

**Enrolled**  
**Senate Bill 993**

Sponsored by Senators BOQUIST, KNOPP; Senators BAERTSCHIGER JR, BEYER, DEVLIN, HANSELL, JOHNSON, MANNING JR, MONNES ANDERSON, OLSEN, STEINER HAYWARD, WINTERS, Representatives BARRETO, ESQUIVEL, EVANS, HEARD, KENNEMER, LEWIS, LIVELY, MEEK, OLSON, PARRISH, POST, SOLLMAN, SPRENGER, WHISNANT, WILSON, WITT (at the request of Senator Brian Boquist in memory of Sandy Raddue)

CHAPTER .....

AN ACT

Relating to recognition of recipients of the Purple Heart award.

Whereas the Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are killed or wounded in action; and

Whereas created in 1932, the Purple Heart has a long-storied past that dates back to the founding fathers of the United States of America and takes its design from the badge of Military Merit, which was commissioned by General George Washington on August 7, 1782; and

Whereas the Purple Heart medal consists of a purple, heart-shaped piece of silk that has a narrow edge of silver stitched with the word "Merit" across the face, is considered to be the first official military combat badge of the Armed Forces and is the official successor decoration of the badge of Military Merit; and

Whereas the award originally was open only to United States Army and Air Force servicemembers and could not be awarded posthumously, which President Franklin D. Roosevelt changed in 1942 with an executive order that opened the award to members of the United States Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard; and

Whereas later that year, in a separate order, the Purple Heart was made available for posthumous award to any member of the military; and

Whereas to date, approximately two million Purple Heart medals have been awarded; and

Whereas Purple Heart medals can be awarded retroactively to a soldier as far back as 1917, allowing veterans from World War I to be eligible; and

Whereas the Purple Heart originally was awarded for meritorious service, and injury was a consideration for merit, but, in 1942, the creation of the Legion of Merit award duplicated the merit requirement, which then became unnecessary for the Purple Heart; and

Whereas from 1942 to 1997, civilians serving in, or affiliated with, the Armed Forces were eligible to receive the Purple Heart, and some of the earliest civilians to receive this honor were firefighters wounded or killed while fighting fires caused by the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

Whereas more than 6,000 Oregon veterans were killed in combat during five major wars from World War I to the present, and more than 15,000 veterans were wounded during those wars, making more than 21,000 Oregonians eligible for the Purple Heart award; and

Whereas numerous states across the United States have honored their combat wounded and killed military veterans by proclaiming their states to be Purple Heart States, including Oregon, which was designated as a Purple Heart State by the Seventy-eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly in 2015; and

Whereas many Oregon cities were designated by their city councils as Purple Heart Cities in 2014 and 2015; and

Whereas the State of Oregon honors the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform who were wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the freedom enjoyed by all Americans; now, therefore,

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1. August 7 of each year is designated as Oregon Purple Heart Recognition Day.**

**Passed by Senate April 11, 2017**

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Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

**Passed by House June 1, 2017**

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

**Received by Governor:**

.....M,....., 2017

**Approved:**

.....M,....., 2017

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Kate Brown, Governor

**Filed in Office of Secretary of State:**

.....M,....., 2017

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Dennis Richardson, Secretary of State