



**Message from LTG Jeffrey W. Talley**  
 Honoring  
**Gold Star Mother's Day**



During World War I, military Families began the custom of displaying a Service Flag with a single blue star in honor of a deployed service member. The star's color was changed to gold when the deployed family member, for whom it was displayed, had made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The hallowed Gold Star Service Flag is the symbol that came to represent the organization devoted to Gold Star Mothers.

The Army Reserve joins the Nation in honoring America's Gold Star Mothers, who stand as beacons of strength and courage for their Families and communities. We honor the memory of their sons and daughters by supporting our veterans and each other, especially those who have also lost a loved one during military service.

Just like the mothers of yesterday, today's Gold Star Mothers understand that for Soldiers to be strong, they need the strong and unwavering support of their Families. Strong Families are the source of our success. They are crucial to individual readiness and resiliency, and essential to overcoming many of the challenges facing military Families, particularly those whose Soldiers have been deployed for extended periods.

On September 27, take a moment to honor and remember these courageous women whose poise, sacrifice and fortitude in the face of tremendous sorrow are an inspiration to us all. I encourage each of you to reflect on the selfless acts of love, kindness and support they regularly render to our Soldiers, Families and veterans in times of triumph as well as tribulation.

Twice the Citizen!

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