



Media Release

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii
“Malama na Koa”

Release number: 2014-09-01

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Army invites community to honor Surviving Mothers, Families

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii (Sept. 25, 2014) – Community members are invited to join the Army in honoring mothers and families of fallen service members during a ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Sunday, at 11:30 a.m.

The ceremony, which takes place on Gold Star Mother’s Day, is one of countless events nationwide to remember, respect and honor the sacrifices of the fallen and their families.

During the ceremony, Gold Star Mothers and Families will place the boots of their loved ones, as well as 40 handmade Wreaths of Honor, at the foot of the Lady Columbia statue. The statue stands on a hill overlooking the cemetery and represents all grieving mothers of the Armed Forces, as she vigilantly watches over the fallen.

“It takes a special kind of strength to survive so great a loss.” said Col. Richard Fromm, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, and ceremony host. “They bear a burden each and every day, yet they resolve to carry on; they inspire us. We owe all survivors our utmost gratitude, respect and support. Never forget their sacrifices; never forget the Soldier who fills their hearts.”

Mothers of fallen service members began calling themselves Gold Star Mothers during World War One. The name was derived from the custom of military families putting a small flag in their home’s front window. The flag featured a star for each family member serving in the Armed Forces—living members denoted by a blue star, and a gold star honoring family members killed in the line of duty.

Today, Gold Star Mothers and Families include anyone whose loved one has died while serving in the Armed Forces.

-30-

Media Note: Interested media should contact the USAG-HI Public Affairs Office to attend the event or request photographs. Please R.S.V.P. no later than 4 p.m., Sept. 27.

Contact:

Dennis Drake, 808-226-2706
Stefanie Gardin, 808-256-9813