



**COMMUNITY RELATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2019**  
**11:00 A.M.**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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**BLUE STAR MEMORIAL BY-WAY MARKER PROPOSAL**

*JEN BURBIDGE, DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION*  
*(STAFF REPORT)*



**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**November 4, 2019**

**SUBJECT:** **Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** **Review and consider the Friendly Flower Garden Club's Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker proposal for installation at Lacey's Civic Plaza site.**

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**STAFF CONTACT:** Scott Spence, City Manager *SS*  
Jen Burbidge, Parks and Recreation Director *JB*

**ORIGINATED BY:** Parks and Recreation Department

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker Proposal](#)
2. [Blue Star Memorial local photos](#)
3. [Budget](#)

**PRIOR REVIEW:** N/A

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**BACKGROUND**

The local Friendly Flower Garden Club would like to present the City of Lacey with a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker to be installed at Civic Plaza. The Marker honors those who have served and who are serving in the military.

Please see the attached proposal, photos, and budget, which has been provided by the Friendly Flower Garden Club.

Dee Smith is the club's Blue Star Marker Chair, and will be attending the Community Relations Committee for discussion of the proposal.

## **Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker Proposal**

Friendly Flower Garden Club will install a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker in the city of Lacey to honor the men and women who have served and are serving in our nation's Armed Forces.

### **What is a Blue Star Marker?**

The Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker was inaugurated by the New Jersey Garden Clubs in 1944. The name was taken from the Blue Star in the Service Flag honoring the men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

The official Blue Star Highway Marker designed in 1947 was a tribute to all who lost their lives serving in World War II. In 1951, the project was expanded to include all men and women who have served and are serving in the Armed Forces.

The original Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers were located along dedicated portions of primary highways. Two additional markers have been created. A Blue Star Memorial Marker is permitted on grounds in National Cemeteries, and at Veterans' Administration Medical Centers and Hospitals. A Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker is permitted in public parks, historical sites, or other civic locations.

In the last seven decades, the project has spread across the nation. Over 2,500 markers have been installed; 52 in the state of Washington. The first of the Washington markers was installed on June 19, 1950, in Blaine at the Peace Arch U.S./Canadian Border.

### **Why is Friendly Flower Garden Club proposing this project?**

The Friendly Flower Garden Club is proposing this project to honor all who serve in all branches of our Armed Forces. There is a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker in Olympia at Priest Point Park; two in Tumwater, a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker in Tumwater Historical Park and a Blue Star Memorial By-Way

Marker in Mills and Mills Cemetery; a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker in Yelm at the intersection of Hwy 510 and Hwy 507. Lacey is a strong supporter of our military and we believe it is time for a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker to be installed in an appropriate location in Lacey.

### **Size of the Marker**

The Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker is 12" high by 20" wide. Lettering is 1" in raised relief. Tribute lettering is 5/8". National Garden Clubs, Inc. Is printed at the bottom of the marker in 3/8" lettering. The marker has pre-drilled holes at each corner for mounting on stone, masonry, or wood.

### **Cost of the Project**

The cost of a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker is \$510.00, which includes shipping.

Friendly Flower Garden Club has budgeted \$500.00 for community projects, which would include costs involved in installing a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker.

We are applying for a Pacific Region Blue Star Marker Grant which would provide \$75.00 towards the cost of the marker.

Two other grants for which we are applying are:

NGC Plant America , up to \$1,000, to be used for a garden area, stone, benches, etc.

WSFGC Project Grant, up to \$1,000, for a civic development project.

A fund raiser is being planned for January 25, 2020, in conjunction with Applebee's which we hope will raise \$500.00.

We plan to partner with local Veterans' Organizations ( VFW, American Legion, etc.) to be part of the Dedication Ceremony as well as the Nisqually Military Widows Group and the Lacey VA HUB.

We also hope to partner with local businesses to provide excavation (if

needed); the mounting stone and costs to position it; plantings to beautify the area, top soil, mulch, etc.; park bench, concrete, other items depending on the location chosen for the installation of the marker.

We would request that the band from a local high school provide music for the dedication.

### **Proposed sites for installation of the Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker**

Huntamer Park - site within the park would be chosen in conjunction with the Lacey Parks & Recreation Department. Reason for selection - well-visited park with many crowd-drawing activities.

Lacey Civic Plaza - site at the Plaza would be chosen in conjunction with the Lacey Parks & Recreation Department and other appropriate organizations. Reason for selection - already the site of an Armed Forces Memorial Column where ceremonies to honor our military are conducted.

Friendly Flower Garden Club's tree is the Douglas Fir and the flower is the camellia. If at all possible, we would like to have one or both of these items included in the design of the site.

### **Dedication Ceremony**

NCG provides suggestions for the dedication of the marker. They include:

- Music and Songs
- Welcome/Master of Ceremonies
- Presentation of the Colors
- Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of honored guests
- Short history of the Blue Star Memorial Marker Project
- Dedication and Unveiling of the memorial marker
- Wreath/flower tribute
- TAPS
- Refreshments

# Mills & Mills Cemetery, Tumwater Black Hills District - 2009

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Tumwater Historical Park  
Black Hills District - 1993



# Priest Point Park Olympia Garden Club - 2006

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## Budget for Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker

Cost of Marker: \$ 510.00

Possible grant: \$ 75.00

Cost: \$ 435.00

### Projected Landscaping costs

Community Projects in Budget:		\$ 500.00
NGC Plant America Grant - for civic beautification:	up to	\$ 1,000.00
WSFGC Grant - for civic beautification:	up to	\$ 1,000.00

Applebee's Short Stack for a Tall Cause fundraiser:		
anticipate selling 100 tickets @ \$5.00		\$ 500.00
scheduled for January 25, 2020		

Possible donations from veterans' groups