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Fleet and Family Honors Gold Star Families with Memorial Christmas Tree

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U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Ehrlich

Fleet and Family Honors Gold Star Families with Memorial Christmas Tree

By MC2 Michael Ehrlich

Educational Service Facilitator at Naval Support Activity Monterey (NSAM) Fleet and Family Support Center Amanda Keesee is recognizing Gold Star Families and our fallen service members by encouraging the NPS, NSAM communities to participate in the Holiday Memorial Tree Campaign this season.

“The holidays can be difficult for Gold Star families grieving the loss of their loved one. For some, long-standing family traditions either cease or feel incomplete,” said Keesee. “This Holiday Memorial Tree Campaign offers an opportunity to create a new tradition to honor the memory of the fallen.”

Students, faculty and staff can participate in the program by crafting an ornament with the name of a fallen Service member, from any branch, or by writing a message of support to our Gold Star Families. The FFSC Staff will be in the El Prado Room every day during lunch, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., to provide ornaments, cards and writing materials. The tree will be on display through January 2, 2018.

“The NSAM Gold Star Memorial tree is one of twelve Memorial trees that have been erected throughout Navy Region Southwest. These trees are decorated with ornaments bearing the names of our Fallen Service Members, lovingly handwritten by friends, families, fellow Service Members, and the FFSC staff,” Keesee added.

The Navy Gold Star program was established on Oct. 1, 2014, to help provide continuing support for surviving family members of fallen service members. The program honors Gold Star Families throughout the year by hosting events that pay tribute to their lost loved ones, providing resources and opportunities to connect with one another and to their greater Navy family.

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