

GUIDELINES FOR MEMORIAL MARKERS



**NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
4401 Magnolia Avenue**

St. Louis Missouri 63110

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Revised 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Blue Star Memorial Program has been in existence through the garden club movement for more than 80 years. National Garden Clubs, Inc. is committed to placing Blue Star Memorial Markers on our Highways and Byways in honor of our nation's Armed Forces.

In addition, NGC is proud to welcome the Gold Star Families. We are proud of this patriotic program, which encompasses our entire Country.

Each time a Blue Star Marker is dedicated, we show our love for this beautiful United States of America and our appreciation for the Armed Services of America Mary Louise Michie, NGC President 1995 – 1997.

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HISTORY OF THE BLUE STAR BANNER



Since WWI, a Blue Star Banner displayed in the front window of a home told others that a family member was serving in the Armed Forces. Captain Robert B. Quiesser, an Ohio National Guard veteran of the Mexican Border, (1916) is credited with designing the original flag. In 1917, the Congressional Record stated, "The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother. their children."

Also known as the Service Flag, the blue stands for hope and pride. When service members lost their lives, the blue star was replaced with a gold one representing the sacrifice. A silver star stood for someone incapacitated at home from the wounds sustained overseas.

The flag made its appearance again in WWII. On October 17, 1943, Congress authorized this flag that was approved as an official design.

Although the service flags virtually vanished during the Korean and Vietnam wars, they appeared again during the Persian Gulf War in 1991, the Iraq War and the War on Terror.

BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR FAMILIES CHAIRMEN

BLUE STAR CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Vance Flood	1945-1949	New Jersey
Mrs. Joseph Dvorak	1949-1951	Iowa
Mrs. O.S. Seabraugh	1951-1953	Missouri
Mrs. Nicholas Mertens	1953	New York
Mrs. Frank Neat	1953-1957	Colorado
Mrs. Truman Sanders	1957-1959	New Mexico
Mrs. Al. Kouns	1959-1961	West Virginia
Mrs. J. B. Daughtridge	1961-1963	North Carolina
Mrs. R. Liven Day	1963-1965	Utah
Mrs. Henry C. Prange	1965-1975	Indiana
Mrs. Anthony Bennet	1975-1983	New Jersey
Mrs. Robert Kramer	1983-1985	Illinois
Mrs. Clarence Henderson	1985-1987, 1989-1995	Kentucky
Mrs. James Vine	1987-1989	Alabama
Mrs. Marjorie Johnson	1995-2001	California
Mrs. Maria Nahom	2001-2007	Connecticut
Mrs. Jimmie Meinhardt	2007-2011	Missouri
Mrs. Mary Warshauer	2011-2013	New Jersey
Mrs. Andrea T. Little	2013-2019	Massachusetts

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL ADVISOR

Mrs. Andrea T. Little	2013-2019	Massachusetts
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BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR FAMILIES CHAIRMEN

Pamela L. Dowd	2019-2021	Tennessee
Candace Wells	2021-2027	Tennessee

HISTORY OF THE BLUE STAR MEMORIALS

At the close of World War II, National Garden Clubs (called National Council of State Garden Clubs at the time), like other public-spirited groups, were seeking a suitable means of honoring our service men and women. Garden Club members visualized a living memorial, preferring to help beautify and preserve the country these men and women had fought for, rather than build stone monuments in their honor.

In 1944, Mrs. Lewis M. Hull, Garden Club of New Jersey President and future NCSGC President, and Mrs. Vance Hood, Roadside Chairman, had an inspired idea. One thousand flowering Dogwood trees would be planted along five miles of highway, that had been designated the Blue Star Drive by the Legislature. No billboards were to be allowed on the memorial stretch. The project was named for the Blue Star in the service flag, which hung in windows of homes and businesses to honor service men and women.

The guest speaker at the 1945 National Council of State Garden Clubs Annual Meeting in New York City was Spencer Miller, New Jersey's State Highway Commissioner, who had helped to implement the New Jersey project. He proposed that the program be adopted by NCSGC. At the 1945 Fall Semi-Annual Meeting, the project was approved. A "ribbon of living memorial plantings traversing every state" called The Blue Star Memorial Highway Program was adopted at the 1946 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. In 1947, Mrs. Frederick R. Kellogg (NCSGC President 1930-1933) designed a Marker that would identify the highways.

