

USAHEC remembers 'In Flanders Fields' & fallen WWI heroes, 100 years later

USAHEC remembers 'In Flanders Fields' & fallen WWI heroes, 100 years later



**“In Flanders Fields the
poppies blow,

Between the crosses,
row on row,

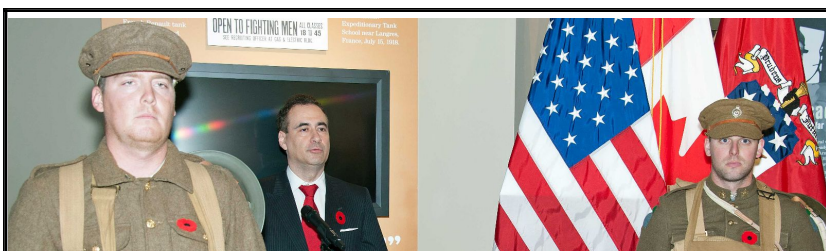
That mark our place; and
in the sky,

The larks, still bravely
singing, fly,

Scarce heard amid the
guns below.”**

One hundred years ago this month, Canadian Lt. Col. John McCrae wrote the poem, “In Flanders Fields.” To commemorate this famous poem, to honor those who served in The Great War and in the years since then, the US Army Heritage and Education Center co-hosted, with the Canadian Consul-General, a special event Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 10 a.m. inside the USAHEC.

The event included welcome statements by Ambassador Daniel Shields, Diplomatic Advisor to the U.S. Army War College Commandant; remarks from Consul General Prato; a reading of the poem “In Flanders Fields;” and a prayer with a moment of silence to remember the fallen heroes from World War I.



“World War I was supposed to be the war that ended all wars, sadly we know this not to be true,” said John Prato, Canadian Consul General. “World War II soon beset



the world, as would other conflicts that would require Canadians and U.S. Soldiers to make the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend to our freedom. Spanning from Korea to Afghanistan Canadian and U.S.

Soldiers have fought side-by-side.”

Canadian Consul General John Proto speaks to the ground between two of Canada’s Princess Patricia’s Light Infantry reanactors which fought in the battle of Ypes.

“Every year on Nov 11 Canadians, Americans and our allies around the world, pause in silence to remember men and women who have served and continue to serve to this day our countries during times of war, peace and conflict. Whether you call it remembrance day as we do in Canada, or Veterans Day as we do here in the United States the objective is the same, to honor those who have served their country defending our shared values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law,” siad Proto

Three WWI Re-enactment groups will also represent the US 304thEngineers, 79th ID; the French 18th Infantry Regiment; and Canada’s Princess Patricia’s Light Infantry, which fought at Ypres.

Lt. Col. John McCrae was the brigade-surgeon to the First Brigade of the Canadian Field Artillery. In April 1915, he was in the trenches near Ypres, Belgium, in the area called Flanders where some of the heaviest fighting of the First World War took place.

During the Second Battle of Ypres, a close friend was mortally wounded and was buried like so many others, where wild poppies grew. In an effort to capture his feelings, McCrae penned the verses of “Flanders Fields.”



“In Flanders Fields” was first published in England’s Punch magazine in December 1915. Within months, this poem came to symbolize the sacrifices of all who were fighting in the First World War. Today, the poem continues to be a part of Remembrance Day ceremonies in Canada and other countries throughout the world.

The poppy references in the first and last stanzas of the most widely read and oft-quoted poem of the war, contributed to the flower's status as an emblem of remembrance and a symbol of new growth amidst the devastation of war. Today, millions wear the bright red poppy to remember and honor the many thousands who lost their lives during the Great War.

**We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.**

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 09 November 2015