



## MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

### TEXAS CAPITAL CHAPTER 1919

5114 Balcones Woods Drive, Suite 307 #175  
Austin, Texas 78759-5212

July 13, 2018

Honorable Judge Gattis,

My name is Jim Bracken and I am the elected Commander for the Military Order of Purple Heart (MOPH), Texas Capital Chapter 1919 (Greater Austin Area).

In November, Chapter 1919 will support the Field of Honor project. Several Williamson County residents have proposed that we work with you and the Commissioners to officially designate our great county as a "Purple Heart County". You may recall that MOPH Chapter 1919 worked with Georgetown leaders to designate Georgetown as a "Purple Heart City" a few years ago.

During the Field of Honor week in November, our Purple Heart Chapter would like to host and coordinate a special ceremony where County and State officials can participate in the Purple Heart County designation for Williamson County. It will be an excellent opportunity for residents of our great county to recognize and thank veterans for their service.

There is no cost associated with the designation, and I will work closely with our National HQ in Virginia to officially document and approve the designation. The attached document is a **sample** proclamation that would be read during the November ceremony at Field of Honor.

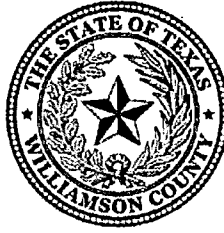
I have spoken with CVSO Donna Harrell and Dr. Jeanne McClellan about this proposal and they fully support. Donna will coordinate an opportunity for us to present this to the full Commissioners' Court for approval.

The Purple Heart Medal is awarded in the name of the President to any member of the Armed Forces who has been wounded or killed during combat operations. The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among combat wounded veterans, promote patriotism and Americanism in our communities, support necessary legislative initiatives, and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families.

This county designation would express the County's support to veterans in Williamson County, and represents appreciation to combat wounded veterans from our nation's wars. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Yours Respectfully and In Patriotism,

Jim Bracken  
LtCol, USMC (Ret)  
Commander, MOPH Chapter 1919  
Website: <http://www.purpleheartaustin.org>  
760-814-3593  
[brackenusmc@yahoo.com](mailto:brackenusmc@yahoo.com)



## **Williamson County Commissioners Court Williamson County, Texas**

**WHEREAS**, the people of the Williamson County, Texas have great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served their country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in present use and was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by George Washington in 1782; and

**WHEREAS**, the Purple Heart was the first American service award or decoration made available to the common soldier and is specifically awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces who have been wounded or paid the ultimate sacrifice in combat with a declared enemy of the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women from the Williamson County, Texas, who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, many men and women in uniform have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 10, 2018 has officially been designated as the day in Williamson County, Texas to remember and recognize veterans who are recipients of the Purple Heart Medal.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dan Gattis, County Judge of Williamson County, join with the Williamson County Commissioners, to hereby proclaim Williamson County, Texas a

### **PURPLE HEART COUNTY**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands to this Proclamation  
9th day of November 2018.

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**DAN GATTIS**  
**WILLIAMSON COUNTY JUDGE**

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**TERRY COOK**  
**COMMISSIONER PCT 1**

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**CYNTHIA LONG**  
**COMMISSIONER PCT 2**

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**VALERIE COVEY**  
**COMMISSIONER PCT 3**

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**LARRY MADSEN**  
**COMMISSIONER PCT 4**