

# Last Sunday in September pays tribute to Gold Star Mothers

<http://www.pottsmmerc.com/> - The Mercury, serving Pottstown, PA.-Tri-County Area

Received: September 25, 2011

Type: Email/MOPH Facebook Update

From: John Bircher, National Facebook Administrator

Posted: September 26, 2011



Visit, <http://pottsmmerc.com/articles/2011/09/24/news/doc4e7e93a734fb9262459822.txt> to view the beginning of the Story. Click on the Links to continue...

By Emily Ryan  
Journal Register News Service

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day — a day to honor women who've lost a son or daughter in service to our country. The gold star represents that sacrifice.

On this 75th anniversary, three local mothers share their stories.

The Green Beret

At 6 a.m. Friday, Feb. 13, 2009, a knock on the door awakened Mary MacFarland of Lower Providence.

"I just remember hearing 'United States Army,' and I think I knew at that point. I had hoped he'd been injured, and they were coming to tell me he'd been injured," she said crying softly.

MacFarland's son, Staff Sgt. Marc J. Small, 29, had deployed to Afghanistan three weeks earlier.

"Something hit his truck. He got out and was shot," she said. "He was the only casualty that day. Exactly one week later, unfortunately, three other men from his team were also killed.

"For me, one of the saddest things is the fact that I really think he would have been a great father and husband," MacFarland added amid tears. "I have to hope that he's in a better place."

Small, an Army Special Forces Green Beret, volunteered at age 25.

"He went to college, got a job, and it was actually after 9/11... he really felt strongly that he wanted to do something," his mother said. [Continue...](#)