

Behind every brighter future.





Every step forward.
Every battle won.
Every brighter future...

Memorial to the heroes of war on Loch Fyne at Inveraray, Scotland.

...has a Poppy Legacy behind it.

Thank you for your interest in Poppy Legacies and leaving a gift to Poppyscotland in your Will. We were established in 1921 as The Earl Haig Fund Scotland, in the aftermath of the First World War, when many who had served our country returned home only to be met with unemployment, financial hardship and homelessness.

In response to this, we made a simple promise: **to always be here for those who serve our country.**

That promise has been behind everything we have done for almost a century. From opening Lady Haig's Poppy Factory, which has provided vital employment to generations of veterans, to the life-changing grants, training and support we give to members of the Armed Forces community living in Scotland today.

However, we cannot keep our promise alone. We have always, and will always depend upon people like you, who share our belief in supporting our Armed Forces community.

That is why I am so grateful to you for considering a gift to Poppyscotland in your Will. A Poppy Legacy is an incredibly special way you can stand behind the brave men and women who defend our freedom even after you're gone, ensuring they continue to get the life-changing support they deserve. I hope you find this guide both a help and an inspiration as you decide if you wish to take this special step.

In years to come, not only could you help us continue to be here for those who serve, your Poppy Legacy could be behind so many brighter futures.

Thank you.

Gordon Michie
Head of Fundraising, Poppyscotland
(Royal Air Force 1988-1995)





Behind Ronnie...

Right through my childhood, I wanted to be a soldier. In 1986, I joined the Royal Engineers. I was 16. I loved the Army, and I thought I'd be a military man for the rest of my life... but that all changed in the hellish jungles of Belize in 1991.

While on a night patrol, a heavily armed drug dealer shot me in the leg. When I fell, he shot me again. The bullet hit my back and lodged in my heart.

Thanks to the quick-thinking of my pals, that bullet didn't kill me, but it did destroy my life. I was left with permanent injuries which meant I was no longer fit for frontline duties. After seven years of Service, I had no choice but to leave the Forces behind. I was absolutely devastated and didn't know what to do, or who to turn to for help.

That all changed when I received help from Poppyscotland.

Everyone in the Forces has heard of Poppyscotland, but I didn't think they were there to support a veteran like me. I couldn't have been more wrong.

I received a grant to make my home more accessible. Perhaps even more importantly, they gave me much-needed emotional support. I'd been struggling with flashbacks for years. I can't tell you what it meant to finally have someone to talk to. With Poppyscotland's help, I really feel like I have peace of mind and new hope for the future.



In 2018 gifts in Wills helped us grant more than £670,000 to allow veterans to live independently.

Ronnie Martin, Royal Engineers
9th Parachute Squadron 1986-1994

Behind them today. Behind them always.



Every year thousands of members of the Armed Forces community living in Scotland turn to us for support. Whether they are struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), failing health or physical injury, are facing a crisis like homelessness or hoping to take their first steps in a new career, we are behind them, always.

Today, Poppyscotland is only able to offer our ex-Servicemen and ex-Servicewomen the support they need thanks to people like you. It is your generosity behind the emergency grant that stops an Armed Forces family losing their home or funds the mobility scooter that gives a disabled veteran back their independence.

You are behind the training that helps a young soldier find their first job on 'Civvy Street' and the home visits that enable an older veteran to live with dignity. In fact, supporters like you are behind everything we are able to do for our Armed Forces community living in Scotland.

Veterans will need us just as much in future.

With demand for our services growing each year, it's clear that our Armed Forces community living in Scotland is going to need us just as much in the future. We need to be here when today's Armed Forces personnel face the challenges of old age. Or when PTSD, which can take decades to surface, shatters another veteran's life. In this uncertain world, our brave forces will always be needed. They won't think twice about stepping into danger, so we must be there for those that sustain life-changing injuries, PTSD or who need financial support to cope with whatever challenges they face after duty.

That is why gifts in Wills matter so much. These special gifts, let you go on giving to the men and women who have sacrificed so much for us long after you are gone, safeguarding their future and ensuring they get the help and support they deserve.

Any gift, large or small, you choose to leave to Poppyscotland in your Will could offer life-changing support to veterans and their families in years to come.



Your Will is a chance to remember the people and causes you care about.

In many ways, your Will is like a promise you make to those you love and the causes that matter to you. You might wish to promise the majority of your property, possessions and money to loved ones, but you may also wish to include something for causes close to your heart.

People choose to include a gift to Poppyscotland in their Will for lots of reasons. For example, you or a loved one may have served, or you may simply wish to support our Armed Forces community living in Scotland. Below, Mac shares his reasons for choosing to leave a Poppy Legacy in his Will.



