



RON DeSANTIS
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA PURPLE HEART DAY

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is the oldest active military award in the United States, established on August 7, 1782, by George Washington as the Badge of Military Merit; and

WHEREAS, the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor estimates more than 1.8 million Purple Hearts have been awarded to our nation's service members since 1782; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature unanimously passed legislation in 2012 establishing August 7 as Florida Purple Heart Day to recognize recipients of our nation's oldest award given to combat-wounded veterans; and

WHEREAS, Florida honors its Purple Heart recipients with many earned benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, Florida waives undergraduate-level tuition at state universities and colleges for Florida recipients of the Purple Heart and other superior combat-related decorations; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Purple Heart recipients receive the same waiver for state career and technical training facilities; and

WHEREAS, more than 9,198 Purple Heart License Plates have been issued to eligible Florida recipients through the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Military Order of the Purple Heart has designated Florida as a Purple Heart State, with 41 counties and 96 cities designated as Purple Heart Counties and Cities; and

WHEREAS, Floridians are encouraged to honor our state's Purple Heart recipients, many of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our freedoms.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing August 7, 2026, as *Florida Purple Heart Day*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 6th day of August, in the year two thousand twenty-six.




Governor