

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

THE PURPLE HEART AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY

The Purple Heart was originally established by General George Washington at Newburgh, 7 August 1782, during the War of the Revolution. The decoration was revived by the War Department on 22 February 1932, the two-hundredth anniversary of General Washington's birth, thus paying respect to his memory and recognizing his military achievements. It is awarded to persons who, while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States, are wounded in action against an enemy of the United States, or who since 6 December 1941 are killed in action, or who die as a direct result of wounds received in action.

The following is a brief description of the Purple Heart: The decoration consists of a purple enameled heart within a bronze border on which is mounted in relief a profile head of General Washington in military uniform. Above the enameled heart is the shield of Washington's coat of arms between two sprays of leaves in green enamel. On the reverse below the shield and leaves without enamel, is a raised bronze heart with the inscription, "For Military Merit", under which is engraved the name of the recipient. The medal is suspended by a rectangular-shaped metal loop with corners rounded from a silk moire ribbon of purple center with white edges.

The complete Purple Heart decoration consists of the medal, the service ribbon or bar in the colors of the suspension ribbon of the medal, and a lapel button in colored enamel. When the Purple Heart is awarded posthumously only the decoration itself is furnished.

Neither the Purple Heart nor any of the devices which accompany it are authorized to be worn by anyone other than the individual for whose service they are awarded. The individuals for whose service they are awarded may wear the Purple Heart decoration on appropriate occasions; and are authorized to wear the service ribbon or bar on the uniform, and the lapel button when in civilian clothing. Recipients of posthumous awards of the Purple Heart may display the decoration in the opened container or in any other appropriate manner desired.

J. A. ULIO,  
Major General,  
The Adjutant General.

18 May 1944.