SUSPENSION

COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February 6, 2015

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Blue Star Memorial at Chestnut Ridge Park

Dear Honorable Members:

I am enclosing a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry requesting authorization to establish a Blue Star Memorial location at Chestnut Ridge Park.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Troy P. Schinzel, Commissioner, at the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/med
Enclosure

cc: Troy P. Schinzel, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
Re: Blue Star Memorial at Chestnut Ridge Park
Date: February 6, 2015

SUMMARY

The National Garden Clubs, Inc. began the Blue Star Memorial Marker project in 1945 to honor those who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II. Today, the program includes all men and women who have served, are serving, or will serve in the United States Military. The Erie County Parks Department received a request from the South Towns Gardeners (STG) to establish a Blue Star Memorial location at Chestnut Ridge Park.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal implication. The STG have already secured the funds to purchase the plaque that establishes the site as a Blue Start Memorial location and has likewise agreed to assist the Parks Department in the maintenance of the garden area directly around the agreed upon location of the Flagpole Garden (proposed Honor Garden) near the Casino.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Blue Star Memorial will honor those who have served, are currently serving, or will serve in the United Stated Armed Forces.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Blue Star Memorial Marker project was established in 1945 by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. as a way to honor the men and women serving in the Armed Forces during World War II. Today, the program honors all men and women who have served, are serving, or will serve in the Armed Forces.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The STG will be unable to establish the Flagpole Garden (proposed Honor Garden) near the Chestnut Ridge Casino at a Blue Star Memorial location.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

STG will be able to establish a Blue Star Memorial location at Chestnut Ridge Park. Additionally, STG will be permitted to place an evergreen wreath at this location every December annually to coincide with and support the Wreaths Across America Project, which recognizes Veterans for their service by placing a wreath on gravesites and in honor gardens across the Country.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY

RE: Blue Star Memorial at Chestnut Ridge Park

WHEREAS, The National Garden Clubs, Inc. began the Blue Star Memorial Marker program in 1945to honor the men and women serving in the Armed Forces during World War II. Today, this program includes all men and women who have served, are serving, or will serve in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry received a request by the South Towns Gardeners (STG) to establish a Blue Star Memorial location at Chestnut Ridge Park; and

WHEREAS, The STG have already secured the funds to purchase the plaque that establishes the site as a Blue Star Memorial and has likewise agreed to assist the Parks Department in maintaining the garden area directly around the agreed upon location of the Flagpole Garden near the Casino; and

WHEREAS, If approved, this area will be referred to as the "Honor Garden"; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry has agreed to provide the stone on which this plaque will be installed and assist in the placement of this memorial. Additionally, the STG will also be permitted to place an evergreen wreath at this location every December annually to coincide with and support the Wreaths Across America Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, The Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry is authorized to establish a Blue Star Memorial location at Chestnut Ridge Park; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be sent to the Erie County Executive, the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, the Erie County Division of Budget and Management and the Erie County Department of Law.