



QUICK FACTS

National Poppy Day:

- The American Legion has the support of Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day as National Poppy Day®, a day that encourages all Americans to wear a red poppy as a symbol to honor the fallen and support the living heroes who have worn our nation's uniform. National Poppy Day® will take place on May 27, 2022.
- After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe. Scientists attributed the growth to soils in France and Belgium becoming enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. The red poppy came to symbolize the blood shed by those who fought and those who continue to fight for our country following the publication of the wartime poem "In Flanders Fields." The poem was written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, M.D. while serving on the front line in World War I, to honor soldiers killed in battle.
- The poppy became the memorial flower of The American Legion on September 27, 1920, in Cleveland, Ohio.
- National Poppy Day® is an initiative supported by the entire American Legion Family, which includes The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and the American Legion Riders.
- Each year, members of The American Legion Family, led by the American Legion Auxiliary, distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation. Proceeds from the sale of items such as jewelry and other themed merchandise also benefit the mission to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs.



The American Legion:

- Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is the largest wartime veterans service organization with nearly 2 million members in more than 12,000 posts in communities across the U.S.
- Focused on four distinct pillars of service, The American Legion is committed to advocacy for veterans, a strong national defense, mentoring youth and keeping patriotism and honor alive and well.
- The American Legion leads efforts to advocate for veteran benefits earned as a result of service to our country. The Legion works with government officials on local, state and federal levels to ensure the issues most important to veterans are top priorities for our government leaders.
- Membership in The American Legion allows veterans to be part of an organization that



belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives. The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.

- More information about The American Legion can be found at legion.org. Information about the American Legion Auxiliary can be found at legion-aux.org.
- More information about National Poppy Day® is available at Legion.org/poppyday.

The American Legion Auxiliary

- The mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.
- The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to become the premier service organization and foundation of every community, providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

Sons of The American Legion:

- Sons of The American Legion place high importance on preserving American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.
- Sons of The American Legion assist their posts in activities such as veterans programs, VA home and hospital volunteerism, children youth projects and fundraising.