

# **Okaloosa County News Release**

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## **County Commissioners Proclaimed Okaloosa First Purple Heart County in Florida**

At the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners meeting Tuesday, March 6, 2012, Military Order of Purple Heart members, as well as Blue Star and Gold Star Mothers were on hand to read a proclamation establishing Okaloosa County as the First Purple Heart County in Florida. "Many of our counties are deserving of this tribute; however, it is with great pride that I read this proclamation honoring our own Medal of Honor Recipients and Okaloosa County Purple Heart Recipients," stated Commissioner Bill Roberts.

Okaloosa County, having secured this honor, will now pursue Florida Department of Transportation to erect a sign that says: "Welcome to Okaloosa County, the First Purple Heart County in Florida and home of two Medal of Honor Recipients." The Military Order of Purple Heart is a distinguished group of men and women who can only be a member if they have been injured in combat and received the Purple Heart, the oldest decoration in present use. MOPH is an organization chartered by an Act of Congress. Its mission is to foster an environment of goodwill among the combat wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives and most importantly, make sure we never forget.

"This proclamation serves as a legacy for everyone in this room, all veterans, and Blue and Gold Star Moms, and I thank you," stated President Sam Houston, MOPH. For more information, and to view the presentation at the county commission meeting, visit [www.okaloosafl.com](http://www.okaloosafl.com) or following this link:

<http://okaloosacountyfl.iqm2.com/Citizens/VideoMain.aspx?MeetingID=1073>

To learn more about the Military Order of Purple Heart visit, [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org) or [www.floridapurpleheart.org](http://www.floridapurpleheart.org).

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## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the Purple Heart is the oldest decoration in present use and was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782; and

**WHEREAS**, the Purple Heart was the first American service award or decoration made available to the common soldier and is specifically awarded to any member of the United States Armed Services wounded or killed in combat with a declared enemy of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, The mission of the Military Order of Purple Heart, Chartered by an Act of Congress, is to foster an environment of goodwill among the combat wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives and most importantly—make sure we never forget; and

**WHEREAS**, Okaloosa County has two Medal of Honor Recipients: Col. George E. “Bud” Day, USAF, Retired and CW4 Michael J. Novosel, US Army, Retired (deceased); and

**WHEREAS**, Okaloosa County has a large population of highly decorated military members, active duty and retired, as well as Purple Heart recipients, living in its communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Okaloosa County recognizes the commitment and increasing sacrifices military families are making; and

**WHEREAS**, Okaloosa County Military Community Covenant pledges to support those who serve through which, together we build strong communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED**, the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners hereby declare:

**Okaloosa County as the First Purple Heart County in the State of Florida**

**Duly adopted this day of March 6, 2012**



ATTEST

BOARD OF OKALOOSA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FL

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Don W. Howard  
Clerk of Courts

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Don Amunds, Chairman