



**RON DeSANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

**FLORIDA PURPLE HEART DAY**

**WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is the oldest active military award in the United States, established on August 7, 1782, by George Washington as the Badge of Military Merit; and**

**WHEREAS, the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor estimates more than 1.8 million Purple Hearts have been awarded to our nation's service members since 1782; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida is recognized as the most veteran-friendly state in the nation; and**

**WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature unanimously passed legislation in 2012 establishing August 7 as "Florida Purple Heart Day" to recognize recipients of our nation's oldest award given to combat-wounded veterans; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida honors its Purple Heart recipients with many earned benefits and services; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida waives undergraduate-level tuition at state universities and colleges for Florida recipients of the Purple Heart and other superior combat-related decorations; and**

**WHEREAS, Florida's Purple Heart recipients receive the same waiver for state career and technical training facilities; and**

**WHEREAS, more than 9,200 Purple Heart License Plates have been issued to eligible Florida recipients through the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; and**

**WHEREAS, the Military Order of the Purple Heart has designated Florida as a Purple Heart State, with 40 counties and 83 cities designated as Purple Heart Counties and Cities; and**

**WHEREAS, Floridians are encouraged to honor our state's Purple Heart recipients, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our freedoms.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing August 7, 2025, as *Florida Purple Heart Day*.**



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, in the year two thousand twenty-five.**

  
Governor