



## Gold Star Family Special Registration Plate Request for Certification Letter

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Deceased Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_

To qualify for a Gold Star Family Special Registration Plate pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 31-3-111, the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services (RIVETS) must certify your eligibility. Please circle your relationship to the service member of the United States Armed Forces **who died under the circumstances prescribed in 10 U.S.C. § 1126** (copied on p. 3):

- A parent by blood or adoption, stepparent, or foster parent who stood *in loco parentis* of the above-named service member
- A legally married spouse
- A son or daughter by blood or adoption, stepson or stepdaughter, or foster son or daughter of the above-named service member who stood *in loco parentis*
- A sibling by blood, half-blood, or adoption, or a stepsibling

**I certify that I am an eligible Gold Star Family member, as defined above.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Gold Star Family Members may request their Gold Star Family Special Registration Plate Certification letter from the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Affairs by mailing this form and a copy of the official Department of Defense Report of Casualty (DD Form 1300) or death notice of the service member, and/or any other supporting documentation to:

Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services  
Attn: Gold Star Family Special Registration Plate Certification  
560 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 206  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886-1371

If the person applying for a Gold Star Family Special Registration Plate is not listed on the Report of Casualty or Death Notice, the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Affairs will require additional information to verify familial status. Please call 1-401-921-2119 for assistance or visit the office at the address above Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Upon certification, the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Affairs will transmit a copy of the certification letter electronically to the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles to be placed in the requesting person's DMV file. The original certification letter will be mailed to the requestor.

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## **APPLICABLE STATUTES**

### **RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS**

#### **TITLE 31 MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES**

#### **CHAPTER 31-3 REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES**

#### **SECTION 31-3-111**

#### **§ 31-3-111. Gold Star Families.**

(a) The administrator of the division of motor vehicles is authorized and directed to issue a special registration plate for the motor vehicles of all eligible members of a Gold Star Family.

(b) For the purpose of this section, "Gold Star Family" means a person eligible to receive a gold star lapel button as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 1126; provided, the death was determined to be in the line of duty.

(c) The Gold Star Family motor vehicle plates shall be the same size as regular motor vehicle plates and shall be designed by Gold Star Family members who are Rhode Island residents in conjunction with the division of motor vehicles, with design approval by the Rhode Island state police.

(d) The applicant shall not be required to pay a service charge or a transfer charge for each plate.

(e) Only one set of "Gold Star Family" plates shall be issued to an eligible family member and only after satisfactory documentation of eligibility is presented.

(f) The owner of a motor vehicle eligible for registration as a commercial vehicle and having a gross weight of twelve thousand pounds (12,000 lbs.) or less who is issued Gold Star Family plates shall continue to pay the appropriate commercial registration fee for those plates. The owner of a motor vehicle eligible for registration as a commercial vehicle having a gross weight of six thousand three hundred pounds (6,300 lbs.), but not more than twelve thousand pounds (12,000 lbs.), shall sign an affidavit at the time of application for said plates stating that the vehicle is to be used for personal use only.

## **10 U.S.C. §1126. Gold star lapel button: eligibility and distribution**

(a) A lapel button, to be known as the gold star lapel button, shall be designed, as approved by the Secretary of Defense, to identify widows, parents, and next of kin of members of the armed forces—

(1) who lost their lives during World War I, World War II, or during any subsequent period of armed hostilities in which the United States was engaged before July 1, 1958;

(2) who lost or lose their lives after June 30, 1958—

(A) while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;

(B) while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or

(C) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party against an opposing armed force; or

(3) who lost or lose their lives after March 28, 1973, as a result of—

(A) an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States, recognized as such an attack by the Secretary of Defense; or

(B) military operations while serving outside the United States (including the commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States) as part of a peacekeeping force.

(b) Under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary concerned, upon application to him, shall furnish one gold star lapel button without cost to the widow and to each parent and next of kin of a member who lost or loses his or her life under any circumstances prescribed in subsection (a).

(c) Not more than one gold star lapel button may be furnished to any one individual except that, when a gold star lapel button furnished under this section has been lost, destroyed, or rendered unfit for use without fault or neglect on the part of the person to whom it was furnished, the button may be replaced upon application and payment of an amount sufficient to cover the cost of manufacture and distribution.

(d) In this section:

(1) The term “widow” includes widower.

(2) The term “parents” includes mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis.

(3) The term “next of kin” includes only children, brothers, sisters, half-brothers, and half-sisters.

(4) The term “children” includes stepchildren and children through adoption.

(5) The term “World War I” includes the period from April 6, 1917, to March 3, 1921.

(6) The term “World War II” includes the period from September 8, 1939, to July 25, 1947, at 12 o'clock noon.

(7) The term “military operations” includes those operations involving members of the armed forces assisting in United States Government sponsored training of military personnel of a foreign nation.

(8) The term “peacekeeping force” includes those personnel assigned to a force engaged in a peacekeeping operation authorized by the United Nations Security Council.