

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 619**

**WHEREAS**, The observance of Gold Star Spouses Day on April 5, 2017, provides an opportunity to reflect on the courage and resilience of the spouses of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country; and

**WHEREAS**, During World War I, American families began to display the Blue Star Service Banner to signal that a family member was serving in the nation's military; if a loved one was killed in action, a gold star was placed over the blue, and the term "Gold Star" came to be used to recognize the family members affected by such a grievous loss; and

**WHEREAS**, The Gold Star Wives of America was founded in 1945, with the assistance of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, to aid widows and children left behind by fallen members of the nation's military; the group conducted its first meeting on April 5 of that year; today, the organization continues to offer services, support, and friendship to the families of those who have died on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2010, Congress proclaimed December 18, 2010, as the first Gold Star Wives Day; the observance of Gold Star Spouses Day now takes place on April 5 of each year to acknowledge the quiet heroism of those who carry on with strength and fortitude, cherishing the memory of a loved one who has perished while protecting our freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, Our state and nation are fortunate to have sons and daughters whose love of country leads them to military service, yet the burdens these men and women assume may entail a terrible cost; to those members of the armed forces who have paid

the greatest price, every American owes an eternal debt of remembrance and gratitude; at the same time as we honor the fallen, who gave their all in behalf of their country, we pay tribute to their spouses, whose dignity, grace, and patriotism continue to be an inspiration to us all; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby recognize April 5, 2017, as Gold Star Spouses Day and encourage all Texans to keep the meaning of this day forever in their hearts.

Menéndez, Campbell,  
Uresti, Zaffirini

Bettencourt  
Birdwell  
Buckingham  
Burton  
Creighton  
Estes  
Garcia  
Hall  
Hancock

Hinojosa  
Huffines  
Huffman  
Hughes  
Kolkhorst  
Lucio  
Miles  
Nelson  
Nichols

Perry  
Rodríguez  
Schwertner  
Seliger  
Taylor of Collin  
Taylor of Galveston  
Watson  
West  
Whitmire

Patrick, President of the Senate

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 12, 2017.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate

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Member, Texas Senate

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Member, Texas Senate

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Member, Texas Senate