

History of the medal: The Pink Heart

*Apart from being a veteran of three wars, I am also a three-time cancer survivor. I am honest by saying, the times I was diagnosed positive, I never felt sad or sorry. I knew that my doctors at the Veterans Hospital were going to **fix me**, and so, they did. The rules of the game were changed on me. My wife, the love of my life of forty-four years, was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. Although at the Comprehensive Cancer Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico, her doctor gave us good news telling us it was curable, I felt helpless. I never had this feeling of having my hands tied to my back.*

Still, I anticipated that everything would be fine when the long-awaited moment of “ringing the bell” arrived and my wife was declared cancer-free. Imagining the moment, I wanted that when she was “discharged” from the hospital, she would also receive a symbol that would accentuate her victory.

In the military, our wounded and fallen in combat are presented with the medal; The Purple Heart. In civilian life, there is no such recognition. With this in mind, I took on the task of designing for my wife; The Pink Heart.

I will be extremely honored if anyone, whose life has been touched by this horrible disease, joins in this tribute of celebrating the courage and resilience of cancer patients and survivors. Furthermore, to remember and honor the lives that destiny claimed.

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