



# Garden Club

By Clare Winslow

On Wednesday, November 9, on the corner of Highway 58 and Pine Knoll Boulevard, the Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club installed a Blue Star Memorial marker dedicated to all members of the armed services, past, present and future.

The program commenced with a prelude by bagpiper Kevin White from the Atlantic Beach Fire Department, appropriately clad in kilt and sporran, followed by addresses by Garden Club President Kay Howe and Pine Knoll Shores Mayor Ken Jones, USAF (retired); an invocation by Major General Tom Tempel, U.S. Army (retired); the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Lieutenant Colonel Michael Ferneau, USMC (retired); a military presentation of colors by West Carteret High School's NJROTC color guard; and the singing of the National Anthem by the St. Francis by the Sea choir, directed by Linda Laughton. A military tribute was presented by Pine Knoll Shores Town Manager Brian Kramer, USMC (retired) and Commander Javier Delgado, USCG. More than 100 veterans of the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard were present to accept this tribute, with a representative from each group carrying the flag of their branch of service.

Ms. Howe introduced Paula Hartman, Blue Star chairman of the Garden Club of North Carolina, who recounted for us the history of the Blue Star Memorial program. After WWII a New Jersey garden club decided that an everyday reminder of the bravery of veterans was needed, and chose as its theme the blue star displayed in homes with a family member in one of the armed services. In the 1950s, the Blue Star Committee expanded the number of servicemen to be honored, and included past, present and future male and female members of our five services. Today these markers to their honor can be found on the highways and byways of all 50 states.

The Pine Knoll Shores Memorial Marker was unveiled as Karen Zaenker read the dedication. John Rouse accepted the memorial on behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and closing remarks were made by Pine Knoll Shores Commissioner Fred Fulcher, U.S. Army.

Garden Club members Susan King and Linda Pearson placed a wreath created by Gini Stambaugh. The St. Francis by the Sea choir led those in attendance in the singing of "America the Beautiful," and Pine Knoll Shores Mayor Ken Jones helped to conclude the ceremony by bugling "Taps." Attendees were invited to a reception back at the town hall patio.

Special thanks and congratulations on a job well done are extended to Blue Star Memorial Committee members Arleen Graczewski (chairman), Kay Howe, Karen Zaenker, Susan King, Kathy Blowers, Linda Pearson and Arlene Terrell.

#### Other club business

At the Garden Club board meeting, plans were made for the Christmas meeting at The Country Club of the Crystal Coast in December. Discussed were Christmas gifts to a wounded veteran's family and donations to the Salvation Army.

Garden Club meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month at town hall at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments, followed by the program at 10. Guests and visitors are welcome to attend.

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