



## TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH

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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Hillsborough Township First Purple Heart Community in Somerset County - Second in the State of New Jersey *First Municipality in Somerset County***

Hillsborough Township was designated as the first Purple Heart Community in Somerset County at the Annual Purple Heart Commemoration Ceremony last Thursday at the Garden of Honor. Honored guests included members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 27, Senator Kip Bateman, Assemblywoman Donna Simon, Freeholder Bob Zaborowski, Mayor Doug Tomson, Deputy Mayor Greg Burchette, Committeeman Frank DelCore and Committeewoman Gloria McCauley.

"This evening in Hillsborough, we are honored to be the first municipality in Somerset County to be designated as a Purple Heart Community," commented Mayor Doug Tomson at last Thursday's Dedication Ceremony. He continued, "This is a way to further honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's brave men and women in uniform, who have been wounded or killed by the enemy, while serving to protect the freedom of America."

Senator Kip Bateman and Assemblywoman Donna Simon presented a Joint Legislative Resolution honoring Hillsborough Township as a Purple Heart Community, recognizing the sacrifices of the service men and women of the United States.

The Patriot Members Chapter 27 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart also presented the Township with a plaque of special recognition for the Township's dedication and support in honoring America's Combat Wounded Veterans by becoming a Purple Heart Community.

The designation was further memorialized with the reading of a proclamation by Mayor Doug Tomson at Tuesday's Township Committee Meeting. The proclamation was

presented to the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 27 Commander Ted Dima, who has been instrumental in coordinating the Township the efforts for the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

“It is my honor to read this proclamation designating Hillsborough Township as a Purple Heart Community,” stated Mayor Doug Tomson before the proclamation presentation.

The Purple Heart Community designation allows the town to further honor those members of the military who were injured in combat. The program is run by the National Veterans Group known as the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

The Purple Heart, the most recognized medal of the armed forces, is awarded to those serving in the armed forces that are injured or killed while serving in combat. It was originally introduced by George Washington as the Badge of Military Merit in 1782. It is the oldest military award given to U.S. military members.

At the first Purple Heart Ceremony held in Hillsborough back in 2012, a Purple Heart Monument was dedicated to the Township that resides at the Garden of Honor by Chapter 27 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

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