

(ALL 7 COMMISSIONERS APPROVED IN 2025)

PURPLE HEART DAY

- WHEREAS,** the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration still in present use and was initially created by George Washington in 1782, as the ‘Badge of Military Merit’; and
- WHEREAS,** the Purple Heart was the first American Service Award made available to the common soldier, and is awarded to any member of the United States Armed Services wounded or killed in combat with a declared enemy of the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the Pinellas County Veterans Association was created at the Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce as an outreach to the veteran community by providing valuable resources and information to our local veterans.; and
- WHEREAS,** they held the inaugural Hero Fest on May 17, 2025, downtown Palm Harbor, bringing together thousands of community members to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and to celebrate the Veteran heroes among us, and in which 100% of proceeds were donated back into the community; and
- WHEREAS,** they established The Veterans Voices Mission to ensure local Veteran’s stories are not forgotten and shared with the community; and
- WHEREAS,** they established The Walls of Honor Mission to create places to memorialize and recognize Veterans throughout retirement communities, assisted living, and other medical facilities; and
- WHEREAS,** this year the Pinellas County Veterans Association has worked tirelessly to establish a Purple Heart Park in Palm Harbor opening this summer. This Purple Heart Park will be dedicated to those from our community who have made the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives in the cause of freedom, and the numerous combat-wounded Veterans who currently reside in Pinellas County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners that August 7, 2025, be recognized as

PURPLE HEART DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and caused the seal of Pinellas County, Florida, to be affixed this 5th day of August 2025.

DAVE EGGERS, Chair

CHRIS LATVALA, Vice Chair

RENÉ FLOWERS, Commissioner

VINCE NOWICKI, Commissioner

KATHLEEN PETERS, Commissioner

CHRIS SCHERER, Commissioner

BRIAN SCOTT, Commissioner