



In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row
That make our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.*

*Scarce heard amid the guns below,
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae

In November, 1918, *The Ladies Home Journal* reprinted the poem, "We Shall Not Sleep", Now known as "In Flanders Fields", written by Colonel John McCrae. A surgeon with Canada's First Brigade Artillery, Colonel McCrae expressed his grief over 'row on row' of soldiers' graves that had died on Flanders' battlefields. The poem became a rallying cry to all who fought in the first World War.

Before the poem appeared in the Journal, Colonel McCrae died. His words lived on in Miss Moina Michael, a YMCA volunteer who worked with soldiers in New York City. To keep the message of the poem alive, Miss Michael wore a red silk poppy to honor these brave men and envisioned the poppy as a memorial to all veterans.

Her idea to mass produce and distribute the flower throughout the country came to the attention of the newly established The American Legion. The poppy was officially adopted as the national symbol of remembrance by the Legion at the Cleveland Convention on September 29, 1920. In 1921, during the first convention in Kansas City, Missouri, the Auxiliary added their support and agreed to distribute the flowers.

In 1924, the American Legion Auxiliary was given total responsibility for poppy production and distribution. The Poppy Program is now one of the oldest and most beneficial Auxiliary programs for veterans and has kept the message of Colonel McCrae's little poppy alive.

WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN