

Our Annual Purple Heart Banquet is an incredible way to pay tribute to any recipient of the Purple Heart.

A refreshingly patriotic event, anyone in the community is welcome to attend or volunteer at the dinner.

The award of the Purple Heart is the sole consideration and drive behind the formation and devotion of those associated with the Wake Forest Purple Heart Foundation, a group of focused volunteers, whose desire is to honor those who have been wounded in battle.

Guests and family receive a catered meal while enjoying a patriotic musical interlude. A guest speaker, usually a fellow recipient of the Purple Heart, pulls the evening together by sharing stories, insights and encouragement.

All costs incurred during this banquet are borne by individual and corporate donations and sponsorships.

*Join us today!*



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PO Box 168  
Wake Forest, NC 27588

[www.wakeforestpurpleheartfoundation.org](http://www.wakeforestpurpleheartfoundation.org)



*presents*

## Annual Purple Heart Banquet

*Honoring our  
Purple Heart Recipients  
from all Services  
and Conflicts*

The mission of the Wake Forest Purple Heart Foundation is to provide a forum for the community to honor Purple Heart recipients and their families, to foster an environment of goodwill among combat wounded Veterans, to promote patriotism and to encourage the sharing of recipient experiences so future generations will know of the sacrifices made by Veterans and their families.

Founded in 2009, the Wake Forest Purple Heart Foundation honors the men and women who fought in all U.S. military conflicts and were bestowed with the Purple Heart medal.

This banquet is held every year the week of National Purple Heart Day and is free for Purple Heart recipients and their families. The event is open to the public. All are encouraged to buy tickets, enjoy dinner, a speaker, and meet our heroes.

Initially, only 17 Veterans were identified and honored. Now, more than 100 Veterans who have served our country as members of the armed services and awarded the Purple Heart are invited each year.



Each banquet has its own special tributes and sense of honor; however, all banquets follow a similar agenda.

- **Pre-Banquet Reception.** This time of fellowship is reserved for the recipients to gather and take photos.
- **Walk of Honor.** Each recipient is introduced with their military branch, years of service and where their Purple Heart was received while being escorted to their seat.
- **Presentation of Colors** by JROTC Color Guard.
- **Keynote speaker.**
- **Patriotic Music.**
- **Great food!**

The intention of the banquet is to show honor and respect to our guests. They will not be asked to stand or speak, but just to relax and enjoy being in the presence of other Purple Heart recipients, family, friends and the community at-large.

## History of the Purple Heart

*“Let it be known that he who wears the military order of the Purple Heart has given of his blood in the defense of his homeland and shall forever be revered by his fellow countrymen.”*

— George Washington

Established in 1782 by General George Washington, the Purple Heart originally began as the Badge of Military Merit. Following the end of the Revolutionary War, the award was not issued again until after World War I.

In 1934 United States Army Chief of Staff Douglas MacArthur reestablished the Order of the Purple Heart. His recollection, as written in his autobiography *Reminiscences*, states “This

decoration is unique in several ways. First, it is the oldest in American history and antedates practically all of the famous military medals of the world. Second, it comes from the greatest of all Americans, George Washington, and thereby carries with it something of the reverence which haloes his great name. And third, it is the only decoration which is completely intrinsic in that it does not depend upon approval or favor by anyone. It is awarded to those who are wounded in battle, and enemy action alone determines its award. It is a true badge of courage and every breast that wears it can beat with pride.”

