Barbara Burt is the Gold Star surviving spouse of Robert Burt Jr. She currently serves in the following Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. positions:

Legislative Liaison for the Greater Boston Chapter of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.,

Legislative Liaison for the New England Region of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

Member: National Board of Directors Gold Star Wives of America,Inc.

Past Boards and Committee positions include:

Member: Board of Directors Greater Plymouth ARC

Chairperson: Plymouth Area Council for Children

Member: Children's Welfare League

Citizen Member: Plymouth Area Department of Developmental Services Complaint Resolution Team

Citizen Member: Brockton Area Department of Developmental Services Complaint Resolution Team

Member: Town of Hanson Finance Board

Deaconess: First Baptist Church of Hanson Board of Deacons

Barbara was born and grew up in Manhattan, Kansas. Upon completion of high school, she attended Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas and later Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. Barbara met Robert Burt Jr. while he was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. After his enlistment they married and resided in Whitman, Massachusetts. Barbara and Bob returned to Manhattan, Kansas when he became a Full time Recruiter for Kansas National Guard stationed at Fort Riley. In 1982 they opened Council Grove Budget Center, a unique antique and second-hand store in Council Grove, Ks, where they lived until their return to Whitman Massachusetts in 1987. Barbara then was employed at several independent jobs trying to balance care of her children and husband with meeting financial needs. During this time, she began working as a Respite Provider for Bamsi, Inc, a subcontractor of Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation. In 1989 they bought a house in Hanson Ma and Barbara established a private residential program for severely medically, physically and cognitively disabled children and adults, contracting with Massachusetts Department of Social Services and Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation. Subsequently the family established a small farm aka The Burt Family Farm.

During these years, Barbara and Bob were blessed with 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. In addition to their 3 children, they raised 2 of their grandchildren, and were blessed with 6 long term residents, who became family members. Three lived with the family until their passing, two now reside with one of Barbara's granddaughters and one remains in the home.

Barbara continues to reside in Hanson with her son, two grandsons and one of their long-term residents, who became a family member at the age of 2yr. old and is now 37.

Barbara has extensive experience advocating in the areas of developmental disabilities, children's welfare, medical, financial and educational services. Through Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., she now advocates on behalf of Veterans and Survivors. Barbara's focus is on changing and creating legislation to further support this community and on reaching survivors who need support through the transition of losing their Veteran