

**Rhonda Skipper**



**Walton County  
Tax Collector**

**“Commitment to Service”**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Mother of Local Fallen Soldier First  
To Receive Gold Star Plate in Walton County**

**DeFuniak Springs, FL** (March 14, 2008) – Glenda Penton, mother of fallen soldier Army Sergeant Timothy Padgett, was the first Walton County resident to be issued the Gold Star Specialty License Plate, a plate honoring the family members of service members who have been killed while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The plate was approved by the Florida legislature last year and began being issued this month.

Upon receiving the first Gold Star License Plates, employees of the Walton County Tax Collector’s Office wanted to make sure that Penton was the first recipient in Walton County.

“Glenda is a friend to many of us and our staff automatically thought of her when we learned of the new specialty plate. We wanted to honor Timothy’s sacrifice for our country,” said Rhonda Skipper, Tax Collector.

The Gold Star License Plate is available to any Florida motor vehicle owner whose spouse or child has been killed while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. By Florida Statute, the plate is only available to family members of a service member who resided in Florida at the time of death of the service member. Upon application and proof of eligibility, a Gold Star License plate is issued for one vehicle per household free of charge.

Citizens who would like to learn more about the Gold Star License plate are encouraged to contact the Walton County Tax Collector’s Office or visit the website at [wالتontaxcollector.com](http://wالتontaxcollector.com).

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**Editor’s Note- Photo caption: Walton County Tax Collector Rhonda Skipper and Glenda Penton, mother of Army Sergeant Timothy Padgett who was killed in action while serving in Iraq, show the new Gold Star Military Specialty Plate.**

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