

Purple Heart Trail



*"Honoring Our Present Remembering Our Past
& Preserving Our Legacy"*

“As you travel the Purple Heart Trails, please take a moment to remember the bloodshed and the ultimate sacrifices that have been paid for our nation’s freedom.”

The purpose of the Purple Heart Trail is to create a symbolic and honorary system of roads, highways, bridges, and other monuments that give tribute to the men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart medal. The Purple Heart Trail accomplishes this honorary goal by creating a visual reminder to those who use the road system that others have paid a high price for their freedom to travel and live in a free society. Signs placed at various locations annotate those roads and highways where legislation has been passed to designate parts of the national road system as The Purple Heart Trail. The actual format and design of the signs vary from state to state. There are currently designated sections in 45 states as well as Guam.



What is the History of the Purple Heart Trail?



The Purple Heart Trail was established in 1992 by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The original idea for the Purple Heart Trail came from Patriot Frank J. Kuhn, Jr., a member of Chapter 1732 in Virginia. His idea was carried to the national level by Patriot George Gallagher, a member of Virginia Chapter 353. Patriot Gallagher was a former National Adjutant. Patriot Gallagher introduced Patriot Kuhn’s Purple Heart Trail idea as a resolution during the 1992 MOPH National Convention

held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The resolution was approved and the MOPH National Purple Heart Trail began. The Purple Heart Trail originates at a monument in Mt Vernon, Virginia. Mt

Vernon is the burial location of George Washington. This monument marks the origin of the Purple Heart Trail.

View the Purple Heart Trail

Learn about ALL the trails located throughout this great land of ours by clicking on a state!
[links are clickable in PDF form]

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[Alaska - AK](#)

[Arizona - AZ](#)

[Arkansas - AR](#)

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[Colorado - CO](#)

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[Kentucky - KY](#)

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[Maine - ME](#)

[Maryland - MD](#)

[Massachusetts -](#)

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[Michigan - MI](#)

[Minnesota - MN](#)

[Mississippi - MS](#)

[Missouri - MO](#)

[Montana - MT](#)

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CITY OF FAIRBANKS

Jim Matherly, Mayor
800 CUSHMAN STREET
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-4615
OFFICE: 907-459-6793
FAX: 907-459-6787
jmatherly@fairbanks.us

November 5, 2019

Department of Alaska Military Order of the Purple Heart
Re: Purple Heart Trail

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City of Fairbanks, I am happy to write this letter of support for the efforts to designate the Parks Highway from Fairbanks to the Sterling Highway in Homer the next Purple Heart Trail or Purple Heart Highway.

As you know, a significant number of our veterans have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal for being wounded or killed while selflessly serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. We have great admiration and respect for the many Armed Forces veterans and active duty military members who contribute to the strength and vitality of our community and communities all over Alaska.

Earlier this year, the City of Fairbanks publicly recognized sacrifices of the men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal by designating the City of Fairbanks a "Purple Heart City". We wish to continue our support by encouraging all to support the efforts to expand the Purple Heart Trail in different areas of Alaska.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jim Matherly".

Mayor Jim Matherly
City of Fairbanks



CITY OF WASILLA

MAYOR BERT L. COTTLE

290 E. Herning Avenue
Wasilla, AK 99654-7091
Phone: (907) 373-9055
Fax: (907) 373-9096

September 17, 2019

RE: Letter of Support - Department of Alaska, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Request to Designate Parks Highway as Purple Heart Trail/Highway

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the Mayor of Wasilla, I am writing to offer my full support regarding the request of the Department of Alaska, Military Order of the Purple Heart, to designate the Parks Highway from Fairbanks to Wasilla as the next Purple Heart Trail/Purple Heart Highway.

The purpose of the Purple Heart Trail is to create a symbolic and honorary system of roads, highways, bridges, and other monuments that give tribute to the men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart medal. The Purple Heart Trail accomplishes this honorary goal by creating a visual reminder of the sacrifices made for their freedom to travel and live in a free society.

In 2009 a portion of the Alaskan Highway from the Canada /US Border connecting to the Richardson Highway in Delta Junction on to Fairbanks was previously designated as Purple Heart Trail. The final goal is to link the end of the trail in Fairbanks and extend it to our southernmost drivable city, Homer, Alaska, uniting the Purple Heart Trail to ultimately be the longest in the Nation.

I fully support the efforts of the Department of Alaska, Military Order of the Purple Heart, to designate the Parks Highway from Fairbanks to Wasilla as the next Purple Heart Trail/Purple Heart Highway.

Sincerely,

Mayor Bert L. Cottle
City of Wasilla

Cc: file



Office of the Borough Mayor

144 N. Binkley Street, Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • (907) 714-2150 • (907) 714-2377 Fax

Charlie Pierce
Borough Mayor

October 22, 2019

Military Order of the Purple Heart
Chapter 675
493 Valley View Dr.
Fairbanks, AK 99712

Combat-Wounded Veterans and Soldiers:

As Mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, I proudly support and encourage your efforts to designate the Parks Highway from Fairbanks, to the Seward and Sterling Highways in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the next Purple Heart Trail/Highway.

