

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

SENATE BILL 244

By: Senators E. Williams, Bledsoe, Bond, Caldwell, E. Cheatham, L. Chesterfield, A. Clark, Collins-Smith, J. Cooper, J. Dismang, L. Eads, Elliott, J. English, Files, Flippo, S. Flowers, T. Garner, J. Hendren, Hester, Hickey, J. Hutchinson, K. Ingram, Irvin, B. Johnson, B. King, U. Lindsey, Maloch, Rapert, Rice, B. Sample, D. Sanders, Standridge, G. Stubblefield, Teague, D. Wallace

By: Representatives Drown, E. Armstrong, Ballinger, Baltz, Beck, Bentley, Blake, Boyd, Branscum, Brown, Burch, Coleman, Collins, Cozart, Della Rosa, C. Douglas, Eaves, Eubanks, K. Ferguson, Fielding, C. Fite, L. Fite, V. Flowers, Gazaway, M.J. Gray, Hammer, G. Hodges, M. Hodges, House, Jett, Ladyman, Lemons, Lowery, Lundstrum, Lynch, McCollum, G. McGill, McNair, D. Meeks, S. Meeks, Murdock, Payton, Petty, Pilkington, Richmond, Rye, B. Smith, Sorvillo, Speaks, Sullivan, Vaught

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF A GOLD STAR FAMILY
MEMORIAL MONUMENT ON THE STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF A GOLD STAR
FAMILY MEMORIAL MONUMENT ON THE STATE
CAPITOL GROUNDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings. The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The United States has numerous memorials and monuments giving honor to the patriots who have sacrificed and given their lives for our freedom and paying tribute to those who have faithfully served in the United States Armed Forces since the founding of our republic;

(2) There is a group of our citizens especially to be honored, the families who have had a loved one who died while serving in the United



States Armed Forces to protect our freedom and to give freedom to many who have never experienced it;

(3) The Gold Star Family Memorial Monument honors those families who sacrificed more than most of us, and illustrates that the United States has citizens in every community willing to make such sacrifices;

(4) The Gold Star Family Memorial Monument further illustrates that families suffer and grieve when a dear relative is lost, and without their sacrifices, freedom could not and would not have been preserved; and

(5) The Gold Star Family Memorial Monument is appropriate for the placement on State Capitol grounds as a tribute to all the families who have had a loved one who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 22, Chapter 3, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

22-3-222. Gold Star Family Memorial Monument Act.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Gold Star Family Memorial Monument Act".

(b)(1) The Secretary of State shall permit and arrange for the placement on the State Capitol grounds of a monument commemorating Gold Star Families and containing the following text, or text similar to the following text, on an explanatory marker to be placed near or adjacent to the monument that explains the meaning of the monument:

"This monument is in tribute to and honors the families who have had a loved one who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

The first scene depicts their homeland: the United States of America.

The next scene is a father and a mother with a newborn baby: the families of our fallen heroes.

The next scene indicates the youth of the United States who volunteer to serve and protect us and give others a freedom they never knew.

The cutout of the missing person represents the sacrifice of life for peace and freedom.

The last scene depicts the families grieving the loss of loved ones who sacrificed their lives to preserve our rights, liberties, and the United States flag under which they served."

(2) The monument shall be placed on the State Capitol grounds

where there are other monuments.

(3)(A) The monument shall be designed and constructed in the manner recommended by the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, or in a manner similar to the design recommended by the Hershel Woody-Williams Medal of Honor Foundation.

(B) The Secretary of State shall approve the design and site selection for the monument through consultation with the Capitol Arts and Grounds Commission.

(c) The Secretary of State may accept gifts, grants, and donations from individuals and organizations, to be deposited as trust funds into the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument Fund.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 11, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

19-5-1146. Gold Star Family Memorial Monument Fund.

(a) There is established on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a trust fund to be known as the "Gold Star Family Memorial Monument Fund".

(b) The fund shall consist of gifts, grants, and donations from individuals and organizations as provided under § 22-3-222 and other funds as may be provided by law.

(c) The fund shall be used exclusively for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a suitable monument on the State Capitol grounds in recognition and appreciation of Gold Star Families, as provided in § 22-3-222.