

By Senator Sachs

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Senate Resolution

A resolution designating this state a Purple Heart State in honor of the service and sacrifices of our nation's men and women in uniform who have been wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

WHEREAS, General George Washington, as the leader of the Continental Army, first introduced the "Badge of Military Merit" in 1782, instructing that it be awarded "not only in instances of unusual gallantry, but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way," and

WHEREAS, General Washington described the badge as a figure of a heart in purple cloth, which eventually became known as the Purple Heart, and is the nation's oldest military award, and

WHEREAS, the badge was not awarded for some years after the Revolutionary War, and was awarded only intermittently during the late 1920's, on February 22, 1932, the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth, General Douglas MacArthur announced the reestablishment of the Purple Heart Medal, in memory and honor of George Washington's military achievements, and

WHEREAS, veterans have paid the high price of freedom by leaving their families and communities and placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all, and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women from this state who have served and are serving in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by its residents, and

WHEREAS, many men and women in uniform have given their

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30 lives while serving in the Armed Forces, and

31 WHEREAS, many residents of this state have earned the
32 Purple Heart Medal as a result of being wounded while engaged in
33 combat with an enemy force, which is recognized as a singularly
34 meritorious act of essential service, and

35 WHEREAS, the people of this state have a great admiration
36 and the utmost gratitude for the sacrifices made by the men and
37 women who have selflessly served their country and this state in
38 the Armed Forces, and

39 WHEREAS, it is a privilege to honor those whose service and
40 sacrifice was recognized with the award of a Purple Heart Medal,
41 NOW, THEREFORE,

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43 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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45 That the Florida Senate proclaims this state a Purple Heart
46 State, honoring the service and sacrifices of our nation's men
47 and women in uniform who were wounded or killed by the enemy
48 while serving to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
50 presented to the Department of Veterans Affairs as a tangible
51 token of the sentiments expressed in this resolution.