It is my belief that uniting the Alaskan Highway from the Canada/US Border to the Parks Highway, followed by the Seward and Sterling Highways will show the Nation our dedication and support for our wounded veteran's that served in our military.

I myself, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough stands behind this movement to signify honor and respect our Combat-Wounded Veterans and Soldiers who have been awarded the Purple Heart for their life-long dedication to serving our Country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Pierce".

Charlie Pierce
Mayor



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Mayor

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8682 • Fax (907) 861-8669

Vern.Halter@matsugov.us

October 15, 2019

Mr. John D. Knott, III
Commander
Military Order of the Purple Heart
493 Valley View Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99712

RE: Letter of Support to the Military Order of the Purple Heart to Designate the George Parks Highway from Fairbanks to Anchorage as a Purple Heart Trail/Highway

Dear Commander Knott,

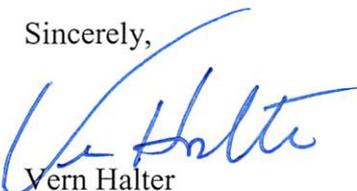
As the Mayor of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, I am writing this letter to offer my full support for the request from the Military Order of the Purple Heart to designate the George Parks Highway, from Fairbanks to Anchorage, as the next Purple Heart Trail/Purple Heart Highway.

The purpose of the Purple Heart Trail is to create a symbolic and honorary system of roads, highways, bridges and other monuments that give tribute to the men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal. The Purple Heart Trail accomplishes this goal by creating an honorary visual reminder of the sacrifices made by these heroes for the freedom we have to travel and live in a free society.

A portion of the Alaskan Highway, from the Canada/U.S. border connecting the Richardson Highway in Delta Junction and on to Fairbanks, was designated as a Purple Heart Trail in 2009. We support the goal of this current request to link the end of the trail in Fairbanks and extend it to Anchorage. We also support their ultimate goal to extend this Purple Heart Trail to our southernmost drivable city of Homer, Alaska. These connections would then become the longest Purple Heart Trail in the nation.

I strongly support the efforts of the Military Order of the Purple Heart to designate the George Parks Highway from Fairbanks to Anchorage as the next Purple Heart Trail/Purple Heart Highway.

Sincerely,



Vern Halter
Mayor



177 N. Birch St.
Soldotna, AK 99669
Phone: 907.262.9107
www.soldotna.org

November 19, 2019

Mr. John D. Knott III
Department of Alaska Military Order of the Purple Heart
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Commander Knott:

The people of Soldotna, Alaska have a great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country in the Armed Forces. On behalf of the City of Soldotna, I am proud to write this letter in support of your efforts to designate a new Purple Heart Trail, extending from the Parks Highway in Fairbanks to the Sterling Highway in Homer.

In 2012, the Soldotna City Council adopted Resolution 2012-057, officially designating Soldotna as a Purple Heart City. Thank you the opportunity to again recognize and honor wounded combat veterans and soldiers of all the military branches, who have been awarded the Purple Heart for their sacrifices made in the defense of this great nation. By designating the Sterling Highway as a Purple Heart Highway, visitors and residents of the City of Soldotna will be reminded, and can give tribute, to the men and women who have paid a high price for our freedom.

Thank you for your service to our nation.

Respectfully,


Paul J. Whitney
Vice Mayor, City of Soldotna

Trapper Creek Community Council (TCCC), Trapper Creek, Alaska

Re: Designation of a Purple Heart Trail on the George Parks Highway from Fairbanks to Wasilla

The Trapper Creek Community Council (TCCC) supports the Designation of a Purple Heart Trail on the George Parks Highway from Fairbanks to Wasilla.

Due to TCCC's inclusion in the area of the potential designation, a requested letter of support was received from Commander John Knott of the State of Alaska Military Order of the Purple Heart, a non-profit/501(c) 19- military veteran's service organization.

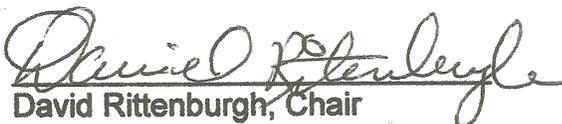
Chapters are located in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Soldotna, and membership is solely comprised of wounded combat veterans and Purple Heart recipients.

Commander Knott is requesting a letter of support from TCCC in an effort to designate the portion of the George Parks Highway from Fairbanks to Wasilla a Purple Heart Trail, which would then become part of a larger Purple Heart Highway.

The request for support letter was read at the TCCC September 19, 2019, general meeting. A motion was made by L. Miller for a letter of support, and seconded by D. Rittenburgh. It passed unanimously.

TCCC supports the efforts of the Alaska Military Order of the Purple Heart organization to designate a Purple Heart Trail on the George Parks Highway, from Fairbanks to Wasilla.

Signed this 17 day of October, 2019.


David Rittenburgh, Chair

Levi Miller, Vice Chair


Paula Glenka, Treasurer


Janet Grelson, Secretary


James Morrill, Councilman