
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 772 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, BARTOLOTTA, J. WARD, LANGERHOLC,
HUTCHINSON, VOGEL, DINNIMAN, COSTA, FONTANA, BLAKE,
TARTAGLIONE, PHILLIPS-HILL, ARGALL AND BAKER, JUNE 17, 2019

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
JUNE 17, 2019

AN ACT

1 Designating the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a Purple Heart
2 State and August 7 as "Purple Heart Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Purple Heart
7 Act.

8 Section 2. Legislative findings and declarations.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) During major wars from World War I to the present,
11 32,080 Pennsylvania veterans were killed in combat and
12 approximately 59,140 were wounded, making those
13 Pennsylvanians eligible for the Purple Heart Medal.

14 (2) The mission of the Military Order of the Purple
15 Heart, chartered by an act of Congress, is to foster an
16 environment of goodwill among combat wounded veterans and
17 their families, to promote patriotism, to support legislative

1 initiatives and, most importantly, to ensure that we never
2 forget the sacrifices of veterans killed in action and
3 wounded in combat.

4 (3) Twenty-three states across the United States have
5 honored their military veterans wounded and killed in combat
6 by proclaiming their states to be Purple Heart states.

7 (4) The Purple Heart Trail was established in 1992 by
8 the Military Order of the Purple Heart to be a symbolic trail
9 throughout all 50 states to commemorate and honor all men and
10 women who have been wounded or killed in combat while serving
11 in the United States Armed Forces.

12 (5) The Purple Heart Trail originates at a monument in
13 Mt. Vernon, Virginia, which is the burial location of George
14 Washington.

15 (6) In Pennsylvania, State Route 45, also known as the
16 Purple Heart Highway, winds through 100 miles of Huntingdon,
17 Centre, Union, Northumberland and Montour Counties and is
18 part of the Purple Heart Trail.

19 (7) State Route 45 was christened the Purple Heart
20 Highway because the Route 45 corridor has been home to many
21 recipients of the Purple Heart.

22 (8) The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania honors the service
23 and sacrifices of our nation's men and women in uniform
24 wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the
25 freedom enjoyed by all Americans.

26 Section 3. Purple Heart State.

27 The Commonwealth is designated as a Purple Heart State.

28 Section 4. Purple Heart Day.

29 August 7 of each year is designated as "Purple Heart Day."

30 Section 5. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect immediately.