

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, poppies are worn and displayed as a symbolic tribute to our fallen and in support of living veterans and service members, and

WHEREAS, the use of the poppy comes from the poem “In Flanders Field” which movingly begins “In Flanders Field the poppies blow, between the crosses, row on row,” referring to the poppies that sprang up in the churned earth of battlefields across Belgium and France where soldiers died fighting, and

WHEREAS, since The American Legion family has long utilized the red poppy as its official flower to represent the blood shed by those who have served in our U.S. military, it is fitting as the Legion and its auxiliary approach their 100th anniversary that they expand the meaning and symbolism of the poppy, mirroring the manner in which the poppy is showcased in England and Canada to honor their military on their Remembrance Day, and

WHEREAS, Americans may honor the fallen and those serving by wearing a poppy, helping to unite citizens from across our nation in expressing our patriotism and in tribute to all who gave the ultimate sacrifice,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David L. Cook, Mayor of the City of Mansfield, Texas, join with members of the City Council to hereby proclaim May 26, 2017 as

NATIONAL POPPY DAY

in the city of Mansfield and encourage all citizens to join in observing this day to honor every service member who has died in the name of liberty, freedom and democracy and to show their support for living veterans, service members and their families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the official seal of the City of Mansfield, Texas, to be affixed this 22nd day of May, 2017.