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## BLUNT'S BILL TO ESTABLISH SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY PASSES HOUSE

WASHINGTON—Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt's resolution honoring the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and supporting our military families passed the House today. The resolution, which is also making its way through the Senate, would declare May 1<sup>st</sup> national Silver Star Service Banner Day.

Silver Star Families of America (SSFoA) is a national, non-profit program headquartered in Clever, Missouri that remembers, honors, and assists members of the Armed Forces and their families from every branch of service and from all wars and their families. SSFoA provides assistance to veterans who have suffered physical or emotional trauma from war and distributes Silver Star Flags and care packages to wounded veterans and their families. Establishing the national day would encourage grateful Americans to help brave men and women who have worn the nation's uniform and now need assistance after returning home from combat.

"Across Missouri and the nation, Silver Star Families of America work each day to honor those who have served or made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedoms," said Blunt. "Silver Star Service Banner Day will be a day where we as a nation can pause to honor the sacrifices of our veterans and their families and remind them of our nation's support during times of war and times of peace. The banners they hang serve as striking reminders of their service, and on Silver Star Service Banner Day, we'll honor each of these families to whom we owe so much."

"This has been such a team effort from the grass roots level," said Steve Newton, founder of Silver Star Families of America. "We have had 49 states and over 2,700 cities and counties issue proclamations for the Silver Star Service Banner and Silver Star Service Banner Day. And now the House of Representatives has made it all official. It is a special day for our wounded, ill, injured and dying."

Last year, Missouri became the first state in the country to enact Silver Star Service Banner Day. Since then, many states have followed suit and 2,725 cities and counties across the country have designated May 1<sup>st</sup> as "Silver Star Service Banner Day."

This resolution is supported by the entire Missouri Congressional delegation, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the League of Cities, the United States Conference of Mayors, the Association of Counties, the Marine Corp League and the Forty and Eight.

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