

To: Members of Dublin City Council
From: Marsha I. Grigsby, City Manager *mg*
Date: August 21, 2014
Initiated By: Fred Hahn, Director of Parks & Open Space
Re: National Garden Club Blue Star Memorial

Background

In July, 2014, staff was approached by the Muirfield Village Garden Club about pursuing the idea of establishing a Blue Star Memorial Garden within the City of Dublin. The Blue Star Memorial Program was initiated after World War II as a way for communities to recognize all military service personnel, past, present and future. This national program has specific site requirements in order to be eligible for inclusion within the program.

The Muirfield Village Garden Club had originally suggested the garden to be placed within the Dublin Veterans Park. Given the sensitivity of the existing design, staff suggested a more appropriate location to be along the Bridge Street frontage of the Dublin Cemetery. Part of the design requirements for the garden includes a standardized two-sided plaque that in this location would be visible from both Bridge Street and inside the cemetery itself. The specific area suggested currently is vacant of any substantial landscape and has no potential for grave spaces. Given its proximity to the main entrance (see attached location map), the garden could provide welcomed color and visual interest as well as provide the recognition of military personnel.

The garden club would be responsible for raising the funds necessary for the garden establishment and required plaque. Staff will help in preparing the land for the garden and the garden club will arrange for the actual planting. Once established, the garden club will provide for the ongoing maintenance with the exception of the occasional mulching and edging.

Staff views this concept as complimentary to both the Grounds of Remembrance and the KIA Memorial. While the KIA Memorial is a most appropriate tribute to those who have sacrificed the most in their military service, broader recognition of military veterans currently does not exist within the Dublin Cemetery. The Grounds of Remembrance does an excellent job in recognizing all veterans and their families, but many visitors to the Dublin Cemetery do not necessarily visit this tribute.

Additional information regarding the Blue Star Memorial program was provide by the Muirfield Village Garden Club and is attached to this report.

The first step for inclusion in this program is for the Muirfield Village Garden Club to have the site approved by the governing body of the political jurisdiction.

Recommendation

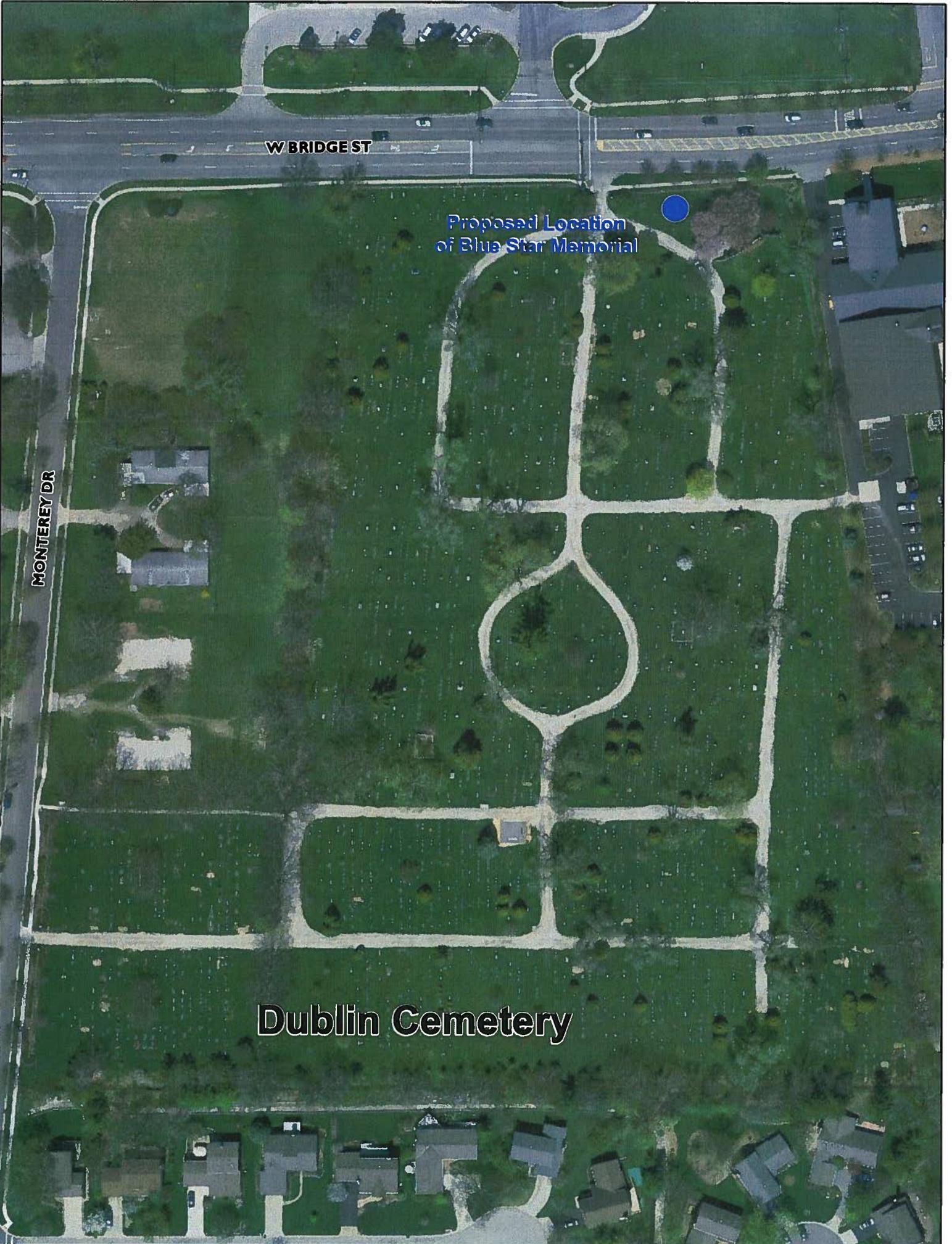
Staff believes a Blue Star Memorial Garden would be a welcomed addition to the existing forms of military personnel recognition within the City of Dublin. Staff further believes the specific site indicated would not only provide appropriate recognition but would also provide a desired visual benefit to the surrounds. Staff is recommending Council's approval in the form of a motion to grant the request submitted by the Muirfield Village Garden Club.

