

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, ERIN MURPHY, BAKER, BOK, BREADON, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLAHERTY, LARA, LOUIJEUNE, WORRELL AND ARROYO



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY 2022

WHEREAS: National Purple Heart Day, observed on August 7th every year, commemorates the creation of the oldest American military decoration for military merit. It is a day when Americans remember and honor the brave men and women who were wounded on the battlefield or paid the supreme sacrifice with their lives; *and*

WHEREAS: The Purple Heart is awarded to U.S. service members who are wounded, killed in combat or died while a prisoner of war (POW). It honors and recognizes the bravery and sacrifices of the men and women who served this country; *and*

WHEREAS: Known as the Badge of Military Merit in the Revolutionary War, the Purple Heart was created by General George Washington in 1782 and presented to soldiers for “any singularly meritorious action.” The design included a purple heart-shaped piece of silk, and symbolized the devotion and courage of an American patriot; *and*

WHEREAS: The modern Purple Heart as we know it today was first created by the U.S. War Department in 1932 and effectively replaced the Badge of Military Merit. General Douglas MacArthur was the first recipient of it, and the medal now bears a bust of George Washington and his coat of arms; *and*

WHEREAS: Before 1944, the Purple Heart was presented to soldiers for their commendable actions. Since 1944, the Purple Heart has only been awarded to service members wounded or killed in combat. It is estimated that nearly 1.9 million service members have earned Purple Hearts since its creation; *and*

WHEREAS: Notable Purple Heart recipients include Senator John McCain, Senator Tammy Duckworth, Secretary of State Colin Powell, as well as President John F. Kennedy; *and*

WHEREAS: The Purple Heart Foundation was founded in 1957 as a non-profit that raises funds to support our nation’s veterans and their families. They fund important programs to help veterans recover and rehabilitate, provide academic scholarships, counseling services, financial, occupational and health education to military veterans and their families, and support research efforts and resources for veteran issues facing Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI); *and*

WHEREAS: Our military troops, veterans, and fallen heroes have made important contributions and sacrifices to our country. On National Purple Heart Day, we should recognize and celebrate their achievements and stand in solidarity with them; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council honors and recognizes those who are wounded in combat or made the supreme sacrifice in service to our country on National Purple Heart Day, and continues to support our veterans and military families in Boston.

Filed on: August 5th, 2022