



South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
1600 W. Russell Street Suite 415
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Phone: 605-204-9241
<https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

FOR RELEASE: Monday, August 4, 2025

For more information, contact: DJ Montreal at 605.204.9241 or dj.montreal@state.sd.us,
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

PURPLE HEART RECOGNITION DAY

Sioux Falls, S.D. – In tribute to the valor and sacrifice of America’s military heroes, Governor Larry Rhoden has officially proclaimed Thursday, August 7, 2025, as “Purple Heart Recognition Day” across South Dakota. This observance, initiated at the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, calls on all residents to honor and remember those who have been wounded or killed in action while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

The Purple Heart, established in 1782, is the oldest military decoration. The Purple Heart is awarded to service members who have been injured or killed in action due to enemy action. The medal stands as a symbol of profound courage, resilience, and dedication to the country.

“On Purple Heart Day, we honor the extraordinary courage and sacrifice of our nation’s heroes who have been wounded in service,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jeremiah Schneider. “South Dakota stands beside you, forever grateful for your strength and resilience in the face of adversity.”

As reported by the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, over 1.8 million Purple Heart medals have been awarded to service members since the medal’s inception in 1782.