Greetings to All!

Did your Auxiliary recognize Blue Star Mothers and Families, Gold Star Mothers and Families, Silver Star Mothers and Families and/or White Star Mothers and Families? Do you know what each color designation stands for?

Blue Star Mothers and Families

The minute someone takes the oath to serve in the U.S. military, both their life and their family’s lives change forever. All the things they heard about and prepared for – the moves, deployments, the time apart – all become a reality and life is never the same again, not only for the service members, but for their children, spouses and parents.

When they join the military community, some military families choose to display a Blue Star service banner or flag in a window of their home to signify a loved one is an active-duty service member.

This special flag, displayed only by military families, is where the phrase “Blue Star Family” comes from and refers to the immediate family members of an active-duty service member.

The Blue Star Family tradition is rich in history and dates back to World War I.

Gold Star Mothers and Families

No one wants to be a Gold Star Family.

The title, which is reserved for families of military members who have died in the line of duty, is meant to honor the service member’s ultimate sacrifice while acknowledging their family’s loss, grief and continued healing. The day designated to recognize Gold Star families is the last Sunday of September.

Last year, our post and auxiliary honored two gold star families with quilts. We also had a special plaque made that hangs at our post.

Silver Star Mothers and Families

The Silver Star is to remember, honor and assist our wounded, ill, injured and dying from all wars. This is a new recognition, founded in 2004. The goal is to recognize the blood sacrifice of our wounded and illnesses incurred during combat, and remember their efforts by honoring them with the Silver Star banner. Any Armed Forces personnel either currently serving honorably or those who have served honorably from any war, who having served in a war zone has been wounded by enemy action or who have been injured or contracted a serious illness that could be rated at least 10% disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. All wounds, injuries or illness must have originated in a war zone. Purple Heart recipients, victims of friendly fire, kids injured in a war zone, those who suffer from PTSD, Agent Orange effects and Gulf War syndrome. The individual eligible to receive the Silver Star Banner would not have to be eligible for the Purple Heart or any other military decoration in order to receive a Silver Star Banner.

White Star Mothers and Families

The White Star designation recognizes families who have lost a service member to suicide, whether they were military or a first responder. 22KILL honors the sacrifices of both the service member and their family by providing outreach and support programs. These include family counseling and workshops, resource education, need assessments, peer retreats, and other services as necessary. Has your community ever done a program specific to bring awareness to this? A few years ago, our Post/Auxiliary teamed up with the local radio station and started our local 22 push up challenge. The day designated to recognize White Star families is the 4th Sunday of September.

“Don’t Fudge on Care for Veterans” while “Soaring above and Beyond.”

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