

## **FGCMD Blue and Gold Star Memorial Markers History 1944-2023**

1944 The Blue Star Memorial Highway System is created as a project of the Garden Club of New Jersey.

1948 Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland unanimously select U.S. Route 301 to be Maryland's Blue Star Highway as "a tribute to the Armed Forces that have defended the United States of America." Governor William Preston Lane signs the resolution.

1949 April 12<sup>th</sup> Maryland General Assembly passes a resolution to designate U.S. Route 301 as a Blue Star Memorial Highway.

1951 FGCMD extends a fundraising plea to all state garden clubs to keep the Memorial Highway landscaped and without advertising billboards.

1951 The Federation purchased four Blue Star Highway Memorial Markers. They were stored in Hagerstown.

1952 The Bay Bridge is opened to traffic.

1953 June 9<sup>th</sup> Dedication of marker on the west side of the William Preston Lane, Jr., Bay Bridge entrance. Governor McKeldin declares Route 301 a Blue Star Highway. \$5,000 was spent by the Federation for plantings and monuments at the sites. The Memorial Markers are to be maintained by the State Roads Commission. Three markers are at the entrance of the Governor Nice Bridge, the Bay Bridge, and the eastern side of the Bay Bridge in Queen Anne's County.

1974 A Blue Star Highway Marker was dedicated April 16, 1974, by President Betty Childs and the Honorable Harry Hughes, Secretary of Transportation at the Hayden Hope Picnic area 22 miles north of the Bay Bridge. The marker is presently located inside the Bay Country Welcome Center, Centreville, MD.

1994 Rededication of US 301 as a Maryland Blue Star Memorial Highway, August 18, 1994, at the Bay Country Welcome Center, Centreville, Maryland.

2008 A forgotten Highway Marker is rediscovered, refurbished, and relocated to Rt. 50 W. Exit on Rowe Blvd./Bestgate Road, Annapolis, MD.

Note: In 1962, the Highway Marker had been located at the interchange of Maryland Route 70 (Roscoe Rowe Blvd.) Annapolis. The Marker was removed for construction work on Route 301/50, and never reinstalled because it would have been in a ravine. Years later the lost Marker was found by SHA Contact Le Roy Jonas. For years, the marker had been in a storage unit at the SHA landscape office in Rosedale, Baltimore County. The forgotten memorial was refurbished by District II, FGCMD, and relocated to the Rowe Blvd/Bestgate Rd location. The Marker was rededicated on October 10, 200

2009 The Maryland State Highway Administration gifts a new Blue Star Highway Marker to the Federated Garden Clubs of MD.

The Highway Marker was installed near the Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery in Prince George's County, to replace a marker that had gone missing. It was rededicated May 12, 2009

2011 A Blue Star Highway Marker located on the westbound roadside of the Severn River Bridge, now the Pearl Harbor Bridge, in Anne Arundel County, was refurbished by the Severn River GC, and the Garden Club of Annapolis. It was rededicated March 11, 2011, by District II, FGCMD.

Note: Marker went missing in 2023. SHA was contacted to search for the marker at its original location.

2013 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MD Blue Star Highway

The FGCMD rededicated Route 301/50 Blue Star Highway with the installation of three new Highway Markers. The dedication took place at the Bay Country Welcome Center, Centerville, MD on November 8, 2013.

The following projects were achieved for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MD Blue Star Highway Route 301/50:

- A. 2013 A new Blue Star Highway Marker, purchased by the Federated Garden Clubs of MD, was installed on the northern entrance of the Governor Nice Bridge
- B. 2013 A new Highway Marker was placed along Route 301/50 on the western side of the Bay Bridge crossing in Anne Arundel County. Note: Unfortunately, this marker was destroyed when hit by a snowplow in 2018.
- C. 2013 A new Highway Marker was placed at the Romancoke Road (Thompson Creek Rd.) Park and Ride, Stevensville, MD.
- D. 2013 Highway Marker #B227R, located on the Southbound roadside at the MD/Delaware State line, Warwick, Cecil County, was removed from its stone monument due to highway construction. The Marker was refurbished by District I of the Federated Garden Clubs of MD, and relocated to the Bay Country Welcome Center in Centerville, MD.
- E. 2013 An original Blue Star Highway Marker that had been installed at the Hayden Hope Picnic area, 22 miles north of the Bay Bridge, was dedicated April 16, 1974, by President Betty Childs and the Honorable Harry Hughes, Secretary of Transportation. The marker was later removed, repainted, and placed on a concrete slab outside the Bay Country Comfort Center, by the Queen Anne Garden Club. It was rededicated on November 10, 2006. In 2013, the Highway Marker was removed from its concrete slab and placed inside the Bay Country Welcome Center lobby for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MD Blue Star Highway Route 301/50.

