

RESOLUTION NO. R-18-01

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF GARLAND, STATE OF ARKANSAS, A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION OF THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF GARLAND, STATE OF ARKANSAS DECLARING THAT GARLAND COUNTY SHALL BE A PURPLE HEART COUNTY IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, first created as the Badge of Military merit by George Washington in 1782, the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration presently in use, and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart was the first American service award or decoration made available to the common soldier and is specifically awarded to any member of the United States Armed Services wounded or killed in combat with a declared enemy of the United States, and that

WHEREAS, many former residents of Garland County have made the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives in the cause of freedom, and numerous combat-wounded veterans currently reside within this County and contribute to this community in countless ways, and

WHEREAS, chartered by an act of Congress, the mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of good will among the combat wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives and most important, make sure we never forget, and that,

WHEREAS, we appreciate the sacrifices our Purple Heart recipients have made in defending our freedoms and believe it is important that we acknowledge them for their courage and show them the support they have earned, and

WHEREAS, Garland County wishes to pledge its strong support to the Military Order of the Purple Heart and for those who put their lives at risk in service of their Country and their fellow citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Quorum Court of the County of Garland, State of Arkansas that Garland County shall be a Purple Heart County in the State of Arkansas.

ADOPTED this 8th day of January, 2018.

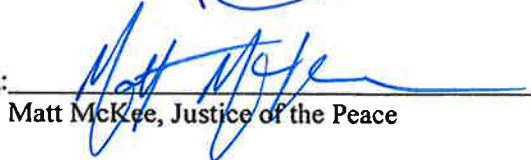
APPROVED:


Rick Davis, Garland County Judge

ATTEST:


Sarah Smith, Garland County Clerk

SPONSOR:


Matt McKee, Justice of the Peace

Richard Maxwell
Jimmy Lewis

**The Military Order of the Purple Heart
Department of Arkansas**



National Purple Trails Program

The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is a veteran focused national nonprofit organization whose membership consists of combat wounded veterans who have earned the Purple Heart medal.

Although the MOPH is a highly respected organization within the veterans' community, it is not as well known as the American Legion, VFW, or DAV by the general public.

To raise the public's awareness of the organization, in 1992, the MOPH instituted a National Purple Heart Trail Program. This program creates a symbolic system of roads, highways, bridges, cities, counties, and monuments where prominent signage is displayed as a visual reminder honoring those who have paid a high price for their freedom to travel and live in a free society.

As of December 31, 2016, the National MOPH has designated 1396 cities, counties, highways, colleges & universities, highways, and other places as part of the National Purple Heart Trail.

The MOPH Department of Arkansas and its four chapters located in Little Rock (431), Fayetteville (460), Fort Smith (587), and Jonesboro (708)] has set a goal of all 75 Arkansas counties being a Purple Heart County by the end of 2018.

As of May 25, 2017, the following 15 Arkansas counties have been named Purple Heart Counties:

Baxter	Izzard	Sevier
Benton	Logan	Stone
Boone	Madison	Washington
Craighead	Marion	
Faulkner	Pulaski	
Fulton	Sebastian	

The Process: The process is initiated by the County Judge, Quorum Court Member or other authorized county official contacting the Department of Arkansas' Purple Heart Trails Coordinator. The MOPH Coordinator will have the responsible Arkansas Chapter Commander to work with the county to:

1. Provide an example Proclamation as a guide to drafting their own Proclamation.
2. Coordinate a date where MOPH members can be present to receive a copy of the county's Proclamation and present the county a Certificate of Appreciation from the Department of Arkansas.
3. Make sure the county is posted as a Purple Heart County by the MOPH National Coordinator on the www.purpleheart.org website.

Obligations: Beyond displaying the Certificate of Appreciation in a prominent location where it can be viewed by the public, there are no other mandatory requirements.

However, the county is encouraged to demonstrate its designation as a Purple Heart County is more than just words but a heartfelt commitment to honor the county's Purple Heart Veterans and consider the following voluntary actions providing special recognition and honor to the Purple Heart veterans in their community:

1. Purchase signage to display at each of the major entrance to the county to inform and remind the residents and visitors the county is a Purple Heart County that honors and respects combat veterans that have earned the Purple Heart.
2. Purchase signage for and provide "Reserved Combat Wounded – Purple Heart Parking" spaces where the public conducts business with the county so vehicles displaying Purple Heart license plates can park close to the entrance.
3. Encourage businesses in the community, through the county's Chambers of Commerce, to follow the county's example and provide "Reserved Combats Wounded – Purple Heart Parking" at their business' locations.
4. Look for beneficial and meaningful ways to specially honor the county's Purple Heart veterans such as hiring preferences, abatement or reduction in taxes/fees/licenses to the county, etc.

Contact: Mark Diggs 501-442-1237 mdiggs@MOPH431.org