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Thank you for attending this historic event.

For information about the Ohio National Road Association, including our upcoming interpretive sign unveilings, please visit our website at [www.ohionationalroad.org](http://www.ohionationalroad.org) or contact Louis Agresta (937) 521-2134.

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## *Unveiling of the Ohio National Road Madonna of the Trail Interpretive Sign*



Just past Snyder Park Road  
On US 40 - West National Road  
Springfield, Ohio

Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 11:00 am



## A Brief History of The Madonna of the Trail

The Madonna of the Trail monuments, a series of twelve identical statues, were intended to provide a symbol of the courage and faith of the women whose strength and love aided so greatly in conquering the wilderness and establishing permanent homes in the United States.

In 1912 an association was organized, and later several early roads (including the National Road) became known as the National Old Trails Road. The leader of the National Old Trails Road Association, Judge (and future U.S. President) Harry S. Truman, guaranteed the expense of the erection of the monuments in each of the twelve states through which the road passed, and a design was finalized in 1927. The monuments, created by sculptor August Leimbach and funded wholly by contributions, were commissioned by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Springfield's Madonna of the Trail Monument was the first statue to be erected and was dedicated on July 4, 1928. It was originally located just west of this site on the grounds of the Ohio Masonic Home. In 1956, the State of Ohio expanded Routes 40 (the old National Road) and 4 to four lanes and the monument, which was in the path of the projected highway, was moved to its present location.

## Unveiling of the Madonna of the Trail Ohio National Road Interpretive Sign

Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 11:00 am

### Speakers:

- **Thea Walsh**

*Director of the Clark County-Springfield ICC*

- **Cyndie Gerken**

*President of the Ohio National Road Association*

- **John Detrick**

*Clark County Commissioner*



### A special thanks to the following:

National Trails Parks & Recreation District  
NTPRD Director Tim Smith

Clark County-Springfield Transportation Coordinating Committee  
Ohio National Road Association Board, Members, & Staff