

TRANSPORTER



**Commissioner
Diane
Gutierrez-Scaccetti**

NJDOT receives national recognition for its dedication to honoring veterans through the Blue Star Memorial Marker program



NJDOT staff installed a Blue Star Memorial Marker at Haddonfield Borough Hall, 242 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield. (L-R) Tyshanirra Perry, HOT Trainee; Keith Wagner, Crew Supervisor; Paul Jeffries, Assistant Crew Foreman; Eduardo Hernandez Rivera, HOT 1; John Roach, HOT 1; Lois Johann, PE, Landscape.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. awarded NJDOT a certificate of appreciation for its continued efforts to honor our country's military through the Blue Star Memorial Marker program.

Lois Johann, Project Engineer, Office of Landscape Architecture oversees the NJDOT Blue Star Memorial Marker (BSMM) program. The program honors U.S. service men and women of all generations with publicly placed memorial plaques highlighted with landscaping.

"I am so grateful for the support that Maintenance and Operations has shown me. Honoring those that have served our country is strong in my heart having a father who served in WWII. I know that the Garden Club of New Jersey is also thankful that we have made significant progress in reaching our goal of installing a Blue Star Memorial Marker in every county."

NJDOT completed its 37th memorial location in Cape May County in May, which will be dedicated this fall. NJDOT South Region Crew 428 from Middle Township, under the direction of Regional Director John Bystrycki, worked with the Haddonfield Garden Club, on an installation in Haddonfield, Camden County last fall.

Passaic County has an installation scheduled for this summer and NJDOT recently confirmed that Sussex County approved a Blue Star Memorial design proposal for its Fairgrounds. Gloucester County has designated a location and is proceeding with the

planning process. Hudson is the only county without a pending marker or installation.

The History of the Blue Star Memorial Marker program

In the final years of World War II, Garden Club of New Jersey (GCNJ) members sought a way to recognize service men and women who would soon be returning from battle. The GCNJ, in collaboration with the NJ Highway Commission (now NJDOT), designated a section of Route 22, between Mountainside and North Plainfield as Blue Star Drive, so named for the Blue Star service flag used by families to denote a member being in the armed forces. It became the first designated Blue Star Memorial location with the sign installation and planting of native New Jersey flowering dogwoods.

In January 1945, the New Jersey State Legislature commemorated Blue Star Drive with a joint resolution establishing the Blue Star Memorial Highway Council.

The concept spread nationwide and today there are more than 3,000 sites throughout the United States. New Jersey is proud to be home to 37 completed installations with three impending locations in Passaic, Sussex and Gloucester.

If you have a location idea for a Blue Star Memorial marker, you may apply at <https://gardenclub.org>.



Haddonfield veterans and local officials join Haddonfield Garden Club President Sharon Winge in dedicating the Blue Star Memorial Marker in memory of those who served in the Armed Forces to preserve our freedoms.

Retiring Employee Insights



Danielle Outlaw Graves retired after a 33-year career in which she advanced from a Civil Engineer Trainee to Assistant Engineer, Senior Engineer, Principal Engineer, culminating with her role as Project Engineer & Project Manager. She credits her success first to her high school math and physics teachers, both white males, who encouraged a young black female from an inner-city school in Pittsburgh to pursue a career in the male-dominated field of engineering due to her strong academic abilities.

Beginning in Bridge Design, her career pivoted into the planning and deployment of Context Sensitive Design training for Department staff, the Route 1 Regional Growth Strategy, working with communities and members of the Central Jersey Transportation Forum, and most recently, the NJDOT's first federally-required Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP).

"I became pretty used to working in a male-oriented environment although it had its challenges," Danielle said. "Being resilient, resourceful, organized, flexible, and most importantly working as a team, is the key to success. ... Embrace or adapt to change, which is inevitable."

Retirees

January - July 2021

Linda Anderson, 42 years
Christian Beckman, 37 years
Richard Boonstra, 36 years
Michael Byer, 20 years
John Campi, 43 years
Thomas Carducci, 16 years
Frank Castellucci, 36 years
Deborah Crawford, 32 years
Ronald D'Agostino, 42 years
Alfredia Darden, 33 years
Anthony Dellaterza, 43 years
Marc Dorsch, 32 years
Edward D'Zurilla, 33 years
Ronald Florida, 18 years
Leroy Gould, 20 years
Roy Hartle, 36 years
Kent Hartley, 7 years
Dawn Hatch, 43 years
Raymond Hartmann, 19 years
Robert A. Harris, 36 years
Bruce Hawkinson, 44 years
Etoria Highsmith, 32 years
Todd Hirt, 34 years
Kevin Hoppey, 35 years
James Howarth, 36 years
Kiery Jackson, 36 years

Surjit Jaggi, 17 years
Penny May Jones, 33 years
Brett Koester, 36 years
Patrick Lampley, 18 years
Patricia Larkins, 33 years
Thomas Lauerman, 27 years
Ralph Lewis, 25 years
Stephen Magazu, 35 years
Manmohan R. Mangini, 16 years
Tani Martin, 20 years
Robert H. May, 35 years
Kelly McClure, 33 years
Kevin McPeck, 19 years
Daniel Mikus, 36 years
Michael Moran, 40 years
Michael Mordenti, 21 years
Steven Mullen, 19 years
Arthur Munson, 21 years
Gregory Novakowski, 35 years
Michael Nowicki, 36 years
Richard Nusser, 8 years
Ayodele Oshilaja, 36 years
Edwin Padilla, 36 years
Jeffrey Paris, 21 years
Piyush Patel, 3 years
Richard Pierson, 41 years

Susan Pigula, 22 years
Michael Pilsbury, 34 years
Ronald Pittenger, 21 years
Steven Polacek, 3 years
Paul Pospiech, 36 years
Angelo Principato, 35 years
Terrance Quinn, 25 years
Lucien Raisin, 25 years
Gregory T. Renman, 38 years
Junior Royes, 36 years
Robin Ruberti, 21 years
Kenneth Saenger Sr., 16 years
John Saluka, 35 years
Joseph Schocko, 36 years
John Senyszyn, 37 years
Michele A. Shapiro, 34 years
Grace Marie Slackter, 22 years
Timothy Steinbeiser, 34 years
Deborah Stevenson, 40 years
Janice Stevenson, 37 years
Paul Ulrich, 35 years
John Varrelmann, 37 years
Frank Walder, 36 years
Thomas Whitehead, 12 years
Ellis Kevin Williams, 33 years
Robert Wolfe, 25 years.