



Proclamation

Office of the Mayor

2026 NATIONAL POPPY DAY



Whereas, poppies are worn and displayed as a symbolic tribute to our fallen and as a sign of support for living veterans and service members; 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 poppy's symbolism is inspired by the poem *In Flanders Fields*, which begins, "In Flanders Fields, the poppies blow, between the crosses, row on row," recalling the flowers that grew in the war-torn fields of Belgium and France where soldiers fell; and

Whereas, the American Legion Family has long used the red poppy as its official flower to honor those who served in the U.S. military, reflecting the poppy traditions observed in England and Canada on Remembrance Day (also known as Armistice Day or 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, proclaim May 22, 2026, as "National Poppy Day" in the City of King, and urge our citizens to observe this day in honor of fallen service members and in support of living veterans, service members, 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 4th day of May in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-six.

Richard E. McCraw – Mayor, City of King