



Milwaukee Gold Star Families Memorial Monument



Various Dignitary Support Resolutions, Documents, and Letters

From 2016 – 2019

(Attached Below)





September 17, 2019

Board Resolution

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial Center on September 17, 2019, the following resolution was proposed and approved by the Board:

WHEREAS the mission of the War Memorial Center is to provide a solemn setting where the community can pause to reflect on the sacrifices made by the men and women of our armed forces; military, civic, social events and ceremonies are conducted; and the patriotism of our youth is nurtured;

WHEREAS the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, through the efforts of the Milwaukee Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Committee, seeks to undertake a fundraising effort to support the creation of a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument located in the state of Wisconsin;

WHEREAS providing a permanent location for said monument on the grounds of the War Memorial Center supports the mission of the War Memorial Center;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the War Memorial Center Board is in full support of the efforts of the Milwaukee Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Committee to permanently locate a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument on a mutually agreed to site within the grounds north of the War Memorial Center.

Peter Pochowski, Chairman

Date Signed



February 2, 2019

BE IT RESOLVED: The VFW-Department of Wisconsin's Council of Administration, **on behalf of Wisconsin's 27,000 war veterans**, expresses its support and endorsement of creation of the *Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation's Gold Star Families Memorial Monument* on the grounds of the Milwaukee County Veterans War Memorial Center.

The Council of Administration convened on the 22nd of January, 2019 and voted unanimously to support the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument. The VFW supports this effort in its concept, creation and placement of the Monument in perpetuity based on its intended purposes, to honor Gold Star Families, preserve the memory of fallen veterans and stand as a stark reminder that freedom is not free.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Gundel Metz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

Gundel Metz
State Commander.

VFW DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

PO Box 6128 | Monona, WI 53716-0128
466 Dutch Mill Rd | Madison, WI 53716

1.608.221.5276
www.vfwwi.org



VFW Department of Wisconsin
Council of Administration
P.O. Box 6128
Monona, Wisconsin 53716-0128

January 10, 2019

Re: VFW Resolution in Support of Milwaukee *Gold Star Families Memorial Monument*
From: Submitted for consideration by State JVC, Jason Johns

Dear Council,

Please accept the following proposed resolution in support of a potential ***Gold Star Families Memorial Monument*** on the Lake Michigan lakefront grounds of the **Milwaukee County Veterans War Memorial** as part of a national campaign initiated by 95-year old Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient from the Battle of Iwo Jima in WWII, U.S. Marine Corporal Hershel "Woody" Williams.

WHEREAS: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as demolition sergeant serving with the 21st Marines, 3d Marine Division, in action against **Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, 23 February 1945, Corporal "Woody" Williams** was awarded the **Congressional Medal of Honor**. While tanks were maneuvering vainly to open a lane for the infantry through then network of reinforced concrete pillboxes, buried mines, and black volcanic sands, Woody Williams daringly went forward alone to attempt the reduction of devastating machinegun fire from the unyielding positions. Covered by only 4 riflemen, he fought desperately for 4 hours under terrific enemy small-arms fire and repeatedly returned to his own lines to prepare demolition charges and obtain serviced flamethrowers, struggling back, frequently to the rear of hostile emplacements, to wipe out 1 position after another. On 1 occasion, he daringly mounted a pillbox to insert the nozzle of his flamethrower through the air vent, eliminating all threats from the pillbox and silencing the gun; on another he grimly charged enemy riflemen who attempted to stop him with bayonets and destroyed them with a burst of flame from his weapon. His unyielding determination and extraordinary heroism in the face of ruthless enemy resistance were directly instrumental in neutralizing one of the most fanatically defended Japanese strong points encountered by his regiment and aided vitally in enabling his company to reach its objective. Cpl. Williams' aggressive fighting spirit and valiant devotion to duty throughout this fiercely contested action sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. AND;

WHEREAS: Woody's devotion to duty, service members, veterans and their families is above reproach and his experiences have given him a "greater appreciation for life, and those lost serving in the military for their country", and he has noted that "consideration and recognition of the families of those lost in war was very inadequate." AND;

WHEREAS: To recognize and honor those families who have lost loved ones in service to their country, he heled create the *Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation* in 2012, with the goal of (i) establishing Gold Star Memorial Monuments in communities in all 50 states, (ii) offering scholarships to Gold Star Children, (iii) sponsoring outreach programs and events, and (iv) educating communities about Gold Star Families and the sacrifice they have endured. AND;

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument is to honor Gold Star Families, preserve the memory of the fallen, and stand as a stark reminder that Freedom is not free. To do so, a stunning black granite monument features two sides: one side bears the words: "*Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, a Tribute to Gold Star Families and Relatives Who Have Sacrificed a Loved One For Our Freedom*"; and the other side tells a story through the four granite panels: "*Homeland, Family, Patriot and Sacrifice.*" The scenes on each panel are a reflection of each community's Gold Star Families and their fallen Heroes. At the center of this tribute is the most distinct feature of the monument, the cut out which represents the Loved One who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the name of Freedom.

