



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Instructional Leaders

FROM: Matthew Ferguson, Ed.D. Esq.
Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer
Division of College, Career and Military Readiness

DATE: November 13, 2024

RE: Purple Heart Agency Designation and Medal of Honor Curriculum Resources

In recognition of the sacrifices made by the brave men and women of our armed forces this Veterans' Day, Superintendent Weaver is honored to designate the South Carolina Department of Education a Purple Heart Agency. This designation pays tribute to Purple Heart recipients who have been wounded or killed in combat while defending our nation's freedoms. Established originally as the Badge of Military Merit by President George Washington in 1782, the Purple Heart Medal embodies courage, sacrifice, and patriotism. The full proclamation may be found [here](#).

As a Purple Heart Agency, the Department of Education:

- **Honors and supports veterans**, particularly those who have earned the Purple Heart.
- **Encourages all educational institutions in South Carolina** to engage in activities that raise awareness of the sacrifices made to preserve our freedoms.
- **Promotes an environment of respect, gratitude, and understanding** toward our veterans.

Medal of Honor Character Development Program

We are also excited to introduce a free resource for all South Carolina schools—the Medal of Honor Character Development Program. South Carolina has an incredible partnership with the Congressional Medal of Honor Museum, which is housed aboard the USS Yorktown in Mount Pleasant. The Museum honors the values and virtues exemplified by those who wear the medal – bravery, courage, sacrifice, and integrity. These are South Carolina values we want every student to emulate, and this resource will help us provide high-quality, teacher-friendly, and cross-curricular lessons suitable for integration into any grade level.

Program Highlights:

- **Flexible for all education levels:** Suitable for elementary and secondary students.
- **Versatile use:** Can support character development, classroom management, and positive school culture.
- **Inspiring stories:** Features real-life accounts of military and civilian heroes who embody the values of the Medal of Honor.

Program Includes:

- **Cross-curricular lessons** blending character education with academics.
- **Free materials** such as activities, worksheets, Medal of Honor citations, and access to live and archived webinars.
- **Living history resources** to provide students with real-world examples of service and sacrifice.

Next Steps

We encourage all schools to explore and integrate these resources to foster a culture of respect and patriotism. Supporting the Purple Heart Agency designation and implementing the Medal of Honor Character Development Program can help students understand and appreciate the sacrifices made by veterans.

For free access to the Medal of Honor program resources and training, please visit:
<https://www.cmohs.org/lessons/overview>.

Thank you for helping us honor veterans and instill the values of service, courage, and integrity in the next generation.