

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

April 13, 2021

**Media Contact:**

Jill Fewell

[Jill@whvv.org](mailto:Jill@whvv.org)

(317) 549-5900

<http://IndianaGoldStar.org>



**INDIANAPOLIS- NEW MEMORIAL FOR INDIANA’S FALLEN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

*The memorial represents all Indiana Gold Star Families & Survivors from all war periods.*

Construction has started for the Indiana Gold Star Families Memorial Monument at the Indiana War Memorials property within the American Legion Mall.

**What:** Groundbreaking Announcement of the Indiana Gold Star Families Memorial Monument

**Where:** 760 North Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204

**When:** 10:00am Wednesday, April 14

**Why:** To announce new memorial for Indiana fallen servicemembers and their families

The stunning black granite monument will feature two sides. One side bears the words: ***Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, a tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and those they left behind.*** The other side tells a story through the four black granite panels: *Homeland, Family, Patriot, and Sacrifice.* The scenes on each panel will reflect Indiana images, military service and show respect to fallen heroes. At the center of this tribute is a silhouette cut-out of the missing Loved One who paid the ultimate sacrifice or lost their life because of their military service.

**The memorial is for ALL Indiana Gold Star Families & Survivors from ALL war periods.**

The Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation partnered with Indiana nonprofit, Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans / Indiana Gold Star, to build the memorial in downtown Indianapolis on the American Legion Mall. Hershel Woody Williams is the last surviving Medal of Honor Recipient from WWII. He has spent his whole life serving Veterans and their families, especially those who have sacrificed a loved one in the name of freedom.

The Indiana War Memorial properties were established in 1920 to honor the 135,000 Hoosier Veterans that served in WWI and the 3709 who paid the ultimate price. Displayed in too many windows during this time were Blue Stars representing a serving family member and Gold Stars designating a family member who paid the ultimate price. Family recognition has grown over the years to assist in the grieving process and adjusting to the loss of a loved one.

The Indiana War Memorials Commission is proud to join Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams with the Indiana Gold Star Families Memorial Monument that will be located in American Legion Mall. According to Brigadier General USAF (Ret) J. Stewart Goodwin, Executive Director, Indiana War Memorials Commission. “The warrior fights, but the family serves also.”

The Dedication Ceremony target date is Saturday, May 1, 2021, at 1:30pm.