



February 2, 2019

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The VFW-Department of Wisconsin's Council of Administration, **on behalf of Wisconsin's 27,000 war veterans**, expresses its support and endorsement of creation of the *Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation's Gold Star Families Memorial Monument* on the grounds of the Milwaukee County Veterans War Memorial Center.

The Council of Administration convened on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, 2019 and voted unanimously to support the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument. The VFW supports this effort in its concept, creation and placement of the Monument in perpetuity based on its intended purposes, to honor Gold Star Families, preserve the memory of fallen veterans and stand as a stark reminder that freedom is not free.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Gundel Metz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

Gundel Metz  
State Commander.

**VFW DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN**

PO Box 6128 | Monona, WI 53716-0128  
466 Dutch Mill Rd | Madison, WI 53716

1.608.221.5276  
[www.vfwwi.org](http://www.vfwwi.org)



VFW Department of Wisconsin  
Council of Administration  
P.O. Box 6128  
Monona, Wisconsin 53716-0128

January 10, 2019

**Re: VFW Resolution in Support of Milwaukee *Gold Star Families Memorial Monument***  
**From: Submitted for consideration by State JVC, Jason Johns**

Dear Council,

Please accept the following proposed resolution in support of a potential ***Gold Star Families Memorial Monument*** on the Lake Michigan lakefront grounds of the **Milwaukee County Veterans War Memorial** as part of a national campaign initiated by 95-year old Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient from the Battle of Iwo Jima in WWII, U.S. Marine Corporal Hershel "Woody" Williams.

**WHEREAS:** For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as demolition sergeant serving with the 21<sup>st</sup> Marines, 3d Marine Division, in action against **Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, 23 February 1945, Corporal "Woody" Williams** was awarded the **Congressional Medal of Honor**. While tanks were maneuvering vainly to open a lane for the infantry through then network of reinforced concrete pillboxes, buried mines, and black volcanic sands, Woody Williams daringly went forward alone to attempt the reduction of devastating machinegun fire from the unyielding positions. Covered by only 4 riflemen, he fought desperately for 4 hours under terrific enemy small-arms fire and repeatedly returned to his own lines to prepare demolition charges and obtain serviced flamethrowers, struggling back, frequently to the rear of hostile emplacements, to wipe out 1 position after another. On 1 occasion, he daringly mounted a pillbox to insert the nozzle of his flamethrower through the air vent, eliminating all threats from the pillbox and silencing the gun; on another he grimly charged enemy riflemen who attempted to stop him with bayonets and destroyed them with a burst of flame from his weapon. His unyielding determination and extraordinary heroism in the face of ruthless enemy resistance were directly instrumental in neutralizing one of the most fanatically defended Japanese strong points encountered by his regiment and aided vitally in enabling his company to reach its objective. Cpl. Williams' aggressive fighting spirit and valiant devotion to duty throughout this fiercely contested action sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. AND;

**WHEREAS:** Woody's devotion to duty, service members, veterans and their families is above reproach and his experiences have given him a "greater appreciation for life, and those lost serving in the military for their country", and he has noted that "consideration and recognition of the families of those lost in war was very inadequate." AND;

**WHEREAS:** To recognize and honor those families who have lost loved ones in service to their country, he heled create the *Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation* in 2012, with the goal of (i) establishing Gold Star Memorial Monuments in communities in all 50 states, (ii) offering scholarships to Gold Star Children, (iii) sponsoring outreach programs and events, and (iv) educating communities about Gold Star Families and the sacrifice they have endured. AND;

**WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument is to honor Gold Star Families, preserve the memory of the fallen, and stand as a stark reminder that Freedom is not free. To do so, a stunning black granite monument features two sides: one side bears the words: "*Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, a Tribute to Gold Star Families and Relatives Who Have Sacrificed a Loved One For Our Freedom*"; and the other side tells a story through the four granite panels: "*Homeland, Family, Patriot and Sacrifice.*" The scenes on each panel are a reflection of each community's Gold Star Families and their fallen Heroes. At the center of this tribute is the most distinct feature of the monument, the cut out which represents the Loved One who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the name of Freedom.

**WHEREAS:** 47 Monuments have already been built and dedicated in over 41 states and 51 Memorial projects are currently in progress; AND

**WHEREAS:** Efforts are under way to construct a Memorial on the grounds of the **Milwaukee County Veterans War Memorial Center** on the **Milwaukee Lakefront**; AND

**WHEREAS:** Erecting these Memorials in communities around the country is directly in-line with the Patriotic and Educational missions of the VFW, and the Department of Wisconsin would be proud to assist in bringing this first of its kind Gold Star Memorial to Wisconsin by publicly endorsing the endeavor:

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The VFW-Department of Wisconsin's Council of Administration, **on behalf of Wisconsin's 26,000 war veterans**, expresses its support and endorsement of creation of the *Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation's Gold Star Families Memorial Monument* on the grounds of the Milwaukee County Veterans War Memorial Center.

Signed: _____	Signed: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Title: _____	Title: _____
Date: _____	Date: _____
Signed: _____	Signed: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Title: _____	Title: _____
Date: _____	Date: _____

**Attached Signed VFW Resolution**