

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 33

By: Stanley

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of Gold Star Wives of America; thanking them for their service to Gold Star military families; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit national military widows/widowers service organization dedicated solely to the needs, concerns, and welfare of surviving spouses and dependent children; and

WHEREAS, the organization was first incorporated in New York on December 15, 1945, as the Gold Star Wives of World War II, and was renamed Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., in 1947; and

WHEREAS, early organizers and founding members including First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt saw the organization as one for and by military surviving spouses to collectively work to preserve and enhance benefits for U.S. military spouses and children as well as to help them face the future with courage and determination while honoring the memory of those military spouses who made the ultimate sacrifice; and

1 WHEREAS, on December 4, 1980, Gold Star Wives of America was
2 granted a federal charter by Congress, recognizing the organization
3 as being "unique" and capable of providing a service not available
4 from any other organizations; and

5 WHEREAS, the nonprofit is made up of Gold Star family members
6 including widows and widowers whose spouses died while serving in
7 the U.S. Armed Forces, or as a result of service-connected
8 disabilities; the widows and widowers of service personnel of all
9 armed conflicts involving the United States; and the children whose
10 parents gave their lives in service of our country; and

11 WHEREAS, the phrase "Gold Star Family" began during World War I
12 when military families displayed service flags featuring a blue star
13 for every immediate family member serving in the Armed Forces. The
14 star's color would be changed to gold if the family lost a loved one
15 in the war. Individual military family members who lost a loved one
16 also started being referred to as "Gold Star Wives" or "Gold Star
17 Mothers"; and

18 WHEREAS, members of Gold Star Wives of America appear before
19 various U.S. House and Senate committees on issues concerning
20 compensation, educational benefits, medical care, and other programs
21 pertaining to the welfare of military survivors; and

22 WHEREAS, Gold Star Wives of America will celebrate its 75th
23 anniversary in 2022.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
2 OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

3 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes and celebrates the
4 75th anniversary of Gold Star Wives of America.

5 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate thanks Gold Star Wives of America
6 for their dedication to helping their fellow Gold Star families get
7 the benefits and support they need.

8 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma
9 Chapter of the Gold Star Wives of America.

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