The **Blue Star Memorial Program** honors service men and women who have served, are serving or will be serving in the armed services of the United States. In 1945, the National Council of State Garden Clubs (now National Garden Clubs, Inc.) adopted the program started in New Jersey and began a Blue Star Highway system, which covers thousands of miles across the Continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii.

From the beginning, a large metal Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker was placed at appropriate locations along the way. Memorial Markers and By-Way Markers are placed at locations such as national cemeteries, parks, veteran's facilities and gardens. The Blue Star Memorial Marker Program was established in 1944 at the end of World War II and honors all who serve in the US Armed Forces; past, present, and future.

In 2015 the Gold Star Families Marker was incorporated into the National Garden Clubs Blue Star Memorial Marker Program. The Gold Star Families Marker honors the families of U.S. Armed Forces members who died in battle or in support of certain military activities.

The Blue Star became 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. The Blue Star was replaced by a Gold Star when a service member died while serving in conflicts.

**Blue Star** Memorial Markers are permitted on the grounds of National Cemeteries, VA Medical Centers and other civic locations approved by the NGC **Blue**/Gold **Star** Chair. **Blue Star** Memorial Highway **Marker** are permitted on highways and highway rest areas.

Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs has been pro-active of this program in supporting the Blue Star Markers throughout our state honoring those who serve in the Armed Forces and the *Gold Star Families Markers t*o honor the families of those who gave their life while serving. The new markers need to be ordered and delivered with the agreement of the owners of the site. For delivery and placement, it is too large to move so that arrangement need to be made in advance.

Sources of funding can be clubs, and/or districts, inviting other veterans’ organizations, civic clubs or government agencies participate in the financing of the markers.

The Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs allows for applications to assist in purchasing and repairing markers by applying to the Endowment Committee for the eight districts and member clubs at large for the partial funding and restoration of Blue Star Markers. The application deadline is March 15 of the calendar year, with addresses included for driving to them.

Within Washington State, as other states, the WSFGC **Blue Star** Chair and WSFGC President need to sign your application for order. Contact Judy Swortz at 253 582-0373 or email judyswortz@comcast.net.

**Sewah Studios implemented a price increase on July 1, 2020.**
***The following prices are good thru May 1, 2022:***

 **Memorial/Highway Markers** are $1,590.00 and are delivered with a 7' post. Cost includes shipping.

 **By-Way Marker Plaques** are $530.00. Cost includes shipping. It is up to the club to have the plaque mounted, which is an additional expense for the club/district .

 **Replacement Post** is $325.00 per post.

 **Refurbishment/Restoration** cost is $800.00 to restore a Large Blue Star Memorial or a Blue Star Highway Marker (No Post or Cap). Cost includes round trip freight

 **Cap Repair/Refurbish/Restoration** cost is $900.00 to restore a Large Blue Star Memorial or a Blue Star Highway Marker (No Post). Cost includes round trip freight. This is about half the cost of a new marker. Labor costs are not included for removing and replacing the marker.