



Badge of Military Merit

**AUGUST 7, 2017:  
A CELEBRATION OF THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL**

As part of the National Purple Heart Recognition Day ceremonies, the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Department of Virginia and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, in concert with the MOPH National HQ, will again celebrate the establishment of America's oldest military award, The Purple Heart Medal, on 7 August 2017.

The overarching goals of this event are to honor George Washington and his Badge of Military Merit which became today's Purple Heart Medal, to recognize recipients of the Purple Heart Medal, and to educate the public about Mount Vernon, General Washington and what it means to be awarded the Purple Heart Medal. This event will be open to the public.

This year the ceremony will be held on the East Lawn of George Washington's beloved Mount Vernon Estate beginning at 10:30 am with the "Posting of the Colors" and the playing of the National Anthem by the Fife and Drum Corps. Pre-Ceremony music will be provided by the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.

The event will have recipients of the Purple Heart Medal from America's wars plus other speakers and presenters to include General Washington himself. We have invited Medal of Honor Recipient, Captain Florent Groberg, US Army, Retired, to be a Keynote Speaker. Additionally, we expect a representative from the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the National Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and other leaders to participate in the program.

For those awarded the Purple Medal and their spouses/guest, a reception will be provided in the Mount Vernon Inn.

Today, the Military Order of the Purple Heart is “the only Congressionally Chartered veteran’s organization exclusively for combat-wounded veterans.” All Purple Heart recipients are invited to join the Military Order of the Purple Heart. As noted by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the significance of the Purple Heart Medal is that “The Purple Heart is never sought, but many have received.” In essence, “*All Gave Some and Some Gave All.*”