



Why is there such a stigma about depression in law?

Since 1932, the United States military has awarded medals to soldiers who have been physically injured or killed by enemy combatants while serving in action. This medal is called the Purple Heart.

The advent of conflicts in the Middle East since the 1990s has seen a significant increase in the number of American military veterans diagnosed with, and treated for, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). As a result of the increase in PTSD cases, numerous advocacy groups have argued that this and related illnesses should also be recognised when endowing a Purple Heart. In 2009, however, a US Department of Defense advisory committee determined that veterans suffering from psychological disorders such as PTSD would not be eligible for receipt of the medal, for the reason that such ailments are not intentionally caused by the enemy, nor are they objectively