

**2018-2019 MidYear Report**  
**Department of Colorado**  
**Nancy Diefenderfer**  
**Poppy Chairperson**

All members are continuing to promote the Poppy is a way we can show our continued support to our veterans and honor their sacrifices. Although I have not received many Mid-Year reports from the units in Colorado, I am confident that the members are distributing these little red crepe paper poppies in exchange for contributions which are used to assist the disabled and hospitalized veterans. No two poppies are alike; no poppy is perfect and no veteran is perfect but we honor them for serving and being a veteran. This little red flower serves as a giant reminder of our freedom. It represents the hope that none had died in vain.

A Poppy Order form was sent out to all the Units in Colorado including our District Presidents. Here's what we got for the year so far! GREAT and many reports to share!

Unit 1879- Already we have given out poppies during the two parades in which we were involved. We also distributed some during the CSU Great Food and Gratitude luncheon to honor student veterans, as well as at the Veterans' Day breakfast we helped with our local Golden K Kiwanis Club.



Our unit passed out poppies on Memorial Day, helped clean and place Flanders Field at two of our cemeteries.

Unit 134- Poppies were distributed on May 25, 2018, at several locations around Peetz. We also distributed them on Memorial Day during our hospitality gathering at the Peetz Community Center. Unit 134 sponsored our annual Poppy Poster Contest for grades 5 and 6 at Peetz Plateau School. We awarded monetary prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each grade. We sent our first-place winners on to the Department contest. We had two (2) Department of CO Poppy Poster winners; each received awards of \$15, which was awarded at the Veteran's Day Program.

Unit 32- enjoys poppies! This time we ordered 1,000 poppies at a cost of \$200 and in May, near Memorial Day during Poppy Days we had 8 members distribute these at several different locations. The public is always very interested in the poppy program. Some know all about the tradition and want to thank us for this symbol of remembrance to our veterans. Others ask us what the poppies mean. That gives us an opportunity to share the significance and the

history of the poppy. Poppies were also distributed to the participants at the Memorial Day Service. The money raised over Poppy Days, of course, goes to our veterans programs. Members Dee Sharpe, Jan Lewis, and Jackie Borrego asked for donations for poppies this fall around Veteran's Day also and collected another \$360.



Unit 2- Activities used to distribute poppies: Unit #2 distributed poppies at the city-wide Memorial Day Ceremony and Veterans Day Ceremony. Our Poppy chair, Susan Mace created beautiful poppy inspired book markers and poppy pins. Our unit passed out poppies on Memorial Day, helped clean and place Flanders Field at our cemeteries. Also the Funds from the distributed poppies is used to underwrite the Creative Arts program at the VA Community Living center-Pueblo.

Unit 23- We handed out Poppies Memorial Day weekend. We got a few donations \$100

Unit 22 raised over \$700 this year in Poppy donations through Post 22 membership donations, donations from patrons at our local Golden Corral as well as the 2018 Veterans Memorial Motorcycle Rally in Cripple Creek. This was our first year in several that this Unit has participated in the Poppy program so we were very pleased to have such a great result. 2019 is planned to be so much better and I can't wait to share that with all of you this time next year.

Unit 209- Patty Lollar made a centerpiece and received first place at the Department convention.



Patty Lollar received 1<sup>st</sup> Place at convention (Name will be added to the plaque). Congrats Patty!!

Unit 103- Poppys is always a fun event for our Legion Family. However, this year started off having our location cancelled on us at the last minute. But with luck on our side one of our members was a former manager at a Kings Sooper store in the area, our problem was quickly solved and our event went on as usual. Our Poppy day is always the Saturday and Sunday

before Memorial Day. With the help of our Post and SAL members our donations are higher.(There is something about the hat and the uniform.) People always stop to talk and ask questions to our members about their experiences in the Armed Forces.This year we also had two female veterans helping us and lots of people enjoyed talking to them. Others, just stop and share their experiences on where they were station and served. This year we seemed to have more WWII men talking to us which certainly was nice. We always have information about our Legion Family. We have brochures with our meeting place location, time we meet and phone numbers to call if interested in membership. We provide copies of the poem "Flanders Field" available and so many people enjoy hearing the story behind this poem. We have little flags for the children if they would like one. Weather is always fun in Colorado. You never know what to expect.This year we had a little of everything. Starting off on Saturday it was hot but ended up on Sunday closing earlier then we wanted to due to thunderstorms and wind blowing things away. However, we still were able to donate over \$400.00 to Department. Our share of the money will be used for various veteran activities. For example, Honor Flight, Our Post 103 Honor Guard, VA Christmas Shop, Wreaths Across American, VA Hospital and many more.

The units reported using the Poppy for corsages, centerpieces and table decorations. Some used the poppy on crosses for the graves of deceased veterans and auxiliary members or on wreaths or sprays for the Memorial Day program. Some Units used Poppies in bouquets or in corsages that were placed on the casket during a deceased members funeral or memorial service. Units continue to educate others about the history and meaning of the poppy. Many planning to have the dedicated poppy day in May with the mayor proclaiming it is National Poppy Day. Many schools will have the poppy poster information to their schools early. I hope to see many of them at Sping Convention. I also hope that units could walk door to door to make sure everyone in town got a poppy. How OUTSTANDING would that be?!?!