

## **National Purple Heart Day is August 7, 2020.**

Patriotic Days are a great time to involve the whole family and bring attention to your community. During these Pandemic times, perhaps your Auxiliary could send cards to the VA Hospitals or retirement homes in the community thanking Purple Heart recipients for their service OR, your Auxiliary could make signs with information about local Purple Heart recipients. Include a Purple Heart photo on the sign and place them outside of your Post home, or around town. Invite families to read about the Purple Heart recipients in your community. Leave a comment card and box decorated patriotically for comments to be placed in. It would be fun to share with your Auxiliary and send to the local newspaper. OR, tell me in a report, what you have done for this special Patriotic Holiday,

National Purple Heart Day is an unofficial observance to recognize the men and women who have received the Purple Heart while serving in the US Military. General George Washington created the Purple Heart award in 1782 during the Revolutionary War. It was originally called the "Badge of Military Merit" and was awarded to 3 Revolutionary soldiers in 1783. After the Revolutionary War, the Purple Heart was not awarded again until 1932. Beginning on February 22, 1932, Purple Heart medals were again awarded to those who served bravely and with valor and were wounded or killed while serving in the United States Armed Forces as a result of enemy action on or after April 5, 1917. (The US officially entered WWI on April 6, 1917.)

Currently, it is estimated that 1.8 Million Purple Hearts have been awarded to service members wounded or killed while serving in the Armed Forces. Today, the Purple Heart is also given to those who display bravery and valor as prisoners of war and while fighting certain types of domestic terrorists.

For more information, please visit the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor at <https://www.thepurpleheart.com/>

PLEASE report your observances of Purple Heart Day to me as soon as possible following August 7th. And don't forget: what you DO is the program, how you promote it is part of the program write up! I'm excited to see what you report about Purple Heart Day!

Lynette Peavey

Americanism Chairmen, Department of California