W BRIDGEST

Proposed Location
of Blue Star Memorial

MONTEREY DR

Dublin Cemetery



W BRIDGE ST

Proposed Location
of Blue Star Memorial

Dublin Cemetery





National Garden Club Blue Star Memorial

*"Each time a Blue Star Marker is dedicated,
we show our love for this beautiful
United States of America and our
appreciation for the armed services of America"*

Mary Louise Michie, National Garden Club President 1995-1997

Prepared for Fred Hahn, Director of Parks & Open Spaces, July 23, 2014
For Dublin City Council by Muirfield Village Garden Club

I. Background Information on Blue Star Memorials

Honoring Those Who have Served Our Country

The "Blue Star" became an icon in World War II and was seen on flags and banners in homes, churches and businesses for sons and daughters away at war. This program has been active all through the years to the present, a fitting tribute always and especially now.

The "Blue Star Memorial Program" honors service men and women. 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 adopted the program and began a Blue Star Highway system, which covers thousands of miles across the Continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii. A large metal Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker was placed at appropriate locations along the way.

The program was expanded to include all men and women who had served, were serving or will serve in the armed services of the United States. Memorial Markers and By-Way markers were added to the Highway Markers, to be used at locations such as National cemeteries, parks, veteran's facilities and gardens.

Memorial Markers

Permitted on the grounds of National Cemeteries, VA Medical Centers and any other approved Civic locations, as approved by National Garden Club Blue Star Chairman

By-Way Markers

Permitted in parks, historical sites and other Civic locations

II. Memorial Dimensions & Materials

Marker size is approximately 41" high by 45" wide (inside plate is 30"x42"), cast aluminum, identical both sides. Lettering is raised relief; emblem is modeled relief; prismatic star. Caption lines 2½"; narrative 1½"; Signature lines 1". Baked enamel finish.

Color: Polychrome background (copper center shading to drab olive green); gold leaf letter faces and emblem border rings. Star is blue.

Post: Aluminum, octagonal, 35 pound weight. Length is 7', designed for 3' insertion in the ground.

