Proclamation
Veterans of Foreign Wars "Buddy"® Poppy
City of Hastings, Minnesota
May 4, 2026

WHEREAS, At the end of World War I, The Veterans of Foreign Wars adopted the poppy as a symbol of freedom and the blood sacrificed by troops in wartimes. Poppies are worn and displayed as a symbolic tribute to our fallen and the future of living veterans and servicemembers; and

WHEREAS, The annual distribution of Buddy Poppies by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has been officially recognized and endorsed by governmental leaders since 1922; and

WHEREAS, the Buddy Poppy was registered with the United States Patent Office in February 1924. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting the VFW Organization all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers; and

WHEREAS, The Buddy Poppy was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, as it remains today; and

WHEREAS, The Buddy Poppy program provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national Veterans rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home; and

WHEREAS, The basic purpose of the annual distribution of Buddy Poppies by the Veterans of Foreign Wars is eloquently reflected in the desire to "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor of the City of Hastings, urge all citizens to recognize the importance of this cause by generously supporting the Buddy Poppy program through their donations on the designated distribution day, and further encourage all patriotic citizens to wear a Buddy Poppy as a symbol of gratitude for the sacrifices made by the men and women who have defended our freedoms.

Mary D. Fasbender

Mary D. Fasbender, Mayor