

HCR

2

<TARGET><BILL>HCR 2</BILL><SUBJECT>HCR
2</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA28</COMM></TARGET>

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/13/13

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 3/19/13

State Affairs Committee considered HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

HCR 2 PURPLE HEART STATE

Proclaiming the state as a Purple Heart State to honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the freedom enjoyed by all Americans.

and recommends:

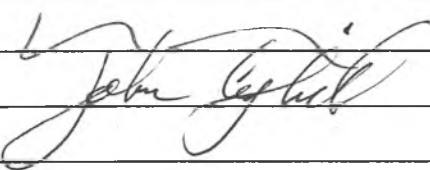

- be **replaced** with SCS _____ (_____) Same Title Technical Title Change
 New Title/SCR No. _____
- adopt **previous** SCS _____ (_____) Same Title Technical Title Change
 New Title/SCR No. _____
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
Leg			✓	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Wielechowski	✓			
	Coghitt	✓			
CHAIR: 	Dusan	✓			

REPRESENTATIVE
SHELLEY HUGHES

Economic Development
Trade & Tourism Committee
Chairman
Energy Committee
State Affairs Committee
Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee
University Subcommittee
Fish & Game Subcommittee

Alaska State Legislature



House of Representatives
District 8 ~ Greater Palmer

Session:
State Capitol, Room 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-3743
Fax (907) 465-2381

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March 13, 2013

Honorable Senator Fred Dyson
State Affairs Chairman
Room 121, State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Senator Dyson:

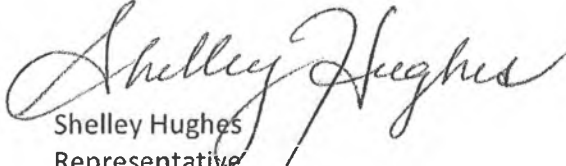
I respectfully request a hearing date for House Concurrent Resolution 2.

HCR 2 proclaims Alaska as a Purple Heart State, honoring the service and sacrifices of the many citizens of our state who have earned the Purple Heart Medal as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force, as a singularly meritorious act of essential services; and, other men and women in uniform from Alaska who gave their lives while serving our country.

I look forward to presenting HCR 2 to the committee and addressing any concerns you and the members may have.

If you have any concerns with regard to scheduling the bill, please contact Virginia Smiley at 465-5025.

Sincerely,


Shelley Hughes
Representative
District 8~Greater Palmer

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

**SESSION:**

Alaska State Capitol
Juneau Alaska 99801
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Rep.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov

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Representative Shelley Hughes
House District 8 - Greater Palmer

Honorable Representative Neal Foster Co-Chair
Honorable Representative Gabrielle LeDoux Co-Chair
House Military and Veterans Affairs
Room 120, State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801

HCR NO. 2 Purple Heart State

Sponsor Statement

February 6, 2013

HCR 2 proclaims Alaska as a Purple Heart State, honoring the service and sacrifices of our nation's men and women in uniform wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

Veterans have paid the high price of freedom by leaving their families and placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and the people of the State of Alaska have a great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all men and women who have selflessly served their country and this state in the Armed Forces.

The resolution finds that many citizens of our state have earned the Purple Heart Medal as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force, which is recognized as a singularly meritorious act of essential service; and, other men and women in uniform from Alaska gave their lives while serving our country.

As the home state to these heroes who have valiantly served our nation, it is fitting that Alaska become a Purple Heart State.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HCR 2
Fiscal Note Number: 1
(H) Publish Date: 3/4/13

Identifier: HCR2-LEG-SESS-02-25-13
Title: PURPLE HEART STATE
Sponsor: HUGHES
Requester: Rep Hughes

Department: Alaska Legislature
Appropriation: Legislative Operating Budget
Allocation: Session Expenses
OMB Component Number: 782

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2014 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2014 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2013) cost: 0.0

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency?
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Initial Version

Prepared By: Jessica Geary, Finance Manager
Division: Legislative Affairs Agency
Approved By: Pamela Vami, Executive Director
Legislative Affairs Agency