Clubs responded enthusiastically, with Rhode Island receiving the first endorsement. After official approval of the site, garden clubs would purchase Markers and planting materials. Highway Departments would plant and maintain the area. This was the first program undertaken by garden clubs on a national scale.

While it originally began to honor World War II veterans, it enlarged its mission in 1951 to include all men and women who had served, were serving or would serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The need for an extension of the program to accommodate other than dedicated highways became apparent. As a result, a smaller By-Way Marker, to be placed in areas such as parks, civic and historical grounds, was approved at the 1981 convention in Atlanta. This Marker was changed at the 1994 convention in Connecticut to be more descriptive by including the words "A tribute to the Armed Forces of America."

A third Marker had been added at the 1996 convention in Michigan. This Marker was identical to the original Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker, except for the removal of the word "Highway." This change allowed the Marker to be placed on the grounds of a National Cemetery or Veterans Administration Centers. At the 2004 convention in St. Louis, the scope of this Marker was enlarged to include other appropriate civic locations.

- ★ **The tribute line on the Blue Star Highway and Memorial Markers is *A tribute to the Armed Forces who have defended the United States of America.*** This appears on all Blue Star Highway and Memorial Markers.
- ★ **The tribute line on the Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker is *A tribute to the Armed Forces of America.*** This appears on all Blue Star By-Way Markers.

BLUE STAR POINTS OF INTEREST

The importance attached to the Blue Star Memorial Marker Program was underlined when the NGC President's pin, designed in 1952, contained seven diamonds and one large sapphire symbolic of the program.

The first year after the program was adopted in 1946, seven states led by Rhode Island, had joined the Blue Star Memorial Highway system. By 1949, thirty-three of the forty-one state garden clubs had established routes and more than 16,000 miles had been dedicated.

For the 1949 20th Anniversary Celebration of NGC (NCSGC at the time), a grove of giant redwoods had been purchased as an anniversary gift. The grove is located at what was then the western terminus of the Blue Star Highway in Humboldt County, CA.

HISTORY OF GOLD STAR FAMILIES

Gold Star Families is a 501(c) (3) not for profit organization created to provide support to those who have lost a loved one in service to our country through the United States Armed Forces. All family members representing all conflicts, all

branches of service and all circumstances of death are supported. Family members are referred to as Gold Star, families of the fallen and/or survivors.

Their mission is to offer honor, hope and healing through remembering fallen heroes by coming together for various events. While their hero paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, survivors live daily with the pain of this sacrifice. Gold Star families endeavor to provide an atmosphere of emotional and psychological conduit for healing. One way we accomplish this is by providing embroidered memorials for every fallen hero to their surviving family members.

Many people do not know the significance of the Gold Star banner and its meaning. Their organization is committed to educating others on this important symbol and how to respond properly when meeting someone who has lost a loved one in service to our country. The name Gold Star came from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a banner called a service flag in the window of their homes. The service flag had a star for each family member in the United States Armed Forces. Living servicemen were represented by a Blue Star, and those who had lost their lives were represented by a Gold Star.

Gold Star Families believe in giving back to their families. An annual scholarship is given to a Gold Star family each year. Additionally, a vegetable garden is grown where all the produce is donated to local veterans and their families.

- ★ **The tribute line on the Gold Star Families Memorial Marker is *A tribute to Gold Star Families who's loved one paid the ultimate price defending the United States of America.***
- ★ **The tribute line on the Gold Star Families Memorial By-Way Marker is *A tribute to All Gold Star Families – Honor – Hope - Healing.***
- ★ **Gold Star Families Code – HONOR · HOPE · HEALING**

BLUE STAR AND GOLD STAR SPECIFICATIONS

HIGHWAY MARKER (BLUE STAR ONLY)

