

# MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

**MEETING DATE:**

November 3, 2008

**CALL TO PODIUM:**

<b>TITLE:</b>
Proclamation of the Mayor and City Council Permanently Designating May 1, 2009 as "Silver Star Banner Day" in the City of Gaithersburg

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:**

**Fred Felton**  
Assistant City Manager

<b>SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:</b>
<p>Mayor Katz received an email from an organization called the Silver Star Families of America requesting that the City issue a proclamation to recognize May 1, 2009 as Silver Star Banner Day in the City of Gaithersburg.</p> <p>As outlined in the attached email, the Silver Star Families of America was formed to honor our nation's combat wounded.</p> <p>Because staff was unfamiliar with organization, we consulted with the Commander of VFW Post #9862. Commander T.C. Williams indicated that the VFW supports this organization. In addition, the Maryland Municipal League recently included information concerning Silver Star Banner Day in its newsletter.</p>

**AGENDA ITEM:**

(please check one)

	Presentation
<b>X</b>	Proclamation/Certificate
	Appointment
	Public Hearing
	Historic District
	Consent Item
	Ordinance
	Resolution
	Policy Discussion
	Work Session Discussion Item
	Other:

**PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:**

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

<b>DESIRED OUTCOME:</b>
<b>Issue Proclamation.</b>

## Monica Sanchez

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**From:** Sidney Katz  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2008 6:16 AM  
**To:** Angel Jones; Doris Stokes; Fred Felton; Sarah Paxton; Sidney Katz  
**Subject:** FW: Silver Star Banner Day 2009 and Sample Proclamation Maryland  
**Attachments:** Proc 2.rtf

FYI

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**From:** Sunshine R [blessedrecordkeeper@live.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2008 1:21 AM  
**To:** blessedrecordkeeper@live.com  
**Subject:** Silver Star Banner Day 2009 and Sample Proclamation Maryland

Dear city/town representative:

I sent an email, form, or fax in July to every town and city within the state. I understand because it was summer time many may not have held their normal meetings and so I am resending it asking your city or town to respond about possibly signing a proclamation. I also know that sometimes when a mass mailing is done some are not received. This proclamation only shows that your city or town recognize them and if anything further is done within the town itself is up to your veteran representative or other concerned individuals, but first they must know we stand beside them.

I have seen how our VA system works with and cares for each individual and their families, as my husband is a wounded Vietnam veteran. We should be proud of what our VA does for each veteran while helping with their needs and at the same time dignifies their honor for what they have encountered during their service for our country to protect each citizen, each of us.

As of April 29th 2008 the Pentagon found a conservative figure of 31,848 wounded service members in the current conflicts nationwide. They estimate the number of brain injuries alone might total 320,000, or 20 percent of the 1.64 million who have served so far. This number also is only through the first of April and the figures have climbed since then. In addition to the physical injuries, there are thousands of cases (averaging approximately 40-45% returning war veterans) of depression and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This only includes the number cases receiving help. These veterans average in age of 19-30 and these numbers are only from the current conflicts. Now, add in those from previous wars such as Vietnam, Korean, and WW II and you will see why there is a need to show they are not and will not be forgotten.

A short history:

On May 1, 2008, 46 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and over 180 towns and cities across the country joined with Silver Star Families of America and declared "Silver Star Day" to remember the wounded and ill of our Armed Forces.  
<http://www.silverstarfamilies.org/SilverStarDay2008.html>

Across the country, in Germany, Iraq and Afghanistan the wounded and ill from ALL wars were remembered and honored.

The Governor signed the state's proclamation in 2008 along with a handful of cities and towns; I wish there had been time to contact the cities but sadly there was not. This time we are making sure every city/town has the same opportunity of signing their own proclamation to show their support for the wounded veterans within the community. I am not alone in this project it is done as an organization that supports all veterans from all wars that are wounded in one manner or another.

Following last year's day of honor, the organization received letters from many towns thanking us for including them AND we started to receive requests from cities/towns across the country who wanted to know why they were not included. Many stated if there had been more time then something could have been planned within the town or local VSO office to show the appreciation of the sacrifices made. The simple answer is that we did not have the volunteer power to reach out to everyone in a very short window of time. This was the first time that this was done at this size scale. Many states, cities, and towns have a specified timeframe they are allowed to make proclamations and the timeframe was just too short to make all the connections.

