

State of Louisiana

- Gold Star Prestige License Plate (R.S. 47:463.137)
- Annual LA Senate Military Family Day in honor of LA's Fallen Heroes, since 2005
- LA Honor and Remember Flag flown on Memorial Day & Veterans Day (R.S. 49:156)
- Survivors and Dependents Education Benefit (Chapter 35) provides education and training opportunities to dependents of Veterans who died while on active duty. Eligibility requirements do apply. (Through the Federal VA)
- LA National Guard Death & Disability Benefit provides a \$250,000 death benefit from the State of Louisiana to the qualified beneficiary of record of a Louisiana Guardsman Killed in Action, when certain eligibility requirements have been met.
- 2017 Creation and Dedication of Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park (SCR 60 2017 RS)

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs

- 3 of Louisiana's 4 Veteran's Cemeteries participate in the "Wreaths Across America" ceremonies each December, where Gold Star Family Members in attendance are recognized. The Keithville Cemetery participates in a similar program called "Wreaths Across the Cemetery", where a local funeral home donates the wreaths and puts them out.
- Act 18 of the 2009 Legislative Session allows for the admission of Gold Star Parents and Spouses in to Louisiana State Veterans Homes.
- Presents the families of Fallen Heroes who were Killed in Action with the Louisiana Honor Medal. The ribbon is changed to a yellow ribbon with a gold star affixed to it.
- Louisiana Title 29 Dependents' Educational Assistance provides educational assistance at state supported colleges and universities for surviving spouses and children of Fallen Veterans. The benefit provides exemption from tuition and some fees for those that meet the eligibility requirements. The program is administered by LDVA.

Around the State

- Our H.O.M.E.- Honor, Opportunity, Mindset, Encouragement (Monroe) honors Gold Star Mothers/Families at their Memorial Day event each year held at the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum.
- Patriot Guard Riders provide support for the families of the fallen at memorial services, funerals, etc.
- Abbeville Garden Club Blue and Gold Star Memorial Markers at memorial site near the courthouse, La Military Hall of Fame and Museum, and local armory headquarters.
- Ville Platte LA Smoked Meat Festival – began in 1992; dedicated to the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America; this past year, LDVA Secretary Joey Strickland spoke and presented 14 plaques to Gold Star families.

Blue Star Mothers

- **Chapter 1- Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Candice Bourg, President**
 - Annual Gold Star Mothers Day Luncheon for Gold Star Mothers from around the state. This event is by invitation only.
 - Memorial Day Garden of Flags and Ceremony to honor Louisiana's fallen service members from the American Revolution to the Present.
 - Host annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Baton Rouge National Cemetery in conjunction with Arlington National Cemetery in December each year.
- **Chapter 6- Blue Star Mothers of NELA by Jayme Watson, President**
 - Actively reaches out to the CAC assigned to the Gold Star Family when they hear of the passing of a Service Member from North LA.
 - Present the spouse or mother with a Gold Star banner at the visitation or during the funeral.

- Host a Gold Star Memorial Service each year on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day for the community and invite North LA GS Families.
 - A bell is tolled for each name read from North LA and their name is called, whether they have family in attendance or not.
- Provide transportation (usually by limo bus) for Gold Star Mothers/Families from NELA to Baton Rouge for the annual Statewide Gold Star Mothers Luncheon hosted by BSM Chapter 1. The cost of the limo is funded by Mike Mulhearn from Mulhearn Funeral Home in Monroe.
- North LA Gold Star Recognition is held the last Sunday in September each year. They visit with the GS Families in attendance and present them with a gift.
- BSM Chp. 6 participates in Wreaths Across America each year and help ensure that GS Mothers/Families know how to participate, too.
- Try to help the GS Mothers/Families to join the BSM, so they can be engaged socially and have a support system to help.

Daughters of the American Revolution

- **Fort Miro Chapter- Monroe by Kay Kellogg-Katz, Chapter Regent**
 - Recognizes GS Families in their immediate area by inviting them to join them as they honor them for their sacrifice at one of their chapter meetings. Knowing that holidays accentuate the loss of a family member, the chapter acknowledges our affection and appreciation for what the fallen soldier means to us and to the entire country.
 - Works closely with the BSM Chapter 6 group in the area to reach out to the GS Families, as well as contributing items to send to active duty service members currently serving.
 - **Recommendation:** Ensure there is a list of Louisiana Gold Star Families so that families are not missed when recognition services are being done. Suggested to be organized by Congressional District.
- **Chief Tusquahoma Chapter- West Monroe by Katie Collins, Chapter Regent**
 - The chapter hosts a recognition ceremony each year where they present recent GS Families with a LA Honor Medal and/or recognition of some kind. The Honor Medal is usually presented by State Senator Mike Walsworth. This year the medals will be presented by Congressman Ralph Abraham (LA-5).
 - They also work closely with the BSM Chapter 6 to connect with families in the area.
- **Pelican Chapter- Shreveport, Belinda Jones, Chapter Regent**
 - **Recommendation:** Help organizations like the DAR and others that want to be involved know how to best to find out who Gold Star Families are and ways to contact them. Also, work to find ways where more people can participate in committees like this that are more centrally located.
- **John James Audubon Chapter- Baton Rouge, Georgia LeCour, Chapter Regent**
 - Wreaths Across America State House Project event is held each December at the Louisiana State Capitol Rotunda. State capitols across the country will kick off Wreaths Across America events by placing a wreath in honor of all branches of the military at each state capitol.

American Legion, VFW, DAV, VVA, AMVETS, etc.

- Various Veterans Service Organizations recognize Gold Star Families through out the year. They have memorial services and/or host events to remember Louisiana's fallen. However, at this time, there has not been any information given about specific events.