

PROCLAMATION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners recognizes the Purple Heart, designed to honor those wounded or killed in action while serving in the United States Armed Forces, as the oldest American military decoration awarded for merit, having been established in 1782; and

WHEREAS, Purple Heart Day is observed annually in the United States on August 7th, coinciding with the date the Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Army General George Washington commissioned the Badge of Military Merit, the precursor to the Purple Heart at Newburgh-on-the-Hudson, New York; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 1932, the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birthday, the United States War Department issued General Order No. 3, reviving the award and renaming it the Purple Heart; and a decade later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt through Executive Order 9277 adjusted eligibility criteria and authorized the Navy Department to award the Purple Heart to anyone serving in the United States Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, countless Americans have been wounded in combat while defending our great nation against armed enemies, and many more have made the supreme sacrifice, giving their lives for their country, and because of the nature of their injuries, these Purple Heart recipients bear their battle wounds for life; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners believes that recognizing our Purple Heart recipients can help raise awareness about the impacts of wartime deployments and combat situations on veterans and their families, highlighting the importance of providing them with the support and resources they need to lead a fulfilling life after their service;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim that **August 7th, 2025** be known as

“Purple Heart Day in Marion County”

in recognition of the nearly 2 million United States service members that have been awarded the Purple Heart since its inception, including multiple recipients living right here in Marion County.

DULY PROCLAIMED this 5th day of **August, 2025**.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

KATHY BRYANT, CHAIR

CARL ZALAK, III, VICE CHAIR

MICHELLE STONE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER

GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

MATT MCCLAIN, COMMISSIONER