



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 the 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**



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Chair

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Commissioner

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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.



KEIZER  
SINCE 1982

FREEDOM ISN'T  
FREE



Homeland



Family



Patriot



Sacrifice





# Oregon's First Woody Williams Gold Star Families Memorial Monument

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