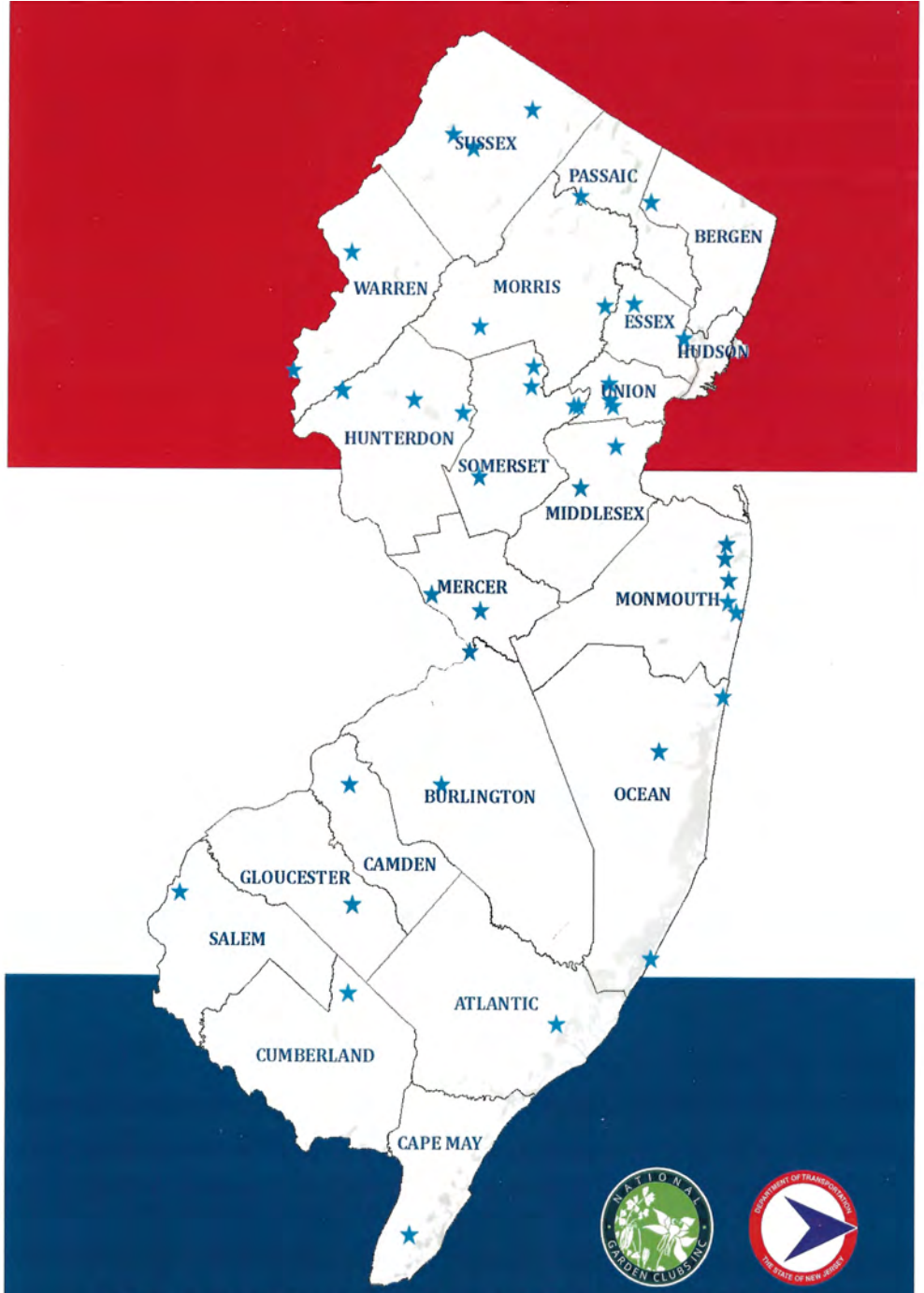


OVER 40 BLUE STAR MEMORIALS ARE LOCATED IN NEW JERSEY

New Jersey has a Blue Star in every County!

PRINTED APRIL 2024

NEW JERSEY BLUE STAR MEMORIALS



A TRIBUTE TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF NEW JERSEY WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES THAT HAVE DEFENDED THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A project of The Garden Club of New Jersey Inc., under the guidance of the Blue Star Memorial Council, in cooperation with the N.J. Department of Transportation

WHAT is the Blue Star Memorial Marker program?



The Blue Star Memorial Marker program is a nationwide program to honor US service men and women of the past, present, and future generations. The program began in New Jersey at the close of World War II and has grown into a nation-wide recognition of those who serve in the military.

WHEN and HOW did the program begin?

In the final years of World War II, members of the Garden Club of New Jersey, led by its president Mrs. Lewis Hull and its Roadside chair Mrs. Vance Hood, in collaboration with NJ Highway Commissioner Spencer Miller, Jr. sought a way to recognize service men and women who would soon be returning from battle. A section of Route 22 between Mountainside and North Plainfield was selected and named the Blue Star Drive, for the Blue Star service flag used by families to denote a member in the armed forces. Citizens were invited to plant dogwood trees for members of their families in the Armed Forces with the slogan "a dollar plants a tree on Blue Star Drive". This site was planted with 1,000 flowering dogwoods (native to New Jersey) by the Garden Club of New Jersey. In January, 1945, the NJ state legislature commemorated the Blue Star Drive by a joint resolution. The concept grew and was supported by the National Council of Garden Clubs, which proposed that highways be designated in every state to pay tribute to service men and women.



WHERE are Blue Star Memorial Markers found?

Blue Star markers may be found along designated highways, as well as in public parks, rest areas, civic properties, veterans' cemeteries, and hospitals and other facilities serving service men and women. There are more than 3000 sites located throughout the United States, and over 40 in New Jersey, with at least one in each county.

WHO may initiate a Blue Star memorial marker?

Blue Star markers may be supported by any garden club that is affiliated with the Garden Club of New Jersey and the National Garden Club. Garden Clubs may work together to bring a marker to their area, and may also enlist the support of municipal and veterans' groups. The Garden Club of New Jersey's Blue Star Committee as well as the NJ Blue Star Council participate in the process, approving the application and providing advice and support to local clubs. The landscape division of the NJ Department of Transportation also may assist clubs with installation, especially if the marker will be located along a highway or municipal park.

HOW does a club participate in the Blue Star program?



The decision to bring a Blue Star Marker to your area involves many factors and a club (or clubs) may learn about the process through the Garden Club of New Jersey's website and the current Blue Star Chair: www.gardenclubofnewjersey.com
The complete application process may be found on the National Garden Club website: www.gardenclub.org.

WHY would a club sponsor a Blue Star marker?

What better way to improve a community and recognize all service men and women, past, present, and future? What better way to bring civic groups of all ages together to pay tribute to those who serve? What better way to carry out your club's mission to beautify the local environment?

What better way to honor those who give so much to keep us free?

