

Legion Post Reactivating Blue Star Banner Program

Blue Star Banners Date Back to WWI

American Legion Sheveland-Taylor Post 14 of Iola is reactivating the Blue Star banner program, which is open to Iola and Scandinavia families.

The program was started in 1917 during World War I and it was resurrected in World War II. Under the program, families displayed banners in their window to show they had a son or daughter in the service.

The American Legion brought the program back nationwide in 2006.

Post 14 wants to recognize those currently serving in the military, according to member Lyle Mork of Iola.

“To do this, American Legion post 14 needs your help, if you currently have a son or daughter in the military service or if you know of someone currently serving in active duty,” he said. “To qualify for the Blue Star Banner program, the person must be currently serving in active duty in the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reserves. The American Legion needs the following information: full name of person in military, including first name, middle initial, last name, branch of military serving in, military address, age, birthday, rank and rating, and photograph, preferably in uniform. The Legion also need the parents’ names, address and phone number.”

Information can be mailed to American Legion Sheveland-Taylor Post 14, P.O. Box 67, Iola WI 54945.

Post 14 wants to recognize those currently on active duty, serving in the military – either states side or overseas – and each family will receive a Blue Star Banner to display in their window.

“I remember the Blue Star Banners and a few Gold Star Banners hanging in windows during World War II,” Mork Said. I was only 6 years old toward the end of World War II, but I remember my parent had a Blue Star Banner hanging in the living room because my brother was in the Navy.

Many of my aunts and uncles had a Blue Star Banner, some with two or three Blue Star Banners in their windows,” he said. “I had one aunt and uncle who had a Gold Star Banner in their window. Their son Elroy Olson, was Killed-in-Action. There were many Blue Star Banners hanging in windows in Iola and Scandinavia and a few Gold Star Banners.”