

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

ACR 167 (Voepel)

As Introduced March 22, 2022

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Proclaims Friday, May 27, 2022, as National Poppy Day.

Major Provisions

- 1) In 1915, Canadian officer and surgeon, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae wrote his wartime poem, "In Flanders Field" where he referenced the red poppies that grew over the graves of fallen soldiers during World War I.
- 2) In response to "In Flanders Field," Moina Michael wrote her 1918 poem, "We Shall Keep the Faith" where she vowed to wear a red poppy of Flanders Field as a sign of remembrance.
- 3) The combination of Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae's poem, "In Flanders Field" and Moina Michael's poem, "We Shall Keep the Faith," made the red poppy the symbol used to honor the soldiers who died in combat.
- 4) Earning the name, the "remembrance poppy," the red poppy quickly became a memorial symbol throughout the world to memorialize soldiers who fought and died during World War I. Following World War I, the red poppy was made the official flower of the American Legion.
- 5) In 1922, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States conducted their first official poppy distribution, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. That same year, the red poppy became the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, as it remains today.
- 6) In 1923, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States decided that "Buddy" Poppies would be assembled by disabled and needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with financial assistance.
- 7) Today, poppies are still assembled by disabled and needy veterans in Veterans Affairs hospitals, who receive compensation for assembling the poppies as part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Buddy Poppy program. The program also helps provide financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home for Children.
- 8) Today the red poppy continues to be a symbol of the sacrifices made to protect our freedom and a way to honor those who gave their life for the United States of America in all wars. Wearing a red poppy is a symbol of honoring the fallen and supporting the living who have worn our nation's uniform.

COMMENTS

According to the Author

ACR 167 recognizes May 27, 2022, as National Poppy Day. Since the end of World War I, the red poppy has been used as a symbol of the sacrifices made to protect our freedom and a way to honor those who have given their lives for the United States of America in all wars. Wearing a red poppy and honoring National Poppy Day is a way for us to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform.

Arguments in Support

None on file

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

No fiscal impact

VOTES**ASM RULES: 7-0-4**

YES: Cooley, Waldron, Bennett, Mike Fong, Gipson, Maienschein, Villapudua

ABS, ABST OR NV: Flora, Lee, Mathis, Blanca Rubio

UPDATED

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