

By: Representatives Carpenter, Massengill,  
Pigott

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 102

1           A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MAY 2018 AS POPPY MONTH  
2    IN MISSISSIPPI.

3           WHEREAS, the American Legion was chartered by Congress in  
4    March 1919 as a wartime organization based on the four pillars of  
5    Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism  
6    and Children and Youth; and

7           WHEREAS, over the years, the American Legion Families have  
8    become a preeminent community service organization which now  
9    encompasses more than 2.5 million members in over 14,000 American  
10   Legion Posts worldwide, working in a variety of programs to  
11   support the four pillars and benefit our nation's veterans, its  
12   service members, their families, the youth of America and its  
13   citizens; and the members of the American Legion Families are  
14   dedicated to upholding the ideals of freedom and democracy, while  
15   working to make a difference in the lives of fellow Americans; and

16           WHEREAS, the red poppy is considered the Veterans flower,  
17   and in the early 1920s at the first American Legion Auxiliary  
18   National Convention, the poppy was adopted as the American Legion



19 Family Memorial Flower, and the goal of the American Legion  
20 Auxiliary Poppy Program is to put a visual image of the poppy with  
21 the sacrifice of service made by our veterans, to educate the  
22 public and raise awareness of the sacrifices made to ensure our  
23 many freedoms and emphasize the importance of showing respect for  
24 the symbol of the poppy as described in the poem, "In Flanders  
25 Fields" written on the World War I battlefield by Lieutenant  
26 Colonel John McCrae, M.D.; and

27 WHEREAS, "In Flanders Fields" remains one of the most  
28 memorable war poems written to this day, and it is a lasting  
29 legacy of the horrendous battle in the Ypres Salient in the spring  
30 of 1915, and Lieutenant Colonel McCrae wanted to express his  
31 anguish by composing a poem, and as he looked upon Flanders fields  
32 he heard the larks singing and he could see the wild poppies that  
33 sprang up from the ditches and the graves in front of him, and he  
34 spent 20 minutes of his precious rest time scribbling 15 lines of  
35 verse in a notebook; and

36 WHEREAS, the wild poppy is unlike any other flower because  
37 they only flower when all other neighboring plants have died, and  
38 their seeds can lie on the ground for years, but only when there  
39 are no other competing flowers or shrubs in the vicinity, such as  
40 when the ground is firmly rooted up, these seeds will sprout, and  
41 on the battlefield of the Western Front there were enormous  
42 amounts of rooted up soil, it was the perfect place for wild  
43 poppies to sprout, and as McCrae wrote the poem in his notebook,



44 around him were blood-red poppies blossoming like no one had ever  
45 seen before; and

46 WHEREAS, the observance of Poppy Month in Mississippi  
47 provides an opportunity to recognize Legionnaires in statewide  
48 communities for their many contributions in serving selflessly in  
49 various wars to ensure our freedoms:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
51 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
52 THEREIN, That we do hereby designate May 2018 as Poppy Month in  
53 Mississippi.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
55 furnished to Ms. Carlean Parker and to the members of the Capitol  
56 Press Corps.

