

“A Prayer for Purple Heart Day”

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WWII Memorial, Byfield, Massachusetts

A purple medal – a badge of honor
A badge of military merit
For wounds received and lives lost
Given to those who gave of themselves,
so others could be saved.

A purple medal – a sword and a shield
Deflecting the bullet or the bomb
Diverting the hurt meant for another
Bravery without thinking first of themselves

A purple medal worn over the heart
A medal that is a shield
Either keeping our memories from coming
out
Or blocking those memories from getting
inside.

A purple medal – is it enough, by itself, to
reward the hero?
Not by itself – it takes comrades,
government, citizens, all
To speak in one voice – to speak the words
loud and clear:
Thank you, brave soldier.

A purple medal –
let’s take a moment to think about the cost
Of earning the purple medal that hangs over
the heart:

If your tradition is to pray, say a prayer for
those who earned the Purple Heart.
If your tradition is to respond by doing
something– reach out to a veteran or their
families and let them know you care.
If your tradition is to simply say thank you,
then give thanks.

In the silence, let us each reflect on the
meaning of this purple medal to us.

(Silence)

To the millions of veterans who have earned
the Purple Heart, we say thank you.

To the millions of family members who live
with the injured or with the memory of
loved ones lost, we say thank you for your
sacrifice.

To the millions of personnel yet to be added
to their numbers, we say thank you.

May all these veterans be thanked for their
courage, fearlessness and commitment to
those with whom they served.

And many blessings be upon recipients of
the Purple Heart.

Amen.

