



July 12, 2021

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2021 JUL 15 | A 9:44

JENNIFER M. WEST
TOWN CLERK

Kevin M. Aguiar
President
Portsmouth Town Council
2200 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Mr. President,

The purpose of this letter is to congratulate the Town of Portsmouth, Rhode Island, for becoming the latest town in the state to declare itself as a "Purple Heart Town." This action helps to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Rhode Island's combat wounded veterans of foreign wars. With the "Purple Heart Town" designation, you will become one of the destinations along the planned Purple Heart Trail expansion that will run through Aquidneck Island over to Jamestown and connecting with the existing Rhode Island Purple Heart Trail in North Kingstown.

I will be reaching out to Post Commander Harry J. Church of VFW Post 5390 (Alvaro E. Viera Post), 822 Anthony Road, Portsmouth, RI 02871 to determine if they have the financial resources required to purchase an initial set of Purple Heart Town signs for placement at the entrances to the Town. Please let me know if there is a specific person in your Public Works or Transportation Department with whom we should coordinate the installation of these signs.

Just a reminder that Saturday, August 7, 2021 is National Purple Heart Day. It is a good day to recognize the combat wounded members of your community, including those members of the Rhode Island National Guard and Reserve Components that have served in combat zones overseas. It would also be appropriate to add the commemoration of this day to your town's list of annual events.

Please provide me with a digital copy of the final Purple Heart Town Proclamation for Portsmouth, RI.

Very respectfully,

Matthew B. McCoy
State Adjutant

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

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