Therefore, the organization has decided to get a jump-start on 2009. We hope the state, mayors, and selectmen/town government will do what they can to show support for our military men and women that have returned home from deployments injured in some manner; whether physically or psychologically, whether visible or invisible wounds. This organization supports the wounded... We would love to see every city and town represented from every state. Many have already sent proclamations in, over 400 proclamations have been received nation wide so far and we know there are a lot more that would like to have the opportunity to show support. Most are signing the proclamation for the permanent status.

We are asking you to join with us NOW to remember and honor our wounded. Suspend your time limits and issue Proclamations for next year's Silver Star Banner day and send them as soon as possible. We are even asking if you would like to sign one for the permanent status of allowing those injured to be recognized yearly for their sacrifices. This request has been met in most every one received thus far.

By acknowledging our request in advance it will give the cities, towns, VSO Agent, VFW, American Legion, VA hospital or Vet Center, or other groups or organizations, and individuals that wish to recognize and honor their wounded, time to plan an event or recognition. Many have stated the day will be acknowledged through their local media.

On May 1, 2009, we want to tell our wounded warriors that their entire state, every city and town within the state, are thinking and praying for them and that appreciate them. That their sacrifice isn't going unnoticed.

Following May 1st, your proclamations will be donated to the Stars and Stripes Museum where the original Silver Star Flag is on display for all to see.

If you look at the following site you will see what the 2009 page looks like so far:  
<http://www.silverstarfamilies.org/SilverStarBannerDay2009.html>

We, as an organization, thank you for your patriotism and care for the wounded of our Armed Forces. Those wounded all need to know we care and appreciate what they have personally sacrificed. I, personally, thank you as a mother of a wounded soldier.

Please let me know of your city/town's decision if you will or will not sign:  
[blessedrecordkeeper@live.com](mailto:blessedrecordkeeper@live.com)<<mailto:blessedrecordkeeper@live.com>>

If you choose to sign, which I hope you do, please send your proclamation to either myself at:

Sunshine Roth, Illinois State Representative

240 Whitney Road #20

Lake Zurich, Illinois 60047

847 212-7677

or to the organization's founder:

Steve Newton, Founder SSFOA, 525 Cave Hollow Rd, Clever, MO. 65631

To find out more about this organization go to:  
[www.silverstarfamilies.org](http://www.silverstarfamilies.org)<<http://www.silverstarfamilies.org/>>

A sample of the proclamation is accompanying this letter. You may make changes to fit your own situation for your town or city.

Thank You

Sincerely,

Sunshine Roth

SSFOA State Representative for Illinois

Silver Star Banner Day CITY Proclamation or Resolution 2009

WHEREAS, the City of \_\_\_\_\_ has always honored the sacrifice of the men and women in the Armed Forces and

WHEREAS, The Silver Star Families of America was formed to make sure we remember the blood sacrifice of our wounded and ill by designing and manufacturing a Silver Star Banner and Flag and

WHEREAS, to date The Silver Star Families of America has freely given thousands of Silver Star Banners to the wounded and their families, and

WHEREAS, the members of The Silver Star Families of America have worked tirelessly to provide the wounded of this City and Country with Silver Star Banners, Flags and care packages, and

WHEREAS, The Silver Star Families of America's sole mission is that every time someone sees a Silver Star Banner in a window or a Silver Star Flag flying, that people remember the sacrificed for this City, State and Nation and

WHEREAS, the people and Mayor of \_\_\_\_\_ wish that the sacrifice of so many in our Armed Forces never be forgotten

NOW THEREFORE, I, \_\_\_\_\_, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby proclaim

My appreciation of The Silver Star Families of America and honor their commitment to our wounded Armed Forces members. I hereby declare May 1st "SILVER STAR BANNER DAY" the permanent and official day to honor the wounded and ill Soldiers of the City of \_\_\_\_\_.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be

affixed the Great Seal of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_ this day \_\_\_\_\_ year. \_\_\_\_\_

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