Media Advisory

_Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs recognizes Purple Heart Day in Illinois_

**WHAT:** Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs (IDVA) will recognize Illinois Purple Heart Recipients during a ceremony in the Illinois State Capitol rotunda on August 7th.

The Illinois General Assembly has designated August 7th as Purple Heart Day in Illinois, set aside to honor and remember those in the military who have been wounded or killed in battle and honored with a Purple Heart.

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration still awarded to members of the United States military. It was established by General George Washington on August 7, 1782. Initially called the Badge of Military Merit, the Purple Heart is a decoration awarded to any member of the Armed Services who has been wounded or killed in action.

The night of August 7th the Capitol Grounds in Springfield will be lit in purple.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, August 7, 2017

**WHERE:** Illinois State Capitol Rotunda  
401 S. 2nd Street  
Springfield, Il

**TIME:** 12:00 Noon  
Open to the Public