

## Gold Star Mothers/Families – T.A.P.S program

**How can the American Legion Auxiliary support those families whose service members died during service to our Country?**

Working with organizations like:

- American Gold Star Mothers
- American Gold Star Families
- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

Honoring our Gold Star Families by:

- Creating events around April 5 which is recognized as Gold Star Spouses Day
- Creating events around the last Sunday of September, which is designated as Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day



### American Gold Star Mothers

One June 12, 1984 the Ninety-Eighth Congress of the United States granted the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. a charter. Sec. 3 lists the objects and purposes for which the corporation is organized, shall be those provided in its articles of incorporation, and shall include a continuing commitment, on a national basis.

- Keep alive and develop the spirit that promoted world services.
- Maintain the ties of fellowship born of that service, and to assist and further all patriotic work.
- Inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, State, and Nation.
- Assist veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, and other strategic areas and their dependents in the presentation of claims to the Veterans' Administration, and to aid in any way in their power the men and women who served and died or were wounded or incapacitated during hostilities.
- Perpetuate the memory of those whose lives were sacrificed in our wars.
- Maintain true allegiance to the United States of America.
- Inculcate lessons of patriotism and love of country in the communities in which we live.
- Inspire respect for the Stars and Stripes in the youth of America.
- Extend needful assistance to all Gold Star Mothers and, when possible, to their descendants.
- To promote peace and good will for the United States and all other Nations.



### American Gold Star Families

America's Gold Star Families is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization created to assist those grieving any military loss through active duty service. They include all family members representing all conflicts, all branches of service, and all circumstances of death.

#### *Mission Statement*

The mission of America's Gold Star Families is to provide honor, hope and healing to those grieving any military loss while serving active duty in the United States Armed Forces. We do this through programs and services at no cost to families of the fallen.

TAPS is the national nonprofit organization providing compassionate care and comprehensive resources for all those grieving the death of a military or veteran loved one.

Since 1994, TAPS has provided comfort and hope 24/7 through a national peer support network and connection to grief resources, all at no cost to surviving families and loved ones.

TAPS provides a variety of programs to survivors nationally and worldwide:

- National Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp is held annually Washington, D.C., over Memorial Day weekend since 1994.
- TAPS conducts regional survivor seminars for adults and youth programs at locations across the country, as well as retreats and expeditions around the world.
- Staff can get you connected to counseling in your community and help navigate benefits and resources.

If you are grieving the loss of a fallen service member, or if you know someone who can use their support, the TAPS 24/7 National Military Survivor Helpline is always available toll-free with loving support and resources at **800-959-TAPS (8277)**.

If your mission to care for the families of America's fallen heroes speaks to you as well, please connect with TAPS about giving, volunteering, professional engagement or careers.

TAPS is a national nonprofit 501(c) 3 Veterans Service Organization and is not part of, or endorsed by, the Department of Defense.

Submitted by:

Bettina Kossow

Northwest Division Chairman

National Security

## Department Committee Chairs

### Important Dates:

May 15, 2024

- Year-end reports (Department chairmen reports due via email to division chairmen with a copy to national chairman).

June 1, 2024

- Department and Unit Award Nomination Form Completed and Submitted
- Salute to Service-members Award

### Prayer for You

OLD IRISH VERSE

May the road rise up to meet you, May the wind be always at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face, And the rains fall soft upon the fields, And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand. Amen.



(American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains' Prayer Book)

### *Reminder!*

#### Upcoming Quarterly Zoom Meetings for National Security:

**Tuesday, March 26, 2024**

EASTERN	8:00 PM
CENTRAL	7:00 PM
MOUNTAIN	6:00 PM
PACIFIC	5:00 PM
ALASKAN	4:00 PM
HAWAII-ALEUTIAN	3:00 PM

Registration info will be sent prior to meeting. All Department National Security Chairmen & Department Presidents are invited to attend.

**My Contact Information:** Need to reach me? Feel free to reach out however you are comfortable!

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