



# GOLD STAR

## FAMILIES

Remember. Respect. Honor.



# GOLD STAR FAMILY PROGRAM

# THE GOLD STAR

Initiated during World War I, the title “Gold Star” distinguishes **a family member who lost a loved one in military service.**

Today, immediate family members receive a Gold Star from the Department of Defense, to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

## WHAT IS A GOLD STAR FAMILY

*A parent, sibling, spouse or child of a loved one lost in military service.*

Each of these family members, who has lost a loved one during active or reserve duty, are invited and encouraged to take part in MDVA's **Gold Star Family program.**

**NO ONE HAS GIVEN MORE** to our nation than the families of the fallen. Nothing can erase a family's pain when losing a loved one. But in an effort to help ease a family's burden, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) offers the Gold Star Family program.

The goals of the Gold Star Family program is to **honor the legacy of every fallen Minnesota hero**, while **supporting the needs of their families.** This is accomplished by a unique set of Gold Star Family services that include:



### SUPPORT

**CONNECT YOU**  
with state and local peer support groups that can help you move forward and find strength.



### BENEFITS

**PROVIDE GUIDANCE**  
on federal survivor benefits and entitlements to assist with financial, educational, health, and employment needs.



### RESOURCES

**OFFER SURVIVORS**  
a state and national network of resources and referrals for the individual and collective help available to military families in need.

Since unresolved issues and questions can surface months or years after a family's loss, MDVA Gold Star Family services are available for as long as you need them.

**If you have lost a family member in military service, help us honor them by helping you.**

To learn more visit [MinnesotaVeteran.org/GoldStar](http://MinnesotaVeteran.org/GoldStar)  
Or call us at: 612-970-5662



*Dedicated to serving  
Minnesota Veterans  
and their families*



Learn more about all  
of the comprehensive  
services available through  
MDVA by visiting

**[MinnesotaVeteran.org](https://www.MinnesotaVeteran.org)**

Or call us at

**1-888-LinkVet**  
(1-888-546-5838)

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*The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs  
is a Veteran-friendly, equal opportunity, and  
affirmative action employer.*

*This information is available in an alternative  
format by calling 612-548-5961.*