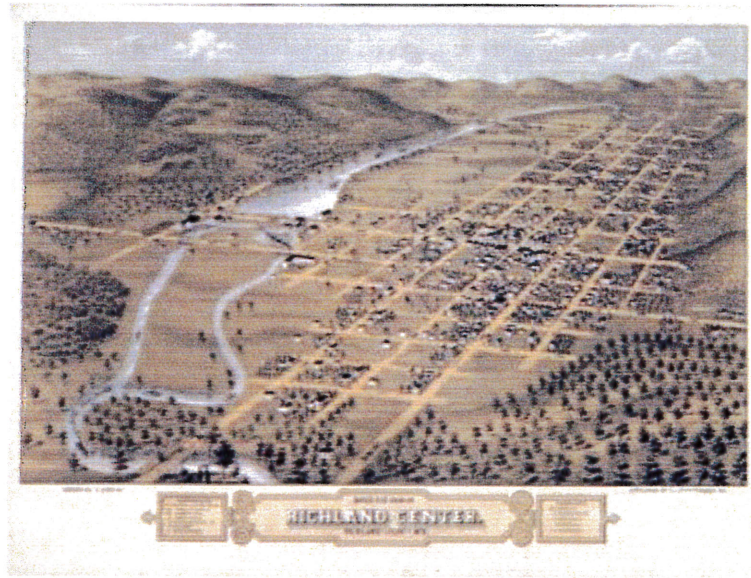


RICHLAND CENTER, WISCONSIN IS AMERICA'S "FIRST" PURPLE HEART CITY



On June 19, 2001, the City of Richland Center, Richland County, Wisconsin took the first step in what has become a movement to honor Purple Heart recipients across the nation. On that date, Mayor Edwin Lee signed a proclamation on behalf of the City Council declaring that "the City of Richland Center shall be known as 'Wisconsin's Purple Heart Memorial City' in honor of all American veterans who suffered wounds or paid the ultimate price to ensure freedom."

Today, more than 200 entities, including cities, counties, states, sports teams, universities, and countless businesses have proclaimed themselves as "Purple Heart" entities to show their appreciation for the service and sacrifice of America's sons and daughters. Only one, however, can ever claim the title of being the "First" -- That distinction belongs to Richland Center, WI.



Dedication Richland Center's Purple Heart Monument.

L-R: Gen. Kerry Denson, Deputy Adjutant General, WI Army National Guard; WI Lt. Governor Margaret Farrow; WI Senator Dale Schultz; Mayor Edwin Lee; Patriot John O'Brien (Assistant to Senator Schultz).