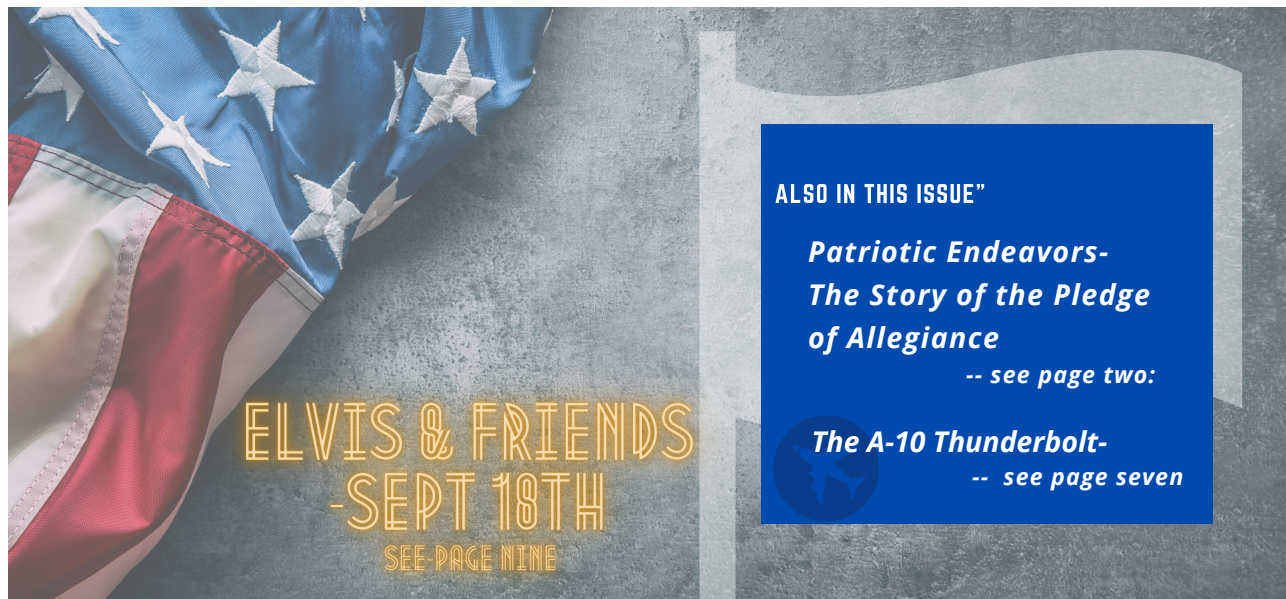




## LAMM LIGHTS Newsletter for September 2021



### PASSING OF GILBERT SELZER, 106 SOLDIER IN WORLD WAR II "GHOST ARMY"

Gilbert Seltzer, who served with a secret Army unit in World War II that fooled German forces with inflatable tanks, dummy airplanes, fake radio transmissions and sound effects that mimicked troop movements, died Aug. 14 in West Orange, NJ. He was 106. – **see page eleven**



### FROM THE COMMANDER

Your  
Commander  
Wants YOU!



Hi everyone,

I hope that you are having a great safe summer. Business has picked up for the Post, we have been holding events at least 3 days a week. I would like to give a big THANK YOU to those members who have come out to help us.

We can always use the extra help with the bartending as well as helping out with the clean up after the parties. If you are interested in assisting us in some way please let one of our officers know. Our Post will be hosting Elvis and Friends incl. Buddy Holly Saturday, September 18th. (**see page 10** in this issue) Vendors in the Grove at 5 PM. Show is 7 to 10 PM. \$15.00 VIP and \$10.00 General Seating.

