

Gila County to Become a Purple Heart County

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(GLOBE, AZ) – This past February, Billy Walden, State Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart addressed the County Supervisors Association of Arizona asking each County in Arizona to proclaim themselves as a “Purple Heart County” in an effort to designate Arizona as the first “Purple Heart State”.

The "Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Inc.," (MOPH) was formed in 1932 for the protection and mutual interest of all combat wounded veterans and active duty men and women who have received the decoration. Chartered by the Congress, The MOPH is unique among Veteran Service Organizations in that all its members were wounded in combat. For this sacrifice, they were awarded the Purple Heart Medal. With grants from the MOPH Service Foundation, the MOPH and its Ladies Auxiliary promote Patriotism, Fraternalism, and the Preservation of America's military history. Most importantly, through veteran service, they provide comfort and assistance to all Veterans and their families, especially those requiring claims assistance with the VA, those who are homeless, and those requiring employment assistance. Programs of the MOPH include VA Volunteer Service, JROTC Leadership Awards, Scholarships, Americanism, Purple Heart Trail and Cities, Welfare, and numerous community service programs, all with the objective of service to Veterans and their families.

At this time three counties have formally designated themselves as Purple Heart counties; Coconino, Yavapai, and Graham. Gila County would like to follow suit and become the next Arizona Purple Heart County. By making this declaration, Gila County not only honors its Purple Heart Recipients, but veterans all across the Nation.

Gila County is currently seeking the names of Purple Heart Recipients who live in our County. If you or someone you know is a Purple Heart Recipient please contact us before April 30th with a name and a brief military description. We are proud of each and every one of our citizens who have served in the Military and consider it an honor to recognize our Purple Heart Recipients.

On Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 10:00 AM, the public is invited to attend the Gila County Board of Supervisors Regular Board Meeting, at the Gila County Courthouse, 1400 E Ash Street, in Globe, or at the Gila County Complex, 610 E Highway 260, in Payson. The Board will have a special presentation to recognize those Veterans of Gila County who are Purple Heart Recipients. Each Recipient whose name we are given will receive a personalized and framed copy of the Proclamation as will each of the local Veterans organizations.

If you are a Purple Heart Recipient and cannot attend the May 5th meeting but would like a copy of the Proclamation, please call (928) 402-8753. For information on The Military Order of the Purple Heart please visit their website at www.purpleheart.org.

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