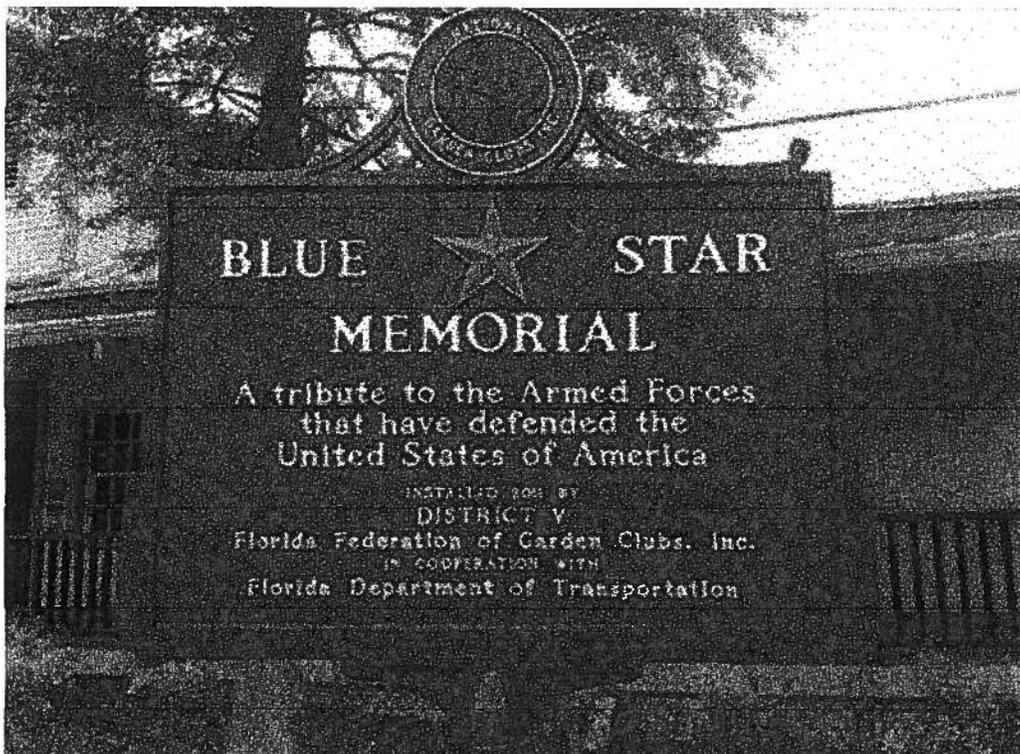


Figure 1: Sample Memorial Marker

III. Preparation for Installation of Blue Star Marker

1. Once the location for this marker has been approved by Dublin City Council, the Muirfield Village Garden Club will submit the location to the National Garden Club, Inc. for approval.
2. The Muirfield Village Garden Club will design a garden area to compliment the marker. It is our hope that local nurseries would donate time and plantings to facilitate this garden.
3. The Muirfield Village Garden Club (MVGC) requests assistance from the City of Dublin to prepare the area for the garden. We would also request that the City of Dublin mount the marker in its place.

Below are the guidelines for installation:

The Blue Star marker is delivered with 8 set screws in the mounting base of the marker. Once the marker is placed on the post, installation is completed by tightening these set screws using an alien wrench. Proper marker alignment is achieved by adjusting the mounting screws.

All posts are made of extruded aluminum. The 7-ft., octagonal post is designed for a 36 inch insertion in the ground. To install, dig a hole 3 ft. deep, approximately 12 inches in diameter. Place the post in the center of the hole and use a level to plumb. Fill to about 6 inches below the surface. The hole can be filled with cement, but it is not necessary and complicates removal if it needs to be replaced.

A simple procedure can be done to theft-proof the marker. After the set screws are adjusted and the marker is precisely positioned, use an electric drill to ream the flat surfaces out of the inside of the set-screws. Once this is done, the only way to get the marker off the post is to drill the set-screws out completely.

4. The MVGC, with the approval of Dublin City Council, will choose a date for a dedication ceremony.
5. The MVGC will organize this dedication ceremony.
6. The MVGC will be holding fund raising activities to pay for the cost of the Memorial Marker and the dedication ceremony.

IV. Dedication of The Blue Star Memorial Marker

Dedications take the form of a ***community celebration/tribute***. Suggested format for the dedication ceremony is as follows:

- Music - Band from school, military base, or local organization.
- Welcome – Master of Ceremony
- Presentation of Colors – Scouts or Military Group
- Invocation – Local Clergyman
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Guests & Officials
- History of Blue Star Memorials
- Military Tribute - Representatives from our Armed Forces, American Legion, or VFW.
- Unveiling of Marker
- Dedication of Marker
- Acceptance of Marker - Person representing organization involved in maintenance of the marker
- Tribute of Flowers - May be a wreath at the base of the marker
- Taps
- Hospitality – Refreshments

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Houpt, Chairperson
MVGC Blue Star Memorial Committee