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## Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Dedication Sunday, September 29, 2024, at the NVMM



**COLUMBUS, Ohio** – The National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM) will host the ceremony and dedication of the long-awaited Gold Star Families Memorial Monument at 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 29, 2024.

The dedication has been nearly five years in the making. Planning began in late 2019 to bring a monument to Columbus. The museum's Memorial Grove was selected in early 2022 with a groundbreaking on Memorial Day of that year. Almost two-and-a-half years later, the monument will have its unveiling with a rooftop ceremony and procession to the Memorial Grove to dedicate the monument. The project is a collaboration between the Ohio Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Committee, the Woody Williams Foundation, and the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.

"We are honored to be the site for this powerful and lasting tribute to Ohio's fallen heroes," said NVMM Acting President Bill Butler, Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired). "This beautiful monument provides a meaningful place for the families and friends to remember those service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. It is a fitting addition to our Memorial Grove."

"The Woody Williams Foundation Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments serve as vital beacons of hope and remembrance, honoring the sacrifice of military families while fostering a deeper understanding and connection within our broader community. They remind us of the profound impact of service and sacrifice while encouraging unity and support for those who have endured such a loss." Brittnay McCall, Gold Star Spouse.

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The program speakers include Major Gen (Retired), Deborah Ashenurst, Director, Ohio Department of Veteran Services; Major General John C. Harris, Jr, Ohio Adjutant General; and keynote speaker Brittnay McCall, Gold Star spouse of Sgt. Daniel McCall. The dedication will include a skydiving demonstration from Team Fastrax, which plans to land near the dedication site prior to the unveiling.

The ceremony and dedication is scheduled to be outdoors and is free to the public. To register for the event, go to: <https://my.nationalvmm.org/program/gsmmonument>

### **About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum**

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum takes visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and sharing experiences of Veterans from all military branches throughout history. [The National Veterans Memorial and Museum](#) pays tribute to the sacrifices of men and women in service and their families. History is presented through a dynamic, participatory experience with photos, letters and personal effects, multi-media presentations, and interactive exhibits. Together, these elements link our national story of service to the larger context of the world.