



NEWS FROM... **CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC ULRICH**

****Press Release****

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City Council Declares NYC a Purple Heart City

New York, NY — City Council Member Eric A. Ulrich (R-Queens), Chairman of the Council Veterans Committee, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and Veterans Committee Members Paul Vallone (D-Queens), Fernando Cabrera (D-Bronx), Alan Maisel (D-Brooklyn) and Andrew Cohen (D-Bronx), joined at today's City Council Stated Meeting to honor the veterans service organization (VSO) - The Military Order of the Purple Heart.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart was formed in 1932 for the protection and mutual interest of all who have received the Purple Heart Medal. Close to 300 veterans citywide belong to the organization, which has chapters in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Staten Island.

The Purple Heart Medal was established in 1782 by General George Washington at his headquarters in Newburg, New York. The medal is awarded in the name of the President to those wounded or killed while serving with the United States Armed Forces.

The commemoration comes before Washington's 283rd birthday on February 22nd, 2015. The proclamation honors The Military Order of the Purple Heart for their work serving veterans and their families, and officially declares New York City a "Purple Heart City."

The Council was joined by nine representatives from the VSO, including Ruben Pratts, Past New York Department Commander; David Hall, Past New York Department Commander; Paul Morales, Senior Vice Commander – Chapter #405; Hector Leon, Junior Vice Commander – Chapter #405; Rafael Vardejo, Judge Advocate – Chapter #3; Ferdinand Ressay, Americanism Officer – Chapter #3; Bernard Robinson, Senior Vice Commander – Chapter #3; and Richard Bertoli, Member – Chapter #3.

“Thousands of veterans citywide have served our country and sacrificed so much on our behalf, and today’s declaration is in their honor,” **said Councilman Eric Ulrich.** “I also want to commend the men and woman of The Military Order of the Purple Heart for their local charitable work and mission protecting all those who’ve received the commendation.”

“I am proud to stand together with my colleagues as we designate our City as a Purple Heart City to honor the brave men and women who have made great sacrifices for our behalf,” **said Council Member Paul Vallone.** “May we all look to The Military Order of the Purple Heart as a shining example of the work that can and needs to be done to support our veterans and repay them for all they have done for us.”

“As a member of the Veterans Committee I am incredibly proud to join my colleagues in the City Council to honor The Military Order of the Purple Heart. Declaring New York City a Purple Heart City is a unique way to recognize this organization and the invaluable work they do with veterans and their families. The Purple Heart is a prestigious honor that our country awards those who have made the highest sacrifice, the City of New York owes a special debt to these fine men and women and we can bestow our gratitude through this dedication,” **said Councilman Andrew Cohen.**

“Today not only honors The Military Order of the Purple Heart, but thousands of New Yorkers across the city who sacrificed to defend their nation,” **said Ruben Pratts, Former Past NY Department Commander – Military Order of the Purple Heart.** “I want to thank Councilman Ulrich, Speaker Mark-Viverito, and the rest of the Veterans Committee for their work on this important issue and for declaring NYC a “Purple Heart City.”