- ★ Permitted on highways and highway rest areas
- ★ Overall height when erected is 7'6"
- ★ Marker size is approximately 30.5" by 46" wide (inside plate is 30"x42), cast aluminum, identical both sides. Lettering is raised relief; emblem is modeled relief; prismatic star. Caption lines 2x2"; narrative PA"; Signature lines 1"; Baked enamel finish
- ★ COLOR: Polychrome background (drab olive green); gold leaf letter faces and emblem border rings; star is blue
- ★ POST: Aluminum, octagonal, 35-pound weight. Length is 7' designed for 3' insertion in the ground. **(Replacement Post: \$375.)** A 10' post is available for an additional charge of \$175. **(Replacement 10' Post: \$500.)**

PRICE: \$2460. (including 7' post)
\$2635. (including 10' post)

MEMORIAL MARKER (BLUE & GOLD STAR FAMILIES)

- ★ Permitted on the grounds of National Cemeteries, Veteran Administration Medical Centers and any other appropriate civic location, as approved by NGC Blue Star Chairman
- ★ COLOR: Same as Highway Marker
- ★ All details of Highway Marker apply. Both Markers are delivered with eight setscrews

PRICE: \$2460. (includes 7' post)
\$2635. (includes 10' post)

BY-WAY MARKER (BLUE & GOLD STAR FAMILIES)

- ★ Permitted in parks, historical sites and other civic locations
- ★ Plaque is 11.25" high by 20" wide of east & minim, with 1" lettering in raised relief
- ★ Tribute lettering is 5/8", National Garden Clubs, Inc. is printed on bottom of each marker in 3/8" lettering
- ★ COLOR: Same as Highway and Memorial Marker
- ★ Designed for mounting on masonry or wood, predrilled holes are in each corner for mounting

PRICE: \$785.00 (includes shipping)

Extra Shipping Fees: \$300.00

Extra Shipping fees: States west of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana have to pay \$300. for shipping fees. The NGC Blue Star and Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Chair will obtain shipping fee from Sewah Studios.

PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE after December 31, 2026. Check with NGC Chairman or State Blue Star/Gold Star Chairman for current prices.



PROCEDURE FOR ORDERING

IMPORTANT: No Marker, Blue Star or Gold Star Families may bear a single person's or family name. The Blue Star Memorial Markers are designed to pay tribute to the ARMED FORCES AS A WHOLE – The Gold Star Families Markers are designed to pay tribute to THE GOLD STAR FAMILIES AS A WHOLE.

1. State, District or local garden club votes to have a Blue Star Memorial Marker or Gold Star Families Memorial Marker. The type of marker is selected (refer to page 9 for details); then an appropriate location is selected. BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER AT A NATIONAL CEMETERY: The Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery System, Washington, DC has approved our design and will facilitate placement. They may be contacted c/o Technical Support Service, 401B, Washington, DC 20420.
2. Contact State Blue Star Memorial Chairman for the most current forms and GUIDELINES publication. These items may be downloaded from the NGC website: <https://www.gardenclub.org/>
3. Contact authority responsible for location (i.e. Highway Department, City Government) for permission.
4. If a club wishes to have a highway dedicated as a Blue Star Memorial Highway, it must apply to the state legislature. See page 11 for a sample Resolution. **Gold Star Families Markers are the MEMORIAL MARKER AND THE BY-WAY MARKER only.**
5. Decide who will mount the Marker, pay for construction and maintain the immediate area. It is recommended that garden clubs not assume complete maintenance.
6. Clubs may solicit other organizations interested in civic development to help finance, plant and maintain the surrounding garden.
7. Under SPONSORED BY, the sponsoring group must be a NGC state, region, district or local garden club. Titles of other organizations may be on the Marker under IN COOPERATION WITH.
8. To purchase the desired Marker, the club fills out the order form. The words SPONSORED BY and IN COOPERATION WITH appear in **uppercase lettering** on the Highway and Memorial Marker. For all Markers, names of sponsoring clubs should be clearly printed or typed, using **upper- and lower-case lettering**, as shown on page 9. Use only **four lines** in any sequence. Please refer to the order form for the number of letters and spaces allowed per line.

