

## **Guide to the Nita Longo Rieger Collection on the Desert Chapter of Gold Star Mothers**

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Rieger, Nita Londo
<b>Title:</b>	Nita Longo Rieger Collection on the Desert Chapter of Gold Star Mothers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00408
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1947-1995
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.50 Linear Feet (1 box)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.43 Cubic Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Nita Longo Rieger Collection on the Desert Chapter of Gold Star Mothers consists of materials dated from 1947 until 1995 from the Desert Chapter of Gold Star Mothers Inc. located in Las Vegas, Nevada. It includes newspaper clippings about the group, a history of the chapter, photographs of meetings and member events, and programs from the dedication and rededication of a monument erected by the group.

### Preferred Citation

Nita Longo Rieger Collection on the Desert Chapter of Gold Star Mothers, 1947-1995. MS-00408. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Historical Background

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Grace Darling Siebold founded American Gold Star Mothers Inc. in 1928 and opened membership to other mothers whose sons died in military service to the United States. The group offered not only support to members, but also volunteered in and donated to veterans hospitals.

The Desert Chapter of the American Gold Star Mothers Inc. was organized in Las Vegas, Nevada in May 1946. The official induction of members took place on February 13, 1947 at the War Memorial Building in Las Vegas. Original members were: Gladeus Page, Myrtle Cheel, Margaret Medberry, Margaret Mae Nicholson, Anna Catherine Heywood, Irene Williams, Lola Williams, Loretta Oppen, Gladys St. John, Olive Roberts, Erna Robinson, Helen Lovell, Ella Heap, Osabella Armstrong, Sue Barrett, Josie Dondich, Bernadette Magee, Lucy Stewart, Thelma Swanner, Nettie Gwen, and Margaret Rice.

The group raised money to build a monument honoring men who died in military service from Clark County, Nevada in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. On May 30, 1952 the city leaders dedicated the monument in City Hall Park located in downtown Las Vegas. The construction of a highway on-ramp forced the dismantling of the monument in the 1960s. On May 30, 1995 the City of Las Vegas rededicated the monument at its new location at the corner of Bonanza and Las Vegas Boulevard.

The Desert Chapter of the American Gold Star Mothers Inc. appears to have decreased in activity since the 1970s.

Source:

"History." American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. <http://www.goldstarmoms.com/About/History.htm> (accessed June 29, 2016).

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Nita Longo Rieger Collection on the Desert Chapter of Gold Star Mothers consists of materials dated from 1947 until 1995 from the Desert Chapter of Gold Star Mothers Inc. located in Las Vegas, Nevada. It includes newspaper clippings about the group, a history of the chapter, photographs of meetings and member events, and programs from the dedication and rededication of a monument erected by the group.

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## Arrangement

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Materials remain in original order.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research.

## Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

## Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1999 by Nita Londo Rieger; accession number 1999-013.

## Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff. In 2016, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Angela Moor revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

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## Related Materials

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### Separated Materials

Some of the photographs in this acquisition were removed from the collection and placed in Nita L. Rieger Photograph Collection, 1920-1964. PH-00315. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Women--Nevada--Clark County--Societies and clubs
- Mothers of soldiers -- Nevada -- History
- Photographs
- American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Desert Chapter (Las Vegas, Nev.)

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Scrapbook, Desert Chapter of Gold Star Mothers, 1954-1974	box 01      folder 01

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History of Desert Chapter of Gold Star Mothers, Las Vegas, Nevada written by Thelma W. Swanner, 1961	box 01	folder 02
Gold Star Mother's Memorial, Las Vegas, Nevada; program from dedication; program and remarks from rededication, 1952,1995	box 01	folder 03
Album: photographs of meetings and events, newspaper clippings, 1947-1952	box 01	

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