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AUG 02 2016

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 George Washington's general orders to the Continental Army issued on August 7, 1782; and

**Whereas**, the Badge of Military Merit was bestowed 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**, 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, including the designated Purple Heart Highway and specialized license plates; and

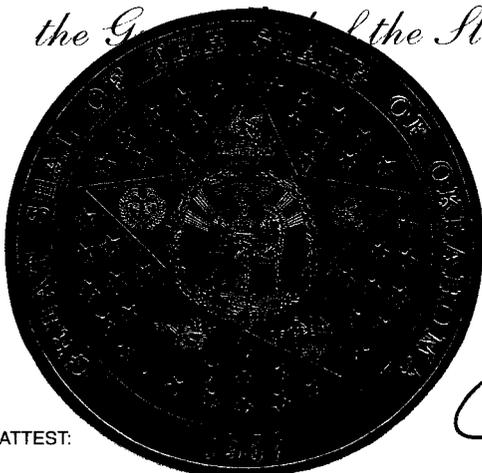
**Whereas**, Oklahoma is a veteran-friendly state that provides observances and services to veterans, underscoring the state's commitment to its distinguished military veterans and their families;

**Now, Therefore, I, Mary Fallin, Governor**, do hereby proclaim August 7, 2016, as

## "Purple Heart Day"

in the state of Oklahoma.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and sixteen, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred and eighth year.*

*Christy Benge*

*Mary Fallin*

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

GOVERNOR

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