For All Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial Markers:

1. Garden Club completes the order form found on the Blue Star/Gold Star page of the NGC website.
2. Garden Club obtains check in the correct amount MADE PAYABLE TO SEWAH STUDIOS.
3. Garden Club emails completed order form to State Blue and Gold Star Chair for approval and signature.
4. Upon approval of State Blue and Gold Star Chair, Garden Club emails order form to State President for approval and signature.
5. **Upon approval of State President, Garden Club sends complete and signed order form and check, made out to SEWAH STUDIOS, to NGC Blue and Gold Star Chair: Candace Wells, PO Box 325, Lookout Mountain, TN**

SHIPPING INFORMATION FOR ALL MARKERS

1. SEWAH STUDIOS should be given a shipping address where there is someone at all times, during normal business hours, **to accept shipment**. Shipping to the **ATTENTION of an INDIVIDUAL is helpful**.
2. **Highway and Memorial Markers must be shipped to a commercial address**, not to a residential address, because of the difficulty large motor freight carriers may encounter on residential streets.
3. **By-Way Markers** may be sent to a residential address. They are delivered by UPS and should not be consigned to a post office box or rural route.
4. **When a Dedication Date is known in advance of 28 weeks (7 months), Sewah will commit to delivering the Marker by making a “ship by” commitment date. Orders with no Dedication Date will be prioritized based on production workload estimation of 28 weeks (7 months). If and when there is no Dedication Date (“uncommitted”) orders go beyond Sewah’s estimate, Sewah will notify each customer with a status of their order and either commit to a future date or provide a new estimate. December through March are the slow months and a good time to order your Markers.**
5. **When shipment arrives:** It is the responsibility of the recipient to unwrap and inspect the Marker **for shipping damage, only, BEFORE** accepting delivery. If the Marker has arrived without scratches, dings, gouges or breakage it should be accepted. However, if the Marker is accepted without inspection and shipping damage is discovered later, Sewah Studios will not be responsible. Contact Sewah Studios immediately at (740) 373-2087.

Sewah Studios Shipping Policy (updated June 2026)

- Regarding **ALL** Blue Star/Gold Star Memorial and Memorial Highway Marker shipments: Sewah Studios price includes “Pre-Paid” freight to a manned commercial location with a confirmed **LOADING DOCK or FORKLIFT**. This commercial shipping location must be open M-F during normal business hours with semi-truck access. Any other address that does not have a confirmed **LOADING DOCK or FORKLIFT** will need to pay the additional handling fee of **\$200.00**. This fee includes a scheduled appointment along with an electronic liftgate for unloading at either a residential or business. Because of the size and weight of these Markers, an additional freight cost to deliver these markers to those states that are west of the Mississippi River will require an additional **\$300.00** to cover the extra cost of shipping to the west coast.

Dedication and Delivery Expectations

- Allow 24 weeks (6 months) for delivery after Sewah Studios receives the application and check. In addition, if you have a specific dedication date, be sure to build in plenty of time to be certain you will have the Marker delivered by that Dedication date and, in order for the Marker to be mounted and placed in the designated location in a timely manner.
- **Open and inspect the marker as soon as it is received. If the Marker is delivered to a business, impress on them that if the Marker is stored unopened, and later found to be damaged, Sewah Studios will NOT accept responsibility for the damage. It must be reported to Sewah Studios immediately.**
- After your Marker is installed, Sewah Studios suggests that the bolts be filed down so that they cannot be easily removed. It is unfortunate that some of the Markers have been stolen and sold for scrap.

6. Do not detain the driver while proof reading the Marker for **content**. If later an error is discovered, Sewah Studios will correct it. The Marker may, in this case, be sent back to Sewah Studios collect. **Sewah Studios guarantees the accuracy and quality of workmanship of their product.**
7. **Sewah Studios five-year warranty** covers the Marker finish against peeling, chipping, cracking, and significant fading. The Warranty is void if the Marker is not restored by Sewah Studios. Structurally, the Markers should last for decades. A switch was made to a powder coating process in 2013 and Sewah strongly believes, from salt testing results, that the paint durability will double if not triple its intended life.
8. The only time to call Sewah Studios direct is for the Restoration of a Marker. Please call your NGC Blue Star and Gold Star Families chairman with any and all questions about application process and delivery of all Markers. Most questions can be answered by reading the NGC GUIDELINES publication.
9. **States west of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana must add additional shipping fees to be determined by Sewah Studios on large Markers. There is no extra charge on the small Markers.**

CARE OF THE MARKER

At the 2007 National convention in Boston, the NGC Board approved a recommendation to have the center rust spot deleted from the manufacturing process on all Markers.

