



MEMORANDUM

Date: Aug 27, 2025
To: Board of Commissioners
Subject: Purple Heart City Designation

Background

City Commission to review/discuss Purple Heart City Designation.

Discussion

From the City of Atlantic Beach, FL:

The Purple Heart is the United States military's oldest military decoration, dating back to 1782. It is awarded to members of the armed forces of the United States who have been wounded or killed while serving in the line of duty with the U.S. military after April 5, 1917.

Communities and local government can honor Purple Heart recipients in a variety of ways, big and small. Here are a few ideas

- **Establish a Purple Heart Community designation.** This designation recognizes the community's commitment to honoring and supporting Purple Heart recipients. To earn this designation, a municipality must have a living or deceased Purple Heart recipient, issue an official proclamation, and recognize National Purple Heart Day.
- **Offer special services to Purple Heart recipients,** including **designated parking**, free dog park membership, and utility bill discounts.
- **Educate the community about the Purple Heart and its significance.** This can be done through newsletters and online resources.
- **Name a street after a Purple Heart recipient.**
- **Partner with local veterans' organizations.** The City can work with veterans' organizations to host events, provide support services, and raise awareness of the needs of Purple Heart recipients.
- **Create a Purple Heart Recipient Registry.** This registry can help connect Purple Heart recipients with community resources and support services. The registry can also be used to identify recipients who may need assistance with things like housing, food, or transportation.

- Establish a Purple Heart Memorial. This could be a statute, plaque or other memorial dedicated to Purple Heart recipients.
- Establish a Purple Heart Memorial Garden. This park or garden can be a place for reflection and remembrance for veterans and their families.
- Simply say thank you. A simple "thank you" can go a long way in showing Purple Heart recipients that their service is appreciated.

No matter what approach a community takes, the most important thing is to show Purple Heart recipients that their sacrifice is valued and appreciated. By honoring these brave men and women, we can help to ensure that their legacy lives on.