



# North Carolina Blue Star Memorial Marker Program Directory

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## 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 U.S. service men and women. Garden Clubs 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 Mrs. Vance Hood, roadside chairwoman of the Garden Club of New Jersey, had an inspired idea: Plant 1,000 flowering dogwood trees along 5 miles of highway that had been designated the Blue Star Drive by the state lawmakers. No billboards would 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.

At the 1945 National Council of State Garden Clubs Annual Meeting in New York City, Spencer Miller, New Jersey's state highway commissioner who helped to implement the New Jersey project, 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 from 1930 to 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.

Although it began as a way to honor World War II veterans, its mission expanded in 1951 to include all men and women who served, were serving or would serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. The need for an extension of the program to accommodate other than dedicated highways became apparent. As a result, a smaller Byway 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 was 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 center. At the 2004 convention in St. Louis, the scope of this marker was enlarged to include other appropriate civic locations.

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# Brevard, Transylvania County

**Location:** Intersection of Broad and Caldwell streets

**Dedicated:**

**Presented by:** Brevard Garden Club

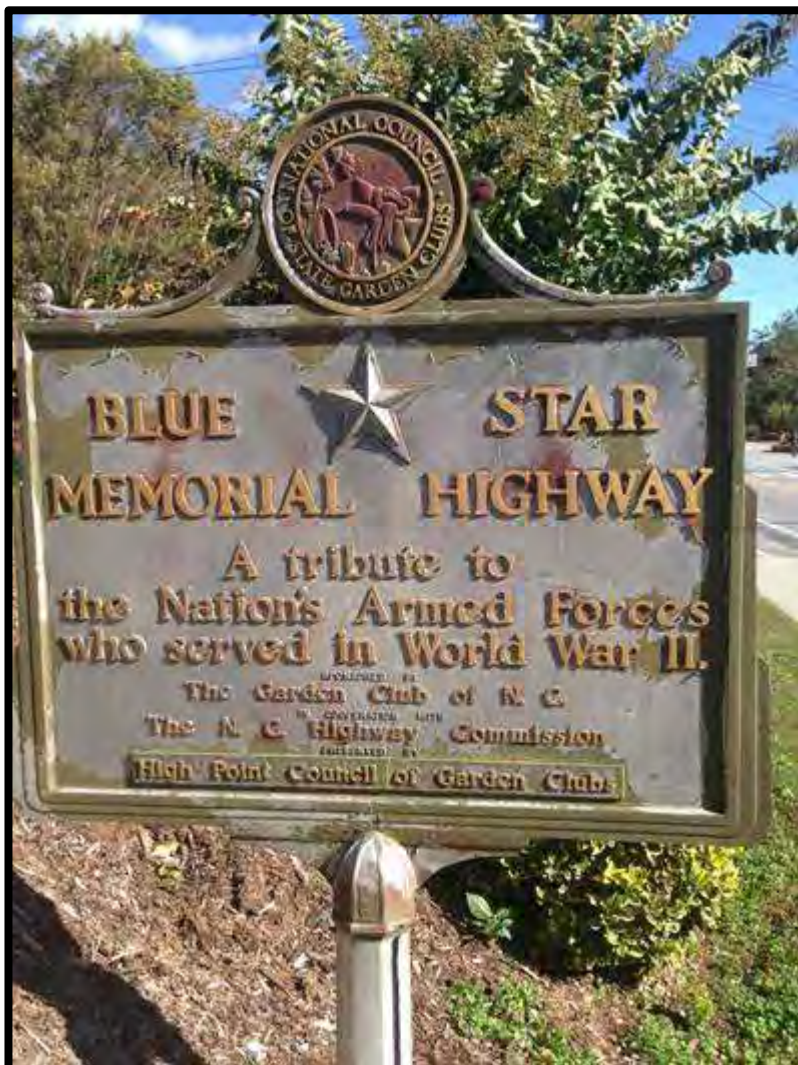


# Chimney Rock, Rutherford County

**Location:** U.S. 74A across from Chimney Rock State Park entrance

**Dedicated:**

**Presented by:** High Point Council of Garden Clubs; Garden Club of North Carolina





# Clinton, Sampson County

**Location:** 1901 Sunset Avenue at Clinton Community Church

**Dedication:** Nov. 5, 2019. This is the first club to dedicate both a Blue Star Memorial marker and a byways marker at the same event. The byways marker was installed at the Sampson County History Museum (313 Lisbon St.).

**Presented by:** The Clinton Garden Club



# Dunn, Harnett County

**Location:** Dunn Veterans Park

**Dedicated:** Nov. 6, 2016

**Presented by:** Youth Garden Club\*

*\*This is the first Youth Garden Club sponsored Blue Star Byways Marker in North Carolina.*





# Durham, Durham County

**Location:** Veterans Administration Hospital (Fulton Street)

**Dedicated:** April 27, 2014

**Presented by:** Durham Council of Garden Clubs





# Emerald Isle, Carteret County

**Location:** N.C. 58 at Crystal Coast Visitors Center

**Dedicated:** Nov. 11, 2015

**Presented by:** Emerald Isle Garden Club; Town of Emerald Isle;  
Garden Club of North Carolina



# Fayetteville, Cumberland County

**Location:** Hay Street at Freedom Memorial Park.

**Dedicated:** March 3, 1956. This marker was renovated in 2023.

**Presented by:** Cross Creek Garden Club of North Carolina, and N.C. Highway Commission (NCDOT) and Cross Creek Garden Club



# Fuquay-Varina, Wake County

**Location:** U.S. 401 South at East Academy Street

**Dedicated:** Nov. 10, 2021

**Presented by:** Fuquay-Varina Garden Club





# Fuquay-Varina, Wake County

**Location:** Fayetteville Street at Broad Street (N.C. 55)

**Dedicated:** Nov. 10, 2021

**Presented by:** Fuquay-Varina Garden Club



# Gastonia, Gaston County

**Location:** East Franklin Boulevard, near South Marietta Street  
(Gastonia Conference Center)

**Dedicated:** May 20, 2015

**Presented by:** Gastonia Council of Garden Clubs; City of Gastonia; Keep Gastonia Beautiful



# Goldsboro, Wayne County

**Location:** Initially located at the Intersection of Spence Avenue/U.S. 70, this marker was moved to Center Street downtown near the "Freedom Tree."

**Dedicated:** Nov. 20, 2013. A re-dedication is planned for 2025.

**Presented by:** Evergreen Garden Club; Citizens and Veterans of Wayne County





# Greensboro, Guilford County

**Location:** In clover leaf at East Wendover Avenue and Huffine Mill Road

**Dedicated:** 1976

**Presented by:** Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs, Inc.



# Hamlet, Richmond County

**Location:** U.S. 74, on site of New Hamlet Senior Center

**Dedicated:** Oct. 18, 1984

**Presented by:** Hamlet Garden Club





# Hickory, Catawba County

**Location:** 1855 U.S. 70, eastbound lane

**Dedicated:** Oct. 18, 1984

**Presented by:** Hickory Garden Council





# Jacksonville, Onslow County

**Location:** Lejeune Boulevard, at New Bridge Street (originally N.C. 24, near City Hall, going toward Camp LeJeune)

**Dedicated:** May 27, 1984; moved July 6, 2017

**Presented by:** Jacksonville Beautification and Appearance Commission; Onslow County Garden Council



# Jacksonville, Onslow County

**Location:** Beirut Memorial Garden. Moved from NCDOT District Office (295-A Wilmington Highway); initial location U.S. 17 South

