



National Poppy Day™ **Talking Points**

ABOUT NATIONAL POPPY DAY:

- » This year, The American Legion asked Congress to designate May 26, 2017, as National Poppy Day™, and encourages all patriotic Americans to wear a red poppy as a symbol of remembrance and hope.
- » The poppy is a symbol of the sacrifices made in service to our country. Wearing the flower on National Poppy Day™ pays tribute to the fallen and the future of living veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families.
- » More information about National Poppy Day™ can be found online. [*www.legion.org/PoppyDay*](http://www.legion.org/PoppyDay)
- » This year, The Boeing Company became the first National Poppy Day™ sponsor.

ABOUT THE POPPY:

- » The poppy flower adorned the battlefields of Flanders Field in Belgium and France during World War I and was looked upon by those serving as a living symbol of their fallen comrades' sacrifices.
- » In 1920, after World War I, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war.
- » Poppies are never sold. Each year, members of The American Legion Family, led by the American Legion Auxiliary, distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation. The donations support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs.
- » Distribution of poppies became a national program of The American Legion in 1924.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN LEGION:

- » Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is the largest wartime veterans service organization with more than 2.1 million members in nearly 14,000 posts around the world.
- » Focused on four distinct pillars, The American Legion is committed to advocacy for veterans, strong national defense, mentoring youth and keeping patriotism and honor alive and well.