



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Session Agenda Review Form

Meeting date: 5/20/2026

Department: Board of Commissioners

Title: Gold Star Awareness Month

Management Update/Work Session Date: 5/5/2026 Audio/Visual aids

Time Required: 15 min Contact: Alvin Klausen Phone: 5035883563

Requested Action: Consider a proclamation declaring the month of May 2026 as Gold Star Awareness Month in Marion County.

Issue, Description & Background: Gold Star Family Awareness Month honors the families of our nation's fallen service members who have made unimaginable sacrifices in defense of our country. It is a time to recognize the strength, resilience, and enduring legacy of Gold Star families, while ensuring their loved ones are never forgotten. The month serves as a reminder that the cost of freedom is carried not only by those who serve, but also by the families who stand beside them.

Financial Impacts: None

Impacts to Department & External Agencies: None

List of attachments: Proclamation honoring Gold Star Families

Presenter: Alvin Klausen

Department Head Signature: 

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR MARION COUNTY, OREGON**

In the matter of proclaiming the month of May 2026 as Gold Star Awareness Month in Marion County:

PROCLAMATION

This matter came before the Marion County Board of Commissioners at its regularly scheduled public meeting on May 20, 2026.

WHEREAS, Gold Star Families are those families who have lost a loved one while on active duty in service to the United States Armed Forces, bearing a profound and enduring sacrifice on behalf of our nation; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of Marion County to recognize and honor the families who carry the legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom; and

WHEREAS, Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments, like those established through the vision of Medal of Honor recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams and the Woody Williams Foundation, provide permanent places of remembrance, reflection, and education for communities to honor fallen service members and their families; and

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2026, the City of Keizer, located within Marion County, became the first community in the State of Oregon to host a Woody Williams Foundation Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, demonstrating leadership in honoring and supporting Gold Star Families from Oregon and across our region; and

WHEREAS, these memorials stand as enduring symbols of gratitude and serve to educate the public about the sacrifices made by Gold Star Families, ensuring their loved ones are never forgotten; and

WHEREAS, designating the month of May as Gold Star Families Month provides an opportunity for all residents of Marion County to reflect, remember, and express appreciation for these families; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Marion County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of May 2026 as “**Gold Star Families Month**” in Marion County and encourages all residents to honor Gold Star Families through remembrance, education, and acts of gratitude.

Dated at Salem, Oregon, this 20th day of May 2026

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Chair

Commissioner

Commissioner

MARION COUNTY

PROCLAIMS

MAY

AS

GOLD STAR FAMILIES

AWARENESS MONTH



*We honor the Gold Star Families—
those who have sacrificed so much in service to our nation.
Their strength, resilience, and love
will never be forgotten.*

★ HONOR. REMEMBER. SUPPORT. ★





★
Gold Star
Families
Memorial
Monument

A tribute to

Gold Star
Families
and
Relatives

who sacrificed
a Loved One
for our Freedom.



Homeland

FREEDOM ISN'T
FREE

Family

Patriot

Sacrifice

POW/MIA
YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

NOT ALL WOUNDS
ARE VISIBLE





Oregon's First Woody Williams Gold Star Families Memorial Monument

PFC Ryan J. Hill Park
Keizer Station Blvd, Keizer, OR 97303