

Italy Honors the Fallen with a Symbol of Remembrance

Published on 17/03/2025

A New Italian Tradition to Honor the Fallen and Veterans of the Armed Forces

Today, Italy stands out with a gesture of high symbolic and identity value: the adoption of the **Myosotis**, also known as *Forget-me-not*, as the official flower in memory of the **Fallen for the Homeland**. This initiative, proposed by the Group of Gold Medals for Military Valor of Italy, represents an absolute novelty and a distinctive sign, a true *feather in the cap* for our country.





The GMOVM conducted a careful study aimed at identifying a flower that could best express Italian identity and the value of memory. The choice fell on the **Myosotis**, a blue flower – the same *Italian blue* that stands out on our athletes' jerseys and in the banners of the Armed Forces – with five petals that evoke the **Star of Italy**, symbol of the Republic. A flower that expresses loyalty, eternal love, and remembrance, values deeply linked to the sacrifice of our military fallen in war and peace missions.

A Tradition Among the Great Symbols of Remembrance Worldwide

This Italian initiative stands alongside the established traditions in the Anglo-Saxon and French worlds. In **Commonwealth** countries, such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, the **red poppy** is now the international symbol of remembrance for the fallen. Born from the poem *“In Flanders Fields”* by John McCrae, the red poppy grew in the battlefields of Flanders, among the crosses marking the soldiers' graves, becoming an icon of resilience and sacrifice.

In **France**, the flower of remembrance is the **Bleuet de France**, the cornflower, born from the initiative of two nurses in the aftermath of the Great War. The Bleuet symbolizes solidarity and respect towards veterans, the families of the fallen, and victims of terrorism. This flower also recalls the blue of the French soldiers' uniforms and the color of the national flag.

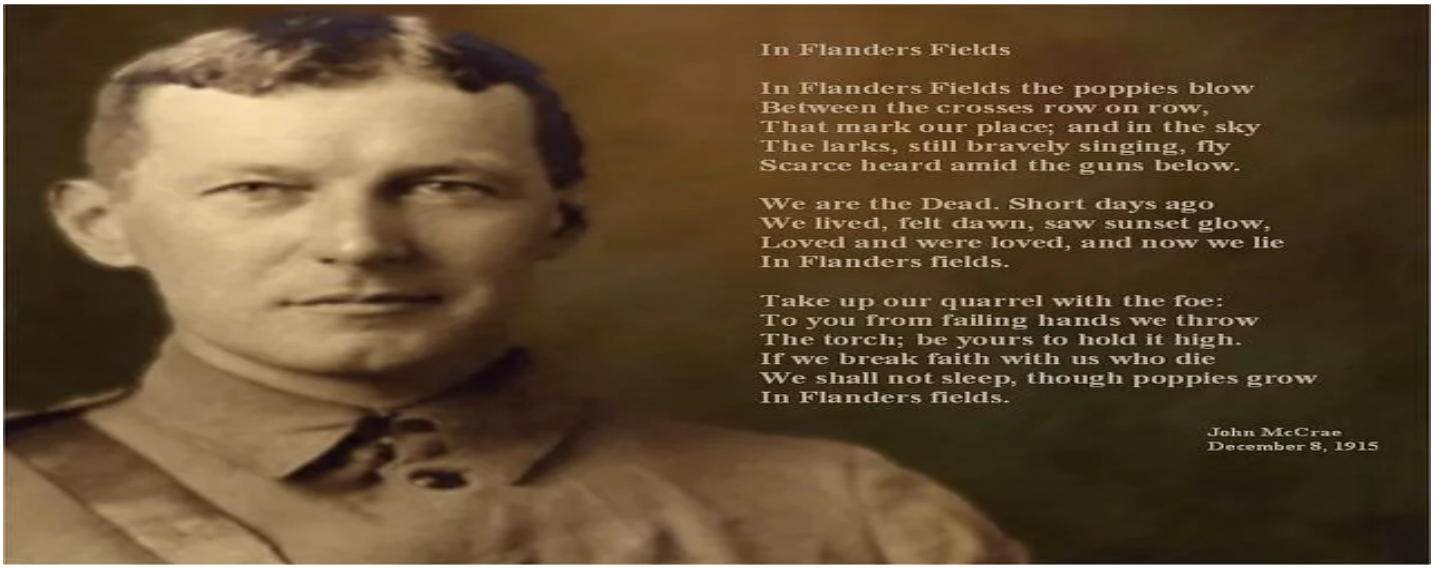


Italy's Recognition: Honoring Those Who Have Served and Serve the Homeland

With the adoption of the **Myosotis**, Italy introduces a unique symbol deeply rooted in its history and culture. Armed Forces personnel are now authorized to wear a pin depicting the flower during major commemorations:

- **November 2**, Commemoration of the Dead;
- **November 4**, National Unity Day and Armed Forces Day;
- **November 11**, Veterans Day;
- **November 12**, Remembrance Day for Military and Civilian Fallen in International Peace Missions.

Worn on the left lapel of the uniform, the Myosotis represents not only respect for those who have fallen but also the continuity of the bond between the Nation and its Armed Forces. A gesture that strengthens the pact between citizens and military, reaffirming the eternal value of memory and loyalty to the Homeland.



Conclusion: Italy Sets an Example of Memory and Gratitude

The project *“Fallen for the Homeland, Italians' Feather in the Cap”* fits into an international context of great sensitivity towards the sacrifices of the Armed Forces and veterans. But it does so with a style and symbolism that is entirely Italian, paying homage not only to the fallen of all wars but also to those in service and veterans.

It is an important recognition, testifying to Italy's willingness to honor its military with pride and respect, offering the Italian people a symbol to cherish and pass on. The **Myosotis** thus becomes the visible and lasting sign of a Nation that does not forget its heroes.