



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

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CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
CITY CLERK
2015 MAR -4 AM 8:22

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: City Councilman Mike Gallagher

COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Edward Benavides, Chief of Staff; Christopher Callanen, Assistant to the City Council; Martha G. Sepeda, Acting City Attorney; John Peterek, Senior Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Proclamation declaring San Antonio a "Purple Heart City"

DATE: March 3, 2015

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

I respectfully ask for your concurrence in supporting a City Proclamation that declares San Antonio a "Purple Heart City".

Brief Background

San Antonio is known as "Military City USA", and I ask for your support in proclaiming San Antonio as a "Purple Heart City."

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces of the U.S. who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart was formed in 1932 and later chartered by Congress in 1958. The organization is composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat. Although their membership is restricted to the combat wounded, the Military Order of the Purple Heart support all veterans and their families with a number of nation-wide programs by Chapters and National Service Officers.

San Antonio is home to the largest chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in the Nation. The Alamo Chapter 1836 has 750 members. The next closest Chapter in size to the Alamo Chapter is in Austin which has 565 members. San Antonio also has the largest population of veterans and active duty personnel of any city in Texas and is second only to San Diego, California nationally. The Alamo Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart has asked that the City of San Antonio to formally pass a proclamation to recognize the city as a "Purple Heart City." The letter from Commander Gilbert Brown is attached for review.

San Antonio is also home of the San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) at Joint Base San Antonio - Fort Sam Houston, one of the largest medical treatment facilities in the Nation. Many of the veterans awarded a Purple Heart come to San Antonio because of

wounds received in combat and are treated at SAMMC. Once in San Antonio, many veterans chose to retire and live in the San Antonio area.

Given all of these facts, I strongly ask for your support in officially proclaiming the City of San Antonio a "Purple Heart City" to help honor those brave members and their families how have given so much to protect our country.

Submitted for Council consideration
by:



Councilman Mike Gallagher, District 10

Supporting Councilmember's Signatures (4 only)

District No.

1.		6
2.		7
3.		4
4.		3

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Military Order of The Purple Heart
Department of Texas
1221 Quaker Lane
Lewisville, TX 75077

Gilbert Brown
Commander
(214)605-7044
Purpleheartgrunt@gmail.com

February 26, 2015

Honorable Ivy Taylor
Mayor of San Antonio
City Hall
100 Military Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Dear Mayor Taylor,

Recently the Department of Texas Adjutant and a member of Alamo Chapter 1836, Bill Crumlett, contacted City Councilman Mike Gallagher about the possibility of San Antonio proclaiming itself as a "Purple Heart City." Mr. Gallagher indicated he would be pleased to bring this request to your attention and that of the rest of the Council. It gives me great pleasure to invite San Antonio to issue such a proclamation. With its rich history and its steadfast support of the military and veterans, I can think of no other Texas city more deserving of the title of "Purple Heart City." With a current membership of 765, San Antonio is home to the largest chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in the Nation and the State of Texas has the largest number of members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of any state. The Purple Heart is the oldest award given by the United States military services. It is only awarded to members of the armed forces who are wounded or killed by an armed enemy of the United States. The forerunner of the Purple Heart, the Badge of Military Merit, was first awarded by General George Washington on August 7, 1782. You are joining a distinguished group of cities, counties and universities in the State and across the Country that have chosen to provide this honor.

Please contact me or the Department Adjutant, Bill Crumlett, (210) 326-2231, bcrumlett@satx.rr.com, if we can be of assistance. If you have a dedication ceremony we would like to be informed so that we could plan on attending. We would also like a copy of the formal proclamation for our records.

My Best Personal Regards,

Gilbert Brown, Commander

cc: Mike Gallagher, San Antonio City Councilman, District 10
Harry Preston, Commander, Alamo Chapter 1836, MOPH
Bill Crumlett, Adjutant, Department of Texas, MOPH

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