

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

November 2025

Issue # 2

FROM THE 2025-2026 NATIONAL CHAIR OF THE POPPY PROGRAM

Member Spotlight:



(photo credit – Sandra Panzarella)

Members of Unit 156 of City Island, bronx, N.Y held a “Poppy Challenge” Their poppies and talent are amazing!

What poppy presentations are you creating? How are you sharing with your community? What are you doing to promote the making of poppies? Please share!

About the Poppy

By Donna Ray - Central Division Poppy Chair

This Veterans Day, let's take the opportunity to reflect, for sure, but this is the perfect time to educate those in our communities, both young and old.

November 11th is a day of celebration in America. We celebrate all veterans for what they have done to keep us free. But it is also a very somber day. A day to reflect on those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for us.

Our pretty little red flower is the symbol to remind us of the many lives that have been lost while fighting for our freedom.

After World War 1, in France and Europe, red poppies became this symbol. The red poppies grew proudly in fields in Europe and Belgium. It is believed that the bloodshed mixed with the soil and the poppies thrived. The poem “In Flanders Fields” was written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, M.D., while serving on the front lines.

In 1920 The American Legion chose the red poppy for the official flower of the American Legion. In 1924 the American Legion made distributing poppies to bring awareness and remembrance a program of the American Legion.

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Upcoming Dates:

Veterans Day November 11

2nd Quarterly Poppy Zoom
December 2, 2025 at 7:00 pm

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



(About the Poppy continued from page 1)

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders Fields

By Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead: short days ago,
We lived, felt down, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved; and now we lie
In Flanders fields!

Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you, from falling hands, we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



To this day, the American Legion Auxiliary distributes poppies, not for sale, but for donations as the recipient sees fit. The funds can be used only for needs of living veterans and the needs of their families as described by the American Legion Auxiliary on our website: <https://www.legion-aux.org/poppy>.

We don't just celebrate once a year, we celebrate all year long! We have poppy making parties. Poppy craft contests. We are getting ready to celebrate Veteran's Day. We celebrate National Poppy Day the Friday before Memorial Day and continue through the Memorial Day weekend. Poppies can be seen at parades, funerals, and for everyday wear. Wear a poppy, start a conversation, make a friend, and share awareness of our beautiful flower!

CRAFT PROJECT:



MISSION TRAINING & NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETINGS

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

November 15, 2025 -Albany

November 15, 2025 – Minneapolis

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