

PURPLE HEART DAY

WHEREAS: The Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit is a uniquely American decoration—the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first award made available to a common soldier; and

WHEREAS: On August 7, 1782, General George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit in the figure of a heart in purple cloth and wrote that it was to be awarded “whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed.” On February 22, 1932, it was designated the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS: The Order of the Purple Heart is a combat decoration awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action; and

WHEREAS: The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Inc., was chartered by Congress on August 26, 1958, as the only organization of combat wounded veterans; and

WHEREAS: Georgia is home to more than 6,000 veterans and active duty military personnel who have been decorated by presentation of the Purple Heart Medal; and

WHEREAS: The blessings of freedom and democracy we enjoy today are the direct result of the courage and sacrifice of generations of Americans, and the State of Georgia is proud to honor the recipients of the Order of the Purple Heart; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim August 3–9, 2003, as **PURPLE HEART WEEK** in Georgia in recognition of our combat-wounded veterans.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this first day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand three.