



NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY



August 7 is National Purple Heart Day, a day dedicated to honoring the bravery and sacrifice of our soldiers. The Purple Heart, originally established by General George Washington in 1782 as the Badge of Military Merit, is awarded to service members who have been wounded or killed in action against an enemy of the United States. This distinguished commendation represents the courage and dedication of those who have faced grave dangers to protect our freedoms.

The Purple Heart medal serves as a powerful symbol of the sacrifices made by our soldiers, highlighting their unwavering commitment to our nation. Each recipient's story is a testament to the resilience and valor that define our armed forces. It is imperative that we honor these individuals, not only for their service but also for the profound impact they have on our collective history.

The DMAVA Office of DEIB is dedicated to recognizing the contributions of all soldiers and veterans. By sharing their stories and celebrating their achievements, we ensure that their legacy of courage and perseverance continues to inspire future generations. On this National Purple Heart Day, join us in paying tribute to these heroes and reflecting on the true cost of our freedom.

Below is a list of several veterans and soldiers who have shared the stories behind their Purple Heart commendations with The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey. Today, we honor their sacrifice, bravery, and valor by amplifying their voices.

Visit the National Guard Militia
Museum of New Jersey:

<https://njmilitiamuseum.gov/>





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Cambell Gonzalez

<https://njmilitiamuseum.gov/cambell-gonzalez>

SGT Fredric N. Varlese

<https://njmilitiamuseum.gov/frederic-varlese>

SGT Ronald A. Kubik

<https://njmilitiamuseum.gov/ronald-kubik>

Ralph J. Piliero

<https://njmilitiamuseum.gov/ralph-piliero>

Michael G. George

<https://njmilitiamuseum.gov/michael-george>

COL Robert L. Beavis

<https://njmilitiamuseum.gov/robert-beavis>

Dennis W. Moriarty

https://www.loc.gov/item/afc2001001.78758/#item-service_history

Thomas Martin

<https://njmilitiamuseum.gov/thomas-martin>

Eugene P. Feury

<https://njmilitiamuseum.gov/eugene-feury>

Frank R. Hodes

<https://njmilitiamuseum.gov/frank-hodes>

Jason Santora

<https://njmilitiamuseum.gov/jason-santora>

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RESOURCES

In honor of Purple Heart Day and the immense sacrifices made by our soldiers and veterans, we invite you to explore the list of valuable resources available to all veterans and their families. These resources range from support groups to special placards and license plates, all designed to recognize and honor the valor and sacrifice of Purple Heart Commendation Holders.

Military Order of the Purple Heart

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is an organization of members who have all answered our country's call. Now, as combat-wounded veterans, we proudly continue to serve our country by helping America's active duty service members, veterans, their families, and those who have borne the burden of battle. Visit the [Military Order of the Purple Heart](#) website to find a chapter near you and learn more about our mission and services.

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission

Purple Heart Medal honorees can obtain a special license plate through the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. For more information, visit the [NJ MVC | Service Organizations](#).

Purple Heart Medal honorees can also obtain a special placard through the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. This placard permits exemption from payment of municipal parking meter fees, for up to 24 hours, for disabled veterans and Purple Heart recipients under certain, specific circumstances. For more information, visit the [NJ MVC | Service Organizations](#).

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