

News and stories

College Breaks Ground for Memorial

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Sara Karnes | [Branson Tri-Lakes News](#)

College of the Ozarks held a ground-breaking ceremony for its newest memorial honoring Gold Star families Thursday.

Gold Star families are folks who are directly related to someone who died while serving in the military.

Bruce Heilman, chancellor of the University of Richmond, and Medal of Honor recipient Hershel Woody Williams both spoke during the ceremony.

Heilman tours cross-country on his motorcycle, visiting memorials throughout the United States. He was a marine in World War II in the South Pacific and Japan. Williams was awarded the Medal of Honor from President Harry S. Truman for his actions on the island of Iwo Jima in February 1945.

Both men shared how thankful they are that C of O is building the memorial. After the ceremony, Director of Patriotic Activities Brian Cizek said the memorial will hopefully be completed by early April.

Although the college isn't sure what the exact cost will be, the memorial is being subsidized in part through the partnership with Big Cedar's Legends of Golf and Bass Pro Shops, Cizek said.