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THIRD READING

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Bill No: ACR 121  
Author: Seyarto (R) and Mathis (R), et al.  
Introduced: 1/11/22  
Vote: 21

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ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 6/29/22 (Consent) - See last page for vote

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**SUBJECT:** Purple Heart Day

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This resolution declares August 7, 2022, as Purple Heart Day in California.

**ANALYSIS:** 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 two 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.

This resolution encourages all Californians to honor those who have served in the Armed Forces, especially those who have been wounded and received the Purple Heart, and declares August 7, 2022, as Purple Heart Day in California.

### **Related/Prior Legislation**

The following are the most recent measures relating to Purple Heart Day:

- ACR 12 (Seyarto, Resolution Chapter 105, Statutes of 2021).
- ACR 174 (Choi, 2020) died in the Assembly.
- ACR 100 (Choi, Resolution Chapter 132, Statutes of 2019).

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 8/1/22)

California Professional Firefighters  
American Legion-Department of California  
AMVETS-Department of California  
California Association of County Veterans Service Officers  
California State Commanders Veterans Council  
Military Officers Association of America-California Council of Chapters  
Vietnam Veterans of America-California State Council

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 8/1/22)

None received

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** Proponents write, “This annual remembrance by the state is important to not only honor the living Purple Heart recipients, but to also keep the memory alive of the sacrifices made by generations of veterans. Furthermore, this day of honoring also aids in the healing of surviving family members.”

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 6/29/22

AYES: Aguiar-Curry, Alvarez, Arambula, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Bigelow, Bloom, Boerner Horvath, Mia Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Carrillo, Cervantes, Chen, Choi, Cooley, Cooper, Megan Dahle, Daly, Davies, Flora, Mike Fong, Fong, Friedman, Gabriel, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Gray, Grayson, Haney, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Kiley, Lackey, Lee, Levine, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, McKinnor, Medina, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nguyen, O'Donnell, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Seyarto, Smith, Stone, Ting, Valladares, Villapudua, Voepel, Waldron, Ward, Akilah Weber, Wicks, Wilson, Wood, Rendon

NO VOTE RECORDED: Cunningham, Blanca Rubio

Prepared by: Melissa Ward / SFA / (916) 651-1520  
8/3/22 15:04:33

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