

“Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home September 2023

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In Flanders Fields

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.

PROGRAM GOALS

- 1. VFW National Home Education & Community Outreach**
- 2. "Buddy"® Poppy Education & Community Outreach**
- 3. National "Buddy"® Poppy Display Contest**

“Buddy”® Poppy

How do we use the “Buddy”® Poppy? We benefit from donations received while distributing Poppies within our communities. We create Poppy displays to bring awareness about veterans and service members to the community. We use them to decorate packages given to our hospitalized veterans. We use them as table decorations for our events. We decorate our wreaths for Memorial and Veterans Day with Poppies. The more we use, and the more we buy, the more veterans, service members and their families benefit.

A friendly competition for our Department of California will be for Auxiliaries to create a Head Piece out of Buddy Poppies. The Criteria is it must be a Head Piece, must have at least one Buddy Poppy in tact with label, stem and flower. There will be three categories that we will judge:

- **Most Creative**
- **Most Patriotic**
- **Best Promotion of Buddy of Poppy**

There may be more than one entry per Auxiliary/District.



VFW Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento have a special joint project for 2023-2024:
The VFW National Home Welcome Center Special Renovation Project.
Locate the flyer in MALTA Member Resources under “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home.

You Can Help:

DONATE

When you make a financial donation to the VFW National Home, you’re sending help and hope to people at their time of need.

<https://vfwnationalhome.org/donate/>

HOME FRONT HERO

Home Front Heroes take a leading role in our mission by pledging to make a recurring monthly contribution to the National Home.

<https://vfwnationalhome.org/hero/>

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Become a Life Member or an Associate Life Member and create a lasting bond between yourself and the mission of the National Home.

<https://vfwnationalhome.org/you-can-help/membership/>

TRIBUTE BRICKS

Honor a veteran, family or organization with a personalized brick placed in a sidewalk at the National Home.

<https://vfwnationalhome.org/you-can-help/tribute-bricks/>

TRIBUTE PARK

Create a lasting tribute in our peaceful and beautiful Tribute Park while also supporting future generations through the Amy Ross Permanently Restricted Endowment Fund.

<https://vfwnationalhome.org/tribute-park/>

PLAN YOUR LEGACY

Including the National Home in your will or trust is a meaningful way to help us continue to serve families in need.

<https://vfwnationalhome.org/you-can-help/plan-your-legacy/>

RAISE FUNDS

Getting others to give! We can help!

TELL OTHERS

Word of mouth is the most effective way to further our efforts to provide help and support to veterans and active-duty members of the military and their families.

RECRUIT MEMBERS

Volunteer to be a National Home Life Member Recruiter. Reaching out to individuals who believe as strongly as you do about our mission is greatly appreciated.

<https://vfwnationalhome.org/you-can-help/membership/life-member-recruiter/>

Finally, plans are underway to celebrate the 100-year anniversary in 2025. Please be sure to reach out to your District Trustee to see how you can help and participate in making their 100-year celebration memorable. Be sure to use the information in MALTA Member Resources for more ideas and information regarding “Buddy”® Poppy and VFW National Home.