

# City of Michigan City

Indiana



## Proclamation

WHEREAS; Among all the flowers that evoke the memories and emotions of war is the red poppy, which became associated with war after the publication of a poem written by Col. John McCrae of Canada. The poem, "In Flanders Field," describes a battlefield of crosses dotted with red poppies. The poem deeply touched the nation and the world, and, from that point on, poppies became known throughout the world as a memorial flower, a reminder of the lives lost in wartime; and

WHEREAS; The VFW was the first veterans' organization to adopt the poppy and develop a national distribution campaign. For more than 75 years, the VFW's Buddy Poppy program has raised millions of dollars in support of veterans' welfare and the well-being of their dependents. From the very beginning, Buddy Poppy has received the support of the Veterans Administration and the endorsement and cooperation of all presidents since Warren G. Harding; and

WHEREAS; Today, VFW Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled, needy and aging veterans in VA Hospitals and domiciliaries across the country and are sold at VFW Posts and their Ladies Auxiliaries. The minimal cost of Buddy Poppies to VFW units provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home for orphans and widows of our nation's veterans. The basic purpose of the annual distribution of Buddy Poppies by the Veterans of Foreign Wars is eloquently reflected in the desire to "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living."

NOW THEREFORE, I, Charles Oberlie, Mayor of the City of Michigan City, do hereby declare May 7, 2005 as

### Poppy Day in Michigan City

and ask the citizens of this community to recognize the merits of this cause by contributing generously to its support through your donations for Buddy Poppies on the day set aside for the distribution of these symbols of appreciation for the sacrifices of our honored dead.

Furthermore, I urge all patriotic citizens to wear a Buddy Poppy as evidence of our gratitude to the men and women of this country who have risked their lives in defense of the freedoms we continue to enjoy as America citizens.

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> Day of May, 2005

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles E. Oberlie".

Charles E. Oberlie, Mayor  
City of Michigan City

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas F. Fedder".

Thomas F. Fedder, City Clerk

