



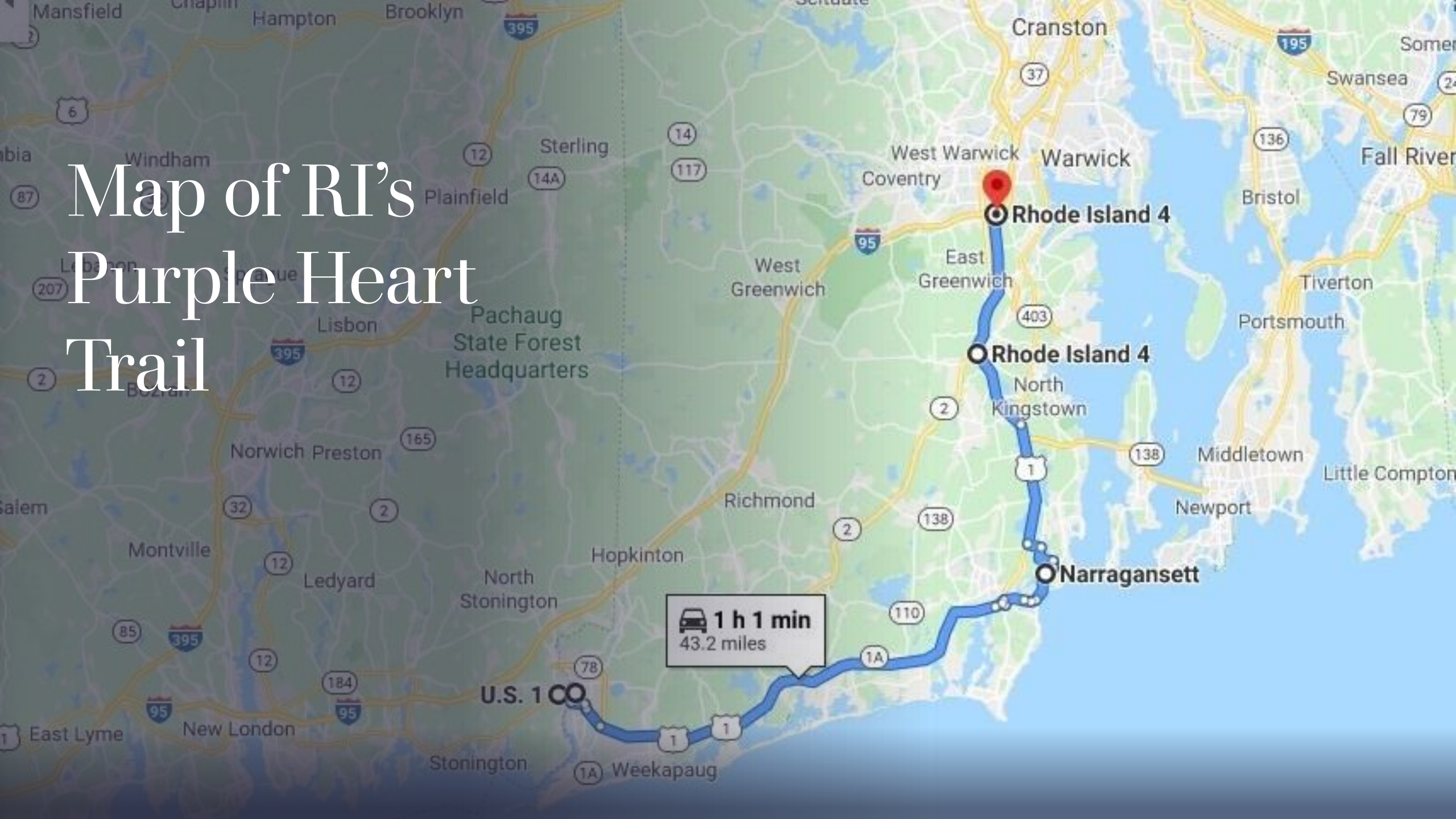
**Honoring
All US Veterans
Killed or Wounded
While Serving
in Combat**

Est. 2020

What is the Purple Heart Trail?

- The purpose of the **Purple Heart Trail** is to create a symbolic and honorary system of roads, highways, bridges, and other monuments that give tribute to the men and women who have been awarded the **Purple Heart** medal.
- The trail originates in Mount Vernon, Virginia – the burial location of General George Washington – and traverses across the United States and overseas as far as Puerto Rico and Guam.

Map of RI's Purple Heart Trail



Legislative steps for the Dedication of the Rhode Island Purple Heart Trail

All towns along RTs 1 & 4 have all issued town proclamations declaring them a Purple Heart Town. This includes Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown, Narragansett, North Kingstown and East Greenwich.

- RI House Bill 7239 Passed unanimously June 18, 2020
- Sponsors: Reps McEntee, Caldwell, Azzinaro, Casimiro & Fogarty.
- RI Senate Bill 2344 Passed unanimously June 18, 2020
- Sponsors: Sens Sosnowski, Algieri, Lynch, Prata, Sheehan & McCaffrey
- Signed by Governor Gina Raimondo June 24, 2020

Why the Purple Heart Trail Matters

- Thousands of Americans consider the Purple Heart Trail a destination spot of each state they visit. Many are PH Veterans, or a family member was. It's a source of pride.
- Having a Purple Heart Trail in each state helps get Purple Heart Veterans to come forward with a sense of pride they didn't have before.
- There literally is no database that tracks Purple Heart Veterans unless the Veteran offers that information. Be it the VA, the DMV or even at the local level at town halls, the PH Veteran needs to volunteer that they are a Purple Heart Veteran to be added to the list

Why the Purple Heart Trail Matters

- According to the RI Veterans Association, as of July 2020, there are 849 PH Veterans receiving benefit thru the RI VA that reside in RI and SE MA. Based on an algorithm that the VA uses nation wide, that represents only 63% of eligible PH Veterans the RI VA could service in their region. Using that number there are @ 1,350 PH Veterans in RI and SE MA who are eligible to receive services and benefit from the VA.
- That means there are @ 500 PH veterans who are not getting services in RI for various reasons. Reminding them they are heroes may help them to come forward to receive the benefits and services they earned.



Various State Purple Heart Trail Signs

The Alaska Highway



Missouri I-49



Maryland I-95



California US-101



Kentucky I-64



Kansas I-35



Arizona I-40



Proposal by RI Veterans for the RI Purple Heart Trail

- Any of the other States listed examples would be fine at the at the start of Rt 1 and Rt 4 in both directions.
- At the borders of the towns along the Trail to have a small PH Town sign added to existing signage like this mockup below. PH would go on the opposite pole of an existing sign up currently.



For More Information



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