

A Senate resolution

proclaiming Minnesota a Purple Heart State.

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is a combat decoration awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces who die or become wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy; the Purple Heart is also awarded posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782; the Purple Heart is the first American service award or decoration made available to the common soldier, and is the oldest military decoration in present use; and

WHEREAS, the organization now known as the "Military Order of the Purple Heart" was formed in 1932; for the protection and mutual interest of all who have received the decoration composed exclusively of Purple Heart recipients. The Military Order of the Purple Heart is the only veterans service organization comprised strictly of "combat" veterans; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill among the combat-wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives, and most importantly make sure that Americans never forget to recognize the price that servicemen and women have paid for our nation's freedom; and

WHEREAS, the state of Minnesota appreciates the sacrifices that our Purple Heart recipients made in defending our freedom, and believe it is important that we acknowledge them for their courage and show them the honor and support that they have earned; and

WHEREAS, July 18, 2017, has officially been designated as the day for the state of Minnesota to remember and recognize veterans who are recipients of the Purple Heart Medal; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it proclaims Minnesota a Purple Heart State and ask that all citizens show their appreciation for the sacrifices that our Purple Heart recipients have made.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Cal R. Ludeman
Secretary of the Senate

Paul E. Gazelka
Chair, Senate Committee on
Rules and Administration

Dan Schoen
State Senator, District 54