



*WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history, America's men and women in uniform have demonstrated bravery and courage in the face of danger; and,*

*WHEREAS, the members of the United States Armed Forces have answered the call to duty with honor, decency and selflessness, but the defense of freedom comes with great loss and sacrifice; and,*

*WHEREAS, many loyal and brave Americans who served in the wars of this nation have been killed or injured while performing their duties; and,*

*WHEREAS, these heroic service men and women have demonstrated their love and convictions in the people and freedoms of this country by enduring these tragedies and in many unfortunate cases by making the ultimate sacrifice; and,*

*WHEREAS, per United States Army regulation, the Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is wounded or killed in any action against an enemy of the United States or as a result of an act of any such enemy or opposing armed forces; and,*

*WHEREAS, the forerunner to the Purple Heart, the Badge of Military Merit, which took the form of a heart made of purple cloth, was established by George Washington in 1782; and,*

*WHEREAS, on February 22, 1932, the Purple Heart was revived on the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of George Washington's birth, out of respect to his memory and military achievements. Today, the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration still awarded to members of the United States military; and,*

*WHEREAS, since 1932, nearly 2 million Purple Hearts have been awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces; and,*

*WHEREAS, it is exceedingly fitting that we set aside a day to recognize the service and sacrifice of all recipients of the Purple Heart:*

*THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim August 7, 2011 as **PURPLE HEART DAY** in Illinois, to honor all Illinois service members who have been wounded or killed while serving in the United State Armed Forces.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,*  
*this FIFTH day of AUGUST, in*  
*the Year of Our Lord two thousand and*  
*ELEVEN, and of the State of Illinois*  
*the one hundred and NINETY-THIRD*

*Doree White*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*

GOVERNOR