

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: May 20, 2003

Poppy Day in Michigan City

Michigan City, IN (May 20, 2003) – Mayor Sheila Brillson joins the VFW in announcing May 24th as Poppy Day in Michigan City.

“For more than 75 years, the VFW’s Buddy Poppy program has raised millions of dollars nationwide in support of veterans’ welfare and the well being of their dependents,” said Mayor Brillson. “I ask the citizens of our community to recognize the merits of this cause by contributing generously to its support through your donations for the familiar red poppies on May 24th. Wearing a Buddy Poppy is evidence of our gratitude to the men and women of this country who have risked their lives in defense of the freedoms which we continue to enjoy as American citizens.”

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 Flander’s 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.

Randy Jones, JV Commander of VFW Post 2536, said, “The VFW was the first veteran’s organization to adopt the poppy and develop a national distribution campaign. Today, the poppies are assembled by disabled, needy and aging veterans across the country and are sold through VFW Posts and their Ladies Auxiliaries. The donations received from these sales provide 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.”

Mayor Brillson said, “The purpose of the annual distribution of the Buddy Poppy is to honor the dead by helping the living. I hope to see red poppies, the symbol of our appreciation for the sacrifices of our veterans, everywhere I look on May 24th.”

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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 creases 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, the 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, newly and aging veterans in VA Hospitals and domiciliarys 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," therefore,

I, Sheila Brillson, Mayor of the City of Michigan City, do hereby declare May 31, 2003 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.

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 which we continue to enjoy as American citizens.

Dated this 24th day of April, 2003

Sheila Brillson, Mayor
City of Michigan City

ATTEST:

Thomas F. Feddet, City Clerk