Phone: (907)465-6626
Date: 02/25/2013 03:12 PM
Date: 02/25/13

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS #1

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HCR 2

Analysis

This Legislation has zero fiscal impact on the Legislative Affairs Agency.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20420

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S FREEDOMS

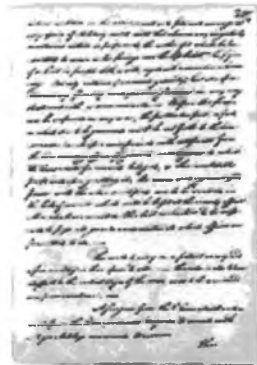
The Purple Heart

It is one of the most recognized and respected medals awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces. Introduced as the "Badge of Military Merit" by General George Washington in 1782, the Purple Heart is also the nation's oldest military award. In military terms, the award had "broken service," as it was ignored for nearly 150 years until it was re-introduced on February 22, 1932, on the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth. The medal's plain inscription "FOR MILITARY MERIT" barely expresses its significance.

On August 7, 1782, from his headquarters in Newburgh, New York, General George Washington wrote:



Gen. George Washington's instructions for the Badge of Military Merit



"The General ever desirous to cherish virtuous ambition in his soldiers, as well as to foster and encourage every species of Military merit, directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over the left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth, or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. Not only instances of unusual gallantry, but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with a due reward. Before this favour can be conferred on any man, the particular fact,

or facts, on which it is to be grounded must be set forth to the Commander in chief accompanied with certificates from the Commanding officers of the regiment and brigade to which the Candidate for reward belonged, or other incontestable proofs, and upon granting it, the name and regiment of the person with the action so certified are to be enrolled in the book of merit which will be kept at the orderly office. Men who have merited this last distinction to be suffered to pass all guards and sentinels which officers are permitted to do.

The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all. This order is also to have retrospect to the earliest stages of the war, and to be considered as a permanent one."

Only three soldiers are known to have received the original honor badge: Sergeant Daniel Bissell of the 2d Connecticut Regiment of the Continental Line; Sergeant William Brown of the 5th Connecticut Regiment of the Continental Line, and Sergeant Elijah Churchill of the 2d Continental Dragoons, also a Connecticut regiment.

For unknown reasons, the medal apparently was not awarded again. In fact, it was not until October 1927, after World War I, that General Charles Summerall proposed that a bill be submitted to Congress to revive the "Badge of Military Merit." In January, 1928, the Army's Office of The Adjutant General was instructed to file the materials concerning the proposed medal. Among those materials was a rough drawing of a circular medal disc with a concave center on which a raised heart was visible. Engraved on the back of the medal was "For Military Merit."

In January 1931, General Douglas MacArthur, Summerall's successor as Army Chief of Staff, resurrected the idea for the medal. Miss Elizabeth Will, an Army heraldic specialist in the Office of the Quartermaster General, was assigned the task of designing the medal according to some general guidelines provided to her. The Commission of Fine Arts obtained plaster models from three sculptors and, in May 1931, selected the model produced by John Sinnock of the Philadelphia Mint.

On February 22, 1932 -- the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth -- the War Department (predecessor to the Department of Defense) announced the establishment of the Purple Heart award in General Order No. 3:

By order of the President of the United States, the Purple Heart established by General George Washington at Newburgh, August 7, 1782, during the War of the Revolution, is hereby revived out of respect to his memory and military achievements.

By Order of the Secretary War

Douglas MacArthur
General
Chief of Staff



Purple Heart (obverse)



Purple Heart (reverse)

Army regulations specified the design of the medal as an enamel heart, purple in color and showing a relief profile of George Washington in Continental Army uniform within a quarter-inch bronze border. Above the enameled heart is Washington's family coat of arms between two sprays of leaves. On the reverse side, below the shield and leaves, is a raised bronze heart without enamel bearing the inscription "For Military Merit." The 1 11/16 inch medal is suspended by a purple cloth, 1 3/8 inches in length by 1 3/8 inches in width with 1/8-inch white edges.