- F. 2013 The original Blue Star Highway Marker at the Governor Nice Bridge was refurbished, relocated, and rededicated at the Maryland Veterans Memorial Museum in Newberg, Maryland on May 4, 2013.
- G. 2013 The original Blue Star Highway monument that was located at the William Preston Lane, Jr. Bridge, known as the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, was removed, and stored at the Annapolis SHA Facility. Note: In 2023, the marker was retrofitted for a post and was relocated to the Bay Country Welcome Center, Centreville, MD.
- H. 2013 The original Blue Star Highway Marker monument # 76Z was located on the Median .3 mile south of MD 304 and 301 in Queen Anne's County. The marker was removed for traffic safety reasons. The Highway Marker was one of the original markers of four that was purchased by the Federation in 1951. The retired marker was refurbished by the American Legion Post 18 and the Queen Anne Garden Club. The highway marker was relocated and rededicated on May 30, 2014, at the Jeff Post American Legion in Centreville, MD.

2021 First Gold Star Memorial Marker installed at the Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery  
6827 East New Market Ellwood Rd., Hurlock, MD 21643  
Dedicated in MD, on October 12, 2021  
Sponsoring Organization- the Federated Garden Clubs of MD, Inc.

2023 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dedication of four Blue Star Highway Markers and the declaration of Route 301 as a Blue Star Highway by MD Governor Theodore McKeldin.

## FGCMD Chronology of the Blue and Gold Star Memorial Markers 1951-2023

1. Original Blue Star Highway Marker Monument- REMOVED and RELOCATED:  
Governor Nice Bridge: northbound roadside of the Potomac River Bridge in Charles County- Previously a Highway stone monument (since demolished in 2012)  
Date ordered - Original marker of four purchased by the FGCMD, Inc. in 1951  
Dedicated June 9, 1953. Governor McKeldin declares the Highway Markers as gateways to the Blue Star Highway Route 301.

Note: The marker has since been removed from this location and is now at the Maryland Veterans Museum, 110 Crain Highway, Newburg, MD. Refurbished by the Charles County Garden Club, La Plata Community Garden Club, Crossroads of Hughesville Garden Club, District II, FGCMD. Rededicated at the Maryland Veterans Memorial Museum, May 4, 2013

2. Original Highway Marker Monument REMOVED AND RELOCATED: West entrance to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge; median strip west of the Sandy Point Park overpass in Anne Arundel County  
Date ordered- Original marker purchased and sponsored by the FGCMD, Inc. in 1951  
Dedicated in 1953 by Governor McKeldin, who declared Route 301 a Blue Star Highway.

Note: The monument has been retrofitted with a post. It is now located at the Bay Country Welcome Center, Centreville, MD, Route 301/50 as of September 2023.

3. Original Highway Marker REMOVED, REFURBISHED, RELOCATED:  
Median .3 mile south of MD 304 and 301 in Queen Anne's County  
Highway Marker Monument # 76Z  
Date ordered-Original marker of four that was purchased by the Federation in 1951  
Sponsoring Organization-Federated Garden Clubs of MD  
Dedicated- Assumed it was dedicated at the same time as the Governor Nice Bridge and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge markers as gateways to the Blue Star Highway in 1953 when Governor McKeldin declared Route 301 a Blue Star Highway.  
Refurbishment of marker by Queen Anne Garden Club in 2006.  
Note: Original marker and stone monument removed in 2013.  
New Location: The retired marker was refurbished by the American Legion and the Queen Anne Garden Club. It was rededicated May 30, 2014, at the Jeff Post American Legion in Centreville, MD.

