



RON DeSANTIS
GOVERNOR

GOLD STAR FAMILY DAY IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, as the most military and veteran-friendly state in the nation, Florida will always support our military and their families; and

WHEREAS, Gold star families – spouses, children, parents, siblings or others whose loved one died in selfless service to our nation – are a vital part of our state’s military community and history; and

WHEREAS, the tradition of the Gold Star began during World War II when gold stars were placed on service flags to honor the service member for their ultimate sacrifice to the country; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Casey DeSantis and Governor Ron DeSantis have made it a priority to honor the memories of our fallen heroes and meet with Gold Star families throughout the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, mental health and substance abuse recovery resources are available to help Gold Star Families with the immense struggles they may experience; and

WHEREAS, the Hope for Healing initiative has been expanded by First Lady Casey DeSantis to include resources from state agencies, including the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs, to help Floridians overcome challenging times; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles produces a Gold Star license plate for Gold Star Family Members to honor their fallen family members; and

WHEREAS, as of September 2021, there are 1,126 Gold Star Vehicle License Plates in circulation showcasing the community members of Gold Star Families and supporters in the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, a Gold Star Family Monument Dedication Ceremony is scheduled for October 6, 2021, at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell to honor Florida’s Gold Star Families; and

WHEREAS, the Honor and Remember Flag is flown on Gold Star Family Day in Florida to embody the respect and gratitude we have for our fallen heroes and Gold Star Families; and

WHEREAS, Gold Star Family Day grants Floridians the opportunity to show abiding gratitude and keep the memory of deceased service members alive.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing September 26, 2021, as *Gold Star Family Day in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 26th day of September, in the year two thousand twenty-one.

A blue ink signature of Ron DeSantis, written in a cursive style.

Governor