I'm Mac De'Souza and, along with my wife Marion, I have been involved with Scottish Poppy Appeal collections in our local area, Renfrew, for more than 20 years.

Like many of you, I have strong family connections and huge amount of empathy for the Armed Forces community even though Marion, nor I, have served.

Sadly, Marion passed away during the summer of 2017 and I recognised the importance for our family of updating my Will. I discussed my wishes with a solicitor and decided to leave a gift to Poppyscotland at the same time; something which I am delighted to have been able to do in support of the country's Armed Forces family.



Mac De'Souza and his wife Marion De'Souza pictured above.

Behind Robert...

I grew up in a Forces family, so I guess it's always been in my blood. I also loved cars, so it felt natural for me to join the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, which is basically like an AA service for the Army.

Following a stint in Iraq, I was posted to Afghanistan. One day in 2010, I was sent out to recover a vehicle that had been involved in an explosion the previous day. The area had been deemed safe, but unfortunately for me, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) had been missed and I drove straight over it.

I spent the next three weeks in a coma and at one point my parents were told to prepare for the worst, but they never gave up hope. The explosion left me with a broken tibia, shattered heels and a serious brain injury which meant I had to learn how to walk, talk and even feed myself again.

Slowly but surely, with amazing support from the medical team and my family, I made progress. Poppyscotland has had a big hand in my recovery too, helping towards the cost of a specialist anti-gravity treadmill to have at home.

The treadmill is designed to take the pressure off my joints, so it's made a massive difference to my fitness. It's great because I love spending time with my daughter and, thanks to the treadmill, we can do a lot more together now.

It is very comforting for veterans like me to know that should we need help in the years ahead, Poppyscotland will be by our side.



Robert Fraser, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers 2003-2010

Gifts in Wills helped us cope with a 10% increase in Immediate Need Grants for veterans like Robert in 2019.



Why Poppy Legacies are so important.



"When I was homeless, Poppyscotland was there for me. They gave me the support I needed at a vital time. I honestly don't know where I'd be if it wasn't for them."
Alexander Watson, Royal Engineers and SAS.

Poppyscotland is one of Scotland's largest charities dedicated to serving the Armed Forces community living in Scotland. Poppy Legacies left by supporters in their Wills are an increasingly vital source of income which will enable us to continue offering life-changing support today, tomorrow and in years to come.

Here's what a Poppy Legacy could mean:

Independence: Adapt a home to the needs of a veteran struggling with a disability or injury so they can continue to live with independence and dignity.

Emergency relief: Offer an emergency financial grant to an ex-Services family facing a crisis like debt or homelessness. Your gift could help them cope with the loss of a job, pay the rent or cover unexpected bills.

Emotional support: Provide counselling sessions for veterans who are struggling with issues such as depression, addiction and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Employment: Offer careers advice and training to help ex-Service personnel gain new skills, qualifications and start new careers helping to improve the quality of their and their families life.

These are just a few examples of the life-changing legacy a gift in your Will could play in the lives of veterans of all ages, and their families, in the future.

You could fund life-changing Welfare Services.

Gifts in Wills help to fund our Welfare Services which are a lifeline to thousands of members of the Armed Forces community living in Scotland. Poppy Legacies helped to provide the following in the period from October 2018 to September 2019:

- 968 Immediate Need Grants.
- 369 Visits in 5 months by our new Welfare Support Service.
- 288 Veterans supported to find fulfilling work through our Employment Services.
- 3,476 enquiries to our Inverness and Ayrshire Welfare Centres.



Behind them. Always.

Poppyscotland has been offering the Armed Forces community living in Scotland life-changing support for almost a century.

From the first poppies produced at the Lady Haig Poppy Factory in 1926, to throwing open the doors of our most recent Welfare Centre in Ayrshire, with the support of people like you we have achieved a great deal.

As we look towards the future, there is no way of knowing when or where they will be called into action, but one thing is certain: our brave Armed Forces will not shirk their responsibility, so neither must we.

It costs more than £10,000 every day to provide our Welfare Services and keep us running, and demand for our vital services is on the rise.

Poppy Legacies, left in Wills by supporters like you, are a lasting legacy of support. Whenever a veteran finds themselves living with a disability, struggling to readjust to life after service or living on the streets, they make sure that we can provide the practical and emotional support they need to live with the independence and dignity they deserve. Ultimately, they ensure that you can stand proudly behind the people who have given so much, even after you're gone.

By leaving a Poppy Legacy in your Will, you can safeguard the future for tomorrow's veterans.



Your Will and what to do next.

