

House Engrossed

gold star families; legacy preservation

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2010

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING GOLD STAR FAMILIES AND THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TERM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, since World War I, over 625,000 American service members
2 have been killed in action, making the ultimate sacrifice to protect our
3 freedoms and uphold the values of our nation; and

4 Whereas, organizations such as HonorStates.org have documented the
5 historical profiles of 3,048 American Gold Star veterans with close
6 connections to Arizona, offering an approximate understanding of the
7 number of Gold Star Families in this state; and

8 Whereas, Gold Star Families, families who have lost an immediate
9 family member in military service, symbolize profound sacrifice, enduring
10 grief and an unbreakable bond of love and service to the nation. The term
11 originated during World War I, when families displayed a gold star on
12 service flags to signify a loved one's death in service. This powerful
13 tradition has continued to honor their legacies and remind the nation of
14 the great cost of freedom; and

15 Whereas, the term "Gold Star Families" is not just a title but a
16 sacred recognition of their sacrifice, embodying the legacy of their loved
17 ones who gave their lives in service. Preserving this term ensures that
18 the honor, respect and historical significance tied to these families
19 remain intact, serving as a reminder of their contributions to the
20 nation's freedom and security; and

21 Whereas, recent discussions, such as the Pentagon's consideration of
22 changing the definition of "Gold Star Family" to be "more inclusive,"
23 highlight the importance of safeguarding the term's integrity. While
24 inclusivity is valuable, altering the term could dilute its deeply rooted
25 historical and symbolic significance and potentially overshadow the unique
26 sacrifices made by those who have lost a family member in military
27 service; and

28 Whereas, in Arizona, efforts to honor Gold Star Families include the
29 dedication of this state's first Gold Star Memorial byway marker in Yuma
30 on November 7, 2024, reflecting this state's ongoing commitment to
31 acknowledging and supporting these families; and

32 Whereas, Gold Star Families are a living testament to the courage,
33 sacrifice and selflessness of those who have given their lives in service
34 to the United States Armed Forces, ensuring that their stories and
35 sacrifices inspire future generations to appreciate the true cost of
36 freedom.

37 Therefore

38 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,
39 the Senate concurring:

40 1. That the Members of the Legislature reaffirm their unwavering
41 support and profound gratitude to America's Gold Star Families who have
42 borne the highest cost of preserving our nation's freedoms.

43 2. That the Members of the Legislature honor the sacred legacy of
44 the term "Gold Star Families," recognizing it as an enduring symbol of

1 sacrifice, grief and resilience and commit to preserving its meaning for
2 generations to come.

3 3. That the Members of the Legislature oppose any efforts to change
4 or redefine the term "Gold Star Families," including proposals from the
5 Pentagon to modify its definition.

6 4. That the Members of the Legislature urge public and private
7 entities throughout Arizona to protect and elevate the term "Gold Star
8 Families" in all programs, recognitions and public communications,
9 ensuring that the sacrifices of these families are never diminished.

10 5. That the Members of the Legislature pledge to ensure that Gold
11 Star Families receive the care, respect and recognition they deserve as a
12 tribute to their enduring contributions to our state and nation.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE FEBRUARY 26, 2025.

PASSED BY THE SENATE MAY 6, 2025.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 7, 2025.