

“Buddy”® Poppy & National Home for Children

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PROGRAM GOALS

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

Our National President Carla Martinez theme *“Banding Together For Our Veterans”* and our Department President Diana Russell-Milton’s theme *“Stronger Together For Our Veterans”*.

Let us all get together and educate our communities to understand and appreciate benefits veterans receive from our “Buddy Poppy”.

Buddy Poppy:

The "Buddy"® Poppy Program was started about a hundred years ago and it continues to help, disabled veterans, service members and their families around the world. This program provides continuously from the flower's fabrication through distribution. It provides support to those who make our Poppies and to those who benefit from our Poppy drives.

The “Buddy”® Poppy has been an integral part of the VFW community for more than 95 years. As the VFW's official memorial flower, the Poppy represents the blood shed by American service members. It reiterates that we will not forget their sacrifices

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.

When reporting on the “Buddy”® Poppy Program, it is important to know that we only count the money going out. We do not need to know how much you brought in from your drives. We need to know how much your Auxiliary donates to veterans and the number of Poppies purchased used.

To remind our membership that “Buddy”® Poppy funds shouldn't be counted coming in, but

rather when funds are donated, or go out, members are encouraged to use #poppiescount when you are posting photos of your “Buddy”® Poppy Drives. Include details about your projects and photos about how you use Poppies in another Program. Doing so will highlight the “Buddy ”® Poppy Program and how it benefits veterans, service members and their families.

How do you use the money from your Poppy drives? The money received from the Poppy drives is placed in the Relief Fund. It is used to assist any veteran, service member and their families in their time of need. More information can be found in the *Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual* about how to use Relief Fund monies. One way it can be used is to donate the funds to the VFW National Home.

VFW National Home

The VFW National Home was founded in 1925. It is in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. It began as a haven where families left behind by war could remain together. Today it has evolved to meet the changing needs of America's military and veteran families.

The future is looking bright at the VFW National Home. They have created a new logo, removing the blue screen from around the tree and the words "for Children". They kept the tree made out of three hearts.

The VFW National Home is helping families, parents and their children today. They no longer have house mothers and children without parents. Each home is available to a family that is having difficult times. There are 42 homes available. Each family is allowed to stay at the home for a maximum of four years. During their tenure, families are given the assistance they need.

The VFW National Home assists with finding jobs, provides day care, assists with budgets and any mental health and social assistance the family may need. It is truly a new beginning for a family that is struggling day-to-day.

The VFW National Home has strategic goals. The first of these goals is to be the first name that comes to mind for all our veteran service organizations. We need to get the word out about the VFW National Home.

If the American Legion or any other veteran service organization has a family in need, we want them to be directed to the VFW National Home. Share the brochure with your local clergyman and veteran service officer. Provide the National Home helpline: 800-313-4200, which is available Monday through Friday from 8am-4pm CST.

The National Home has resources to help our veterans even if they do not want to move to

Eaton Rapids. They can connect the veterans to services in their own state. National Home is also working to upgrade their technological capabilities. Donations are needed to update the internet in each of the homes and community buildings.

Other ways you can donate to the National Home:

- Purchase a brick for the Tribute Park Become a Life Member
 - Become a Hometown Hero Contributor
 - Shop the National Home's Amazon Wish list
 - Donate to Health & Happiness

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.

For more information, visit the National Home's website at vfnationalhome.org

and/or

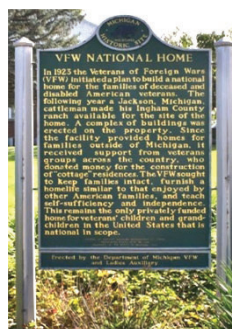
For Donations, Call 866-483-9642

For Help, Call 800-313-4200

For General Information, Call 800-424-8360

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. EST

Mailing Address: 3573 Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827



Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding use of the "Buddy" Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that uses the "Buddy" Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their department "Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.

The Department "Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024 at info@vfwauxiliary.org a total combine list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding use of the "Buddy" Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program.

The Department "Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National "Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home Ambassador by April 30, 2024 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the Auxiliary account after the National Convention.

2. Most outstanding activity and/or event that educates their community and/or other Veteran Service Organizations about the VFW National Home.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community or another Veteran Service Organization about the VFW National Home. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their department "Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.

The Department "Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024, at info@vfwauxiliary.org a total combine list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.

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National Home Ambassador by April 30, 2024, for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the Auxiliary account after the National Convention.

3. Citations to each Auxiliary that contributes a gift of 25 cents or more per member to the Health & Happiness Fund based on June 30, 23 membership statistics.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National.

Awards for Departments and Department Chairman

\$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department "Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best promotion to educate their community about the "Buddy" Poppy. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

1. \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department "Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best promotion to educate their community and/or Veteran Service Organization about the VFW National Home. Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

2. Outstanding Performance Award in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on Page XX and for the promotion of the Program Goals listed at the top of Page XX. Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

Department Legacy Awards

A Legacy Award will be awarded to one Outstanding Auxiliary Chairman for best Performance in the National Home/Buddy Poppy Program.