This spot was the first part to become faded and many felt it should be removed.

SEWAH STUDIOS advises using mild soap and water to brighten letters on all Markers.

RESTORATION OF LARGE MARKERS

- **PLEASE INFORM STATE AND NATIONAL BLUE STAR CHAIRMAN OF PLANNED RESTORATIONS.**
- Sewah Studios will completely restore a Marker for \$1230. This includes shipping and handling. Call Sewah Studios direct at 740-373-2087. They will arrange to pick up the Marker, restore and return it. It will look like a new Marker. The above cost does not include a new post, which is an additional \$375.
- Sewah Studios does not restore small By-Way Markers. It is more cost effective to replace the By-Way Markers.
- Pricing (Effective January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026) ○ Refurbish Marker, only, with no post - \$1230 (includes round-trip shipping) ○ Cap Repair and Marker Refurbish with no post - \$1485. (includes round-trip shipping) ○ New 7' post - \$375. ○ New 10' post - \$500.
- **Club representative** ○ **notify Sewah Studios to expect the Marker** ○ **ship Marker directly to Sewah Studios' shipping address** SHIPPING ADDRESS:
SEWAH STUDIOS
190 Mill Creek Road
Marietta, OH 45750

MAILING ADDRESS:

SEWAH STUDIOS
P.O. Box 298
Marietta, OH 45750

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 740-373-2087
Fax: 740-373-3733
Email: Sewah@sprynet.com
Website: www.sewahstudios.com

INSTALLATION OF LARGE MARKERS

1. The Blue Star Marker and Gold Star Families Marker are delivered with eight setscrews in the mounting base of the Marker. Once the Marker is placed on the post, installation is completed by tightening these setscrews using an Allen wrench. Proper Marker alignment is achieved by adjusting the mounting screws.
2. All posts are made of extruded aluminum. The 7-foot, octagonal post is designed for a 36-inch insertion in the ground. To install, dig a hole 3 feet deep, approximately 12 inches in diameter, with a post-hole digger. Place the post in the center of the hole and use a level to plumb. Place the dirt back in the hole tamping it tightly around the post as the hole is filled. Fill to about 6 inches below the surface. The hole can be filled with cement, but it is not necessary and complicates removal if it needs to be replaced.
3. If using cement, cut the bottom out of a 5-gallon plastic bucket and place it down over the post to create a form for the cement. Fill the top of the hole with cement and bring the level up about 4 to 6 inches above the ground. This will give a round curb around the base to help keep mowers clear.

4. Set the Marker on the post, tighten the setscrews and installation is complete.
5. A simple procedure can be done to **theft-proof** the Marker. After the setscrews are adjusted and the Marker is precisely positioned, use an electric drill to ream the flat surfaces out of the inside of the setscrews. Once this is done, the only way to get the Marker off the post is to drill the setscrews out completely. Most thieves will not risk being caught while doing this.
6. Marker installation is quick and simple. One person can do it with no problem.

NO OTHER INSIGNIA, SIGN or EMBLEM OF ANY KIND may be attached directly to the memorial marker or the post. In addition, changing the color of the markers is strictly prohibited.

NOTE: Sewah Studios Marker posts are not designed to be installed in the right-of-way of state or federal highways. They are not breakaway posts and are recommended to be installed at least 50 feet from the highway. (Information received from Brad Smith, President of Sewah Studios.)

PLANNING THE DEDICATION

DO NOT SET A DATE FOR THE DEDICATION UNTIL ASSURED THE MARKER WILL ARRIVE ON TIME. Please allow **28 weeks or more** for delivery of the Marker from the time the **order is received** by Sewah Studios. After setting the dedication date, proceed with invitations and program.