4. Possible Original Highway Marker.

REMOVED, LOST, REFOUND, REFURBISHED, RELOCATED

New location: Rt. 50 W. Exit on Rowe Blvd./Bestgate Road, Annapolis, MD.

Highway Marker was originally placed at the interchange Maryland Route 70 (Roscoe Rowe Blvd) near Annapolis in 1962. Marker was removed for construction of Route 301/50.

Note: Lost and later discovered in a SHA facility by LeRoy Jonas, SHA Liaison, the Blue Star Highway Marker on the Roscoe Rowe Blvd. had been removed during construction of the Route 50/Rowe Boulevard Interchange. It was recently found in storage at the SHA landscape office in Rosedale in Baltimore County. The Marker had not been returned or reinstalled when the interchange was completed because it would have been in a ravine. Discovered memorial was refurbished and relocated to Rowe Blvd/Bestgate Rd location.

Rededicated- October 10, 2008

Sponsoring Organization- Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, District II.

5. Highway Marker. RELOCATED, REFURBISHED, RE-DEDICATED

Original Location: Southbound roadside at the MD/Delaware State line, Warwick, Cecil County; Highway Marker #B227R in a stone monument (Removed)

Sponsoring Organization-The Federated Garden Clubs of MD, Inc.

Site chosen on May 18, 1960, by Mrs. William Hamilton, Chairman

Installed July 1960 by Charles Anderson, Chief, Landscape Section

Removed from its stone base to the median strip by the SHA for highway improvements in 2011.

New Location: Marker was relocated in 2013 to the Bay Country Welcome Center in Centerville, MD.

Note: Refurbished March 2011, FGCMD/District I

Rededicated November 8, 2013, at the Bay Country Welcome Center and installed on post in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MD Blue Star Highway Route 301/50.

6. Highway Marker# B490-REMOVED, RELOCATED, REDEDICATED

Original Location: Hayden Hope Picnic area 22 miles north of the Bay Bridge.

Highway Marker ordered April 25, 1973, and shipped to Mrs. Jay McCault Tooey, 941 Forest Drive, Hagerstown, MD.

Sponsoring group-The Federated Garden Clubs of MD

Dedicated April 16, 1974, by President Betty Childs and the Honorable Harry Hughes, Secretary of Transportation.

Note: Marker was later repainted and rededicated November 10, 2006, by the Queen Anne's County Garden Club. Marker was relocated to the entrance lobby of the Bay Country Welcome Center and rededicated on November 8, 2013, by the FGCMD in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Blue Star Highway, Route 301/50.

7. Highway Marker lost and replaced: Median at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery in Prince George's County  
Original date ordered and dedicated- June 11, 1973  
Note: Marker was lost under unknown circumstances. A new marker was ordered by the Maryland State Highway Administration on February 6, 2009  
Rededicated May 12, 2009  
Sponsoring Organization-The Maryland State Highway Administration as a gift to the Federated Garden Clubs of MD

8. Highway Marker: Westbound roadside west of the Severn River Bridge, now the Pearl Harbor Bridge, in Anne Arundel County  
Refurbished and rededicated March 11, 2011, by the FGCMMD, District II  
Sponsoring Clubs- Severn River GC and the Garden Club of Annapolis.  
Note: History of marker is unknown. The Marker has been missing since 2023. SHA has been contacted to search for it at the location.

9. Memorial Marker on the grounds of Hoffman Automotive, Hagerstown, MD  
Date ordered- October 11, 2002  
Dedicated- Veterans Day, 2002  
Sponsoring Club- Hagerstown Garden Club, District V

10. By-Way Marker; Worcester County Veteran's Memorial at Ocean Pines, MD  
Route 589 Berlin, MD  
Date dedicated- June 14, 2006  
Sponsoring Club- Worcester County Garden Club, District I

11. By-Way Marker; Oxford Community Park, Oxford, MD  
Date ordered January 10, 2007  
Dedicated- November 12, 2011  
Sponsoring Club-The Oxford Garden Club

12. Highway Marker; Rt. 50/301 Davidsonville Park and Ride, Davidsonville, MD  
Date ordered March 23, 2007  
Dedicated- November 12, 2007  
Sponsoring Organization-Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland-District II

