

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: Wed., Sept. 19, 2007

Division: BOCC

Bulk Item: Yes  No

Department: Mayor Di Gennaro, District 4

Staff Contact Person: Tamara Lundstrom  
(305 289-6000)

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**AGENDA ITEM WORDING:** Approval of Resolution in support of establishing all of the U.S. Highway 27 in Florida recognized as "The Purple Heart Highway".

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**ITEM BACKGROUND:** The Commander of Post #601, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Highlands County is working at the state level to have U.S. Highway 27 dedicated as the Purple Heart Highway honoring all men and women who have served our country.

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**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:**

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**CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:**

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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**TOTAL COST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BUDGETED:** Yes  No

**COST TO COUNTY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REVENUE PRODUCING:** Yes  No  **AMOUNT PER MONTH** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED BY:** County Atty  OMB/Purchasing \_\_\_\_\_ Risk Management \_\_\_\_\_

**DOCUMENTATION:** Included  Not Required \_\_\_\_\_

**DISPOSITION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_ - 2007**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN SUPPORT OF DEDICATING THAT PORTION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 27 IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA AS "*THE PURPLE HEART HIGHWAY*".**

**WHEREAS**, General George Washington established the Purple Heart Medal on August 7, 1782 to honor military personnel wounded in combat; and

**WHEREAS**, since then approximately 1,635,000 Purple Heart medals have been awarded to our military personnel; and it is believed that there are an estimated 500,000 living veterans who are Purple Heart recipients; and

**WHEREAS**, the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners appreciates the members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart, and further recognizes that many have made the ultimate sacrifice to keep our country free; and

**WHEREAS**, the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA is coordinating a state and national effort to establish "*The National Purple Heart Trail*" consisting of major interstate highways and roadways leading to patriotic sites; and

**WHEREAS**, our local community, our state, and our nation owe a deep debt of gratitude to those members of our Armed Forces who have been wounded in combat and honored with the Purple Heart medal;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners, Monroe County, Florida, that the Board:

1. Recommends and supports the dedication of that portion of U.S. Highway 27 in the State of Florida as "*The Purple Heart Highway*"; and
2. Requests the Florida Department of Transportation place and maintain appropriate markers so designating said highway.
3. Directs the Clerk of the Court to forward a copy of this Resolution to Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos, Florida Department of Transportation; the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Highlands County Chapter 601 and Florida Chapter Commander James G. Holland, Tallahassee, Florida; and Representative Ron Saunders, Senator Larcenia J. Bullard and Governor Charlie Crist.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a meeting of said Board held on the 19th day of September, A.D., 2007.

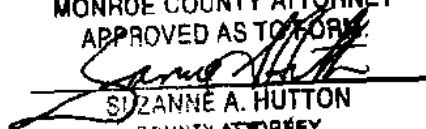
Mayor Mario DiGennaro \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Pro Tem Dixie M. Spehar \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Charles "Sonny" McCoy \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Sylvia Murphy \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner George Neugent \_\_\_\_\_

(SEAL)  
Attest: **DANNY L. KOLHAGE, Clerk**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Chairman

MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY  
APPROVED AS TO FORM  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SUZANNE A. HUTTON  
COUNTY ATTORNEY  
Date 9/15/07

JUL - 9 2007

**MILITARY ORDER of the PURPLE HEART  
Highlands Chapter 601**



**Ferdinand Arbelo  
Commander  
344 Lime Rd NW  
Lake Placid, FL 33852  
(863) 465-7074**

**Harry E. Marsh  
Sr. Vice Commander  
1550 Farm Road  
Sebring, FL 33876  
(863) 655-1982**



Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to you specifically because this matter needs the attention of your office. The Military Order of the Purple Heart is working on a state level to have U.S. Highway 27 dedicated as the Purple Heart Highway honoring all Men and Women who have served our Country. Now is the time to show our support and gratitude.

**WHY THE PURPLE HEART:** General George Washington instituted the Purple Heart as a badge of merit during the Revolutionary War. The original badge was a purple cloth sewn on the uniform. After World War One, The Purple Heart was created as a medal for the soldiers who were wounded or died in combat. In 1958 Congress authorized the Charter for the now Military Order of the Purple Heart. Our goal as an organization is to recognize and remember the Americans who laid down their life for the Freedom we have today. The Purple Heart is awarded in every branch of our Military Service.

**Our Mission:** We believe our fellow Service Men and Women today are making a great sacrifice to protect our way of life. We must honor them and hold their sacrifice for all to see. Our children must understand the history of our country and our way of life, "**FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.**"

My name is Fred Arbelo; I am the Commander of Post #601, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Highlands County, Florida. Attached is a copy of the Resolution and Proclamation we started. There are seventeen Counties in which U.S. Highway 27 pass through. It is our goal to present this proclamation in the Florida House of Representatives. Working with Representative Denise Grimsley in 2006, our portion of U.S. 27 in Highlands County was rededicated. We are also aware that portions of U.S. 27 share other Dedications. Our goal is to first, have all of U.S. 27 in Florida recognized as the Purple Heart Highway. Second, our National Chapter will undertake the additional states, taking U.S. Highway 27 from Miami, Florida to the Michigan/Canadian border. We want Florida to be the first state to proclaim this proclamation. We need your assistance to make this happen. Please feel free to contact me regarding this matter. My telephone number is (863) 465-7074

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ferdinand Arbelo".

Ferdinand Arbelo



Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Chartered by Congress  
Department of Florida



James G. Holland III  
Commander  
2985 Giverny Circle  
Tallahassee, FL 32309

June 5, 2007

Dear Sir or Madam:

The purpose of this letter is to lend my whole hearted support to the Patriots of Highlands Chapter 601, Military Order of the Purple Heart in their efforts to have Highway 27 designated as a Purple Heart Highway. Seventy-five years ago the Military Order of the Purple Heart was chartered by Congress to protect the integrity of the medal and to look after the interest of those awarded the medal and their families.