For God and Country  
Commander Phil





# PATRIOTIC ENDEAVORS

**THIS MONTH:**

**THE DECLARATION OF  
INDEPENDENCE**

## 10 Things you might not know about The Declaration of Independence:

### 1. JOHN ADAMS REFUSED TO CELEBRATE JULY 4TH AS INDEPENDENCE DAY.

We recognize July 4 as the Declaration of Independence's date because it's the day it was adopted. However, the actual vote for independence occurred on July 2, 1776. President Adams would not recognize the fourth as a result and refused invitations to July 4th celebrations. Coincidentally, both he and President Thomas Jefferson died on July 4, 1826, 50 years after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

### 2. THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WASN'T SIGNED ON JULY 4, 1776.

While the Declaration of Independence was adopted and finalized on July 4, 1776, the majority of the other signers actually signed it on August 2, 1776. One reason is that it took nearly two weeks after it was endorsed for the document to be "engrossed" (written on parchment in clear handwriting). Another reason it took so long to be signed is that New York's delegates didn't receive authorization to sign until July 9, 1776.

### 3. RICHARD HENRY LEE PROPOSED THE BILL FOR INDEPENDENCE.

Richard Henry Lee proposed the Lee Resolution to the Second Continental Congress on June 7, 1776, and they were seconded by John Adams. It was the earliest form of a declaration of independence. In them, Lee famously declared: "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States." After many heated debates, Congress delayed the vote for approval of the Lee Resolution and decided to reconvene on July 1, 1776.

### 4. THOMAS JEFFERSON DIDN'T WRITE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ALONE.

While Jefferson was the primary author, he wasn't alone in writing the Declaration. The Committee of Five was appointed on June 11, 1776, to draft a formal statement for the colonies' case for independence. The committee members were John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Robert R. Livingston of New York, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia.

There were a total of 86 edits to Jefferson's original draft by the time of its approval on July 4, but the famous Preamble remained untouched.

### 5. THE VOTE FOR INDEPENDENCE WAS NOT UNANIMOUS.

When the Lee Resolution was brought again before the Continental Congress on July 2, 1776, twelve colonies adopted it with New York abstaining. On July 4, only nine colonies voted in favor of adopting the Declaration of Independence. Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted No, Delaware was Undecided and New York Abstained.

### 6. JOHN DUNLAP PRINTED HUNDREDS OF COPIES OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

The Committee of Five was charged with making and sending copies of the Declaration to the masses on the night of July 4, 1776. They went to Philadelphia printer John Dunlap, who printed hundreds of copies that were dispatched across the Thirteen Colonies on July 5, 1776. These "Dunlap broadsides" are incredibly rare, and only 26 copies are known to have survived.

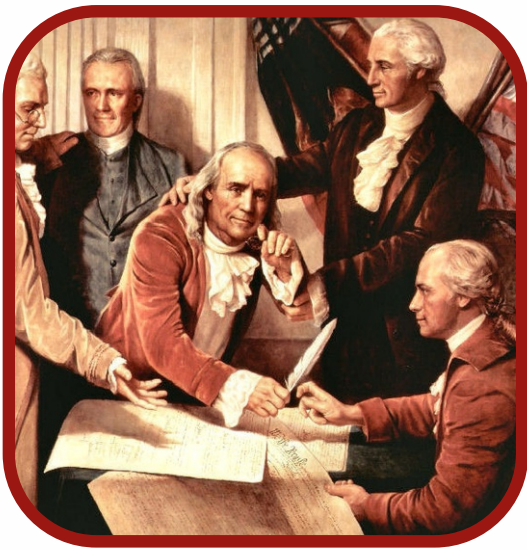
### 7. IT TOOK 442 DAYS FOR INDEPENDENCE TO BECOME AN ACCEPTED THOUGHT.

There were 442 days between the "Shot Heard 'Round the World" fired at Lexington and Concord to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The majority of colonists viewed themselves as British subjects. In fact, when fighting broke out in Massachusetts in April 1775, it was considered a civil dispute. The thought of separation was seen as a radical notion.

This remained true until King George III denounced the colonies in front of Parliament in October of 1775. It was then that American colonists agreed they should become an independent nation, as they felt their rights as British citizens were being denied.







Thomas Jefferson didn't  
write the Declaration of  
Independence alone.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE  
JOHN ADAMS OF  
MASSACHUSETTS, BENJAMIN  
FRANKLIN OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON OF NEW  
YORK, ROGER SHERMAN OF  
CONNECTICUT, AND THOMAS  
JEFFERSON OF VIRGINIA.

