

American Legion Auxiliary  
Apple Valley - Unit 1776

Office of the President – Maryalyce McCabe

Greetings to all our Brothers and Sisters of the American Legion Family

Our Unit is busy with upcoming events including:

**May 3, 2025 – Kentucky Derby Day Horseracing and Meat Raffle** in the Patriot Restaurant starting at 11A. We are also sponsoring along with the Patriot Restaurant a Kentucky Derby Hat Contest for the most creative hats. Hats must be home made showing the most creative hats representing the celebration of the Kentucky Derby. There are 3 prizes, 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$75.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$50.00, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$25.00. Come and enjoy the day. All our fundraising goes to support the American Legion Auxiliary Veteran's Programs.

**May is Poppy Month, with May 23 being Poppy Day.** We will be distributing poppies at the post and at various business during the month of May. Please support this National Program, all funds go to our Veteran's programs including funds and items to homeless Veterans and hospitalized hospitalized service members. Our donations also support the Gift shop at the VA in Minneapolis that distributes foods items to hospitalized Vets and their families. We have two representatives from our units volunteering at the VA each week. Thank you Janet and Elaine.

### Interesting History of the Poppy

After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe. Scientists attributed the growth of the poppy to soils in France and Belgium becoming enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. From the dirt and mud grew a beautiful red poppy, which come to symbolize the blood shed during battle following publication of the wartime poem, *In Flanders Fields*. The poem was written by Canadian Lt. Col. John McCrae while serving on the front lines. On September 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion Family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war. Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, each year members of the American Family distribute the poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

Our Unit will be selling hot dogs and brats outside Von Hanson's market over the Memorial Day Weekend on May 22, 23, 24 from 9a to 5p. Drop by to enjoy a dog or brat and say Hi.

Happy Spring and Summer to the Legion Family