

Date of Hearing: June 23, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Ken Cooley, Chair  
ACR 121 (Seyarto) – As Introduced January 11, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Purple Heart Day.

**SUMMARY:** Declares August 7, 2022, as Purple Heart Day in California, and encourages all Californians to honor those who have served in the Armed Forces, especially those who have been wounded and received the Purple Heart. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are killed or wounded in action.
- 2) Created in 1932, the Purple Heart has a long and storied past that dates back to the founders of the United States. The award takes its design from the Badge of Military Merit, which was commissioned by General George Washington on August 7, 1782. The official successor decoration of the Badge of Military Merit is the Purple Heart.
- 3) Originally, the Purple Heart award was only open to United States Army and Air Force service members and could not be awarded posthumously. President Franklin D. Roosevelt changed that in 1942 with an executive order that opened the award to members of the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Later that year, in a separate order, the award was made available for posthumous award to any member of the military.
- 4) To date, approximately 2 million Purple Heart Medals have been awarded. The award can be awarded retroactively as far back as 1917, allowing veterans from World War I to be eligible.
- 5) From 1942 to 1997, inclusive, civilians serving in, or affiliated with, the Armed Forces were eligible to receive the Purple Heart. Some of the earliest civilians to receive this honor were firefighters wounded or killed while fighting fires caused by the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- 6) Since California is home to more than 1.8 million veterans and more than 200,000 active and reserve members of the Armed Forces, it is especially appropriate for all Californians to honor those who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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