BUT THE FAMOUS PREAMBLE  
WAS ALL THOMAS JEFFERSON.

The Rest of the Story:

**8. IT WAS WRITTEN FOR A REASON BESIDES ANNOUNCING OUR INDEPENDENCE.**

Many people know the Declaration was written, but most people never question or understand exactly why there was a need for a formal document. The answer is simple yet complex. If the colonies wanted foreign allies to aid them in separation, they first had to legally declare themselves independent of Britain.

It was vital that each of the 13 colonies come together as a single body. A colony by itself wouldn't be taken seriously by a world power like France, but the Thirteen together as one nation would. This was groundbreaking at the time, as each colony viewed itself as a singular entity, much like the countries of Europe.

**9. THERE ARE 56 SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.**

None of the men who signed the Declaration were Americans, though most of them were born in Colonies. They were all technically British citizens at the time they signed the document. Eight of the signers were born in Britain. Richard Stockton was the only signer to recant his signature after he was captured by British soldiers a few months later.

The last person to sign was Matthew Thornton, who signed it on November 4, 1776. Robert Livingston, one of the Committee of Five members, never signed it, stating it was too soon to declare independence from Britain.

Signing Of The Declaration of Independence:

**10. THERE ACTUALLY IS SOMETHING WRITTEN ON THE BACK OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.**

Unfortunately for National Treasure fans, it's not an invisible treasure map. Written upside down on the back of the document reads: "Original Declaration of Independence dates 4th July 1776." It's believed this text was added as a label, as parchment was oftentimes rolled up for transport during the Revolutionary War.



# THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT: THE LEGION ACT

## What does the Legion Act Provide?

**While in office, President Trump signed into law the LEGION Act. This extended the ongoing declared period of war back to Dec. 7, 1941. The congressionally approved act is a way to honor thousands of veterans who were killed or wounded on duty during periods not previously considered a time of war.**

The LEGION Act — **Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act** — also redefines The American Legion's membership eligibility dates. The eligibility now spans from Dec. 7, 1941, until a time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress.

*Here are answers to key questions about the new law and what it means for our American Legion:*

*Q: How does this change the eligibility requirements for the American Legion?*

**A: The only change is that Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from seven to two. They are from April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918; and from Dec. 7, 1941, and continuing. No other restrictions are changed.**

*Q: What's the impact on veterans who previously were not eligible for American Legion membership?*

**A: Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previous defined war eras may now join the American Legion immediately. To do so, eligible members may sign up at [legion.org/join](https://legion.org/join).**

*Q: So how does this differentiate the American Legion from AMVETS?*

**A: The American Legion's eligibility criteria states that veterans must have served during "wartime." When Congress decides the U.S. is no longer in a state of war, the Legion's membership eligibility period will close, while AMVETS will still be open to those who served.**

*Q: How does this affect the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?*

**A: The Sons' eligibility criteria will change along with that of the American Legion. Any son or grandson of a living American Legion member will be able to join the SAL program. (Sons and grandsons of deceased veterans are also eligible.) For example, a son of a veteran who served between 1985 and 1988 previously would not have been eligible. With the extension of the war period, that veteran would immediately be eligible for the American Legion and the son would be able to join the SAL.**

*Q: How does this affect the eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary?*

**A: This follows the same concept as the SAL, as noted previously. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is currently open to grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adopted female descendants of eligible veterans.**

**FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION**

View more at - [www.AmericanLegion.org](https://www.AmericanLegion.org)



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3rd Vice: Don Helminiak.....668-2905  
Adjutant: .....Open  
Mobilization: .....Open  
Sgt-At Arms: Don Helminiak .....668-2905  
Service Officer:.....Open  
Finance Officer: Bob Bruno .....574-5574  
Corp President: Phil English .....398-8008  
Chaplain: Robert Thornton.....689-0334  
1st Asst. Chaplain: Ernie Bacon .....1-585-317-8946  
2nd Asst Chaplain .....Open

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Paul Laurenzi: .....335-4881  
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Paul Shea .....906-9257

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1st Vice: Theresa English.....Unlisted  
Secretary: .Susana Colon.....491-2429  
Treasurer: Mary Ann Bush.....759-1171  
Chaplain: Sharon Huber .....901-1092  
Sgt - At Arms: Lynne Nowak .....361-0772

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Korean War  
52 year member  
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Anthony P. Amigone, Sr.