WHEREAS: 47 Monuments have already been built and dedicated in over 41 states and 51 Memorial projects are currently in progress; AND

WHEREAS: Efforts are under way to construct a Memorial on the grounds of the **Milwaukee County Veterans War Memorial Center** on the **Milwaukee Lakefront**; AND

WHEREAS: Erecting these Memorials in communities around the country is directly in-line with the Patriotic and Educational missions of the VFW, and the Department of Wisconsin would be proud to assist in bringing this first of its kind Gold Star Memorial to Wisconsin by publicly endorsing the endeavor:

BE IT RESOLVED: The VFW-Department of Wisconsin's Council of Administration, **on behalf of Wisconsin's 26,000 war veterans**, expresses its support and endorsement of creation of the *Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation's Gold Star Families Memorial Monument* on the grounds of the Milwaukee County Veterans War Memorial Center.

Signed: _____	Signed: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Title: _____	Title: _____
Date: _____	Date: _____
Signed: _____	Signed: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Title: _____	Title: _____
Date: _____	Date: _____

Attached Signed VFW Resolution

December 7, 2016

Mary McCormick
Executive Director
Rotary Club of Milwaukee
750 North Lincoln Memorial Drive
Suite 320
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202



Hello Ms. McCormack and Milwaukee Rotary Club Members,

Survivor Outreach Services would be honored to be included as potential support of a Gold Star Family Memorial Monument project in Milwaukee. Survivor Outreach Services supports the Families of the Active, Reserve and Army National Guard components in Wisconsin. Your consideration of placing a memorial in the Milwaukee area would be a lovely tribute to the sacrifices both the Service Members and Families have given to our great country and the great state of Wisconsin. I would be delighted to share the information about the project, progress and finally the dedication event with them.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Scianni". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lori" and last name "Scianni" clearly distinguishable.

Lori Scianni
Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator for Southern Wisconsin
HRCI Contractor
311 S Walton Ave,
Waukesha, WI 53186
608-242-3867



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
Fred L. Wineland Building, 4th floor
16 Francis Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

November 30, 2016

John A. Scocos
Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs
201 West Washington Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7843

Dear John,

I am writing regarding the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument program, sponsored by the Hershel "Woody" Williams Foundation. This year on Veterans Day here in Maryland, the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument was dedicated. Participating in the ceremony were Governor Hogan, Lt. Governor Rutherford and many other dignitaries. It was a very successful event attended by several hundred citizens, which included Gold Star families, veterans and supporters.

As you may know, I handed out Gold Star Project information packets at the fall conference in Texas this year. I briefed the program to our membership at that time. It is the hope that a memorial will be placed in every one of the 50 states honoring the Gold Star Families and their sacrifice. I would ask that you share this information with Governor Walker. Here is a link to Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams' webpage. <http://www.hwwmohfoundation.org/>

Also copied on this email is Mr. Dennis Brandt, who led the effort here in Maryland, should you need to call on him for additional information.

Thank you, John, for taking the time to review this information. I hope Wisconsin will join the states already participating in this worthwhile effort. As an FYI, Massachusetts dedicated their memorial on Gold Star Mother's Day this year. I believe there are now 9 states who have had such dedications.

Wishing you and yours a grand Holiday season and a great new year as we head into 2017.

My Best,

s/George Owings

George W. Owings III
Secretary, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
george.owings@maryland.gov
410-260-3838 (office)

cc: Dennis Brant, Positive Strides Organization



KORB + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS

648 N Plankinton Avenue, Suite 240

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203

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January 7, 2019

RE: Donation of Engineering Services & Materials

Milwaukee Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Committee

Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation

c/o: Lloyd Dickenson, Foley & Lardner LLP

Dale Egan, von Briesen & Roper, s.c.

411 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1000

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53202

Dear Milwaukee Committee,

Please accept this letter as my firm's interest in being involved with the design and installation of the potential Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Our full team includes:

Korb + Associates

Architecture



Thorton Tomasetti

Structural Engineering

ThorntonTomasetti

Pinnacle Engineering

Civil Engineering
Landscape Architecture



PINNACLE ENGINEERING
CIVIL ENGINEERING | NATURAL RESOURCES

We and our full team would be honored to be involved in this effort and we offer to perform our professional services pro bono, excluding direct expenses such as printing, permit fees, etc.

Please let me know if the Committee has any questions regarding our offered involvement.

Best regards,

Jason Korb

AIA NCARB LEED AP

Principal Architect/Owner

Korb + Associates Architects

KORB + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS

648 N. Plankinton Avenue, Suite 240 Milwaukee Wisconsin 53203



Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation

12123 Shelbyville Rd Suite 100
Louisville, Kentucky 40243
<http://www.hwwmohfoundation.org>

November 7, 2016

Mary McCormick
Executive Director
Rotary Club of Milwaukee
750 North Lincoln Memorial Drive
Suite 320
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Madam McCormack and Distinguished Members of Rotary Club of Milwaukee:

On behalf of the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation and the Gold Star Families of Wisconsin, I would like to personally express the deepest gratitude for your potential support of a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument project in Milwaukee.

Our Foundation and the volunteer individuals who make up Gold Star Families Memorial Monument committee, including Mr. Dale Egan, are dedicated to seeing that the families of Wisconsin patriots who lost their lives in all branches of the Armed Forces receive the honor and tribute due them.

By exploring a potential Gold Star Families Memorial Monument within the existing beautiful Veterans Park area, Rotary would be part of capturing the profound support these families have provided the United States with a noble black granite Monument that would be viewed for years to come.

Our hope is that this Monument will help those living in and visiting Milwaukee to reflect on the sacrifices that have been made by the families of our Warriors who fight to keep us a free people.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hershel Williams", written in a cursive style.

Hershel "Woody" Williams
Medal of Honor Recipient
USMC WWII