

## What is the Purple Heart?

The Purple Heart is specifically a combat decoration, and it is our nation's oldest military medal. It was first created by General George Washington in 1782 and was known as the Badge of Military Merit. It was first awarded to three soldiers in Newburgh, N.Y. The Badge of Military Merit was made of cloth, and it is the predecessor of the Purple Heart medal.

The current Purple Heart medal was developed by General Douglas MacArthur in 1932. The new design was created by Miss Elisabeth Will, an Army heraldic specialist in the Office of the Quartermaster General.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy. Posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. The heritage it represents is sacred to those who understand the price paid to wear it.

## The Purple Heart Community

The purpose of the Purple Heart community is to create a tribute to the men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart medal. With the presence of the signs designating Our City as a Purple Heart community, the public will have a visual reminder of the sacrifices paid by the Purple Heart recipients and a notice that our City supports the military heroes who have made sacrifices for the way of life all of our residents enjoy.

(SAMPLE Purple Heart Proclamation)

*Military Order of the Purple Heart  
City of Concord, New Hampshire*

*PROCLAMATION*

*PURPLE HEART COMMUNITY*

*WHERE AS, the people of the City of Concord have great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all of the citizens of our community who have selflessly served in the Armed Forces, which has been vital in maintaining the freedom and the way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and,*

*WHERE AS, citizens of our community have Been wounded in action and killed in action while serving in the Armed Forces, and have been posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for their ultimate sacrifices; and,*

*WHERE AS, the Purple Heart is the oldest American military decoration and was created as the 'Badge of Military Merit made of purple cloth in the shape of a heart with the word "Merit" sewn upon it, on August 7, 1782, in Newburgh, New York by General George 'Washington; and,*

*WHERE AS, the heritage it represents is sacred to those who know the price paid to wear the Purple Heart; and,*

*WHERE AS, August 7th is nationally recognized as Purple Heart Day.*

*NOW THEREFORE, 'We, The City Council of the City of Concord New Hampshire will recognize. August 7th, annually, as Purple Heart 'Day, and urge the people and organizations of the City of Concord the American Flag as well as other public expressions of recognition of our Purple Heart recipients.*

*Proclaimed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 by the City Council.*

# ***City of Concord***

## **A PURPLE HEART CITY**

- WHEREAS,** The City of Concord in the state of New Hampshire has always supported its military veteran population; and
- WHEREAS,** The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in present use and was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782; and
- WHEREAS,** The Purple Heart was the first American service award or decoration made available to the common soldier and is specifically awarded to members of the United State Armed Forces who have been wounded or paid the ultimate sacrifice in combat with a declared enemy of the United States of America; and
- WHEREAS,** The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill among the combat-wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives, and most importantly --- make sure we never forget; and
- WHEREAS,** the Concord area has a large, highly decorated veteran population including many Purple Heart recipients; and
- WHEREAS,** Concord appreciates the sacrifices our Purple Heart recipients made in defending our freedoms and believe it is important that we acknowledge them for their courage and show them the honor and support they have earned.
- NOW  
THEREFORE:** I, James Bouley, Mayor of the City of Concord, New Hampshire do hereby proclaim the City of Concord as

## **A PURPLE HEART CITY**

and encourage the citizens of the City of Concord to show their appreciation for the sacrifices of the Purple Heart recipients have made in defending our freedoms, to acknowledge their courage, and to show them the honor and support they have earned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the corporate seal of the City of Concord to be affixed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

James Bouley, Mayor  
Concord, New Hampshire



AMHERST, N.H.  
A PURPLE HEART  
COMMUNITY



**MANCHESTER, NH**  
**A PURPLE HEART**  
**COMMUNITY**