

Gold Star Mother's Day in United States

Quick Facts

Gold Star Mother's Day is annually observed in the United States on the last Sunday of September.

Local names

Name	Language
Gold Star Mother's Day	English
Día de las Madres de la Estrella Dorada	Spanish

Gold Star Mother's Day 2011

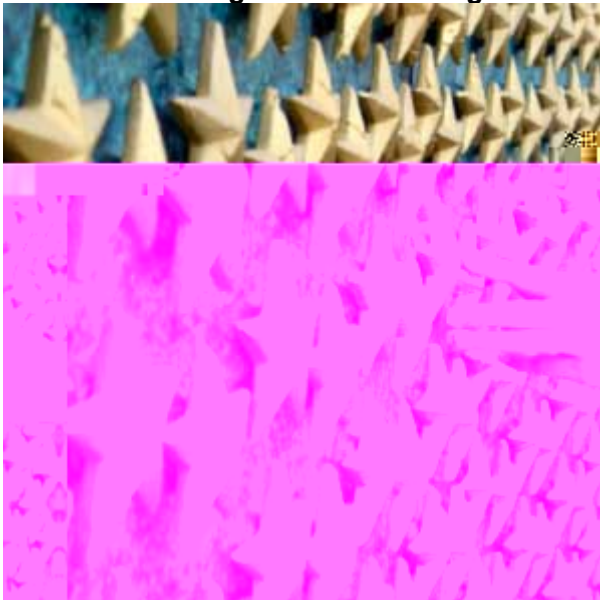
Sunday, September 25, 2011

Gold Star Mother's Day 2012

Sunday, September 30, 2012

[List of dates for other years](#)

Gold Star Mother's Day is observed in the United States on the last Sunday of September each year. It is a day for people to recognize and honor those who have lost a son or daughter while serving the United States Armed Forces.



A gold star represents a son or daughter who died while serving the United States Armed Forces.
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What do people do?

Each year the United States president is requested to issue a proclamation to: call on US government officials to display the nation's flag on all government buildings; and to call on people to display the flag and hold appropriate meetings at homes, churches, or other suitable places on Gold Star Mother's Day to publicly express the love, sorrow, and reverence those who are Gold Star mothers and their families.

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. is an organization of mothers whose sons or daughters served and died while serving their nation in times of war or conflict. It organizes major

events that take place on or around Gold Star Mother's Day each year. Previous activities included a Gold Star flower wreath laying service, as well as an afternoon tour of President Lincoln's cottage in Washington DC.

The last Sunday in September is also Parents of Fallen Military Sons and Daughters Day in New Jersey. This day is a tribute to all parents whose children died as a result of their service with the United States Armed Forces. It commemorates the contributions, commitments and sacrifices made by those parents individually and through the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Public life

Gold Star Mother's Day is not a designated public holiday in the United States so public life is not affected.

Background

The name the Gold Star Mothers was derived from the custom of military families who put a service flag near their front window. The flag featured a star for each family member serving in their country – living members were denoted in blue but gold stars honored family members who were killed while in duty. In 1918 President Woodrow Wilson approved the wearing of black arm bands bearing a gilt star by those who had a family member who died in the military service to the United States. This distinguished them from the blue stars, representing a family member presently serving in the armed forces.

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was incorporated in 1929, obtaining a federal charter from the US Congress. It began with 25 mothers living in the Washington DC area and soon expanded to include affiliated groups throughout the nation. On June 23, 1936, a joint congressional resolution designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day, a holiday that has been observed each year by a presidential proclamation.

Symbols

A gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving the United States Armed Forces. It may be seen on a service flag or in the form of a pin, which is worn by Gold Star mothers. The pin is not limited to mothers and it is awarded by the US Department of Defense.

Gold Star Mother's Day Observances

Select another year-range:

Weekday	Date	Year	Name	Holiday type	Where it is observed
Sun	Sep 28	1980	Gold Star Mother's Day Observance		
Sun	Sep 27	1981	Gold Star Mother's Day Observance		
Sun	Sep 26	1982	Gold Star Mother's Day Observance		
Sun	Sep 25	1983	Gold Star Mother's Day Observance		
Sun	Sep 30	1984	Gold Star Mother's Day Observance		
Sun	Sep 29	1985	Gold Star Mother's Day Observance		
Sun	Sep 28	1986	Gold Star Mother's Day Observance		

Weekday	Date	Year	Name	Holiday type	Where it is observed
Sun	Sep 27	1987	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 25	1988	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 24	1989	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 30	1990	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 29	1991	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 27	1992	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 26	1993	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 25	1994	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 24	1995	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 29	1996	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 28	1997	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 27	1998	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 26	1999	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 24	2000	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 30	2001	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 29	2002	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 28	2003	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 26	2004	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 25	2005	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 24	2006	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 30	2007	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 28	2008	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 27	2009	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 26	2010	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 25	2011	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 30	2012	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 29	2013	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 28	2014	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	
Sun	Sep 27	2015	Gold Star Mother's Day	Observance	