

## **AMERICANISM – 2022 – 2023**

### **Star Banners**

The families of our all-volunteer military make unprecedented sacrifices these days to serve our country. Our efforts must continue to strengthen military families by connecting them with their neighbors – individuals and organizations – to create vibrant communities of mutual support.

#### **ENTITLEMENT TO BANNERS**

Flying blue-star banners/flags is limited to specific family members. The spouse, parents (including adoptive and step-parents), siblings, children (whether natural-born, adopted, foster children or step-children) are entitled to display the window banner.

#### **FLYING BANNERS IN THE WINDOW**

The white field, edged with red, can hold up to five blue stars. The blue of those stars symbolizes hope and pride for the service of a family member. These banners are displayed facing out in a front window. Silver stars, which indicate a family member wounded in action, symbolize gallantry, while gold stars, added for family members killed during active duty, stand for sacrifice made for honor and freedom. The gold or silver stars are made slightly smaller than the original so that a thin border of blue shows around the addition. The white star banner has yet to be approved by the Secretary of Defense.

#### **BLUE STAR BANNER**



Starting in World War I, the families of U. S. soldiers and sailors often flew flags that had a blue star honoring each member of the family who was serving in the military. This continues today for each family member serving in the United States Armed Forces during any period of war or hostilities.

## **GOLD STAR BANNER**



If a family member died in any military operation, the blue star was changed to a gold star.

## **SILVER STAR BANNER**

Silver Star shining for sacrifice, honoring Combat wounded/injured, ill, and dying members of our Armed Forces, and bringing remembrance to those so deserving of our thanks.



## **WHITE STAR BANNER**



In an effort to raise awareness to the suicide epidemic that is plaguing our country and educate the public on mental health issues such as PTS, the White Star family is one who had a close relative who served in the military and lost them to suicide.