

Honoring Those Who Served Our Country

Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker Dedication Planned for Wrightsville Beach in November 2023



BY ZEKE PARTEN, HARBOR ISLAND GARDEN CLUB



While we think of Memorial Day as our opening of summer, the official significance is one of remembrance of those who have died in service of the United States of America. It is because of those brave women and men that we enjoy a walk along the beach and a swim in the ocean.

It is only fitting on the upcoming Memorial Day to introduce the permanent memorial that will be erected at the entrance to Wrightsville Beach in November 2023. The Harbor Island Garden Club (HIGC) in cooperation with the Town of Wrightsville Beach have collaborated to erect a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker.

The Blue Star Memorial program began at the close of World War II (1945) by the National Garden Clubs as a way of honoring men and women serving in the Armed Forces during World War II. The name was chosen for the iconic star on flags displayed in homes and businesses denoting a family member serving in the war. The Blue Star Memorial Marker program was the first program undertaken by garden clubs on a national scale.

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 Program honors all men and women who serve in the United States Armed Services.

The tribute line on the Blue Star Highway Marker states, "A Tribute to the Armed Forces who have defended the United States of America."

The HIGC is very pleased to bring this memorial to the Town of Wrightsville Beach. The dedication and unveiling ceremony are planned for November 2023. Invitations and details about the dedication will be shared in the coming months. For continued information please refer to the HIGC website: harborislandgardenclub.com



Rendering of Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker site at Wrightsville Beach

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