
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 567 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY MACKENZIE, BARRAR, BENNINGHOFF, BERNSTINE,
BIZZARRO, BROWN, BURNS, COX, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, EMRICK, FEE,
FREEMAN, GOODMAN, HAHN, HERSHEY, HICKERNELL, HILL-EVANS,
HOHENSTEIN, JAMES, KAUFFMAN, KINSEY, KNOWLES, KORTZ,
LONGIETTI, MARKOSEK, MENTZER, MILLARD, B. MILLER, MOUL, MURT,
NEILSON, PICKETT, POLINCHOCK, PYLE, READSHAW, RYAN, SAINATO,
SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, WARREN AND MULLINS,
FEBRUARY 25, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, FEBRUARY 25, 2019

AN ACT

1 Designating the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a Purple Heart
2 State and August 7 as "Purple Heart Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Purple Heart
7 Act.

8 Section 2. Legislative findings and declarations.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) During major wars from World War I to the present,
11 32,080 Pennsylvania veterans were killed in combat and
12 approximately 59,140 were wounded, making those
13 Pennsylvanians eligible for the Purple Heart Medal.

14 (2) The mission of the Military Order of the Purple

1 Heart, chartered by an act of Congress, is to foster an
2 environment of goodwill among combat wounded veterans and
3 their families, to promote patriotism, to support legislative
4 initiatives and, most importantly, to ensure that we never
5 forget the sacrifices of veterans killed in action and
6 wounded in combat.

7 (3) Twenty-three states across the United States have
8 honored their military veterans wounded and killed in combat
9 by proclaiming their states to be Purple Heart states.

10 (4) The Purple Heart Trail was established in 1992 by
11 the Military Order of the Purple Heart to be a symbolic trail
12 throughout all 50 states to commemorate and honor all men and
13 women who have been wounded or killed in combat while serving
14 in the United States Armed Forces.

15 (5) The Purple Heart Trail originates at a monument in
16 Mt. Vernon, Virginia, which is the burial location of George
17 Washington.

18 (6) In Pennsylvania, State Route 45, also known as the
19 Purple Heart Highway, winds through 100 miles of Huntingdon,
20 Centre, Union, Northumberland and Montour Counties and is
21 part of the Purple Heart Trail.

22 (7) State Route 45 was christened the Purple Heart
23 Highway because the Route 45 corridor has been home to many
24 recipients of the Purple Heart.

25 (8) The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania honors the service
26 and sacrifices of our nation's men and women in uniform
27 wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the
28 freedom enjoyed by all Americans.

29 Section 3. Purple Heart State.

30 The Commonwealth is designated as a Purple Heart State.

1 Section 4. Purple Heart Day.

2 August 7 of each year is designated as "Purple Heart Day."

3 Section 5. Effective date.

4 This act shall take effect immediately.