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# A-10 Thunderbolt II

The A-10 and OA-10 Thunderbolt IIs are the first Air Force aircraft specially designed for close air support of ground forces. They are simple, effective and survivable twin-engine jet aircraft that can be used against all ground targets, including tanks and other armored vehicles. The A-10/OA-10 have excellent maneuverability at low airspeeds and altitude, and are highly accurate weapons-delivery platforms. They can loiter near battle areas for extended periods of time and operate under 1,000-foot ceilings (303.3 meters) with 1.5-mile (2.4 kilometers) visibility. Their wide combat radius and short takeoff and landing capability permit operations in and out of locations near front lines. Using night vision goggles, A-10/ OA-10 pilots can conduct their missions during darkness. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Thurow)

## A-10 THUNDERBOLT II DVIDS FEATURE PAGE

### Mission

The A-10C Thunderbolt II is the first Air Force aircraft specially designed for close air support of ground forces. They are simple, effective and survivable twin-engine jet aircraft that can be used against light maritime attack aircraft and all ground targets, including tanks and other armored vehicles.

### Features

The A-10C offers excellent maneuverability at low airspeeds and altitude while maintaining a highly accurate weapons-delivery platform. They can loiter near battle areas for extended periods of time, are capable of austere landings and operate under 1,000-foot ceilings (303.3 meters) with 1.5-mile (2.4 kilometers) visibility. Additionally, with the capability of carrying precision guided munitions and unguided munitions, they can employ above, below and in the weather. Their wide combat radius and short takeoff and landing capability permit operations in and out of locations near front lines. Using night vision goggles, A-10C pilots can conduct their missions during darkness.

Thunderbolt IIs have Night Vision Imaging Systems (NVIS), goggle compatible single-seat cockpits forward of their wings, Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems, and a large bubble canopy which provides pilots all-around vision. The pilots are protected by titanium armor that also protects parts of the flight-control system. The redundant primary structural sections allow the aircraft to enjoy better survivability during close air support than previous aircraft.

The aircraft can survive direct hits from armor-piercing and high explosive projectiles up to 23mm. Their self-sealing fuel cells are protected by internal and external foam. Manual systems back up their redundant hydraulic flight-control systems. This permits pilots to fly and land when hydraulic power is lost.

Avionics equipment includes communications, inertial navigation and GPS, fire control and weapons delivery systems, target penetration aids and night vision goggles. Their weapons delivery systems include heads-up displays that indicate airspeed, altitude, dive angle, navigation information and weapons aiming references; and a low altitude safety and targeting enhancement system (LASTE) which provides constantly computing impact point freefall ordnance delivery. The aircraft also have armament control panels, and infrared and electronic countermeasures to handle surface-to-air-threats, both missile and anti-aircraft artillery.

The Thunderbolt II's 30mm GAU-8/A Gatling gun can fire 3,900 rounds a minute and can defeat an array of ground targets to include tanks. Some of their other equipment include electronic countermeasures, target penetration aids, self-protection systems and an array of air-to-surface weapons, including laser and GPS guided munitions, AGM-65 Maverick and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles.

### Background

The first production A-10A was delivered to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, in October 1975. It was designed specifically for the close air support mission and had the ability to combine large military loads, long loiter and wide combat radius, which proved to be vital assets to the United States and its allies during Operation Desert Storm and Operation Noble Anvil.

In the Gulf War, A-10s had a mission capable rate of 95.7%, flew 8,100 sorties and launched 90% of the AGM-65 Maverick missiles.

#### General Characteristics

Primary Function: A-10 -- close air support, airborne forward air control, combat search and rescue

Contractor: Fairchild Republic Co.

