

JUL 20 2015

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY  
OF STATE

## STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

**Whereas**, the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in present use; and

**Whereas**, the Badge of Military Merit was first announced in General George Washington's general orders to the Continental Army issued on August 7, 1782; and

**Whereas**, the Badge of Military Merit was designed by General Washington in the form of a purple heart; and

**Whereas**, the Badge of Military Merit was awarded to soldiers who exhibited, "not only instances of unusual gallantry in battle, but also extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way;" and

**Whereas**, the Purple Heart Medal is awarded to members of the U.S. military who are wounded in action against an enemy of the United States; and

**Whereas**, the state of Oklahoma enjoys a rich history of service to the United States Military; Oklahoma's sons and daughters have served or fought in every significant armed conflict against enemies of our nation with tens of thousands of Oklahomans being awarded the Purple Heart; and

**Whereas**, Oklahoma recognizes and honors Purple Heart recipients in many ways such as the designated Purple Heart Highway and specialized license plates; and

**Whereas**, Oklahoma is known as the most veteran-friendly state, providing observances and services to veterans, which publicly underscore the commitment of this state to military veterans and their families;

**Now, therefore, I, Mary Fallin, Governor**, do hereby declare August 7, 2015 as

**"Purple Heart Day"**

in the state of Oklahoma.