



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center

4100 West Third Street

Dayton, Ohio 45428

News Release

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## **DAYTON VA TO HONOR PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS**

The Dayton VA Medical Center will dedicate a Purple Heart recipient parking spot in a ceremony at 2 p.m., Nov. 10 in the facility's parking lot.

The Purple Heart parking space was a suggestion from Jerri Mechenbier, the wife of General Edward J. Mechenbier – a two-time Purple Heart recipient and a former Vietnam Prisoner of War. The Mechenbiers' daughter Kari is currently deployed to Kuwait and their grandson is a Marine at Camp LeJeune.

After the Dayton VAMC found a parking space near the facility that could be dedicated to our Purple Heart recipients, Mrs. Mechenbier contacted the Wounded Warrior Support Group in Omaha, Neb., which then donated a sign for the parking spot.

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. An estimated 1.8 million Purple Hearts have been awarded since its creation.

This event is open to the public and media.

For more information, or to RSVP for the event, contact Ted Froats, Dayton VAMC public affairs officer, at (937) 268-6511, Ext. 3919.

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