



**GUIDELINES**

**FOR**

**BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS**

**2014**



**NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**

4401 Magnolia Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63110

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The Blue Star Memorial Program has been in existence through the garden club movement for more than 65 years. National Garden Clubs, Inc. is committed to placing Blue Star Memorial markers on our Highways and Byways in honor of our nation's Armed Forces.

We are proud of this patriotic program which encompasses our entire Country.

Special Thanks to Mary Louise Michie, President 1995-1997  
and Kitty Larkin, President 2005-2007

FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT IN MOVING  
THE BLUE STAR MEMORIAL PROGRAM FORWARD

And to the  
1997 GUIDELINES COMMITTEE

"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

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## NGC AWARDS FOR BLUE STAR MARKERS

**Note:** This award is for landscaping, not the dedication ceremony.

### # 29 BLUE STAR MEMORIAL LANDSCAPING

Certificates of Merit may be awarded for the most outstanding Blue Star Memorial Marker landscaping projects. The marker and landscaping may be part of a highway department rest area maintained by the department. The project may have been continuous, but major landscaping must be completed within two years. The project may be a replacement or a destroyed or long neglected landscape.

1. **BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY MARKER**
  - A. Single member garden club - i small club, ii medium club, iii large club
  - B. Group of member clubs councils, districts, etc.
  - C. State Garden Club — i small club, ii medium club, iii large club
2. **BLUE STAR MEMORIAL BY-WAY MARKER**
  - A. Single member garden clubs — i small club, ii medium club, iii large club
  - B. Group of member clubs councils, districts, etc.
  - C. State Garden Club — i small club, ii medium club, iii large club
3. **BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER at National Cemetery, Veterans Facility or other civic location**
  - A. Single member garden club — i small club, ii medium club, iii large club
  - B. Group of member clubs councils, districts, etc.
  - C. State Garden Club i small club, ii medium club, iii large club

### CATEGORIES BY SIZE

**GARDEN CLUB** applications shall be judged according to size determined by number of members on whom NGC and state dues are paid, including Active, Associate, Inactive, Honorary, etc.

- i. small club: under 29 members
- ii. medium club: 30-99 members
- iii. large club: over 100 members

**STATE GARDEN CLUBS** applications shall be judged according to size determined by number of members on whom NGC dues are paid, including Affiliates, State Life Members, etc.

- i. small club: under 1999 members
- ii. medium club: 2000-5999 members
- iii. large club: over 6000 members

### SCALE OF POINTS FOR ALL NGC AWARDS

(Exceptions: Publications and Communications, Flower Shows Achievement)

**Presentation 5 pts** - neat, concise, includes all required information, not to exceed 3 pages.

**Achievement 65 pts** - scope of project, need and fulfillment, benefit, accomplishment, comprehensiveness of work, activities to attain goals, evaluation of goals reached, educational, prior planning, very brief history if continuing project, financial report, other.

**Participation 15 pts** - size of club; involvement of: members, community, government agencies, professionals, youth, residents in facilities, others.

**Record or Documentation 15 pts** - supporting data (as applicable), clear well-labeled and neatly attached before and after photographs, landscape plan, financial report, letters of

appreciation, community awards, newspaper/magazine articles, radio or TV script, etc. Photocopies are permitted.

The AWARDS YEAR is **January 1** to **December 31** annually. Application forms and further information may be obtained from the NGC website, the State Awards Chairman, State Blue Star Chairman or NGC Blue Star Chairman.

### **HISTORY OF THE BLUE STAR MEMORIALS**

At the close of World War II, National Garden Clubs (called National Council of State Garden Clubs at the time), like other public-spirited groups, was seeking a suitable means of honoring our service men and women. Garden Club members visualized a living memorial, preferring to help beautify and preserve the country these men and women had fought for, rather than build stone monuments in their honor.

In 1944, Mrs. Lewis M. Hull, Garden Club of New Jersey President and future NCSGC President, and Mrs. Vance Hood, Roadside Chairman, had an inspired idea. One thousand flowering Dogwood trees would be planted along five miles of highway, which had been designated the Blue Star Drive by the Legislature. No billboards were to be allowed on the memorial stretch. The project was named for the blue star in the service flag, which hung in windows of homes and businesses to honor service men and women.

The guest speaker at the 1945 National Council of State Garden Clubs Annual Meeting in New York

City was Spencer Miller, New Jersey's State Highway Commissioner, who had helped to implement the New Jersey project. He proposed that the program be adopted by NCSGC. At the 1945 Fall Semi-Annual Meeting, the project was approved. A "ribbon of living memorial plantings traversing every state" called The Blue Star Memorial Highway Program was adopted at the 1946 Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

In 1947, Mrs. Frederick R. Kellogg (NCSGC President 1930-1933) designed a marker, which would identify the highways.

Clubs responded enthusiastically, with Rhode Island receiving the first endorsement. After official approval of the site, garden clubs would purchase markers and planting materials. Highway Departments would plant and maintain the area. This was the first program undertaken by garden clubs on a national scale.

While it originally began to honor World War II veterans, it enlarged its mission in 1951 to include all men and women who had served, were serving or would serve in the armed forces of the United States.

The need for an extension of the program to accommodate other than dedicated highways became apparent. As a result a smaller By-Way Marker, to be placed in areas such as parks, civic and historical grounds, was approved at the 1981 convention in Atlanta. This marker was changed at the 1994 convention in Connecticut to be more descriptive by including the words "A tribute to the Armed Forces of America".

A third marker had been added at the 1996 convention in Michigan. This marker was identical to the original Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker, except for the removal of the word "Highway". This change allowed the marker to be placed on the grounds of a National Cemetery or Veterans Administration Centers. At the 2004 convention in St. Louis, the scope of this marker was

enlarged to include other appropriate civic locations.

### **BLUE STAR POINTS OF INTEREST**

The importance attached to the Blue Star Memorial Program was underlined when the NGC President's pin, designed in 1952, contained seven diamonds and one large sapphire, symbolic of the program.

The first year after it was adopted in 1946, seven states led by Rhode Island had joined the Blue Star Memorial Highway system. By 1949, 33, of then 41 state garden clubs, had established routes and more than 16,000 miles had been dedicated.

For the 1949 20th Anniversary Celebration of NGC (NCSGC at the time), a grove of giant redwoods had been purchased as an anniversary gift. The grove is located at what was then the western terminus of the Blue Star Highway in Humboldt County, CA.

### **HISTORY OF THE BANNER**



Since WWI, a Blue Star Banner displayed in the front window of a home told others that a family member was serving in the Armed Forces. Captain Robert B. Quiesser, an Ohio National Guard veteran of the Mexican Border, (1916) is credited with designing the original flag. In 1917 the Congressional Record stated: "The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother —their children."

Also known as the Service Flag, the blue stands for hope and pride. When service members lost their lives, the blue star was replaced with a gold one representing the sacrifice. A silver star stood for someone invalided home for wounds sustained overseas.

The flag made its appearance again in WWII. On October 17, 1943, Congress authorized the flag which was approved as an official design.

Although the service flags virtually vanished during the Korean and Vietnam wars, they appeared again during the Persian Gulf War in 1991, the Iraq War and the War on Terror.

### **BLUE STAR CHAIRMEN**

Mrs. Vance Flood	1945-1949	New Jersey
Mrs. Joseph Dvorak	1949-1951	Iowa
Mrs. O.S. Seabraugh	1951-1953	Missouri
Mrs. Nicholas Mertens	1953	New York
Mrs. Frank Neat	1953-1957	Colorado
Mrs. Truman Sanders	1957-1959	New Mexico
Mrs. Al. Kouns	1959-1961	West Virginia
Mrs. J. B. Daughtridge	1961-1963	North Carolina
Mrs. R. Liven Day	1963-1965	Utah
Mrs. Henry C. Prange	1965-1975	Indiana
Mrs. Anthony Bennet	1975-1983	New Jersey
Mrs. Robert Kramer	1983-1985	Illinois

Mrs. Clarence Henderson	1985-1987, 1989-1995	Kentucky
Mrs. James Vine	1987-1989	Alabama
Mrs. Marjorie Johnson	1995-2001	California
Mrs. Maria Nahom	2001-2007	Connecticut
Mrs. Jimmie Meinhardt	2007-2011	Missouri
Mrs. Mary Warshauer	2011-2013	New Jersey

**BLUE STAR MEMORIAL ADVISOR**

Mrs. Jimmie Meinhardt	2011-2013	Missouri
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**HIGHWAY MARKER**

Permitted on highways and highway rest areas.

