" of GOLD STAR WIVES. The work and policies of the organization have their beginnings at the Chapter level. Members-at-large living in communities where no active chapter exists are kept informed through Region and National Newsletters.

The United States is divided into eight Regions, headed by Region Officers elected by the members. Resolutions, slates of National Officers and recommendations adopted in annual Spring Conferences are submitted to the National Convention.

The National Organization, composed of elected Officers and Board of Directors representing all Regions, carry out the business of the organization. Annual National Conventions are held in different locations usually in July, during which members make final decisions concerning national policies of GOLD STAR WIVES.



Our Mission

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. exists to preserve and enhance benefits to surviving United States Military spouses and children; to help our members and their children face the future with courage and determination; and to honor the memory of our military spouses who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. works with the United States Congress to assure recognition of our unique organization which seeks benefits on behalf of the surviving spouses and children.

Send Applications to:

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.
P.O. Box 361986
Birmingham, AL 35236-1986
1-888-751-6350 or 205-823-1778
Fax: 205-823-2760
E-Mail: info@goldstarwives.org
Web Page: www.goldstarwives.org

Washington, D.C. Office
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.
200 N. Glebe Road, Room 435
Arlington, VA 2203
888-751-6350
E-Mail: DC@goldstarwives.org

2018



GoldStarWives.org

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. is a 501 (C) 4 Non-Profit National Military Widow/Widowers Service Organization chartered by the United States Congress Public Law 96-497.

*DONATIONS ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.



GOLD STAR WIVES OF AMERICA, INC.

United we stand to win,
Divided we fall - and are forgotten

Our Purposes

TO ASSIST in upholding the Constitution and law of the United States of America, and to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State, and Nation.

TO HONOR the memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of our country.

TO SAFEGUARD and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy for which members of our armed services fought and died.

TO PROVIDE the benefits of a happy, healthful, and wholesome life to minor children of persons who died in the service of our country.

TO PROMOTE activities and interests designed to foster among its members the proper mental attitude to face the future with courage.

TO AID when necessary the spouses and children of persons who died in the service of our country.

To do any and all things necessary and incidental to carry out the general purposes and objectives of this organization.

GoldStarWives.org



Who We Are

The widows/widowers whose spouses died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, or as a result of service-connected disabilities;

The widows/widowers of service personnel of all armed conflicts involving the United States of America;

The widows/widowers of service personnel of all ranks, races, and creeds;

We are an all-inclusive organization.



What We Are

We are a non-profit national service organization incorporated in the State of New York on December 18, 1945 under the name Gold Star Wives of World War II. In 1948 the name was changed to Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. We were granted a Federal Charter by Congress on December 4, 1980, recognizing this organization as being "unique" and capable of providing a service not available from any other organization.



Why We Are

GOLD STAR WIVES responds to all requests for assistance, except monetary.

Each session of Congress brings up new legislation directly pertaining to military survivors.

Members of GOLD STAR WIVES appear before various House and Senate committees on issues concerning compensation, educational benefits, medical care, and other programs pertaining to the welfare of military survivors.

We believe surviving spouses and dependent children need an organization dedicated solely to their needs, concerns, and welfare.



**United we stand to win,
Divided we fall - and are forgotten**

Where We Are

In all 50 states of the union;

In government, industry, commercial enterprises, and in our homes;

Volunteers in our military and veterans hospitals, welfare projects, churches, schools, and community activities;

Students in schools, colleges, and universities throughout the country.



NY CHI S&S - CREDIT (ACME) 6-1-48

Gold Star Wives Place Wreath

Washington: Mrs. Marie Jordan, Executive Director of Gold Star Wives of America, places a wreath for her organization on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Over 100 members were in attendance, many with their children. Left to Right: Mrs. Lorraine Patterson, Potomac Area Chapter Secretary, carrying the organization flag; Mrs. Jordan; Mrs. Erma Wessel of Cincinnati National Chaplain; Mrs. Helen Kaucher of Cincinnati, Treasurer of Greater Cincinnati Chapter, carrying the American Flag.



How We Help Members

I. Member Support Services

- ★ Networking through local chapter meetings and region conferences;
- ★ Fund Raising Tea supports projects honoring the memory of our spouses;
- ★ Memorial Day and Veterans Day program involvement;
- ★ Quarterly Newsletter on membership involvement, legislative and educational information;
- ★ National Convention is held annually.

II. Community & Volunteer Services

- ★ Volunteer work in community, military, and veterans hospitals;
- ★ Personal contributions supporting community, military and veterans projects;
- ★ Organizational support for Veterans Memorial Projects and Programs.

III. Legislative Information Services

GSW provides its members information on pertinent issues, such as:

- ★ DIC for Unremarried and Reinstated widows/widowers;
- ★ DIC for Remarried widows/widowers age 57 and over;
- ★ Cost of living adjustment;
- ★ Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS);
- ★ TRICARE / TRICARE FOR LIFE;
- ★ CHAMPVA / CHAMPVA FOR LIFE;
- ★ CHAMPVA for Remarried widows/widowers - Age 55;
- ★ Education Benefits: Fry Scholarship provides post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to children and surviving spouses of service members who died in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001;
- ★ VA Home Loans;

Representation on behalf of the membership for improved benefits for all surviving spouses and their children such as:

- ★ Increased DIC Compensation for all Recipients;
- ★ Improved Health and Pharmacy Benefits;
- ★ Retention of DIC after age 55 if remarried;
- ★ Eliminate Survivors Benefit Program (SBP) / DIC offset
- ★ Space "A" Travel benefit;

and much more.

New Member Application. Please Complete Both Sides and send to:

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., P.O. Box 361986, Birmingham, AL 35236-1986

Annual Dues \$35.00

Personal information will NEVER be distributed for any purpose other than regular Gold Star Wives of America mailings.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of Birth _____

Month _____

Day _____

Year _____