**Dedicated:** Between 1985 and 1993; moved to District Office July 6, 2017; moved to Beirut Memorial Garden 2023

**Presented by:** Onslow County Garden Club Council, The Garden Club of North Carolina and NCDOT





# Knightdale, Wake County

**Location:** Knightdale Veterans Park (originally First Avenue/Main Street)

**Dedicated:** Originally, unknown; moved and rededicated Nov. 11, 2018

**Presented by:** Two Green Thumbs Garden Club





# Lewisville, Forsyth County

**Location:** U.S. 421

**Dedicated:** May 5, 2012

**Presented by:** Lewisville Garden Club



# Lillington, Harnett County

**Location:** Veterans Memorial Park

**Dedicated:** May 30, 2016

**Presented by:** Four Seasons Garden Club





# Maysville, Jones County

**Location:** 708 Foy Ave. at William Frost Park

**Dedicated:** September 20, 2019

**Presented by:** The Green Leaf Garden Club





# Mebane, Alamance County

**Location:** U.S. 70 at the Veteran's Memorial Garden

**Dedicated:**

**Presented by:** Mebane Council of Garden Clubs



# Monroe, Union County

**Location:** Union County Public Library, Monroe Branch

**Dedicated:** Early 1980s

**Presented by:** Monroe Garden Club





# Mount Airy, Surry County

**Location:** Corner of West Pine and South Main streets

**Dedicated:** Nov. 9, 2018

**Presented by:** Mountain View Gardeners Garden Club; Dr. John L. Gravitte Family Dentistry





# Murfreesboro, Hertford County

**Location:** U.S. 158

**Dedicated:** 1972

**Presented by:** Southern Belles High School Garden Club



# Murphy, Cherokee County

**Location:** U.S. 64, west of Murphy

**Dedicated:**

**Presented by:** Garden Club of North Carolina Inc.



# New Bern, Craven County

**Location:** U.S. 70 West at Country Club Road (Exit 416)

**Dedicated:** Unknown

**Presented by:** New Bern Garden Club; Garden Club of North Carolina Inc.; NCDOT





## Newport, Carteret County

**Location:** U.S. 70 East and Howard Boulevard

**Dedicated:** Feb. 15, 1971

**Presented by:** Newport Bud 'N Shrub Garden Club



# Pilot Mountain, Stokes County

**Location:** Pilot Mountain Scenic Overlook

**Dedicated:** Nov. 10, 2013

**Presented by:** Pinnacle Garden Club; Pilot Mountain Garden Club; Evening Bloomers Garden Club





# Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret County

**Location:** N.C. 58

**Dedicated:** Nov. 9, 2016

**Presented by:** Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club





# Reidsville, Rockingham County

**Location:** Access ramp at U.S. 158 West (Richardson Drive) and U.S. 29 South Business (Freeway Drive)

**Dedicated:**

**Presented by:** Reidsville Council of Garden Clubs



# Rocky Mount, Nash County

**Location:** Sunset Avenue at Highway 301 (North Wesleyan Boulevard)

**Dedicated:** This marker was originally installed in 1949. It was reinstalled to its present location on Nov. 20, 2019 following a two-year road construction project.

**Presented by:** The Rocky Mount Garden Club in cooperation with The Garden Club of NC





# Smithfield, Johnston County

**Location:** U.S. 301 (Brightleaf Boulevard) at Hospital Road

**Dedicated:**

**Presented by:** Smithfield Garden Club; Garden Club of North Carolina; North Carolina Highway & Public Works Commission



# Spivey's Corner, Sampson County

**Location:** Spivey's Corner Fire Station

**Dedicated:** May 25, 2013

**Presented by:** Just-A-Mere Garden Club; Woodmen of the World Lodge 1034





# Statesville, Iredell County

**Location:** U.S. 64/U.S. 21 intersection in east Statesville

**Dedicated:** 1950s

**Presented by:** Brookdale Garden Club



# Statesville, Iredell County

**Location:** Jennings Road and Snow Creek Road

**Dedicated:** June 22, 2013

**Presented by:** Field and Stream Garden Club; North Iredell Ruritan Club





# Tarboro, Edgecombe County

**Location:** 3503 N. Main St., west of Indian Lake Recreation Complex (originally U.S. 64A at Lake Valley Drive)

**Dedicated:** Originally unknown; renovated and moved March 28, 2018

**Presented by:** Garden Club of North Carolina; North Carolina Highway & Public Works Commission



# Trent Woods, Craven County

**Location:** Chelsea Road near Trent Woods Town Hall

**Dedicated:** Sept. 9, 2012

**Presented by:** Trent Woods Garden Club; Town of Trent Woods; National Garden Clubs, Inc.





# Wrightsville Beach, New Hanover County

**Location:** Keel Street at Causeway Drive

**Dedicated:** Nov. 9, 2023

**Presented by:** Harbor Island Garden Club and the Town of Wrightsville Beach



## I-26 Buncombe/Henderson County

**Location:** I-26 Buncombe/Henderson eastbound rest area, relocated from I-26 west mile marker 10, 12 miles south of Asheville.