The Purple Heart is the oldest medal in current use in the world. It was originated by General George Washington 225 years ago as the Badge of Military Merit. In 1932 the award was reinstated as the Purple Heart Medal and was to be awarded to soldiers who distinguished themselves by particularly meritorious action or who were wounded in battle. On December 7, 1942 the reason for the award of the medal was changed to include only those wounded in action or the next of kin of those killed in action. Since 1932 over 1.6 million Americans have been awarded the Purple Heart. As you know our young men and women and their next of kin are being awarded this medal as the result of conflicts this great nation is involved in today.

It is fitting that this nation remember its citizens who have died or been wounded in service to their country. To have Highway 27 designated and marked as a "Purple Heart Highway" is a great way of honoring these men and women. Please give your support to the designation of the portions of Highway 27 within your jurisdiction as a Purple Heart Highway in honor of those who have given so much for this country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. G. Holland III", written over a large, stylized flourish.

James G. Holland III

# Highlands County Board Of County Commissioners Proclamation

JUL - 9 2007

By **C. Guy Maxcy, Chairperson, Highlands County Board of County Commissioners**

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A Proclamation of the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners in support of naming  
U.S. Highway 27 from the State of Florida through the State of Michigan the *Purple Heart Highway*

Whereas, General George Washington established the Purple Heart Medal on August 7, 1782 to honor military personnel wounded in combat; and

Whereas, approximately 1,750,000 Purple Heart medals have been awarded to our military personnel; and it is believed there are an estimated 500,000 living veterans who are Purple Heart recipients; and

Whereas, many of the Purple Heart recipients demonstrated courageous actions that are above and beyond the call of duty in combat against an armed enemy, our local community, our county, our state, and our nation owe a deep debt of gratitude to those members of the Armed Forces who have been wounded in combat and honored with the Purple Heart Medal; and

Whereas, the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners appreciates the members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart, and further recognizes that many have made the ultimate sacrifice as defenders of America's freedoms; and

Whereas, the members of the Highlands County Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart have been diligent in insuring that the brave recipients of the Purple Heart have not been forgotten, by conducting memorial ceremonies, by bringing about the naming of memorials and buildings for Purple Heart recipients, and by volunteering to show patriotism and teach the meaning of freedom in the Highlands County Schools; and

Whereas, the members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA is coordinating a national effort to establish the Purple Heart Highway by renaming U. S. Highway 27 from its beginning point in South Florida to its ending point in North Michigan; and

Whereas, the local chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart has diligently sought and received the confirmation and support of all the Florida Chapters of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, in naming Florida's sections of U.S. Highway 27, *Purple Heart Highway*, as well as the confirmation and support from all of the state chapters in which U.S. Highway 27 passes, from South Florida through Michigan, for the naming of those sections of the highway to be known as *The Purple Heart Highway*; and

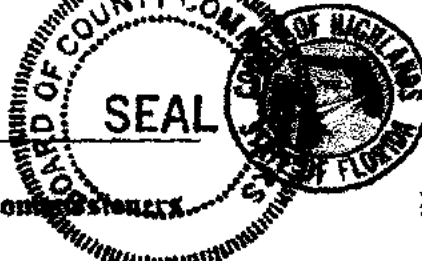
Whereas, U.S. Highway 27 in Highlands County was named *The Purple Heart Highway* in Resolution 05-131, passed and adopted by the members of Highlands County Board of County Commissioners, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2005; and

Now, therefore, it is hereby proclaimed by this governing body, the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners, the section of U.S. Highway 27 that runs through Highlands County, will continue to be known as *The Purple Heart Highway*, and the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners will continue to support the efforts of the Military Order of the Purple heart in achieving their national goal of naming the entire U.S. Highway 27. *Purple Heart Highway*.

We further proclaim that a copy of this Proclamation, with the Seal of the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners affixed, shall be presented to the Florida Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart as tangible token of the sentiments of this commission.

Attest:

C. Guy Maxcy  
C. Guy Maxcy, Chairperson  
Highlands County Board of County Commissioners



Dated: May 15 2007

RESOLUTION 05-131

A Resolution of the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners in support of establishing a portion of US Highway 27 in Highlands County as a part of the National Purple Heart Trail, and naming that portion of US Highway 27 a Purple Heart Highway.

WHEREAS, General George Washington established the Purple Heart Medal on August 7, 1782 to honor military personnel wounded in combat; and

WHEREAS, since then approximately 1,635,000 Purple Heart medals have been awarded to our military personnel; and it is believed that there are an estimated 500,000 living veterans who are Purple Heart recipients; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners appreciates the members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart, and further recognizes that many have made the ultimate sacrifice to keep our country free; and

WHEREAS, the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA is coordinating a national effort to establish the Purple Heart Trail consisting of major interstate highways and roadways leading to patriotic sites; and

WHEREAS, our local community, our state, and our nation owe a deep debt of gratitude to those members of our Armed Forces who have been wounded in combat and honored with the Purple Heart Medal,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners, Highlands County, Florida, that the board recommends and supports the establishing of that part of US Highway 27 lying in Highlands County as a part of the National Purple Heart Trail, and naming that portion of US Highway 27 a Purple Heart Highway; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners, Highlands County, Florida, that the board requests that the Florida Department of Transportation place and maintain appropriate markers so designating said highway.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the members of the Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County Florida, in regular session, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2005.

ATTEST:

  
L.E. Luke Brooker, Clerk



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
Andrew B. Jackson, Chair



CERTIFIED  
TO BE A TRUE COPY  
L.E. "LUKE" BROOKER, CLERK