



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs  
Fred L. Wineland Building, 4th floor  
16 Francis Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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November 30, 2016

John A. Scocos  
Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs  
201 West Washington Avenue  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7843

Dear John,

I am writing regarding the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument program, sponsored by the Hershel "Woody" Williams Foundation. This year on Veterans Day here in Maryland, the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument was dedicated. Participating in the ceremony were Governor Hogan, Lt. Governor Rutherford and many other dignitaries. It was a very successful event attended by several hundred citizens, which included Gold Star families, veterans and supporters.

As you may know, I handed out Gold Star Project information packets at the fall conference in Texas this year. I briefed the program to our membership at that time. It is the hope that a memorial will be placed in every one of the 50 states honoring the Gold Star Families and their sacrifice. I would ask that you share this information with Governor Walker. Here is a link to Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams' webpage. <http://www.hwwmohfoundation.org/>

Also copied on this email is Mr. Dennis Brandt, who led the effort here in Maryland, should you need to call on him for additional information.

Thank you, John, for taking the time to review this information. I hope Wisconsin will join the states already participating in this worthwhile effort. As an FYI, Massachusetts dedicated their memorial on Gold Star Mother's Day this year. I believe there are now 9 states who have had such dedications.

Wishing you and yours a grand Holiday season and a great new year as we head into 2017.

My Best,

s/George Owings

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cc: Dennis Brant, Positive Strides Organization