

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

DECEMBER 2025

Issue # 3

FROM THE 2025-2026 NATIONAL CHAIR OF THE POPPY PROGRAM

POPPIES MADE BY JUNIORS:



These poppies were made by the Dept of Illinois, 19th District Junior members. They made these beautifully crafted flowers for the veterans at the Illiana VAMC.

(Credit to Patti Williamson who posted this to the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program Facebook page).



THIS DECEMBER LET'S PAUSE AND APPRECIATE

By Monique Connor

When you think of December what comes to mind? Is it just a month of hustle and bustle or one of gratitude and hope? As we gather with our families and friends, we need to take a moment and bask in the warmth of togetherness and love. We need to pause and appreciate what we have and remember we can share it with others. This time of year, we find ourselves surrounded by different reminders of gift giving, volunteering, or just lending a helping hand to someone in need. Have you thought about what it really means to give? Not just the material things but the connection and love we feel when we reach out to our neighbors, families, and friends. There are signs and symbols all around us that reminds us of different things. The Christmas Tree, Angels, Mistletoe they remind us of the Christmas season. The poppy is a symbol of those brave men and women who have fought and died in wars and conflicts. It is a reminder to us of the sacrifices that our service members have endured when they get the call to serve this great country. (CONT'on PG2)

Upcoming Dates:
December 25 – Merry Christmas!

3rd Quarterly Poppy Zoom-
March 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm

4th Quarterly Poppy Zoom-
Pre-Con- date TBD

Poppy Day –May 22, 2026

Poppy Posters Due to Division Chairman (must comply with Dept Guidelines and Deadlines - June 1st, 2026



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But why the poppy? Because it can thrive and survive in harsh conditions. It blooms in fields that have been destroyed in battle. It has a resiliency that duplicates the spirit of our veterans. They have faced much adversity and continue to rise above, no matter the circumstances. Just as the poppy appears from the ashes of conflict, so too we can rise from our struggles, renewed and ready to give back. We know that a single act of kindness creates a ripple effect when thrown in water. So does one person helping one another. The spirit of giving spreads like wildfire. This December, let us remember the spirit of the poppy. Let us be those who give, who uplift, and who support one another. Whether it is through small gestures or grand acts of kindness, every bit counts.

Remember our veterans and their families. December can be a time of mixed emotions. It can be filled with joy and celebration, or sadness and darkness. It can also remind us of those who are no longer with us. The poppy serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by our loved ones, and the importance of honoring their legacy. This is where our giving becomes even more important. Let us commit to being mindful of those around us. Let us take the time to check in on our neighbors and families. Offer our support to those who may be struggling and make sure that no one feels alone during this holiday season. If we can channel the poppy and transform our giving into a powerful force for good. We can reflect on what it really means to give and sacrifice. Think about how you might carry the spirit of the poppy in your life, your families, and your communities? How can you plant the seeds of kindness that will blossom in the hearts of others and bloom to its fullest potential? Remember the act of service not self. The poppy stands tall amidst adversity, let us stand together and support one another, ensuring that the spirit of giving flourishes in our own hearts and into our communities.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Department of Connecticut Auxiliary Members – These Poppy Queens played Family Feud for their poppy presentation at their Department Conference.



How Can We Increase Poppy Distribution in Your Community

What do you do to promote Poppy distribution in your community? We want to know. Please share to our Facebook page [American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program](#)

MISSION TRAINING

&

NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETINGS

Don't forget to register for yourself, your Juniors & your young SAL:

January 31, 2026 – Las Vegas

January 31, 2026 – Indianapolis

February 7, 2026 – Atlanta

National Poppy Program Awards

<https://www.legion-aux.org/member/awards/poppy-program-awards>

You can obtain additional information on the award below by going to the website above

1. Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program (per division)
2. Department Award: Best Department Poppy Program (per division)
3. Little Miss Poppy
4. Poppy Poster Contest