



**WHEREAS**, the order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit is a uniquely American decoration - the oldest military honor in the world in present use and the first award made available to a common soldier; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 7, 1782, General George Washington devised the Badge of Military Merit in the figure of a heart in purple cloth and wrote that it was to be awarded "whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed"; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 22, 1932, the United States War Department designated this honor as the Purple Heart; and

**WHEREAS**, the Order of the Purple Heart is a combat decoration awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States 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; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of Missouri have a long and distinguished tradition of service to the nation in times of war; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri is home to countless veterans and active duty military personnel who have been decorated by presentation of the Purple Heart Medal; and

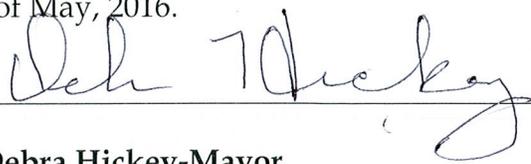
**WHEREAS**, the blessings of freedom and democracy we enjoy today are the direct result of the courage and sacrifice of generations of such Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, this year marks the 234th anniversary of the establishment of the Purple Heart by General George Washington and the City of Battlefield is proud to honor the recipients of this exceptional honor;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Debra Hickey, Mayor of the City of Battlefield, MO, do hereby dedicate these parking spaces for the exclusive use of our Combat Wounded Veterans.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Battlefield, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2016.



  
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**Debra Hickey-Mayor**