Overall height when erected is 7'6".  
 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 2Y2"; narrative PA"; Signature lines I". 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,

PRICE: \$1410.00; includes post and shipping

**MEMORIAL MARKER**

Permitted on the grounds of National Cemeteries, Veteran Administration Medical Centers and any other appropriate civic location, as approved by NGC Blue Star Chairman,

All details of Highway marker apply. Both markers are delivered with 8 set-screws,

PRICE: \$1410.00; includes post and shipping



**BY-WAY MARKER**

Permitted in parks, historical sites and other civic

locations.

Plaque is 12" high by 20" wide of east & minimum with 1" lettering in raised relief. Tribute lettering is 5/8", National Garden Clubs, Inc. is printed on bottom of each marker in 3/8" lettering.

COLOR: same as Highway and Memorial Marker.

Designed for mounting on masonry or wood. Pre-drilled holes are in each corner for mounting.

**PRICE:** \$470.00, includes shipping.



**PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

Check with State Blue Star Chairman for current prices.

**PROCEDURE FOR ORDERING**

**IMPORTANT:** No marker may bear a single person's name. These markers are designed to pay tribute to the ARMED FORCES AS A WHOLE.

1. State, District, or local garden club votes to have a Blue Star Memorial Marker. The type of marker is selected (see page 4 for details). An appropriate location is selected.

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER AT A NATIONAL CEMETERY: The Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery System, Washington, DC has approved our design and will facilitate placement. They may be contacted c/o Technical Support Service, 401B, Washington, DC 20420.

2. Contact State Blue Star Memorial Chairman for forms and instructions or download them from the NGC website, [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).
3. Contact authority responsible for location (i.e. Highway Department, city government) for permission.
4. If a club wishes to have a highway dedicated as a Blue Star Memorial Highway, it must apply to the state legislature. See page 6 for a sample Resolution.
5. Decide who will mount the marker, pay for construction and maintain the immediate area. It is recommended that garden clubs not assume complete maintenance.
6. Clubs may solicit other organizations interested in civic development to help finance, plant and maintain the surrounding garden. Titles of other organizations may be on the marker under "in cooperation with", but the sponsoring group must be an NGC state, district or local garden club.
7. To purchase the desired marker, the club fills out the order form in triplicate. The words 'SPONSORED BY' and "IN COOPERATION WITH" appear in **uppercase lettering** on the Highway and Memorial marker. For all markers, names of sponsoring clubs should be clearly printed or typed, using **upper and lower case lettering**, as shown on page 4. Use

only **four lines** in any sequence. Please refer to the order form as to letters and spaces per line.

8. The completed order form in triplicate, with a check for the purchase price made out to Sewah Studios, is sent to the State Blue Star Chairman, who will obtain a dated signature from the State President. The State Chairman will then sign and date the order form and send in on to the National Garden Club chairman, who will approve the order and mail it with the check to Sewah Studios for manufacturing.

PLEASE ALLOW **TWO MONTHS** FOR DELIVERY OF MARKER  
**AFTER** RECEIPT BY SEWAH STUDIOS.

### **SAMPLE RESOLUTION**

(For a Highway Marker on a Dedicated Highway)

Whereas : The Blue Star Memorial Highway was projected by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. as a living tribute to the men and women of the Nation's Armed Forces.

Whereas : It is fitting and appropriate that further recognition be accorded the services and sacrifices of our citizens so valiantly rendered.

And whereas: the Blue Star Memorial Highway of  
(State)\_\_\_\_\_ is sponsored by (name of  
club)\_\_\_\_\_ in cooperation with the Highway  
Commission.

Therefore, be it resolved that the scope of the Blue Star Memorial Highway be extended to include additional routes, as follows:  
(name route or segment of  
route)\_\_\_\_\_

Be it further resolved that this resolution be spread upon minutes of  
\_\_\_\_\_

And a copy of the same sent to the State Highway Commission as tangible evidence of our official petition to them that they designate the above mentioned route as part of The Blue Star Memorial Highway, for due consideration and action by the Commission and notification of such action to this organization.