Army regulations' eligibility criteria for the award included:

- Those in possession of a Meritorious Service Citation Certificate issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. (The Certificates had to be exchanged for the Purple Heart.)
- Those authorized by Army regulations to wear wound chevrons. (These men also had to apply for the new award.)

The newly reintroduced Purple Heart was not intended primarily as an award for those wounded in action -- the "wound chevron" worn by a soldier on his sleeve already fulfilled that purpose. Establishing the Meritorious Service Citation as a qualification for receiving the Purple Heart was very much in keeping with General Washington's original intent for the award.

However, authorizing the award in exchange for "wound chevrons" established the now familiar association of the award with injuries sustained in battle. This was reinforced by Army regulations, which stated that the award required a "singularly meritorious act of extraordinary fidelity service" and that "a wound which necessitates treatment by a medical officer and which is received in action with an enemy, may, in the judgment of the commander authorized to make the award, be construed as resulting from a singularly meritorious act of essential service."

Until Executive Order 9277 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in December 1942 authorized award of the Purple Heart to personnel from all of the military services (retroactive to December 7, 1941), the medal was exclusively an Army award. The Executive Order also stated that the Purple Heart was to be awarded to persons who "are wounded in action against an enemy of the United States, or as a result of an act of such enemy, provided such would necessitate treatment by a medical officer."

In November 1952, President Harry S. Truman issued an Executive Order extending eligibility for the award to April 5, 1917, to coincide with the eligibility dates for Army personnel.

President John F. Kennedy issued Executive Order 11016 in April 1962 that further extended eligibility to "any civilian national of the United States, who while serving under competent authority in any capacity with an armed force..., has been, or may hereafter be, wounded" and authorized posthumous award of the medal.

Executive Order 12464 signed by President Ronald Reagan in February 1984, authorized award of the Purple Heart as a result of terrorist attacks or while serving as part of a peacekeeping force subsequent to March 28, 1973. The 1998 National Defense Authorization Act removed civilians from the list of personnel eligible for the medal.

The Purple Heart is ranked immediately behind the bronze star and ahead of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal in order of precedence.

Possession of the Purple Heart medal does not by itself qualify veterans for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation. However, since November 1999, Purple Heart recipients have been placed in VA's enrollment priority group 3, unless eligible for the higher priority groups (1 or 2) based on service-connected disabilities. Recipients are also exempt from co-payments for VA hospital care and medical outpatient care, but not from pharmacy co-payments for medications prescribed for non-service connected conditions.



BRUCE MCKENTY
COMMANDER

RON SIEBELS
SR. VICE COMMANDER

PATRICK LITTLE
JR. VICE COMMANDER

JOHN P. LEONARD
ADJUTANT

FRANK VAN HOY
NATIONAL SERVICE
DIRECTOR

FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT

JOHN E. BIRCHER III
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIR.

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SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151
703-354-2140

publicrelations@purpleheart.org

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART FACT SHEET AUGUST, 2012

The National Headquarters of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is located in Springfield, Virginia. The Order now includes about 45,300 total members, organized into 6 geographical Regions, 50 State Departments, and 478 Chapters. The Order's annual operating budget is approximately \$9.7 million of which nearly \$6.4 million goes to support the Service Program. The majority of the funding is received from the MOPH Service Foundation through either restricted or unrestricted grants. The Service Foundation receives their money through various fundraising activities, such as thrift stores and a vehicle donation program. The Order has a number of national programs which are described below.

NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM

- The NSP operates a nation-wide network of 78 service offices in 43 states and 2 territories from Guam to Puerto Rico. Over 73,800 veterans and dependents receive expert assistance in obtaining well deserved benefits from the VA from MOPH's service staff comprised of 137 trained and accredited National Service Officers (NSO's), managers, and assistants. In addition to its paid staff, the Order has a dedicated corps of volunteer Department and Chapter Service Officers who also provide assistance to veterans
- In FY 2012, MOPH NSO's obtained over \$298 million in VA benefits for their clients, submitted over 26,500 claims to the VA, processed 272 appeals, appeared at 169 hearings, and made 1,340 outreach visits to Vet Centers, Hospitals, and MOPH chapters. These numbers do not reflect the contacts and visits made by MOPH volunteer Department and Chapter Service Officers.
- The MOPH Service Program also provides expert legal opinions and representation for veterans before the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). And only MOPH represents any veteran regardless of membership or affiliation. The MOPH does not accept government funds for any case brought to appeal.
- When not assisting veterans directly, MOPH National Service Officers are required to attend local VA training, successfully complete an on-the-job Training Program, and one week of annual training in order to maintain their accreditation.
- The MOPH is proud of its NSO designated veterans case management system (VCMS). Its web-based client database, automated VA forms, and reports provide for rapid client response and excellent case oversight.