Your Will is the only way to ensure your wishes for your estate will be met after you pass away. If you don't have a Will, your estate will be divided up according to Intestacy rules, which means it may not necessarily go to the people and causes that you would wish it to.

However, it is a lot easier to make a Will than many people realise.

Writing a new Will.

If you're making a Will for the first time, you should make an appointment with a solicitor. Beforehand, you should make a list of all your assets, savings, investments and possessions and have in mind the people and causes you wish to benefit from your estate. The solicitor will go through the different types of gifts you can leave and then draw up your Will for you. Should you wish to include a Poppy Legacy in your Will to Poppyscotland, simply provide your solicitor with our address and charity number noted in the codicil wording opposite.

Amending an existing Will.

If you already have a Will, your solicitor can easily amend it to include a gift to Poppyscotland using a codicil. You can find suggested wording for a codicil opposite.



Leaving a gift in confidence.

Rest assured, if you do make the wonderful decision to include a gift to Poppyscotland in your Will, we will always act in a professional manner and respect your privacy. We understand that a Will is a very personal document and you are under no obligation to inform us if you do intend to leave a gift. However, if you do wish to let us know, we would be delighted to hear from you so we can personally thank you for your life-changing support.

Information for your solicitor.

When remembering Poppyscotland in your Will the following codicil wording may help you. We always recommend seeking professional legal advice when making or changing your Will.

Codicil wording.

I _____ (name)
Of _____
_____ (address)

Declare this to be a (first/second/third)
Codicil to my Will dated ____ / ____ / ____

I give to The Earl Haig Fund Scotland (Poppyscotland),
of New Haig House, Logie Green Road, Edinburgh
EH7 4HQ, Scottish Charity Number SC014096

The sum of £ _____

A share of _____ of my estate

to be used for general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge. In all other respects I confirm my said Will and all other codicils thereto.

Behind Donald...

My name is Donald and I work at Lady Haig's Poppy Factory in Edinburgh. I fought in the Falklands. As part of the British advance into Port Stanley, we attacked Mount Tumbledown, which saw us fighting hand-to-hand for nine hours.

When I got home, I just couldn't settle – I was having terrifying nightmares about the things I'd seen. Eventually I was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and medically discharged from the Army.

Adjusting to civilian life was hard. I missed my pals and was still battling the symptoms of PTSD. I got a job as a doorman at clubs and bars all over Edinburgh.

I was getting by okay, but then one day in 1995, my landlord told me he was selling my flat and I had to move out. As a single man, I wasn't eligible for social housing. Before I knew it, I was homeless, forced to sleep on park benches or in graveyards.

After six months on the streets, I met a guy from the Scottish Veterans Residences. They offered me accommodation. With a place to live, I was put in touch with Poppyscotland and was lucky enough to be offered a job at Lady Haig's Poppy Factory.

I'm so proud to be part of a team of veterans producing five million poppies and 15,000 wreaths each year for the Scottish Poppy Appeal. I love my job and I don't know where I'd be without it. I owe a lot to Poppyscotland. They've given me a new sense of purpose and pride.



Donald McLeod,
Scots Guards 1978-1986

Gifts in Wills helped
award 252 Home Start-Up
grants in 2018, helping
veterans off the streets
and into a home.





Answers to frequently asked questions.

Lots of people have questions about leaving a gift in their Will. Here are a few answers you may find helpful:

Can I afford to leave a gift in my Will?

Many people ask themselves if they can afford to leave a gift in their Will. A Poppy Legacy can be of any size and after you have made provisions for your loved ones, even a small gift or percentage of your estate can help to make a difference to members of the Armed Forces community living in Scotland.

How easy is it to include Poppyscotland in my Will?

Amending your Will with a codicil is an easy and inexpensive way to include a gift to Poppyscotland. If you are writing a Will for the first time, it generally costs between £100 to £300.

For more information about Poppy Legacies and leaving a gift to Poppyscotland in your Will, please visit Poppylegacy.org.uk

What happens if I change my mind?

You are free to change your mind at any time. In fact, solicitors recommend you review your Will every few years and amend it to reflect any changes in your circumstances.

Is a gift in my Will affected by Inheritance Tax?

Any gift made in your Will to Poppyscotland is exempt from tax and could even reduce your Inheritance Tax liability.

If you have any questions
please get in touch.

We'd be delighted to chat to you if you need any further information or advice, simply email our Poppy Legacy Team at legacy@poppyscotland.org.uk or call 0131 550 1567.





Every step forward.
Every battle won.
Every brighter future...

...has a Poppy Legacy behind it.



Poppyscotland, New Haig House, Logie Green Road, Edinburgh EH7 4HQ

Supporter Careline 0131 550 1567 www.poppyscotland.org.uk

Scottish Charity No: SC014096.