



# Proclamation

Office of the Mayor

2025 NATIONAL POPPY DAY



*Whereas*, poppies are worn and displayed as a symbolic tribute to our fallen and the future of living veterans and servicemembers; and

*Whereas*, at the end of World War I, The American Legion adopted the poppy as a symbol of freedom and the blood sacrificed by troops in wartime; and

*Whereas*, the use of the poppy symbolically comes from the poem *In Flanders Fields*, which movingly begins, “In Flanders Fields, the poppies blow, between the crosses, row on row,” referring to the poppies that sprang up in the churned earth of battlefields across Belgium and France where soldiers died fighting; and

*Whereas*, The American Legion Family has long utilized the red poppy as its official flower, symbolizing the blood shed by those who have served in our U.S. military, and the meaning and symbolism of the poppy, mirroring the manner in which the poppy is symbolically showcased in England and Canada in celebratory fashion on their Remembrance Day, also known as Armistice Day and Poppy Day; and

*Whereas*, wearing a poppy will unite citizens from across the country who decide to show their patriotism.

*Now, Therefore*, I, Richard E. McCraw, Mayor of the City of King, do hereby proclaim May 23, 2025, as “National Poppy Day” in the City of King and urge our citizens to join together in observing this day to honor every service member who has died in the name of liberty, freedom, and democracy while also showing their support for living veterans, servicemembers and their families.

*Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of King to be affixed this the 5th day of May in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-five.

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Richard E. McCraw– Mayor, City of King