



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit, commonly called "The Purple Heart," is an American decoration, the oldest military decoration in the world in present use, and was the first award made available to the common soldier, to recognize outstanding valor or merit, and was originally called the "Badge of Military Merit"; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart was established by General George Washington at Newburgh, New York on August 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War, as an incentive to the Continental Army; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart was reestablished by the President of the U.S. per War Department General Orders 3, 1932 and is currently awarded pursuant to Federal law and Executive Orders; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the U.S. to any member of the Armed Forces or any civilian National of the U.S. who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded or killed, or who has died or may hereafter die after being wounded in any action against an enemy of the United States, in any action with an opposing Armed Force of a foreign country in which the U.S. Armed Forces are or have been engaged; while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing Armed Force in which the U.S. is not a belligerent party; as a result of an act of any such enemy of opposing Armed Forces; as the result of an act of any hostile foreign force; and

WHEREAS, after March 28, 1973, the Purple Heart is awarded as a result of an international terrorist attack against the U.S. or a foreign nation friendly to the U.S., recognized as such an attack by the U.S. Armed Forces, and as a result of military operations while serving outside the territory of the U.S. as part of a peacekeeping force; and

WHEREAS, August 7, 2009 marks the 227th Anniversary of the inception of the Purple Heart Award, and the 77th Anniversary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and

WHEREAS, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom continue in Afghanistan and Iraq, and U.S. Service Members continue serving bravely, often at great personal risk; and

WHEREAS, the estimated 1.7 million recipients of the Purple Heart have known the meaning of sacrifice in the preservation of the U.S. and the preservation of National interests at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, their sacrifices on our behalf will forever be an inspiration to all New Mexico citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim August 7, 2009 as:

"Purple Heart Day"

throughout the State of New Mexico.

Attest:

Mary Herrera
Mary Herrera
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
3rd day of August, 2009.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the Great State of New Mexico

Bill Richardson
Bill Richardson
Governor

