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Strategas Research Partners, LLC

Investment Strategy Viewpoint

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BRINGING THE POPPY BACK TO WALL STREET

To make a long story short, I travel around quite a bit and on my travels to the U.K. and Canada I would occasionally see men and women wearing red crepe-paper poppies. Either through complete cluelessness or stupidity, I had never learned or had forgotten that these were worn on Memorial Day as a remembrance of those who have died in our nation's service. The practice takes its origin from the poem *In Flanders Fields*, written in 1915 by John McCrae:

*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.
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.*

Given the fact that its origins rest here in the lower 48, there is a certain irony in the fact that the practice appears to be more widely observed abroad than in the U.S. Perhaps it's because we have the day off, but it seems a pity. Last year, we resolved ourselves to bring the poppy back to our little corner of the world with some success. We're encouraging all of our colleagues here at Strategas to wear them both today and Tuesday. Semper Fi, **JDT**

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