

PROCLAMATION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners recognizes the Purple Heart—established in 1782 as the nation’s oldest military decoration for merit—as an honor awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces who are wounded or killed in action; and

WHEREAS, Purple Heart Day is observed annually on August 7, marking the date General George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit in Newburgh, New York, the predecessor to today’s Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 1932, the United States War Department issued General Order No. 3, reviving the award and renaming it the Purple Heart; and in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt through Executive Order 9277 expanded eligibility to members of the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, countless Americans have been wounded in combat while defending our nation, and many have made the ultimate sacrifice; and due to the nature of their injuries, Purple Heart recipients often carry the physical and emotional impacts of their service for life; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners affirms that recognizing Purple Heart recipients increases awareness of the effects of combat and wartime deployments on veterans and their families, underscoring the need for ongoing community support and resources to help them lead fulfilling lives 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, 2026** 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 4th day of **August, 2026**.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

CARL ZALAK, III, CHAIRMAN

MATT MCCLAIN, VICE CHAIR

KATHY BRYANT, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

MICHELLE STONE, COMMISSIONER

GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER