

WINDOM AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY TO DISTRIBUTE POPPIES

by

Jean Hoppe, Auxiliary President

The Annual Poppy Distribution by the American Legion Auxiliary will be held May 12, 13, and 14 at Hy-Vee, Windom according to President Jean Hoppe and Poppy Chairman. Representatives will be on hand from 9:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. for donations to be made and to get your poppies. Donations by the public may also register for a free flag.

Here is a story about the poppy. "After World War I the poppy flourished in Europe. In 1918, a woman named Moina Michael asked Americans to always wear a poppy flower in memory of the war dead. The poppy is worn to symbolize the sacrifices made by fallen service members. "In Flanders Fields" is a war poem written during World War I by Canadian doctor Lt. Col. John McCrae to honor soldiers killed in battle. Veterans and volunteers handcraft the poppies to distribute in exchange for donations. The donations help veterans, military, and their families in our communities. The American Legion Auxiliary started the Poppy Program in 1921, connecting the visual image of the poppy with the service made by our veterans." This is the story told in the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Coloring Book.

This is the 6th year the second graders from the Windom Public Schools are competing in the poppy coloring contest. Each of the four classrooms will have a first, second, and third place winners who will receive a cone from the Dairy Queen. All colored pictures will be displayed in store windows to celebrate National Poppy Day May 22. All participants will receive a poppy bookmark and a 4x6 inch American Flag.