

News and stories

Woody Williams commends legislators on passing resolution supporting Gold Star Families Memorial Monument

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Andrea Lannom | [The Register-Herald](#)

CHARLESTON – World War II Medal of Honor recipient Woody Williams spoke to legislators Wednesday, commending them for passing a resolution supporting construction of a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument on Capitol grounds.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 notes the Legislature will work with the Hershel “Woody” Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, Gov. Jim Justice, and all others involved to ensure construction of the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument.

The mission of the Medal of Honor Foundation is to honor Gold Star families, relatives and children by building monuments throughout the United States, by offering scholarships to Gold Star children, by sponsoring outreach programs and events, and by educating communities about Gold Star families and the sacrifice they have endured.

Williams said when he travels across the country for Gold Star Memorials, the biggest concern expressed to him is that a family's loved one will be forgotten.

“You as leaders of our people by authority, this Gold Star Memorial on these historic grounds are fulfilling that promise that they will not be forgotten.”

Senate Majority Leader Ryan Ferns, R-Ohio, said, “Unlike other statues and memorials, Gold Star recognizes the fallen by honoring those who got left behind — their families,” Ferns said.

Williams said for some families, there is no closure and it's important for the state to honor them.

“It's long past time that we, who have privilege of living our lives in a free society, acknowledge those who have experienced loss, that their loved ones are not forgotten.”