VETERAN AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICES (VAVS)

- A centerpiece of MOPH funded activities is our superb VAVS program, assisting veterans in VA facilities and State Veteran operated Homes. The MOPH Service Foundation provides each Department with VAVS grants to provide clothing, personal hygiene items, etc. to veterans in need.
- The Order has volunteers serving our hospitalized veterans throughout the country who donate their time freely at VA facilities and State Veterans' Homes. In 2011, some 1,151 members of the Order logged in more than 126,000 hours at over 85 sites; the equivalent of more than 3150 full time VA employees (FTE), saving the VA over \$2,898,000 in salaries.
- MOPH has just completed awarding the fifth year of our youth volunteers' scholarships. These youth come from all walks of life and are very sincere in wanting to assist veterans. Working closely with our local Chapters and Patriots, they bring new ideas and boundless energy to our program.

AMERICANISM

- MOPH provides materials and volunteers to visit classrooms and civic organizations nationwide wherein our Members tell of their experiences in the US Armed Forces, providing historical perspective to world events.
- Employment opportunities for veterans is made through our Job Fairs. In conjunction with the VA, the Department of Labor, and the Small Business Administration, MOPH assisted in numerous Job Fairs in 2011 which led to the hiring of a number of OIF/OEF Veterans.
- In 2012, the MOPH Scholarship Program awarded 83 scholarships, valued at more than \$250,000. These grants went to recent Purple Heart recipients, their spouses, and to children and grandchildren of MOPH Members, including those who were Killed in Action (KIA).

LEGISLATIVE

- The Order maintains a constant presence on Capitol Hill voicing its position on numerous legislative issues concerning Veterans and the Military. The Order maintains membership in many Veterans' coalitions that represent 5.5 million active duty, reserve, retired, veterans and their families that help bring forth a united stance on important legislative issues that affect veterans and the defense of our nation.
- The Order is a member of the coalition of veteran organizations that led the successful effort to obtain legislation that provided advance funding for the VA Health Care System.

Wasilla: City with a (purple) heart By GREG JOHNSON Frontiersman.com

Posted on July 7, 2012

WASILLA — It's an exclusive club that boasts a reluctant membership. Most pray they never become eligible for entry, while those who do are proud for the honor.

They're Purple Heart Medal recipients.

Now those who have been wounded in combat defending freedom and the United States will know they're welcome in Wasilla.

That's the message city council and Mayor Verne Rupright sent recently when Wasilla became Alaska's first Purple Heart City, a designation certified by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, a national service organization charged by Congress in 1958 to recognize Purple Heart recipients and their families.

Locally, Ken Ross is the MOPH commander for Chapter 663. The Wasilla resident is a former U.S. Marine and said he's proud his city is the state's first to receive the designation.

"I'm glad the mayor did it. It's recognition for those who are combat wounded," Ross said. "I know what they're going through and I know what I'm going through."

Rupright said the city has already ordered road signs proclaiming Wasilla the "First Alaska Purple Heart City." As a veteran, Rupright said he knows many Purple Heart recipients. Being a Purple Heart City lets veterans know that in Wasilla they're remembered and appreciated.

"I'm behind this 100 percent," he said. "They picked Wasilla because we have so many veterans and we have the beautiful honor garden. I was honored to get behind it. It shows we recognize your time, your service and your sacrifice. We hold these things to be self-evident and dear to our hearts. ... We care. We give a damn. That (message) is huge to me and I think it's huge to most people."

