

[Revised 01 January 2021]

Military Order of the Purple Heart Purple Heart Trail Considerations Recommended Procedures

General Information:

The Purple Heart Trail program began in 1992 at Mt. Vernon, Virginia. The goal was to make the public aware of the Purple Heart Medal and what the medal represented. Roads, bridges, highways, and trails were designated as a part of the Purple Heart Trail. The Purple Heart Trail grew so did the request from businesses, colleges, universities, cities, towns, sports teams, airports, buildings, and many others.

The Purple Heart designation is an “Outward expression of an internal desire to recognize and Honor recipients of the Purple Heart”. The Purple Heart is presented to men and women of all military services that have been injured or killed in action against an enemy of the United States.

The Process to become a Purple Heart Designated Location:

Each State has a Department Commander and several Chapters, the process begins when a Department or Chapter Commander is notified that a location is interested in being designated a Purple Heart entity. It is recommended that a meeting be arranged to talk about options, dates of presentation and other items that will enhance the experience of Purple Heart recipients, their families, and members of the community.

Options for types of activities that Purple Heart locations can provide:

1. Many Cities, Towns, and Counties have canvassed their citizens through news releases and notifications to churches and businesses to find Purple Heart recipients. Family members and Gold Star Families will have pictures and stories of their loved ones that have received the Purple Heart. The idea is to collect the information, stories and pictures and develop a booklet that others can see and read about the men and women of their community. Once the information is collected and published a date is set for a “Meet and Greet” where the families and recipients of the Purple Heart can have a cup of coffee and a cookie to talk about their family member. At this point the leadership of the community reads a Proclamation and is presented with a Plaque designating the City, Town, or County as a Purple Heart City, and placed on the Purple Heart Trail website.
2. Provide Purple Heart recipients with tax relief, reduced fees at parks, zoos, parking facilities and public events. Set aside August 7th each year as National Purple Heart Day, place signs that indicate that this location is a Purple Heart entity.

3. Businesses, Universities, Colleges, and other Learning Institutions will provide a Veterans Oasis or study area. Provide a reception to honor Purple Heart recipients and other veteran as students or business employees.
4. Sports teams, Stadiums and Medical Facilities draw from a large area and may not be able to have contact information to canvas individuals that use their facilities. These Facilities can still be a Purple Heart entity and will create an event that will lift our Purple Heart families and recipients with things like a Purple Heart game or Day.
5. Options to provide Purple Heart Recipients, and their families the honor they deserve is not limited to any one option. There are many stories that have never been told, some families receive the Purple Heart in the mail, and they need to be able to tell the story about their love ones.

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