WOODY WILLIAMS FOUNDATION

Welcome to September!

Save the Date

With a multitude to select from, plan to join us for one or more Gold Star Families, Outreach or partner events in your area.

View our Event Calendar

Hello, families, friends and supporters of the Woody Williams Foundation! We are so thankful to have you here with us. It was great to see so many of you last month at the Gold Star Family Day at the Ballpark with the Louisville Bats. Big thanks to Karl Truman and the Louisville Bats for sponsoring our families!

As we move into September, we welcome cooler temperatures, falling leaves, and the warm memories of the summer sun. Autum has long been associated with transformation and rebirth. It's a season for balancing light and dark; old and new; a season that encourages us to embrace change. This seasonal change often reminds me of the transitory nature of grief. Last month we asked you all what you do when you feel these ebbs and flows. A surviving spouse wrote to us stating,

> *"I was encouraged to participate in an outdoor retreat which made me so anxious. I didn't know anyone there and I didn't think anyone would understand me. I also didn't think I could keep up with the things they were doing outside. But I surprised myself and felt so much love and pride in every little step I took. I would do it again. I needed that proof that I still had the physical strength to push on".*

We are so proud of her for taking a step like this!

*Thank you to everyone that shared their stories with us! In the month of September, we have a new challenge for you: **Think about something you did as a child that brought you joy and would like to bring back into your adult life.** We hope you'll tell us how you might incorporate simple joys into your life this month!*

There's so much happening in the month of September! As a Foundation, we are thrilled to have the partnership and support of so many great organizations! Please see below for a list of the ways we are honoring your family and how you can participate:

September

Nationwide
Operation Warrior Wishes Registration Open

Events all month

September 6-8

Fort Moore, GA
Global War on Terror Rededication
National Infantry Museum

Please email Rachel Goodman for detailed info and a registration link.

Saturday, September 7

Florida
Raymond James Valor #GolfToGiveBack Tournament

Innisbrook Resort
Copperhead Course

Visit their website for more information.

Wednesday, September 11

Nationwide
Day of Service

Give back to your **local community** in honor of our Gold Star Families. This year we will be honoring families affected by 9/11 with our friends at Tuesdays Children in NYC.

Friday, September 13

Fayetteville, North Carolina
Annual Community Connection for Military Suicide Prevention & Postvention

Please email kendra.danzer@va.gov for more information.

September 13-14

Raleigh, North Carolina
Operation IIRS

Register here for either night at the Horse Show.

Saturday, September 14

Kemah, Texas
Sailing Excursion with the Sailing Angels

Please email amy.dozier@woodywilliams.org for more information.

Saturday, September 21

Grand Prairie, Texas
Tuesday's Children Family Night
Boulder Adventure Park

Visit their website for more information.

Monday, September 30

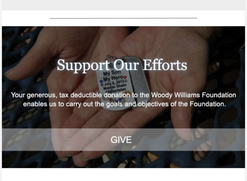
North Carolina
Registration CLOSES for Combat Warriors Hunting Expedition

Please email amy.dozier@woodywilliams.org for more information.

We currently have 137 GSFMM in various cities around the country and even one in Guam! These monuments serve as a reminder of the sacrifice military families have made in service to our great nation. We also hope that these monuments serve as a beacon of hope for those who visit each site!

We've recently started creating website pages dedicated to each monument location, adding helpful information for Veterans and Gold Star Families. From major national nonprofits to local agencies, we're building these pages to offer more substantial programming and connectedness in our communities! We anticipate completing this project by the end of 2024. Please continue checking our website to find more information specific to your community.

As always, we are here for YOU! We have an extensive list of resource partners offering everything from grief support to scholarships and other exciting activities. Reach out to our Director of Outreach Amy Dozier if there is something specific your family is looking for. It is truly an honor to work with you and hear about the lives of your heroes.



Our mission statement

To honor, recognize, and serve Gold Star Families and the legacy of their Loved Ones who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

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