



# ***El Monte NEWS***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **BLUE STAR PROGRAM RECOGNIZING MILITARY PERSONNEL**

EL MONTE, Calif. – The City of El Monte will begin a Blue Star Poster Program on April 16, 2003 recognizing the family of currently serving military service personnel.

The Blue Star banner, used across America during World Wars I and II, has historically been displayed in the front window of a home to show a family's pride in their loved one serving in the military, and remind others of the sacrifice that many Americans make to preserve freedom. The City of El Monte City Council will be publicly recognizing the families of Military Service personnel on Wednesday, April 16, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Grace T. Black auditorium located at 3130 Tyler, El Monte California. These families will be recognized with the El Monte Blue Star Poster and are encouraged to bring a copy of a photo of their family member to City Hall for use in a "presentation board" which will showcase these men and women defending our country. High resolution photos can also be sent via email to [ctrujillo@ci.el-monte.ca.us](mailto:ctrujillo@ci.el-monte.ca.us). Photos should be brought into El Monte City Hall (City Manager's Office, 11333 Valley Blvd) as early as possible in order to be included in the "presentation board" on April 16, 2003.

The City Council will present posters and certificates to immediate families or personnel currently serving anywhere in the United States Military.

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The Blue Star Service Banner was originally designed and patented in 1917 by WWI Army Captain Robert L. Queissner of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry who had two sons serving on the front lines. It soon became the unofficial symbol that someone had a child in the service. During World War II the program was very popular and the Department of War issued specifications for the manufacture of a Blue Star Service Banner with guidelines on when they should be displayed and who could display them. A gold star replaced the blue star if a serviceman was killed or died while in the service.

El Monte citizens are urged to contact Carol Trujillo at (626) 580-2048 for more information. You can also log onto the El Monte website at [www.elmonte.org](http://www.elmonte.org)

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