As soon as possible, send invitations to NGC President, NGC Blue Star/Gold Star Memorial Chairman, State Blue Star/Gold Star Memorial Chairman, Gold Star Families President for Gold Star Families Markers, State President, District Director, State Executive Board, local garden club members, organizations involved in the project, appropriate city or state officials and veteran’s groups.

Invitations should include date, time, place, sponsoring group, travel instructions and an RSVP name and address. The club may wish to include a brief description of the Blue Star or Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Program or club's Blue Star or Gold Star Families Project. To insure a well-attended event, allow enough time for busy schedules and travel time.

The club may also arrange for publicity and a printed program, if desired.

SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR MARKER DEDICATION

BLUE STAR MARKER AND GOLD STAR FAMILIES MARKER

1. MUSIC - Band from school, military base, local organizations or taped music
2. A Patriotic song may be included in any order at discretion of chairman
3. WELCOME - Master of Ceremony
4. INVOCATION — Local clergyman
5. PRESENTATION OF COLORS — Scouts or military group
6. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

7. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND OFFICIALS — Greetings and comments from NGC representatives, government or military officials
8. HISTORY OF BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS OR GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MARKERS
9. MILITARY or GOLD STAR FAMILIES TRIBUTE — Representatives from our Armed Forces, American Legion, or Veterans of Foreign Wars OR Gold Star Families as appropriate
10. UNVEILING OF MARKER
11. DEDICATION OF MARKER
12. ACCEPTANCE OF MARKER - Person representing organization involved in maintenance of the Marker
13. TRIBUTE OF FLOWERS - May be a wreath at the base of Marker
14. BENEDICTION - Or Closing
15. TAPS
16. HOSPITALITY – Refreshments or a reception to follow the ceremony may also be planned

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER Words by Francis Scott Key - 1814
 Music by John Stafford Smith – 1780



Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
 What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming? Whose
 broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight, O'er the
 ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?

And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof
 through the night that our flag was still there. Oh, say does that
 star-spangled banner yet wave, O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
 Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
 What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep, As
 it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?

Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
 In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
 'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh long may it wave, O'er
 the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country should leave us not more!
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.

No refuge could save the hireling and slave,
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave: And
the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave, O'er
the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Oh! Thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand, Between
their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land, Praise
the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our Trust." And the
star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave, O'er the
land of the free and the home of the brave!

PATRIOTIC SONGS

AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL

Words by Katherine Lee Bates

Music by Samuel A. Ward

O beautiful for spacious skies. For amber waves of
grain,
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee, And crown thy good with
brotherhood From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern impassioned stress,
A thoroughfare for Freedom beat Across the wilderness
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for patriot dream,
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears, America!
America!



God shed His grace on thee, And crown
thy good with brotherhood From sea
to shining sea!

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Words and Music by Irving Berlin

God bless America,
Land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her Through
the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America
My home, sweet home,
God Bless America
My home, sweet home.

NGC AWARDS FOR BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR FAMILIES MARKERS

NOTE: THIS AWARD IS FOR LANDSCAPING, NOT THE DEDICATION CEREMONY.

CE7 BLUE STAR / GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MARKER LANDSCAPING

Certificates of Merit may be awarded for the most outstanding Blue Star OR Gold Star Families Memorial Marker landscaping projects. The Marker and landscaping may be part of a highway department rest area maintained by the department. Project may have been continuous, but major landscaping must be completed within two years. Project may be a replacement of a destroyed or long neglected landscape.

BLUE STAR / GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKER LANDSCAPING

1. Single member garden club - small club, medium club, large club
2. Groups of members club councils, districts, groups of clubs, councils, etc.
3. State Garden Club – small club, medium club, large club

CATEGORIES BY SIZE

1. GARDEN CLUB applications shall be judged according to size determined by number of members on whom NGC and state dues are paid, including Active, Associate, Inactive, Honorary, etc.

Small Club: 1 – 20 members

Medium Club: 21 – 50 members

Large Club: 51 - + members

2. Groups of clubs, councils, etc.

3. STATE GARDEN CLUBS applications shall be judged according to size determined by number of members on whom NGC dues are paid, including Affiliates, State Life Members, etc.

