

The Star from Home

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Palm Beach Council Director Catherine Brister has shared this picture of family friend Marine Corps 1st Lieutenant Ryan Gulliksen, taken during his current deployment to Afghanistan. A close look at the picture reveals a white star on blue background secured inside Ryan's helmet. How did that get there?



A local Support the Troops group sends these stars to deploying soldiers with an accompanying card saying, "I am a part of our American Flag. I have flown over a home in the U.S.A. and I can no longer fly. The Sun and Winds have caused me to become tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder that you are not forgotten."

Catherine did this one better, sending 1st LT Gulliksen a star from a flag that had flown over his grandfather's home in West Palm Beach, with an additional note, "this star comes from a family flag that you have seen many times while visiting your grandfather, and I thought you might enjoy having it. We all appreciate your service and dedication to our country; Maria and Grandpa Don are so very proud of you, speak of you often and love you dearly."

And that's how the star came to show up in 1st LT Gulliksen's helmet. A second star was sent to Ryan's brother, Tyler, a Navy officer Explosive Ordnance Disposal specialist.

Thank you Catherine - we're proud to have you in our Navy League council.

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