

The names inscribed on the Gold Star Mothers Monument belonged to five distinct men who called Sturbridge their home. Here's a look at the lives Sturbridge will honor on Sept. 30, Gold Star Mothers Day 2007.

Rosaire M. Julian was born on Feb. 20, 1925. He grew up on 50 Arnold Road, in the very house that, interestingly, noted Sturbridge historian Robert Briere lives in now. The son of Ida and Antoine "Anthony" Julian, Rosaire Julian enlisted in the service on April 2, 1943 as a 5th Class Technician in the 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd entry division. He was made a medic after volunteering to help carry wounded bodies to an aide station in France, and detailed his experiences in a journal his family still possess. Decorated with the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, he died on March 26, 1945, when a German shell hit the overloaded boat he was traveling on. Rosaire Julian's body was never found, but he is memorialized at the Lorraine American Cemetery in France.

Lincoln G. Plimpton was the son of Barbara and Albert Plimpton, born on Sept. 15, 1920. Raised on New Boston Road in Sturbridge, he later became a Motor Machinist Mate (M.O.M.M) 1st Class in the Naval Reserves. On Aug. 15, 1944, the U.S.S. LST 282 to which he was attached was struck by an enemy glider bomber off the coast of southern France, and he was pronounced Missing in Action. His body was identified after the fact when his name was spotted on his dungarees. Interred in the U.S. Military Cemetery in Draguigan, France, he was posthumously awarded the American Campaign Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.

Roland H. Vilandre is the man who the Champeau-Vilandre American Legion Post 109 in Sturbridge is partially named after. A U.S. Navy Machinist's Mate, 3rd Class, during his time in the service, he was the son of Georgiana and Edmond Vilandre. Awarded a Purple Heart posthumously, Roland Vilandre lost

his life on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 1946. He is memorialized at the Manila American Cemetery in Fort Bonifacio, Manila, in the Philippines. His Purple Heart is now in the possession of the Legion Post that honors his name.

Joseph "Rudy" R. Julian was a U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Platoon Sergeant who received the Congressional Medal of Honor after



he died saving those of his platoon. Serving with the First Battalion, 27th Marine, 5th Marine Division, he lost his life on March 9, 1945 during the seizure of Iwo Jima in the Volcano

Islands, having destroyed five pillboxes that threatened his platoon and subsequently dying in a burst of gunfire. The son of Rosalda and Adelard Julian, he was born on April 3, 1918. He is now buried in New York's Long Island National Cemetery, and there is a scholarship through Tantasqua Regional High School in his name.

Joshua L. Booth is the only individual on the Gold Star Mothers Monument born after World War II. Born in Virginia on May 20, 1983, he



later moved to Sturbridge with his parents Debra and John "Jack" Booth. A U.S. Marine Corps 2nd Lieutenant when he was killed by sniper rifle on Oct. 17, 2006 in Haditha, Iraq, he was posthumously promoted to

1st Lieutenant. Joshua Booth had a wife, Erica Booth, a daughter, Grace Booth, and a son, unborn at the time of his death, now named Tristan Joshua Booth. Though he was buried in Virginia in Longwood Cemetery on Oct. 26 of last year, he will be memorialized here in Sturbridge, where he spent most of his life.