Signed

\_\_\_\_\_

President of

\_\_\_\_\_

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
ORDER FORM – BLUE STAR BY-WAY MARKERS**

BY-WAY MARKER \_\_\_\_\_

ORDERED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE:

\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL:

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE:

\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF MARKER LOCATION:

\_\_\_\_\_

SHIP TO: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT NAME:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Business address receiving during normal business hours)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE:

\_\_\_\_\_

DEDICATION DATE:

**BY-WAY MARKER INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Clearly type or print Club or District name(s)
- 2. Letters must be in upper and lower case conventions letters
- 3. Maximum spaces: one line 19 1" letters  
two lines 28 5/8"

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER APPROVED BY:**

State Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

State President: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

NGC Blue Star Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SEWAH STUDIOS.**

Send State Chairman four copies of form with check.  
State Chairman will mail check and order forms in triplicate to NGC Chairman.  
Please type or print legibly

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
ORDER FORM – BLUE STAR MARKERS**

HIGHWAY MARKER \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORIAL MARKER \_\_\_\_\_

ORDERED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE:

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL:

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE:

ADDRESS MARKER IS TO BE LOCATED:  
\_\_\_\_\_

SHIP TO: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT NAME:  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(Business address receiving during normal business hours)*

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE:

\_\_\_\_\_ DEDICATION DATE:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**HIGHWAY OR MEMORIAL MARKER INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Clearly type or print exact names(s) for the following
- 2. Letters must be in upper and lower case conventions
- 3. Use only 4 out of the 5 lines below. 43 spaces each line maximum

**SPONSORED BY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**IN COOPERATION WITH**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**AND**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ORDER APPROVED BY:

State Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

State President: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

NGC Blue Star Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SEWAH STUDIOS.** Send State Chairman 4 copies of form with check. State Chairman will mail check and order forms in triplicate to NGC Chairman. Please type or print legibly.

## SHIPPING INFORMATION

1. SEWAH STUDIOS should be given a shipping address where there is someone at all times, during normal business hours, **to accept shipment**. Shipping to the ATTENTION of an INDIVIDUAL is helpful.
2. **Highway and Memorial markers must be shipped to a commercial address**, not to a residential address, because of the difficulty large motor freight carriers may encounter on residential streets.
3. **By-Way Markers** may be sent to a residential address. They are delivered by UPS and should not be consigned to a post office box or rural route.
4. The shipment should be expected approximately two months after the order is received by Sewah Studios.
5. When shipment arrives: It is the responsibility of the recipient to unwrap and inspect the marker **for shipping damage only** BEFORE accepting delivery. If the marker has arrived without scratches, dings, gouges or breakage it should be accepted. However, if the marker is accepted without inspection and shipping damage is discovered later, Sewah Studios will not be responsible. Contact Sewah Studios immediately at (740) 373-2087.
6. Do not detain the driver while proof reading the marker for **content**. If later an error is discovered, Sewah Studios will correct it. The marker may, in this case, be sent back to Sewah Studios collect. **Sewah Studios guarantees the accuracy and quality of workmanship of their product.**

States west of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana must add 50.00 extra for shipping fee on large markers. There is no extra charge on the small markers.

## INSTALLATION OF MARKERS

The Blue Star marker is delivered with eight 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-foot, octagonal post is designed for a 36 inch insertion in the ground. To install, dig a hole 3 feet deep, approximately 12 inches in diameter, with a post-hole digger. Place the post in the center of the hole and use a level to plumb. Place the dirt back in the hole tamping it tightly around the post as the hole is filled. 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.

If using cement, cut the bottom out of a 5 gallon plastic bucket and place it down over the post to create a form for the cement. Fill the top of the hole with cement and bring the level up about 4 to 6 inches above the ground. This will give a round curb around the base to help keep mowers clear.

Set the marker on the post, tighten the set-screws and installation is complete.

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. Most thieves won't risk getting caught while doing this.

Marker installation is quick and simple. One person can do it with no problem.

NOTE: Sewah Studios marker posts are not designed to be installed in the right-of-way of state or federal highways. They are not break-away posts and are recommended to be installed at least 50 feet from the highway.

{Information received from David T. Smith, President of Sewah Studios.}

## **PLANNING THE DEDICATION**

**DO NOT SET A DATE FOR THE DEDICATION UNTIL ASSURED THE MARKER WILL ARRIVE ON TIME.** Please allow **two months** for delivery of the marker from the time the **order is received** by Sewah Studios.

After setting the dedication date, proceed with invitations and program.

As soon as possible, send invitations to: The NGC President, NGC Blue Star Memorial Chairman, State Blue Star Memorial Chairman, State President, District Director, State Executive Board, local garden club members, organizations involved in the project, appropriate city or state officials, and veterans groups.