Small State: 1 - 55 clubs

Medium State: 56 -149 clubs

Large State: 150 + members

SCALE OF POINTS FOR ALL NGC AWARDS

See NGC Awards Handbook

Refer to National Garden Clubs official website. Click Awards and Grants. Open Awards. Scroll down to Awards category - Community Enhancements – CE7 Blue Star / Gold Star Families Marker Landscaping You may click on Community Enhancements in the first column for a complete description of all CE awards, including CE7. In the last column you will find forms for application and the general scoring rubric.

The AWARDS YEAR is January 1 to December 31 annually. Application forms and further information may be obtained from the NGC website, the State Awards Chairman, State Blue Star/Gold Star Chairman or NGC Blue Star/Gold Star Chairman.

FORMS

To complete forms on the following pages, download and save to your device, add your information and then save again.

INCLUDED FORMS

1. Sample Resolution for a For a Highway Marker on a Dedicated Highway
2. Dedication for Blue Star Memorial
3. Dedication for Gold Star Families Memorial Marker
4. Blue Star or Gold Star Family By-Way Marker Order Form
5. Blue Star Marker Order Form
6. Gold Star Families Marker Order Form

All order forms are also available on the NGC website.



RESOLUTION

FOR A HIGHWAY MARKER ON A DEDICATED HIGHWAY

Whereas, The Blue Star Memorial Highway was projected by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. as a living tribute to the men and women of the Nation's Armed Forces;

Whereas, it is fitting and appropriate that further recognition be accorded the services and sacrifices of our citizens so valiantly rendered;

Whereas, The Blue Star Memorial Highway of the State of _____
is sponsored by Garden Club in cooperation with the Highway Commission;

Resolved, that the scope of the Blue Star Memorial Highway be extended to include additional routes, as follows: _____ now, therefore, be it

Resolved that this Resolution be spread upon minutes of _____
_____ Garden Club *and* a copy of the same sent to the State Highway Commission as tangible evidence of our official petition to them that they designate the above-mentioned route as part of The Blue Star Memorial Highway, for due consideration and action by the Commission and notification of such action to this organization.

Signed _____

President of _____

Date _____

DEDICATION FOR BLUE STAR MEMORIALS

We are here to pay tribute to our Armed Forces. While we go about our daily lives or while we sleep, the men and women in our Armed Forces fly our skies, sail our seas and guard our shores, ensuring our safety.

They stand ready at a moment's notice to defend our Country. We must not forget them, and, WE DO NOT! WE REMEMBER. With every step of the Honor Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. WE REMEMBER. With every drumbeat on the Fourth of July.

When we Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, WE REMEMBER. At the sound of Reveille, WE REMEMBER. As the last lingering note of Taps resounds in the distance, WE REMEMBER.

In REMEMBERING today, we dedicate this Blue Star Marker to the honor and glory of all those men and women who have served, are now serving, and will serve in the Armed Forces of this great Nation.

It is with pride that the National Garden Clubs, Inc. joins with to perpetuate our Blue Star Memorial Marker Program with this Marker that stands as a symbol for

**ALL TO SEE
LEST WE FORGET
THOSE WHO HELP TO KEEP US FREE**

Notes (not part of dedication):

- Last sentence attributed to Polly Henderson, Louisville, KY, former Blue Star Chairman
- The Department of Defense Speaker's Bureau is a public outreach program designed to assist communities in locating uniformed members of the Armed Forces to speak.

DEDICATION FOR GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MARKERS

We are here today to honor our Gold Star Families. While their Armed Forces Family Members were serving our country, their loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice. As a result, their survivors live daily lives with the pain of this sacrifice.

Their Mission is to offer honor, hope and healing through remembering their fallen heroes by coming together and sharing their pain and sorrow, to offer each other support and understanding, and to continue to live, not just exist, and navigate their lives in today's world. Gold Star Families endeavor to provide an atmosphere of emotional and psychological conduit

for healing. These families are committed to educating others on how to respond, properly, when meeting someone who has lost a loved one in service to our country.

Today, let us remember the Gold Star families whose children will never know their father or mother, aunt or uncle; or the husband who will never hold their newborn child; and the parents who will never see their sons and daughters again.

WE MUST REMEMBER.

