

**Resolution Favoring the Awarding of the Purple Heart for Mental Disorders
adopted by the Democratic Party Committee Abroad, April 26, 2009, in
Washington.**

WHEREAS,

According to a recent Rand Corporation study, 300,000 service members suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and many thousands of service members and veterans suffer from other mental health injuries incurred as a direct result of their military service.

These mental injuries can cause lifelong suffering, destroy careers, and affect families as well as the afflicted service men and women.

Numerous US service members have been subjected to multiple tours of duty in Iraq and/or Afghanistan, involving traumatic situations.

Suicides among service men and women in 2008 were reported to be at a record high.

The US should honor the bravery, valor, service and sacrifice of all military personnel who fight for our country.

The US government has so far failed to give service-related mental injuries such as PTSD the same recognition (i.e. the honor and benefits of the Purple Heart) as physical war wounds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

That Democrats Abroad recommends that the Purple Heart, along with relevant additional care and benefits, be awarded to all injured military personnel and veterans suffering from properly verified mental injury incurred during military service (notably PTSD) so that mental and physical war injuries have appropriate recognition, honor and compensation.