

Freeholders Designate Hunterdon County “A Purple Heart Community”

Commemorating the 73rd anniversary of the historic D-Day invasion and recognizing the sacrifice of all military members who have been wounded or killed while serving the nation in a time of war, the Hunterdon County Board of Freeholders declared the County a “Purple Heart Community,” during the June 6th Freeholder meeting.

Joined by members of the Chapter 700 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, including D-Day veteran Richard Betts, the Freeholders approved a resolution stating, “the Purple Heart signifies the sacrifices made by many generations of United States’ Military. The Freeholder do hereby proclaim that honor and gratitude be bestowed upon Purple Heart recipients, and all veterans who risked their lives for our freedom.”

Freeholder Director John E. Lanza stated, “We who live in freedom owe an unpayable debt to those who have risked and sacrificed so much to protect our nation, particularly the Purple Heart awardees who were wounded or killed in the line of duty. The Freeholders are honored to join with communities throughout the country in having our County designated a Purple Heart Community.

Vietnam veterans who are members of Chapter 700, Marines Kevin Cahalan, Adam Mackow, and John Paulus, and Army veteran Joseph Diaz, joined Mr. Betts, a Navy veteran, in presenting several road signs that will be placed on various county roadways recognizing Hunterdon County as a Purple Heart Community.

The Purple Heart, first awarded during World War I, is the oldest military award still given to U.S. military members. It is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, has been wounded or killed while serving. *National Geographic* estimated, in a 2009 report, that nearly 2 million Purple Hearts have been awarded since 1917.



Freeholder Director Lanza presented the Veterans with a Proclamation (below) and a plaque designating Hunterdon a Purple Heart Community. Freeholder Lanza (3rd from the left) with Kevin Cahalan, US MARINES; Richard Betts, US NAVY; Adam Mackow, US MARINES; Joseph Diaz, US ARMY and John Paulus, US MARINES. All the Veterans in attendance served in Vietnam, except Mr. Betts who survived Normandy and the European front and was then sent to the Pacific where his ship was hit by a kamikaze pilot off Okinawa.

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON**

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart signifies the sacrifices made by many generations of the United States' Military and is a symbol of willingness to sacrifice all to protect and defend our great country, as the honor is awarded to military personnel who have been wounded or killed by instrument of war; and

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders acknowledge the sacrifices of Purple Heart recipients and all veterans made in protecting our freedoms and believe it is important that they be recognized for their courage and to show them the honor and support earned; and

WHEREAS, the County of Hunterdon recognizes that our veterans exemplify true patriotism and supports awardees of the Purple Heart and all veterans who put their lives at risk in the service of defending our country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon does hereby proclaim that honor and gratitude be bestowed upon Purple Heart recipients and all veterans who risked their lives for our freedom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders does hereby recognize the County of Hunterdon as a Purple Heart Community, in the County and State of New Jersey.

ADOPTED June 06, 2017

