



PRESS RELEASE 7-30-2020

Veteran Service Officer Bob Upton has announced that on Friday August 7, 2020 the Town of Belmont will formally observe National Purple Heart Day.

The 2020 National Purple Heart Day Observance and Recognition Ceremony will be conducted at the new Belmont Veterans Memorial at Clay Pit Pond (Concord Avenue & Underwood St. beginning at 10:00 am on Friday August 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. The featured Guest Speaker for the event will be Belmont resident USMC Colonel Michael J. Callanan who served as an Operations Officer in Iraq as well as USMC Battalion Commander in Afghanistan where he led a 1000 person team engaged in highly complex removal of life threatening devices across complex geography.

The **Purple Heart** is awarded to members of the armed forces of the U.S. who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.

Chartered by Congress in 1958, The Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat. Although membership is restricted to the combat wounded, the organization supports all veterans and their families with a myriad of nation-wide programs by Chapters and National Service Officers.

The Veteran Service Office is reaching out to all Purple Heart recipients and / or their family members to attend this event. The public is invited to attend this event and to join with us in honoring and showing our appreciation to our Purple Heart recipients on this important occasion.

For more information please contact VSO Bob Upton at 617-993-2725 or by email to [raption@belmont-ma.gov](mailto:raption@belmont-ma.gov)