

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 20, 2023

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**MURFREESBORO PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT RICHARD “ANDREW” FARRER HONORED
DURING NATIONAL TRIBUTE EVENT**

*Local Marine Corps Veteran Represented Tennessee’s Purple Heart Recipients
During the 2023 Purple Heart Patriot Project*

(NEWBURGH, NY) – A local Purple Heart recipient was recently honored as one of the nation’s 2023 Purple Heart Patriot Project honorees. U.S. Marine Corps Corporal (Cpl) Richard “Andrew” Farrer represented his fellow Purple Heart heroes as Rhode Island’s representative at the multi-day tribute to the courage and sacrifice of America’s combat wounded. The Purple Heart Patriot Project is a program of the [National Purple Heart Honor Mission](#). The all-expenses-paid trip included visits to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, historic Washington’s Headquarters, a special tour of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor and other unique tributes.

“Andrew and his fellow Patriot Project honorees represent the best of the best our country has to offer,” said Richie Lay, a Purple Heart recipient and Chairman of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission. “America’s Purple Heart veterans have given so much to defend freedom and that sacrifice must always be remembered. These brave men and women are true American heroes. We were privileged to be able to provide this unique salute to service for our Purple Heart heroes.”

“Our Purple Heart recipients have made enormous sacrifices for America, and this was our opportunity to say ‘thank you’ on behalf of a grateful nation. For some, it was the homecoming they never had. We received hundreds of nominations from across the country and we were pleased to honor Andrew for his courage and service, both during combat operations and in the years since returning home,” said Col. Russ Vernon (NYARNG Ret.), the Executive Director for the National Purple Heart Honor Mission.

This year’s Patriot Project honorees included men and women Purple Heart recipients from World War II, the Vietnam War, Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and other conflicts, representing all branches of the service and ranging from 37 to 100-years-old. The event took place between September 18 – 22 in New York.

Asked what he would want others to know about his service, Cpl Farrer said, “I am honored and humbled to have been able to serve my country.”

Farrer enlisted into the U.S. Marine Corps, serving for nearly four years as a member of the 2nd Marine Division, including a tour in Ramadi during Operation Iraqi Freedom. On July 27, 2006, while on patrol near Ramadi, Farrer and three other Marines were hit with shrapnel. Along with the Purple Heart, Cpl Farrer was awarded numerous medals and commendations during his service, including the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon (Iraq) and more.

Married, since leaving the service, Farrer has been extremely active and involved in numerous veterans’ organizations and causes. He is a veteran advocate and a chaplain for his VFW chapter.

Video from the capstone “Welcome Home” rally can be found here: <https://fb.watch/ngz4A4evzK/>.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is located just north of West Point, New York, near the site where General George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit in 1782 during the Revolutionary War. The Badge, a purple cloth cut in the shape of a heart, was the forerunner of today's Purple Heart medal. In addition to creation of the museum, the National Purple Heart Honor Mission was instrumental in the creation of the Purple Heart Forever stamp now issued by the US Postal Service, and the organization was the driving force behind the nation's first official Purple Heart Commemorative Coin series, which was issued by the United States Mint in 2022.

Those wishing to learn more about the National Purple Heart Honor Mission or donate to support the Purple Heart Patriot Project should visit www.PurpleHeartMission.org.

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HONOR MISSION

The National Purple Heart Honor Mission is an approved 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which supports a variety of programs to promote the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, pay tribute to our Purple Heart recipients, and educate all Americans about our combat-wounded veterans to ensure those who sacrificed for freedom are never forgotten. Learn more and support their efforts at www.PurpleHeartMission.org.