Invitations should include date, time, place, sponsoring group, travel instructions and an RSVP name and address. The club may wish to include a brief description of the Blue Star Memorial Marker Program or club's Blue Star Project. To insure a well-attended event, allow enough time for busy schedules and travel time.

The club may also make arrangements for publicity and a printed program, if desired. An example of a program may be seen below.

A reception to follow the ceremony may also be planned.

## **SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR A BLUE STAR MARKER DEDICATION**

MUSIC - Band from school, military base, local organizations or taped music

A Patriotic song may be included in any order at discretion of chairman.

WELCOME - Master of Ceremony

PRESENTATION OF COLORS — Scouts or military group

INVOCATION — Local clergyman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND OFFICIALS — Greetings and comments from NGC

representatives,

government or military officials

#### HISTORY OF BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

MILITARY TRIBUTE — Representatives from our Armed Forces, American Legion, or Veterans of

Foreign Wars

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 marker

BENEDICTION - Or closing

TAPS

HOSPITALITY - Refreshments

### **DEDICATION OF BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER**

We are here to pay tribute to our Armed Forces. While we go about our daily lives or while we sleep, the men and women in our Armed Forces fly our skies, sail our seas and guard our shores, ensuring our safety.

They stand ready at a moment's notice to defend our Country. We must not forget them, and, WE DO NOT! WE REMEMBER with every step of the Honor Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. WE REMEMBER with every drumbeat on the Fourth of July.

We pledge allegiance to our flag and WE REMEMBER. At the sound of Reveille, WE REMEMBER, and as the last lingering note of Taps resounds in the distance, WE REMEMBER.

And REMEMBERING today, we dedicate this Blue Star Marker to the honor and glory of all those men and women who have served, are now serving, and will serve in the Armed Forces of this great Nation.

It is with pride that the National Garden Clubs, Inc. joins with \_\_\_\_\_ to perpetuate our Blue Star Memorial Program with this marker, which stands as a symbol for:

ALL TO SEE  
LEST WE FORGET  
THOSE WHO HELP TO KEEP US FREE

(Last sentence attributed to Polly Henderson, Louisville, KY, past Blue Star Chairman)

The Department of Defense Speaker's Bureau is a public outreach program designed to assist communities in locating uniformed members of the Armed Forces to speak.

## **CARE OF THE MARKER**

At the 2007 National convention in Boston, the NGC Board approved a recommendation to have the center rust spot deleted from the manufacturing process on all markers.

This spot was the first part to become faded and many felt it should be removed.

This will also make it easier for clubs to restore the markers themselves rather than send them back to SEWAH STUDIOS for refinishing.

SEWAH STUDIOS advises using mild soap and water to brighten letters on all markers. Paint information may be obtained from SEWAH STUDIOS.

## **RESTORATION OF LARGE MARKERS**

PLEASE INFORM STATE AND NATIONAL BLUE STAR CHAIRMAN OF  
PLANNED RESTORATIONS.

Sewah Studios will completely restore a marker for \$800.00. This includes shipping and handling. Call Sewah Studio at 740-373-2087 and they will make arrangements to pick up the marker, restore and return it. It will look like a brand new marker.

This does not include a new post. That is \$325.00 more for the post.

They do not restore small By-Way markers. It is more cost effective to replace it.

Club representative notifies Sewah Studios to expect the marker, and club ships it directly to their shipping address.

SHIPPING ADDRESS: SEWAH STUDIOS  
190 Mill Creek Road  
Marietta , OH 45750

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 298  
Marietta , OH 45750

Phone: 740-373-2087  
Fax: 740-373-3733

Email: sewah@sprynet.com

Website: www.sewahstudios.com

## **AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL**

Words by Katherine Lee Bates: Music by Samuel A. Ward

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain.  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,  
Whose stern impassioned stress,  
A thoroughfare for Freedom beat  
Across the wilderness  
America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for patriot dream,  
That sees beyond the years,  
Thine alabaster cities gleam,  
Undimmed by human tears,



America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea.

## **GOD BLESS AMERICA**

Words and Music by Irving Berlin

God bless America,  
Land that I love,  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Through the night with a light from above.  
From the mountains to the prairies  
To the oceans white with foam,  
God bless America  
My home, sweet home,  
God Bless America  
My home, sweet home.