As we remember today, we dedicate this Gold Star Families Memorial Marker to honor all our Armed Forces of America families, whose loved one made the ultimate sacrifice defending the United States of America.

It is with pride and appreciation that the National Garden Clubs, Inc. joins with Gold Star Families, _____ Garden Club and the State of _____ to perpetuate this Program with this Marker that stands as a symbol for

**ALL GOLD STAR FAMILIES
HONOR · HOPE · HEALING
BLUE STAR OR GOLD STAR FAMILIES BY-WAY MARKERS ORDER FORM**

PLEASE CHECK: **BLUE STAR** OR **GOLD STAR** TO DESIGNATE WHICH MARKER YOU ARE ORDERING.

ORDERED BY _____

CONTACT NAME _PHONE _ ADDRESS _ EMAIL

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

ADDRESS OF MARKER LOCATION _____

SHIP TO _____ CONTACT NAME _____
Business address receiving during normal business hours

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

DEDICATION DATE _____

BY-WAY MARKER INSTRUCTIONS

To complete form, download and save to your device, add your information and then save again.

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

1. Clearly type or print Club or District name(s)
 2. Maximum spaces: one line with nineteen 1" letters including punctuation and spaces; **OR** two lines, each with twenty-eight 5/8" letters including punctuation and spaces.
 3. Letters must be in upper- and lower-case conventions.
-
-

ORDER APPROVED BY:

State Chairman

_ Date _____

State President

_ Date _____

NGC BS & GSF Chairman

Date _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SEWAH STUDIOS.

- Garden Club emails completed order form to State Blue and Gold Star Chair for approval and signature.
- Upon approval of State Blue and Gold Star Chair, Garden Club emails order form to State President for approval and signature.
- Upon approval of State President, Garden Club sends complete and signed order form and check, made out to SEWAH STUDIOS, to NGC Blue and Gold Star Chair:
Candace Wells, PO Box 325, Lookout Mountain, TN 37350-1604

To complete form, download and save to your device, add your information and then save again.

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

BLUE STAR MARKERS ORDER FORM

PLEASE CHECK: **HIGHWAY MARKER** OR **MEMORIAL MARKER**

ORDERED BY _____

CONTACT NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

ADDRESS OF MARKER LOCATION _____

SHIP TO _____ CONTACT NAME _____

Business address receiving during normal business hours

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

DEDICATION DATE _____

HIGHWAY OR MEMORIAL MARKER INSTRUCTIONS

1. Clearly type or print exact name(s) for the following.
2. Use only four of the five lines below with 43 spaces maximum on each line including spaces and punctuation.
3. Letters must be in upper- and lower-case conventions.

SPONSORED BY

IN COOPERATION WITH

AND

ORDER APPROVED BY:

To complete form, download and save to your device, add your information and then save again.

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

State Chairman _____ Date _____
State President _____ Date _____
NGC BS & GSF Chairman _____ Date _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SEWAH STUDIOS.

- Garden Club emails completed order form to State Blue and Gold Star Chair for approval and signature.
- Upon approval of State Blue and Gold Star Chair, Garden Club emails order form to State President for approval and signature.
- Upon approval of State President, Garden Club sends complete and signed order form and check, made out to SEWAH STUDIOS, to NGC Blue and Gold Star Chair:
Candace Wells, PO Box 325, Lookout Mountain, TN 37350-1604

Blue/Gold Star Markers

Revised 2025

GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MARKER ORDER FORM

ORDERED BY _____

CONTACT NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

ADDRESS OF MARKER LOCATION _____

SHIP TO _____ CONTACT NAME _____

Business address receiving during normal business hours

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

DEDICATION DATE _____

GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MARKER INSTRUCTIONS

4. Clearly type or print exact name(s) for the following.
5. Use only four of the five lines below with 43 spaces maximum on each line including spaces and punctuation.
6. Letters must be in upper- and lower-case conventions.

SPONSORED BY

To complete form, download and save to your device, add your information and then save again.

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.
IN COOPERATION WITH**

AND

ORDER APPROVED BY:

State Chairman

_ Date _____

State President

_ Date _____

NGC BS & GSF Chairman

Date _____

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