

Blue Star Memorial Highway



Blue Marker Rites For Interstate 680 Weds.

Interstate 680 will be officially dedicated as a Blue Star Highway during ceremonies scheduled for Feb. 24, at 10 am, with many dignitaries in attendance.

The site of the Blue Star Memorial Marker and Wednesday's dedication is the Stone Valley turnoff in Alamo. The spot was selected by Robert Halligan, State Division of Highways; Mrs. J. A. Graddy, District Blue Star chairman; Mrs. Milton R. Bell, chairman of the dedication; and Mrs. Gerald Robertson, president of the Diablo Women's Garden Club.

Norvell Gillespie, executive vice president of the Calif. Anti-Litter League, will serve as Master of Ceremonies, and opening remarks will be made by Senator John A. Nejedly.

The Blue Star Memorial Marker program was begun in 1945 by National Council of State Garden Clubs. California was the ninth state to add highways and when the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Gold Rush took place, this state added 1,500 miles of memorialized highways. Because of this, the state was honored at a special banquet for Blue Star in New Jersey, since it had made a bond from coast to coast with memorialized

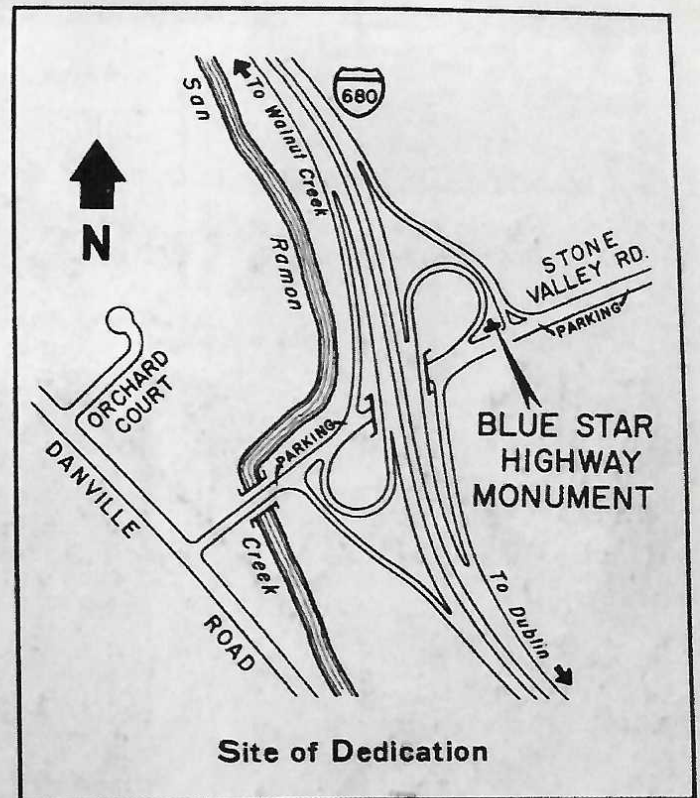
highways. Highways chosen for the Blue Star Marker must be landscaped so that they are a living tribute to the armed forces of the United States.

In October, 1969, Bay Bridges District of California Garden Clubs passed a resolution asking that Interstate 680 be designated a Blue Star Highway. This resolution was then passed by the State Board of California Garden Clubs in November, 1969. The State Legislature endorsed the resolution in August, 1970 and it was then signed by Governor Reagan.

Wednesday's rites will also feature music by the Stone Valley School band, directed by Joseph Alfano, presentation of colors by a Marine color guard, and acceptance of the designation for the area from Supervisor James E. Moriarty.

The invocation will be led by Rev. Orville Shick of the Community Presbyterian Church and the benediction will be recited by Rev. Julius M. Bensen of St. Isidore's Catholic Church.

Camp Fire Girls from the Kon-Ya-Ka-Lla group will serve as hostesses at the dedication and Boy Scouts from Troop 228 will hand out programs.



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