For James Hastings, he said seeing that sign will be emotional. Retired military himself, Hastings is now the local director for Alaska's Healing Hearts. Those who have Purple Hearts need to be acknowledged for their sacrifices, he said.

“It’s the only club in the world that doesn’t have an invitation list,” he said of medal recipients. “This is one you’re forced into, and most people don’t want to be in it.”

Attending a rodeo in southern Alaska through Alaska’s Healing Hearts, Hastings said a curious little boy came up to him and asked, “How do you get a Purple Heart?”

The Purple Heart designation for municipalities is a growing trend. On the heels of Wasilla’s proclamation, the Mat-Su Borough last week became the first in the state to become a Purple Heart Borough, Mat-Su Borough Mayor Larry DeVilbiss said.

“The city of Wasilla took the lead on that, and I’ve got to thank Mr. Ross and Mayor Rupright for drawing it to our attention,” DeVilbiss said. “I’m always glad to honor the people who have given for our freedom. This borough is very patriotic. We’re very willing to sacrifice for our values. It would be a sad day if it went back to what our Vietnam vets had to endure (upon returning from the war).”

Wasilla apparently unleashed a wave of appreciation for Purple Heart recipients, Ross said. Along with the borough’s designation, the cities of Palmer and Houston also have similar proclamations on their agendas this month. The next step from there is a push for the Legislature to pass a bill proclaiming Alaska a Purple Heart State. Currently, only California has that designation.

For at least with one Valley lawmaker, that won’t be a hard sell. In a statement, Sen. Linda Menard says she’s pleased with the measures Wasilla and the borough have taken.

“I’m so proud that the city of Wasilla has become the first Purple Heart City in the state of Alaska, and that our Mat-Su Borough will be the first in our state to become a Purple Heart Borough,” she said. “It is only fitting and right to honor those distinguished men and women who have sacrificed for our country with this designation.”

Contact reporter Greg Johnson at greg.johnson@frontiersman.com or 352-2269.

February 8, 2013

Subject, HCR 2 Declaring Alaska as a Purple Heart State

I wish to address the Alaska legislature with the goal of having Alaska join other states to declare Alaska, the largest state in the nation, as a Purple Heart State.

California declared itself as a Purple Heart State on April 16, 2012

Ohio declared itself as a Purple Heart State on May 23, 2012

Kentucky declared itself as a Purple Heart state on June 28, 2012

Other states are taking action to join in this growing program as a means to thank and publicly acknowledge the harsh sacrifice that has been endured by those who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

Alaska has an admirable and proven record of honoring and caring for the many veterans who have served this great nation and have freely chosen to call Alaska home. There can be no doubt that Alaska has and will continue to benefit in numerous ways as a result of this segment of Alaskans.

The military affected the award of the Purple Heart Medal. When the wounded veteran leaves military service the memory of the incident that brought about the award lingers strong in the mind of the recipient. I submit that the public who benefited from that service owes ongoing gratitude for what that service member endured. The pain and terror of what occurred cannot be felt by those who were not there, but the ongoing honor can indeed have an appreciated impact on all Purple Heart recipients.

Our nation has numerous Purple Heart cities and many Purple Heart Counties, Alaska has some Purple Heart Cities and a Purple Heart Borough. The number of Purple Heart states will continue to grow nationally. Currently California is the largest Purple Heart State. Alaska can and should be the largest Purple Heart State. When Alaska legislative action to do so is complete Alaska will forever be the largest Purple Heart State.

It is for these and other reasons that I respectfully ask the Alaska legislative body to unanimously declare Alaska as a Purple Heart State.

Ron Siebels

**Ron Siebels; Anchorage, AK
MOPH, National Senior Vice Commander**

Testifiers (all Purple Heart Recipients)

Francis Boisseau – Fairbanks
456-4238 (between 8am-4pm)

Timothy Armstrong – Juneau
789-8452; 723-8533 (cell)

Johnny L. White – Anchorage
764-3523

Paul H. Beal – Ester
479-6553

Solomon Atkinson – Metlakatla
886-1175; 617-2894 (cell)

Henry Hunter Sr. – Bethel
543-2949; 543-7963

Kenneth Ross – Wasilla
841-8762