



## GCI AWARD APPLICATION 2021 – 2022

Date: 10-25-2021

Award # 21

Award Name: Blue Star/Gold Star Memorial or Byway Landscaping Marker Project

Submitted by: Du Quoin Garden Club

Number of Members: 29 total-23 active, 6 inactive

1. New project: On going      Beginning date: May 2021      Completion date: September 2021

2. Brief summary and objectives of project:

Du Quoin Garden Club assumed the responsibility of maintaining and re-landscaping the bed at the Blue Star Marker located inside the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds in front of the grandstand in **2017** due to neglect and being over grown for years. The marker was dedicated in August of 2007 during the Du Quoin State Fair. Objectives for this project was initiated by several members with family military backgrounds. Our main goal is to maintain and sustain this Blue Star Marker to honor our veteran's past, present and future, to provide an area that is pleasing to the eye and respectful for people of all ages and to acknowledge the time and dedication our veterans have given to protect and serve our great country. In this continued time of uncertainty, the Club continues to work in small groups utilizing individual time for weeding and watering. In 2020, despite the pandemic, the Du Quoin Garden Club received national recognition from National Garden Clubs for the dedication to this project.

3. Involvement of club members, other organizations, etc.:

May of 2021 mulch was added to the 7' x 10' bed due to continued wash out during the winter and rainy months. Annual plants of Salvia and Vinca were planted in the red, white and blue theme. Due to COVID-19, 25% of the members cleaned and prepared the area for planting with 100% (of active members), utilizing the watering and weeding schedule throughout the growing season. 40+ volunteer hours have been documented throughout growing season.

4. Project expenses and means of funding:

**2021 Expenses:** Annuals (Heape's Farms, Du Quoin, Il.) 2 flats– 1 white, 1 red Vinca - \$20.00 per flat - \$40.00, 1 tray – Mysty Blue Salvia @ \$24.00 per tray; All-purpose Fertilizer @\$12.00, 6 bags mulch @ \$21.00, 10 Sm. American Flags @ \$10.00. Donations: water hose and water access – Du Quoin State Fair Manager and maintenance.

**Total expenses:** \$107.00: \$82.00 funding from Blue Star Budget, \$25 awards and numerous donations from members.

5. Continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance:

This is an ongoing project. The Club will continue purchasing annual plants as needed, donations always accepted. The members will plant, weed, water and deadhead the plants. The Club will continue to clean the area and prepare the bed for winter annually. Du Quoin State Fairgrounds will provide upkeep to the Marker. Our goal is to be able to support this project for our military families, maintain and sustain the bed landscaping of the Blue Star Marker in Du Quoin Illinois to the best of our abilities to honor our veterans.

6. Photos:



Blue Star Marker  
Before planting  
**April 2021**



Members hold June meeting in front of Blue Star Marker to honor family veterans, celebrate our freedom and to acknowledge our achievements with the Blue Star since Du Quoin Garden Club started maintaining in 2017.



Pollinators at the Blue Star Marker.

Watering and Weeding Schedule with 100% participation of active members

16 - May 22
17 - May 29
18 - June 5*
19 - June 12
20 - June 19
21 - June 26
22 - July 3**
23 - July 10
24 - July 17
25 - July 24
26 - July 31

Member places the flags at the base of the Blue Star Marker – July 4, 2021





Planted May 2021 with Mysty Salvia,  
red and white Vinca.

Flags placed at the base of the Blue Star for  
the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration held at the Du  
Quoin State Fairgrounds



Blue Star Marker stands proud and welcomes the guests during the  
2021 Du Quoin State Fair.