

**PROCLAMATION
BUDDY POPPY DAY**

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars conducted its first poppy sale before Memorial Day in 1922 becoming the first veteran's organization to organize a nationwide distribution of poppies; and

WHEREAS, the poppy was soon adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1923 the VFW decided that the VFW Buddy Poppies would be assembled by disabled needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with some form of financial assistance and the next year disabled veterans at the Buddy Poppy factory in Pittsburgh assembled the VFW Buddy Poppies; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Patent Office issued a certificate on May 20, 1924 granting the VFW all trademark rights in the name Buddy Poppy and the VFW has made that trademark a guarantee that all poppies bearing that name and the VFW label are genuine products of the work of disabled and needy veterans; and

WHEREAS, 2009 marks the 87th anniversary of Poppy Day throughout the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Thursday, May 21, 2009 will be Buddy Poppy Day in Lombard and throughout the United States whereby Veterans will be representing the VFW on the streets giving out Buddy Poppies and all monies collected will be used to assist needy Veterans in our local area; and

WHEREAS, the Buddy Poppy is designated in memory that "All gave some, some gave all" and the Veterans of the United States of America have always been there when needed including now with the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William J. Mueller, President of the Village of Lombard, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 21, 2009 as **Poppy Day** and ask that all citizens pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom by wearing a Buddy Poppy on this day.

William J. Mueller
Village President