13. By-Way Marker; St. Paul's Episcopal Church Cemetery, Waldorf, MD  
Date ordered- May 2008  
Dedicated- November 14, 2008  
Sponsoring Club-La Plata Community Garden Club

14. By-way Marker; Port Tobacco Courthouse, Port Tobacco, MD  
Dedicated-April 12, 2010  
Sponsoring Club-The Charles County Garden Club

15. By-Way Marker; The American Legion, Ridge Post, Ridge, MD  
Dedicated-May 2011  
Sponsoring Organization-The Federated Garden Clubs of MD, District II

16. Memorial Marker; Calvert County Tourist Information Center  
14175 Solomons Island Rd, Solomons Island, MD 20688  
Dedicated- July 1, 2011  
Sponsoring Club-Calvert Garden Club

17. Memorial Marker; Baltimore City, near the intersection between Reisterstown Rd.  
and Gwynns Falls Parkway near the Howard Rawlings Conservatory  
Dedicated-November 2011  
Sponsoring Club-Mt. Washington Garden Club, District IV, FGCMD, Inc.

18. By-Way Marker; Maryland Veterans' Cemetery, Hurlock, Maryland  
Dedicated- April 19, 2012  
Sponsoring Club-The Dorchester Garden Club

19. Memorial Marker; WWII Memorial Overlook, Annapolis, MD  
Route 450 at Naval Academy Bridge, 1920 Ritchie Highway, Annapolis, MD  
Dedicated-October 25, 2012  
Sponsor-District II of the Federated Garden Clubs of MD, Inc.

20. By-Way Marker; Veterans' Park, State Rt. 219, Oakland, MD  
Dedicated- November 12, 2012  
Sponsoring Club and Organizations- The Mountain Laurel Garden Club,  
the American Legion, and the VFW.

21. By-Way Marker; Western Maryland Hospital Center, Pennsylvania Avenue,  
Hagerstown, MD  
Dedicated -April 24, 2013  
Sponsoring Club-Hagerstown Town and Country Garden Club

22. By-Way Marker; Crofton Village Library  
1681 Riedel Rd, Crofton, MD 21114  
Dedicated-May 2013  
Sponsoring Club-Crofton Village Garden Club

23. By-Way Marker; Ellicott City Visitors Center

3691 Sarah's Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21041

Dedicated May 18, 2013

Sponsoring Club-Howard County Garden Club

Note: Original marker washed away in the Ellicott City flood July 30, 2016.

Howard County Garden Club received Natural Disaster Relief funds from National Garden Clubs, Inc., to provide a new BY-Way Marker.

A new Marker was rededicated November 11, 2017. This marker was also lost in the flood of Ellicott City on May 27, 2018.

A third BY-WAY MARKER was ordered and relocated at the Miller Branch Howard County Library, 9411 Frederick RD, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

The dedication took place on September 18, 2021.

24. Highway Marker; Governor Nice Bridge, Newberg, MD, Charles County

Highway Marker located on the eastbound side of the tollbooth, crossing the Potomac River from VA into MD

Dedicated- November 8, 2013

Sponsoring Organizations- The Federated Garden Clubs of MD and the Maryland Transportation Authority (MTA,) in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MD Blue Star Highway, Rt 301 South.

25. Highway Marker; Westbound side of the Bay Bridge, Anne Arundel County,

Route 301/50 Dedicated-November 8, 2013

Sponsoring Organizations- The Federated Garden Clubs of MD and the MD State Highway, in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MD Rt 301 South.

Note: MARKER DESTROYED BY SNOWPLOW in 2018. Marker will not be replaced, and it is at the SHA Building in Annapolis, MD.

26. Highway Marker; Route 301/50 Eastbound; east side of Romancoke Road

(Thompson Creek Rd.) Park and Ride in Stevensville, MD, parallel to Route 301/50East

Dedicated November 8, 2013

Sponsoring Organizations- The Federated Garden Clubs of MD and the MD State Highway Administration, celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MD RT 301 South.

27. By-Way Marker; Baker Historical Park, Frederick, MD 21701

Dedicated November 11, 2014

Sponsoring Club- Tasker's Chance Garden Club

28. Blue Star Memorial Marker, Route 40 West Rest Center

Dedicated October 22, 2015

Sponsoring Organization- District V of the Federated Garden Clubs of MD, Inc.



29. Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication at the Rotary Club of Long Meadows Park, Hagerstown, MD Dedicated November 11, 2015  
Sponsoring Club- Antietam Garden Club and the Rotary Club of Long Meadows

30. Blue Star By-Way Marker at Historic Jerusalem Mills Village, Kingsville, MD  
Dedicated April 10, 2016  
Sponsoring Club- Joppatowne Garden Club

31. Blue Star Memorial Dedication at Park and Ride,  
1000 Cromwell Bridge Rd., Towson, MD 21286  
Dedicated April 23, 2016  
Sponsoring Club- Glen Arm Garden Club,

32. Blue Star Memorial Dedication at the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum  
Dedicated December 2, 2016.  
Sponsoring Club- St Mary's County Garden Club

33. Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication at the Visitors' Center  
11440 Ocean Highway, Princess Anne, MD 21853  
Dedicated May 11, 2017  
Sponsoring Club- Somerset Garden Club

34. Blue Star By-Way Memorial Marker at the Historic Pine Grove Chapel & Cemetery,  
South Main Street, Mount Airy, MD  
Dedicated October 19, 2017  
Sponsoring Club-Mt. Airy Garden Club

35. Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Baltimore National Cemetery,  
5501 Frederick Avenue, Catonsville, MD 21228  
Dedicated October 1, 2019  
Sponsoring Organization- District III, FGCMD

36. Blue Star BY-Way Marker at the Women's Club Garden,  
31 S. Prospect St., Hagerstown, MD  
Dedicated October 8, 2019.  
Sponsoring Club-The Crossroads Garden Club

37. Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Loudon Park National Cemetery  
3445 Frederick Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21229.  
Dedicated October 15, 2019  
Sponsoring Organization- District IV, FGCMD

38. Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Annapolis National Cemetery,  
800 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401  
Dedicated October 23, 2019  
Sponsoring Club- the Four Rivers Garden Club

39. Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Youghiogheny Overlook Welcome Center,  
Interstate 68 Eastbound, Friendsville, MD  
Dedicated September 9, 2021  
Sponsoring Club- the Mountain Laurel Garden Club.

40. Gold Star Memorial Marker at the Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery  
6827 East New Market Ellwood Rd., Hurlock, MD 21643  
Note: The first Gold Star Memorial to be dedicated in MD, on October 12, 2021  
Sponsoring Organization- the Federated Garden Clubs of MD, Inc.

41. Gold Star Memorial Marker on the grounds of the Crisfield, Maryland, Library,  
100 Collins St., Crisfield, MD 21817  
Dedicated November 11, 2021  
Sponsored Organizations- The Crisfield American Legion in cooperation with the  
Somerset County Garden Club.  
Note: The Gold Star Marker is the second Gold Star Memorial Marker in MD.

42. Blue Star By-Way Marker at the Howard County Public Library  
Dedicated September 18, 2021  
Sponsored Club- the Howard County Garden Club.  
Note: This is the third By-Way Marker installation. The other two were swept away in  
the two floodings of Ellicott City. HCGC received a grant of \$2,000 from the NGC  
Natural Disasters Fund in 2020.

43. Gold Star Memorial Marker at 800 Romancoke Road, Stevensville, MD  
Dedicated June 14, 2022.  
Sponsored by the Kent Island Garden Club in cooperation with the Kent Island American  
Legion Post 278.  
Note: This is the third Gold Star Memorial Marker in MD.

44. Blue Star By-Way Marker located in the central area of the  
Big Gunpowder State Park.  
Dedicated June 14, 2022  
Sponsored Club- The Hill and Stream Garden Club

45. Blue Star By-Way Marker located at Veterans Park, Cumberland MD.  
Dedicated May 29, 2023  
Sponsoring Club and Organization- The Garden Club of Cumberland and Let's Beautify  
Cumberland

46. Gold Star By-Way Marker located at Veterans Park, Cumberland MD.

Dedicated May 29, 2023

Sponsoring Club and Organization- The Garden Club of Cumberland and Let's Beautify Cumberland

Note: First Gold Star By-Way Marker in MD

Compiled by Nickola Schwab, Blue/Gold Star Marker Chairman, September 11,2023

