



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Key West is the southernmost city in the State of Florida, honoring recipients of the Purple Heart, and has always supported our Military Veteran population; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in use today which evolved from the Badge of Military Merit, established by General George Washington for the common soldier in 1782; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces that have been wounded or killed in combat with a declared enemy of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, lest we forget as a Nation the sacrifices of our wounded, and in the eloquent words of President Abraham Lincoln, "they who gave the last full measure of devotion"; and

WHEREAS, the Military Order of the Purple Heart recognizes that the Purple Heart has come to stand as a symbol of dedication to service and selfless sacrifice without which the freedom and liberty we so cherish could not endure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Key West is the home for active duty service members, retirees, and honorably discharged Veterans and their families of all branches of the United States Military; and

WHEREAS, the City of Key West is host to numerous events supporting and recognizing our Nations wounded Combat Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the City of Key West has a large, highly decorated veteran population including an estimated fifty Purple Heart recipients; and

WHEREAS, the City of Key West appreciates and honors the sacrifices our Purple Heart recipients have made in defending our freedoms and believe it is important that we acknowledge them for their courage and show them the support they have earned.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim
August 5th, 2013 as

Purple Heart Recipients Day

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States" I would like to urge all citizens, residents and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly in the observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 6th day of August 2013.

Craig Cates, MAYOR