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National Purple Heart Day

Sioux Falls, SD – In tribute to the valor and sacrifice of America’s military heroes, Governor Larry Rhoden has officially proclaimed Friday, August 7, 2026, 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.

Established in 1782, the Purple Heart is the nation’s oldest military decoration. It is awarded to service members who have been wounded or killed as a result of enemy action. The medal stands as a powerful symbol of courage, resilience, and unwavering dedication to the country.

According to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, more than 1.8 million Purple Heart medals have been awarded to service members since its inception.