

To the Members of the Committee

Today you are to make a decision to put forth the bill SB993. This bill recommends designating August 7th as a day that the State recognizes those who have received the Purple Heart. The Purple Heart is a the award honoring those who serve in service of our country and receive wounds in combat.

In the US Air Force today, people who are received this medal are even given points towards promotions on the Weighted Airman Promotion System. This is also true under certain promotion paths of the US Army. Even our military branches give some recognition to the members who have been wounded in action in service of our nation.

The citizens of Oregon should have a day to honor those veterans who have been recipient of this distinguished award. Over 21,000 Veterans in Oregon have received this medal over the years. Many made sacrifices in receiving those wounds. Many were simply serving their country with distinction. Many were drafted into service when our country had such an institution, but many more joined on their own. ALL gave something of themselves.

Over the years I have seen the state recognize many different events for many different purposes. But rarely do I seen any recognition towards veterans. I as a veteran never received the award, but I think it would benefit Oregon to have a simple thing of a day to remember those who served and were wounded in action. I Urge this committee to vote yes on SB993.

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