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SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 159: ALASKA VETERANS' POPPY DAY

SB 159 designates the Friday before Memorial Day as "Alaska Veterans' Poppy Day."

On this occasion, Alaskans will be encouraged to wear red poppies, which symbolize the enduring gratitude we hold for those who have served and died in war.

The poppy's symbolism originates from the landscapes of the First World War, where the flower grew in the torn-up battlefields of the Western Front. It was immortalized in the poem "In Flanders Fields," written by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, now one of the most well-known poems from the war. The poppy and poem became synonymous with the sacrifice of those who had died in the First World War and is now a symbol of remembrance in over 120 countries.

In the United States, the American Legion Auxiliary distributes crepe paper red poppies, seeking donations for organizations that support veterans and active-duty military personnel and their families.

Our veterans have given selflessly for our country, and establishing "Alaska Veterans' Poppy Day" is a simple yet meaningful way to express our immense gratitude and to ensure that their sacrifices are never forgotten. I appreciate your support for SB 159.