

Proclamation

**Recognizing August 7, 2023 as
Purple Heart Day**



WHEREAS, on August 7, 1782, George Washington established the Badge of Military Merit, which was the first medal authorized for enlisted soldiers in the Continental Army to recognize a *“singularly meritorious action”* by a soldier; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 1932, US Army Chief of Staff Douglas MacArthur established the Purple Heart Award in the spirit of the Badge of Military Merit in honor of George Washington’s bicentennial birthday and authorized the award for soldiers in the United States Army for soldiers who are wounded or lose their lives in military action and August 7th is annually recognized as Purple Heart Day; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt expanded the Purple Heart Award to other branches of the United States military by authorizing the Navy Department to award the Purple Heart to personnel wounded or killed in action beginning with the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; and today the Purple Heart is authorized for people serving in all branches of the United States military who are wounded or lose their lives in military actions; and

WHEREAS, following the attack at Pearl Harbor, until the day she passed away, Eleanor Roosevelt carried in her wallet a piece of paper with the following written upon it: *“Dear lord, lest I continue in my complacent ways, help me to remember that somewhere someone died for me today. And if there be war, help me to remember to ask, ‘Am I worth dying for?’”* and in our own daily walk, we should always remember those serving and their families and honor their service and their sacrifices in our words, hearts, and actions; and

WHEREAS, the Ward Roney Jr Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7511, which represents and advocates for veterans in the community of Monroe, requested the City of Monroe declare itself a “Purple Heart City”; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2021, Monroe Mayor and City Council jointly issued a proclamation declaring City of Monroe as a “Purple Heart City” and since 2014, August 7th has been a day to honor and remember people wounded and who have lost their lives in action and in service to our country; and

WHEREAS, the flying of the Purple Heart Flag on the City of Monroe’s Municipal Campus symbolizes remembering and honoring Purple Heart Award recipients.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby recognize and proclaim

August 7, 2023

as

PURPLE HEART DAY

and authorize and direct the flying of the Purple Heart flag at the City of Monroe’s Municipal Campus from the morning of August 4, 2023 to the afternoon of August 11, 2023 and encourage residents, employers, and visitors to commit to remembering and honoring recipients of the Purple Heart Award in our words, hearts, and actions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Thomas", is written over a horizontal line.

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor