

**Submitting.** There are two options to submit the Patriot Submission Form and photo.

♥Email the Patriot Submission Form, story, and digital photo to [pom@mssdar.org](mailto:pom@mssdar.org) preferred method.

♥Mail the Patriot Submission Form, story, and photo to:

Patricia Hale  
Patriot of the Month Chair  
1684 Kohrman Road  
Owensville, MO 65066

♥Original photos will be returned; please include a self addressed stamped envelope with your submission. Otherwise, the photo will be placed in the chapter's Spring or Fall SIP packet.

♥ Submission must be received on or before the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month prior to the month the Patriot will be featured on the MSSDAR public website.

♥Chapters will be notified via email upon receipt of the submission form and the month their POM nominee will appear as Patriot of the Month.

### **Let's Talk PHPs?**

Please contact this chair if you have questions about the "Purple Heart Patriots" program.

Patricia "Pat" Hale  
Patriot of the Month Chair  
573-821-3588  
[pom@mssdar.org](mailto:pom@mssdar.org)

## Honoring Those Recipients of America's Oldest Military Award



The Purple Heart Medal is the oldest and one of the most recognized and respected medals awarded to those who have been wounded or killed in combat. It is also the first award bestowed upon the common enlisted soldier. Established by General George Washington on August 7, 1782, the "Badge of Military Merit" made of purple cloth in the shape of a heart, recognized common soldiers for their valor at a time when fighting the campaign was tough, morale and pay was low, and supplies were scarce. After the American Revolutionary War, the award was ignored for nearly 150 years until it was re-introduced as the Purple Heart Medal on February 22, 1932, the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth.

The medal's plain inscription "FOR MILITARY MERIT" barely expresses its significance.



## **PURPLE HEART PATRIOTS**

*"Behind every heart is a hero.  
Behind every hero is their  
story. Behind every story  
reveals what they endured  
for you, for us, for everyone  
to live freely."*

... Angels from the Battlefield



# How to submit an individual to be honored as a “Purple Heart Patriot”

During the Parks Administration, we will be honoring the service and sacrifice of those men and women who have been wounded or killed in action, known to us as “**Purple Heart Patriots.**” Without them, this nation would not be free and millions of people from around the world would not have the ability to live in freedom.

Similar to the “Patriot of the Month” program, the “Purple Heart Patriots” program will focus on the individual for their heroic actions for which they were awarded the Purple Heart Medal. Their stories, told in their own words or the words of a family member, will be published monthly on the MSSDAR public website. We are planning to honor our Purple Heart Patriots and Gold Star family members with a ceremony in August 2025. More information will be provided at a later date.

Your chapter is invited to participate in this new program by interviewing a veteran, service member, or a family member of a deceased service member. We want to hear their stories in their own words.

Here are some questions you may consider asking. Be observant of how the interview is going and that the interviewee is comfortable in answering the questions you’re asking. All questions are optional. If needed, change the dialog to a more positive one to make the interviewee feel more at ease. Above all, take the time to listen to their stories.

Questions for Active Duty Military or Veteran

- ♥Which branch of service did you serve in?
- ♥Where were you stationed and what unit were you with when you were wounded?
- ♥Describe the day and the events leading up to the time you were wounded.
- ♥Where were you evacuated to for medical treatment?
- ♥Would you like to share your experiences while you were recovering?
- ♥Describe how you were presented with your Purple Heart award.

Questions for a Gold Star Family Member

- ♥Which branch of service did your \_\_\_\_\_ serve in?
- ♥Where was \_\_\_\_\_ stationed and what unit was \_\_\_\_\_ with when they were killed in action?
- ♥Describe how you were told of \_\_\_\_\_ death and what were you told about his heroic sacrifice.
- ♥Describe how you were presented with the Purple Heart award.
- ♥Is there any memories you would like to share about \_\_\_\_\_ .

Before you leave the interview, ask for a photo of the “Purple Heart Patriot,” they would like to share while in the service and ask to take one of them with their Purple Heart Medal. If deceased, ask the family member for a photo they would like to share of the Patriot being honored and possibly a photo of the family member with the Purple Heart Medal.

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*The Patriot Submission Form and additional instructions are available on the “Patriot of the Month” or “Purple Heart Patriots” webpages.*