

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 146

Recognizing and supporting the efforts of the State of New York to develop the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, New York, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2003

Mrs. KELLY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing and supporting the efforts of the State of New York to develop the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, New York, and for other purposes.

Whereas George Washington, at his headquarters in Newburgh, New York, on August 7, 1782, devised the Badge of Military Merit to be given to enlisted men and non-commissioned officers for meritorious action;

Whereas the Badge of Military Merit became popularly known as the “Purple Heart” because it consisted of the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding and was affixed to the uniform coat over the left breast;

Whereas Badges of Military Merit were awarded during the Revolutionary War by General George Washington at his headquarters, in Newburgh, New York, on May 3 and June 8, 1783;

Whereas the Badge of Military Merit, an award for valor in the Revolutionary War, is the inspiration for today's Purple Heart medal;

Whereas on the bicentennial of General Washington's birthday in February 1932, the Badge of Military Merit was redesignated by General Douglas MacArthur, then Chief of Staff of the Army, as the Purple Heart, to be awarded to persons killed or wounded in action against an enemy of the United States;

Whereas more than 800,000 members of the Armed Forces have been awarded the Purple Heart;

Whereas the Nation, as it fights the forces of evil that would undermine those democratic principles upon which the Nation was founded, continues to add brave members of the Armed Forces to the ranks of those who have received the Purple Heart;

Whereas the State of New York has dedicated substantial resources to the creation of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor to be constructed at the New Windsor Cantonment, a New York State Historic Site, in New Windsor, New York, to honor those individuals who have been awarded the Purple Heart and to inform and educate the people of the United States about the history and importance of this distinguished combat award;

Whereas the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor will be a permanent place of remembrance of the service and sacrifices made by the members of the Armed Forces

wounded or killed in service to America from World War I through the current war against terrorism, both at home and abroad; and

Whereas as the Nation continues to defend the American Way, there will be a need for a distinguished place to honor those who in the future are awarded the Purple Heart for their service and sacrifice: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) recognizes and supports the efforts of the
4 State of New York to develop the National Purple
5 Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, New York;

6 (2) encourages the people of the United States
7 to participate in the development of the National
8 Purple Heart Hall of Honor; and

9 (3) encourages Federal departments and agen-
10 cies to cooperate, assist, and participate in the devel-
11 opment of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

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