

BLUE/GOLD MEMORIAL

For those that don't know, The Blue Star Program honors all men and women that serve in the United States Armed Services. This program began with the planting of 8,000 Dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs in 1944 as a living memorial to veterans of World War II. In 1945, the National Council of State Garden Clubs (now NGC, Inc.) adopted this program and began a Blue Star Highway system that covers thousands of miles across the Continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii. Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers were placed along the way. The Blue Star was adopted because it had become an icon in World War II and was seen on flags and banners in homes for sons and daughters away at war as well as in churches and businesses.

Gold Star Families is a non-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. Their mission is to offer honor, hope and healing through remembering fallen heroes by coming together. The name Gold Star came from the custom of families of service members 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. Blue Stars represented living service members while a Gold Star represented those who had lost their lives. NGC clubs work with Gold Star Families to honor our fallen heroes with Gold Star Markers.

In discussing this with Maryanne of the Gardener's By the Sea, we can target July 1st or 8th for the ceremony. We can also incorporate Hometown Heroes Banners at the same ceremony. The Gardener's By the Sea ladies have a luncheon for this ceremony, arranging for Ron Gray, Gerald Hocker, VFW Mason Dixon-Post 7234 (colors, commander, soloist and chaplain) along with the Coastal Point and any other speakers we would like to invite. In order to get this done for July, we are seeking the approval of the council. The Garden Club needs a commitment from us to go forward and said that they would cut the checks and we can reimburse them after the budget is approved for FY24. The cost for Millville will be approximately \$3,000.00 for the stone/plaque and we have to choose if we want the Blue Star (served) or the Gold Star (deceased). The Memorial will be placed at the foot of the flag pole near the Community Center.

Ms. Greens memo and proposal are attached for your reference.



GARDENERS BY THE SEA

February 1, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAYOR RONALD BELINKO
TOWN MANAGER, DEBORAH Y. BOTCHIE
TOWN CLERK, WENDY MARDINI
PARK & REC ADMINISTRATOR, LIZ KAIN-BOLEN
Maryanne Green
FROM: MARYANNE GREEN (maryanne.green57@gmail.com)
CHAIR, BLUE/GOLD STAR MEMORIAL WITH PLAQUE
GARDENERS BY THE SEA (GBTS) GARDEN CLUB

SUBJECT: BLUE/GOLD STAR MEMORIAL WITH PLAQUE
AND MEETING REQUEST

SUMMARY:

In follow-up to Mayor Belinko's 2022 GBTS request to create and oversee either a Blue or Gold Star Memorial with Plaque at Evans Park, please see the attached preliminary budget breakout for your review and approval (Town of Millville: \$3,000; GBTS \$500). The exact cost of the invitations/programs is to be determined based on the number of invitees/participants.

TIMELINES:

- NLT March 3: Order the By-Way Plaque (120 days completion time)
- NLT March 3: Order Stone, Plaque (2-3 months completion time)
- NLT March 13: Secure calendar commitments of Honorable Ronald E. Gray, Honorable Gerald Hocker, VFW Mason Dixon-Post 7234 (Colors, Commander, Soloist, Chaplain), and others as requested, and Coastal Point Press
- Either July 1 or July 8: VFW Commander John Gossart has confirmed that either dates would be agreeable to VFW Post Honor Guard and Post Officers for the Blue/Gold Star Unveiling in conjunction with the Hometown Heroes event.

MEETING REQUEST

Lastly, we wish to meet with you and/or your representative to obtain your comments and authorization to proceed immediately follow the Feb. 28th Town Council meeting.

Attachment: Town of Millville Proposal for Blue/Gold Memorial Stone with Plaque

CC: GBTS Founder, Lisa Arni
GBTS President, Alva Hutchison
GBTS Community Projects Chair, Maureen Eisenhart
GBTS Co-Chair, Blue/Gold Star Memorial, Diane Baxter

**TOWN OF MILLVILLE
PROPOSAL
FOR
BLUE/GOLD MEMORIAL STONE
WITH PLAQUE**

BLUE STAR BY- WAY PLAQUE:

The Blue Star Program honors all men and women that serve in the United States Armed Services.

GOLD STAR BY- WAY PLAQUE:

Gold Star Families is a non-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. Their mission is to offer honor, hope and healing through remembering fallen heroes by coming together. The name Gold Star came from the custom of families of service members 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.

The By-Way Plaque (Estimated time of receipt is 120 days)	\$ 610.00
--	-----------

Stone, Plaque attachment and delivered (Estimated time of receipt is 2-3 months)	\$1800.00
---	-----------

Invitations for Dedication	\$ 100.00
----------------------------	-----------

Suggesting GBTS paid for the following:

Flowers/Plants surrounding the stone	\$ 350.00
--------------------------------------	-----------

Dedication Refreshments – members bring finger food and /or desserts. The Garden club supplies the drinks.	\$ 100.00
--	-----------

Decorations for the Town of Millville's Hall. GBTS approximate cost:	\$ 50.00 \$ 500.00
---	-----------------------





GOLD STAR MEMORIAL

A tribute to All Gold Star Families
Honor - Hope - Healing

State of Wisconsin
Wisconsin Garden Club Federation
NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.