Power Plant: Two General Electric TF34-GE-100 turbofans

Thrust: 9,065 pounds each engine

Length: 53 feet, 4 inches (16.16 meters)

Height: 14 feet, 8 inches (4.42 meters)

Wingspan: 57 feet, 6 inches (17.42 meters)

Speed: 420 miles per hour (Mach 0.56)

Ceiling: 45,000 feet (13,636 meters)

Maximum Takeoff Weight: 51,000 pounds (22,950 kilograms)

Range: 800 miles (695 nautical miles)

Armament: One 30mm GAU-8/A seven-barrel Gatling gun; up to 16,000 pounds (7,200 kilograms) of mixed ordnance on eight under-wing and three under-fuselage pylon stations, including 500 pound (225 kilograms) Mk-82 and 2,000 pounds (900 kilograms) Mk-84 series low/high drag bombs, incendiary cluster bombs, combined effects munitions, mine dispensing munitions, AGM-65 Maverick missiles, laser-/GPS-guided bombs, unguided and laser-guided 2.75-inch (6.99 centimeters) rockets; infrared countermeasure flares; electronic countermeasure chaff; jammer pods; illumination flares and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles.

Crew: One

Date Deployed: March 1976

Unit Cost: \$9.8 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)

Inventory: Total Force – approximately 281

Point of Contact: Air Combat Command, Public Affairs Office; 115 Thompson St., Suite 121; Langley AFB, VA 23665-1987; DSN 574-5007 or 757-764-5007; e-mail: accpa.operations@us.af.mil



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If you are unsure whether or not your Estate Planning documents need to be updated, call the Stamm Law Firm today to make an appointment for a consultation with one of our attorneys.

\*The information provided in this article does not and is not intended to constitute legal advice. All information and content of this article are for general informational purposes only. Readers of this article should contact their attorney to obtain advice with respect to any legal matter.

\*Attorney Advertising: Stamm Law Firm, 1127 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100, Williamsville, NY 14221 (716) 631-5767



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# &

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# SEPT. 18TH



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**50/50**

**THEME  
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**FOOD  
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PURCHASE**

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**Medication dispensing:** We are able to provide medication dispensing services to an inpatient facility such as nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, group homes, etc. This includes delivery services and medication review if required.



# Gilbert Seltzer, 106 soldier in WWII 'Ghost Army' passes Aug 14th.

*Gilbert Seltzer was one of 1,100 Soldiers attached to the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, which pulled off elegant strategic cons on German forces, ingeniously creating the illusion that US Troops were where they weren't.*

Shortly after the war, the 23rd became known as the Ghost Army. In later years Mr. Seltzer, who at his death was the oldest surviving Ghost Army soldier, became a public ambassador for the veterans of the unit. "We would move into the woods in the middle of the night, going through France, Belgium and Germany, and turn on the sound" — from blaring loudspeakers — "so it sounded like tanks were moving on the roads," Mr. Seltzer told StoryCorps in 2019. "The natives would say to each other, 'Did you see the tanks moving through town last night?'"

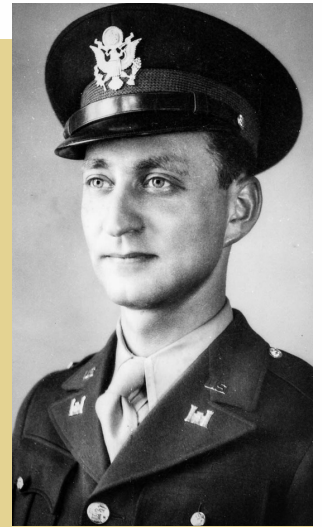
"They thought they were seeing them," he added. "Imagination is unbelievable."

Mr. Seltzer, an architect, was a platoon leader and later a lieutenant and adjutant of the 603rd Engineer Camouflage Battalion, whose ranks included men who would go on to work in advertising, art, architecture and illustration, among them the future fashion designer Bill Blass, the photographer Art Kane and the painter Ellsworth Kelly.

