



COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Commissioner Alex Fernandez

DATE: December 11, 2024

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE INSTALLATION OF BLUE STAR AND GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS AT CANOPY PARK.

RECOMMENDATION

Please place on the December 11, 2024 agenda a referral to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC") to discuss possible installation of the Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial Markers at Canopy Park, at the urging of the Miami Beach Garden Club (MBGC) and Miami Beach Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3599.

The Blue Star Memorial Marker Program has been in existence under the auspices of the National Garden Clubs for more than 79 years. The Blue Star Marker Program honors all men and women that serve in the United States Armed Services. The Blue Star and Gold Star were adopted because they had become icons in World War II and were seen on flags and banners in homes, churches and businesses, for sons and daughters away at war and for those who had lost their lives. The Blue Star represents hope and pride, while the Gold Star represents sacrifice.

The marker that MBGC proposes to install was originally dedicated in Key West in 1949 then gifted to the MBGC. MBGC refurbished and dedicated the Marker at the terminus of the Julia Tuttle Causeway on State Road 907 (Alton Road) in May of 1980 where it served as a Memorial Marker for 49 years. In 2019 it was replaced with a new Blue Star Memorial Marker at the same location and the first Florida marker was decommissioned as a Memorial Marker and MBGC now seeks to designate it as a Historical marker.

I believe an important piece of Florida's history should be restored and displayed in a prominent location, and the installation of these markers would inspire patriotic participation by citizens and visitors alike.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

ANALYSIS

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?
(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

If applicable, the Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on:
See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

Applicable Area

Citywide

**Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item,
pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?**

Yes

**Is this item related to a G.O. Bond
Project?**

No

**Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481,
includes a principal engaged in lobbying?** Yes

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s): Miami Beach Garden Club Miami Beach
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3599

Department

Office of Commissioner Alex Fernandez

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Ref: PSNQLC - Installation of Blue Star & Gold Star Memorial Markers at Canopy Park.
(Fernandez)