

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore

325 Middle Country Road, Suite 3

Selden, NY 11784

Contact: Lauren Auerbach

Phone: 631-854-9292

E-mail: lauren.auerbach@suffolkcountyny.gov



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Legislator Muratore Recognizes Purple Heart Vets in Honor of Purple Heart Day in Suffolk County



Photo (left to right): Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore with Purple Heart recipients (left to right) Ron Pacchiana (U.S. Navy), John Adams (U.S. Army), and Richard Autorina (U.S. Army).

Selden, NY –On August 7, 2015, Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore (R-Ronkonkoma) recognized three Vietnam Veterans and Purple Heart recipients in honor of Purple Heart Day in Suffolk County. The veterans, Ron Pacchiana (U.S. Navy), John Adams (U.S. Army), and Richard Autorina (U.S. Army), were each presented with a proclamation to commemorate the occasion.

As per Resolution #412, sponsored by Legislator Muratore and adopted by the Suffolk County Legislature on May 13, 2014, "August 7th shall be designated as "Purple Heart Day" in Suffolk County." The Badge of Military Merit, the precursor to the Purple Heart was established on August 7, 1782 in Newburgh, by then Commander-in-Chief General George Washington.

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One hundred and fifty years later, General Douglas MacArthur's "General Order Number Three" created the modern day Purple Heart. On May 28, 1932, one hundred and thirty-eight World War I veterans were honored and conferred their Purple Hearts at Temple Hill, New Windsor, New York at the New Windsor Cantonment, the final encampment of the Continental Army. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor was opened on this same site on November 10, 2005, and continues the tradition of honoring our country's veterans who have earned the Purple Heart.

"Being that Suffolk County has one of the largest veteran populations in the United States, it seemed appropriate to designate a date to honor our local Purple Heart recipients," stated Legislator Muratore. "It is a pleasure to recognize and thank these brave men who have earned the Purple Heart while defending our nation."