Session of 2025

SENATE BILL No. 200

By Senators Alley, Argabright, Billinger, Blasi, Blew, Bowers, Bowser, Joseph Claeys, Clifford, Corson, Dietrich, Erickson, Fagg, Faust Goudeau, Francisco, Gossage, Haley, Holscher, Klemp, Kloos, Masterson, Murphy, Owens, Peck, Petersen, Pettey, Rose, Ryckman, Schmidt, Shallenburger, Shane, Starnes, Sykes, Thomas, Thompson, Titus, Tyson, Ware and Warren

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AN ACT concerning purple heart awards; designating Kansas as a purple heart state; requiring the governor to declare August 7 of each year as a purple heart day.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) The state of Kansas is hereby designated as a purple heart state in recognition of the many citizens of the state who have earned the purple heart medal as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force.

(b) Each year, the governor shall issue a proclamation recognizing the purple heart day, to be observed on August 7 of each year, following the tradition established by George Washington in 1782 and revived in 1932 that distinguishes the purple heart as a decoration of honor awarded to members of the armed forces and United States citizens who were honorably wounded in action. The award has been limited to members of the military since 1997 by congressional action.

(c) The executive director of the office of veterans services shall promote the observance of purple heart day with appropriate activities and direct each local chapter of all veterans' organizations to plan special activities and events to honor the purple heart recipients in each chapter.

(d) All residents of this state are enjoined to devote some portion of purple heart day to recognizing and commemorating the recipients of the purple heart who have demonstrated a commitment to fighting for the ideals that have made this nation great, have served this nation so valiantly and are role models for all to emulate.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.