

Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture  
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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**WEST VIRGINIA CHOSEN AS SITE OF 2020 MILITARY  
ORDER OF PURPLE HEART CONVENTION**

**Charleston, W.Va.** – West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt issued a statement following the announcement West Virginia will host the Military Order of the Purple Heart 2020 Convention.

"West Virginia has one of the highest per capita number of veterans in the country. We are the perfect place for the Military Order of the Purple Heart to host their convention," said Commissioner Leonhardt. "As a former United States Marine, I welcome our purple heart recipients to the Mountain State. This is just an amazing opportunity."

Six recipients of the Purple Heart, including West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) Veteran and Warriors to Agriculture Director James McCormick, traveled to Dallas, Texas to lobby on West Virginia's behalf during the 2017 convention.

"First, we had to submit an all-encompassing plan to the national chapter. From hotel accommodations to transportation, we needed a very detailed plan before we could even be considered," said McCormick. "Then we had to fly to Dallas to make the final pitch."

"James did a wonderful job representing our state and our department. I congratulate him and the rest of the gentlemen who lobbied on West Virginia's behalf," continued Leonhardt.

The date and site of the 2020 convention will be released at a later time.

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