**Dedicated:** July 18, 2008

**Presented by:** Asheville Garden Club





# I-26 Henderson County Rest Area

**Location:** I-26 West rest area in Henderson County

**Dedicated:** Unknown

**Presented by:** NA



# I-26 Madison County

**Location:** I-26 Welcome Center, Mars Hill

**Dedicated:** May 18, 2024

**Presented by:** District 1 and 2 Garden Clubs, The Garden Club of NC and the N.C. Department of Transportation





# I-26 Polk County

**Location:** I-26 West at milepost 36, south of Columbus

**Dedicated:** September 1977; refurbished and rededicated April 4, 2017

**Presented by:** Daffy Jills Garden Club; Garden Club of North Carolina; NCDOT



# I-40 Catawba Rest Area

**Location:** I-40 East at milepost 136, 10 miles east of Conover

**Dedicated:**

**Presented by:** Garden of Eden Garden Club, District 2





# I-40 Davie County Rest Area

**Location:** I-40 East at milepost 177

**Dedicated:**

**Presented by:** Bermuda Run Garden Club



# I-40 Duplin County Rest Area

**Location:** I-40 at milepost 364, in median at N.C. 24 interchange, 2 miles west of Warsaw

**Dedicated:** April 6, 2005

**Presented by:** Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.





# I-40 McDowell County Welcome Center

**Location:** I-40 West at milepost 82, 3 miles southwest of Marion

**Dedicated:**

**Presented by:** Marion Council of Garden Clubs



# I-77 Iredell County Rest Area

**Location:** I-77 Iredell County rest area (Originally I-77 South Mooresville Rest Area north of Statesville)

**Dedicated:** Originally unknown; moved to new location Feb. 1, 2018

**Presented by:** Statesville Garden Council; Garden Club of North Carolina; NCDOT





# I-77 Mecklenburg County Welcome Center

**Location:** I-77, milepost 1

**Dedicated:** Oct. 29, 2016

**Presented by:** Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs; North Carolina DAR District 3



# I-77 Surry County Welcome Center

**Location:** I-77 milepost 105, at Virginia state line

**Dedicated:** July 21, 2006

**Presented by:** Modern Gardeners Garden Club; Surry County Appearance Commission





# I-85 Davidson County Rest Area

**Location:** I-85 North at milepost 99

**Dedicated:** May 19, 2014

**Presented by:** Garden Clubs of Davidson County; Davidson County Veterans Council



# I-85 Davidson County Rest Area

**Location:** I-85 South at milepost 99

**Dedicated:** May 19, 2014

**Presented by:** Garden Clubs of Davidson County; Davidson County Veterans Council





# I-95 Nash County Rest Area (Northbound Lane)

**Location:** Milepost 142, 1.5 miles north of Dortches, N.C.

**Dedicated:** This marker was originally dedicated in 1949 and was located at the intersection of Wesleyan Boulevard and May Drive. It was relocated to this rest area as a result of a road widening project that impacted the original location. This marker was rededicated on Nov. 15, 2019

**Presented by:** Rocky Mount Garden Club



# I-95 Northampton County, Roanoke Rapids

**Location:** I-95 at milepost 181, 1 mile south of Virginia state line

**Dedicated:**

**Presented by:** Garden Clubs of District XII





# I-95 Robeson County Welcome Center

**Location:** I-95 at milepost 5

**Dedicated:** Nov. 13, 2016

**Presented by:** Youth Garden Club\*

*\*This is the first Youth Garden Club-sponsored Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker in North Carolina.*



# U.S. 17 Beaufort County Rest Area

**Location:** U.S. 17 rest area in Chocowinity

**Dedicated:** Nov. 10, 2018

**Presented by:** Washington Garden Club; American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15





# U.S. 17 Brunswick County Rest Area

**Location:** 394 Whiteville Road, Shallotte

**Dedicated:** June 19, 2019

**Presented by:** Long Bay Garden Club



# U.S. 64 Dare County Rest Area

**Location:** U.S. 64 Rest Area in Roanoke Island (originally U.S. 64 and Budleigh Street)

**Dedicated:** Originally, Feb. 2, 1950; renovated and moved May 5, 2011

**Presented by:** Garden Club of North Carolina





# U.S. 70 Craven County Rest Area

**Location:** U.S. 70 rest area in Craven County

**Dedicated:** Sept. 8, 2017

**Presented by:** Trent Woods Garden Club; Craven County Veterans Council; Elks Post #764, Knights of Columbus; NCDOT



## CONTACT

For more information about the  
Blue Star Memorial Marker Program,  
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