



History of the Blue Star

1917: A Blue Star Service Banner was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queisser of the 5th Ohio Infantry, the father of two sons who served on the front line. His banner quickly became the unofficial symbol for parents with a child in active military service.

On September 24, 2017, an Ohio Congressman read into the Congressional Record: "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 star stands for hope and pride. When service members lost their lives, the blue star was replaced with a gold one representing their sacrifice. A silver star indicated that a loved one had been incapacitated during the war.

1943: The Blue Star Banner made an appearance again in WW II. On October 17, 1943, Congress authorized the Service Flag as an official design, established manufacturing specifications and provided guidelines for when and by whom it could be displayed.

Service flags virtually vanished during the Korean and Vietnam wars, although the Department of Defense did authorize additional directives for the service flag in 1967, including up to five blue stars on a banner to represent the number of children serving. They also authorized a service lapel pin and restrictions on who could wear it.

1991: The Blue Star Banner appeared again during the Persian Gulf War in Iraq and the War on Terror.

2001: Following the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, the American Legion provided service banners to military families across the country.