



1           WHEREAS, since 1936, the last Sunday in September is observed as Gold Star  
2 Mother's and Family's Day; and

3           WHEREAS, it should be acknowledged that, in the United States, there are Gold Star  
4 Families in every community, including Louisiana, that have made the ultimate sacrifice;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, the precise number of Gold Star Families is unknown, but there are over  
7 six thousand members of the United States Armed Forces that have died in the recent  
8 conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

9           WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana  
10 recognizes that Gold Star Families suffer a tremendous loss; without their sacrifice, freedom  
11 could not and would not be preserved; and

12           WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana also  
13 recognizes the importance of and need to honor Louisiana families who have had a loved  
14 one killed while serving in the United States Armed Forces; and

15           WHEREAS, thirty-four states have erected Gold Star Family Memorials for public  
16 display with many on state capitol grounds.

17           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
18 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a committee to honor Gold Star Families and  
19 to study and determine the best practices for honoring Gold Star Families and families of  
20 fallen United States Armed Forces service members without the use of public funding.

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall be known as the Gold Star  
22 Families Honoring Committee and shall be composed as follows:

23           (1)    The chair of the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

24           (2)    The chair of the Senate Select Committee on Veterans Affairs.

25           (3)    The secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs or his designee.

26           (4)    The adjutant general for Louisiana or his designee.

27           (5)    A member of the Louisiana Military Advisory Council.

28           (6)    A member of the Military Hall of Fame and Museum.

29           (7)    A member of the Louisiana Military Family Assistance Board.

1           (8)    The executive director of the National World War II Museum or his  
2                    designee.

3           (9)    A Gold Star family member appointed by the governor.

4           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff support for the committee shall be provided  
5 from existing personnel within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall prepare and submit a final  
7 report that contains its best practices and policy recommendations of the committee to the  
8 House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and the Senate Select Committee  
9 on Veterans Affairs prior to the convening of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature  
10 of Louisiana.

11          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
12 to the appointing entities named in this Resolution.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 196 Original

2017 Regular Session

Armes

Establishes the Gold Star Families Honoring Committee to study best practices in honoring families of fallen members of the U.S. Armed Forces without using public funding and to present its findings to the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Senate Select Committee on Veterans Affairs prior to the 2018 R.S.