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FAYETTE DECLARED A PURPLE HEART COUNTY

Uniontown, PA – Fayette County is now the third Purple Heart County in Pennsylvania, thanks to a proclamation issued last week by county commissioners.

Instituted Feb, 22, 1932, the Purple Heart is a U.S. military decoration awarded in the president's name to those killed or wounded while serving on or after April 5, 1917.

The countywide declaration comes just weeks after the City of Connellsville was declared a Purple Heart City.

Last week, commissioners Angela Zimmerlink, Dave Lohr and Vincent Vicites welcomed veterans of all U.S. military branches to their monthly meeting.

Zimmerlink invited all Purple Heart recipients in attendance to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners then recognized the county's many veterans, recognizing that all military members promote patriotism and foster an environment of good will.

Additionally, commissioners expressed their gratitude for the sacrifices Purple Heart recipients made and encouraged all residents to show them the honor, support and respect they've earned.

Zimmerlink said it was important to pursue Fayette County's Purple Heart status because of the significant number of recipients countywide.

"These members of the U.S. Armed Forces were either wounded or paid the ultimate sacrifice in combat with a declared enemy of the United States," she said. "We must never forget the sacrifices they made to ensure the freedoms we have today."

Lohr said Fayette County residents have historically been very dedicated to our country, and the Purple Heart designation is "just a small recognition of that great dedication."

He said becoming a Purple Heart County will spark a sense of pride in all residents that says Fayette is dedicated to protecting the freedoms the U.S. Constitution provides.



Vicites said all veterans deserve daily thanks and praise for “keeping America free when they answered the call to duty,” and the Purple Heart designation is another way to pay tribute.

“We are one of the highest counties per capita with a veteran population in Pennsylvania, so it is fitting and proper that the Fayette County Commissioners do this,” Vicites said. “We should continue to honor veterans in the United States every day, because America is the number one nation in the world thanks to them.”

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the Purple Heart proclamation for display may do so by contacting the commissioners’ office at 724-430-1200.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.info.

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