



February 19, 2019

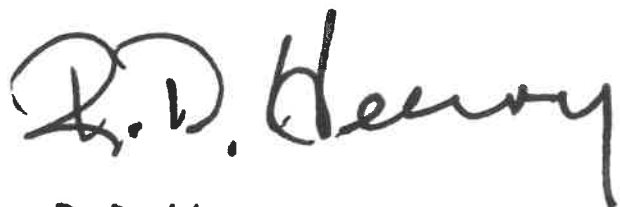
To a Grateful Nation -

My purpose in writing is to applaud the efforts of Betsy Schultz to provide respite and a healing experience to Gold Star Families, declare my full support and encourage anyone who reads this note to search for ways they might get onboard and lend their support.

Betsy created the Captain Joseph House Foundation in the months following the death of her son, Army Captain Joseph Schultz in Afghanistan Memorial Day Weekend, 2011. She donated her B&B in Port Angeles, Washington to provide a home away from home experience where families who lost a loved one in combat can meet, establish new friendships and where healing and strength can be drawn from sharing their common experiences. The 1910 Home has been under remodel with the help of more than 21,000 volunteer hours in addition to support from local businesses and contractors. Generous donations have also been received along with a state grant. Gold Star Families will be welcomed for the first time this year.

I lost a son (Marine Captain Brenden Hearney) in an aviation accident in 1994 and know first hand the emotional strain and long, difficult healing process a family goes through when losing a son, daughter or spouse who was serving our country in uniform. I am convinced Betsy's initiative is one that will really make a difference and ease that pain and help families get to what I call 'turning the corner' - being able to look back on memories with fondness and a smile rather than a flood of tears.

Betsy deserves our support. Please take time to see how you might help.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. D. Hearney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R" and "D".

R. D. Hearney
General USMC (ret.)