The battalion handled the Ghost Army's visual fakery; the 3132nd Signal Service Company was in charge of sound deception; the Signal Company, Special, devised realistic-sounding radio messages to throw off the Germans. The 406th Combat Engineer Company provided security. In March 1945, in one of their most elaborate feats of trickery — during the critical Rhine River campaign, designed to finally crush Germany — the 23rd set up 10 miles south of the spot where two American Ninth Army divisions were to cross the river. To simulate a buildup of those divisions at their decoy location, the Ghost Army used inflated tanks, cannons, planes and trucks; sent out misleading radio messages about the American troops' movements; and used loudspeakers to simulate the sound of soldiers building pontoon boats.

The Germans fell for the ruse, firing on the 23rd's divisions, while Ninth Army troops crossed the Rhine with nominal resistance.

Mr. Seltzer, who had flown in a reconnaissance mission before the crossing to determine if the 23rd's preparations were adequate, told StoryCorps: "We are credited with saving as many as 30,000 men, which I think is an exaggeration. But if we saved one life, it was all worthwhile."



Mr. Beyer has campaigned to have the Ghost Army receive the Congressional Gold Medal; legislation passed the House this year and is pending in the Senate.

"Gil was extremely proud of what he did in the Ghost Army, but at the same time it fairly amusing that people were interested in something he spent one year on 75 years ago," Mr. Beyer said in a phone interview. "Like most of the guys in the unit, he was struck by how their role was saving lives. They weren't about killing people but using creativity that could save American lives and even some German lives."

With Mr. Seltzer's death, Mr. Beyer said, there are now only nine Ghost Army soldiers left.

Gilbert studied architecture at the University of Toronto, where he received a bachelor's degree, then worked for an architectural firm in Manhattan. He enlisted in the Army in 1941, trained at Pine Camp (later Fort Drum) near Watertown, N.Y., and attended officer candidate school in Belvoir, Va., before being assigned to the 603rd.

In Mr. Beyer's documentary, Mr. Seltzer recalled his early reaction to being told that the purpose of the 23rd's preparations was to have the enemy fire at him and his fellow soldiers.

"We came to the conclusion," he said, "that this was a suicide outfit."

Mr. Beyer said that three members of the Ghost Army were killed and about 30 wounded. He suggested two reasons for the relatively small number of casualties: The unit projected great force through its deceptions, possibly repelling the enemy; and the soldiers were not always at the front, which minimized their vulnerability.

**At Left: Ghost Unit's Rubber Tank and real soldier.**

## LAMM MANOR & LAMM GROVE

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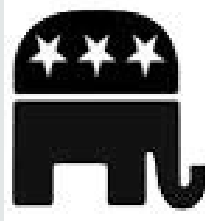


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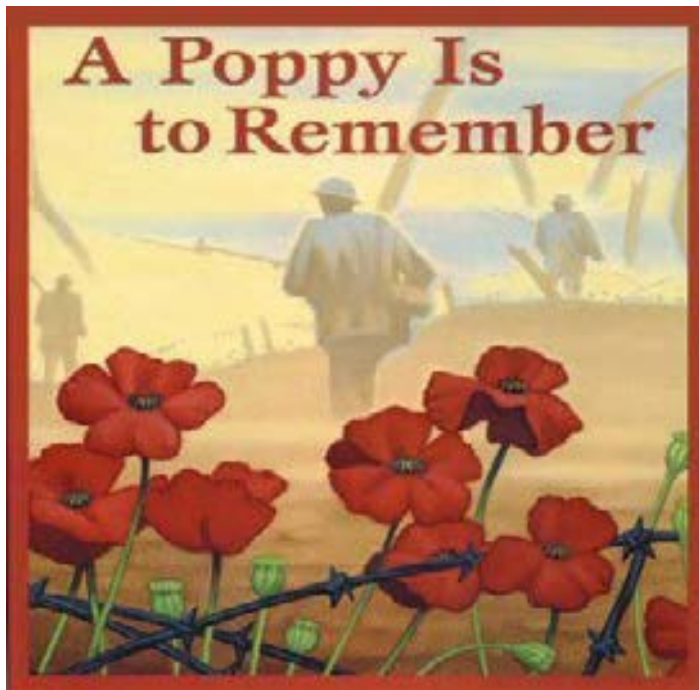
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Sgt at Arms - Sean Sonstello  
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