



***BLUE STAR SERVICE BANNER
RECOGNITION DAY PROCLAMATION***

WHEREAS, The Blue Star Service Banner was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry Regiment who had two sons serving on the front line, quickly becoming the unofficial symbol of a child in the service.

WHEREAS, On September 24, 1917, an Ohio congressman read the following into the Congressional Record: "...The mayor of Cleveland, the Chamber of Commerce and the governor of Ohio have adopted this service flag. 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."

WHEREAS, Today Blue Star Service Banners are displayed by families who have a loved one serving in the armed forces including the National Guard and Reserves of all military branches of service, and the banner displayed in the front window of a home shows a family's pride in their loved one serving in the military, and reminds others that preserving America's freedom demands much.

WHEREAS, The blue star represents one family member serving in the armed forces. A banner can have up to five stars, signifying that five members of that family are currently in military uniform on active duty.

WHEREAS, The American Legion is rekindling the spirit of pride in our military men and women following the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The American Legion is providing banners to families in communities across the nation, including those here in Shelton, who have loved ones serving in the United States Armed Forces.

WHEREAS, The American Legion Fred B. Wivell Post 31, of Shelton, Washington is presenting a special Blue Star Service Banner Flag to Mason County for the County to proudly display in show of support for citizens' family members and their employees called to active duty in the war against terrorism, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Board of Mason County Commissioners does hereby proclaim May 21, 2005 as Blue Star Service Banner Day in Mason County, Washington, and we encourage and support all family members who have loved ones serving in uniform and going into harms way as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the ongoing war on terror, and that the Blue Star Service Banner tradition reminds us all that war touches every neighborhood in our land.

Dated this 10th day of May, 2005.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Jayni L. Kamin, Chairperson

Lynda Ring Erickson, Commissioner

Tim Sheldon, Commissioner