

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

THE PURPLE HEART AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY

The Purple Heart was originally established by General George Washington at Newburgh, 7 August 1782, during the War of the Revolution. The decoration was revived by the War Department on 22 February 1932, the two-hundredth anniversary of General George Washington's birth, thus paying respect to his memory and recognizing his military achievements. It is awarded to persons who, while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States, are wounded in action against an enemy of the United States, or who since 6 December 1941 are killed in action, or who die as a direct result of wounds received in action. T

The following is a brief description of the Purple Heart: The decoration consists of a purple enameled heart within a bronze border on which is mounted in relief a profile head of General Washington in military uniform. Above the enameled heart is the shield of Washington's coat of arms between two sprays of leaves in green enamel. On the reverse, below the shield and leaves without enamel, is a raised bronze heart with the inscription "For Military Merit", under which is engraved the name of the recipient. The medal is suspended by a rectangular-shaped metal loop with corners rounded from a silk moire ribbon of purple center with white edges,

In posthumous awards of the Purple Heart the Commanding General, Philadelphia Quartermaster, Depot, is directed to engrave and ship the decoration to the proper next of kin. Usually fifteen days time is required after receipt of notice of award, for the engraving, packaging, and shipping of the decoration.

Recipients of posthumous awards of the Purple Heart may display the decoration in any manner desired, except that decoration is not authorized to be worn by them.

J. A. Ulio  
Major General  
The Adjutant General

31 January 1945