

Greetings Madam Ambassador, Madam Department President, Line Officers, PDPs, District Presidents, and Chairpersons.

Please read through to find the August promotion for “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy & VFW National Home.

### **“Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy**

When reporting on the “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> 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 procured from the VFW.

Members are encouraged to use #poppiescount when you are posting photos of your “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy Drives. Include details about your projects and photos about how you use Poppies in another Program. Doing so will highlight the “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy Program and how it benefits veterans, service members and their families.

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.

Our Department of California will have our own “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy contest. We are challenging you to make any kind of head piece, covering, and so on, to be made with “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppies. The judging criteria will be posted in the next Promotion, just start brainstorming your ideas.

### **VFW National Home**

I’ll begin by passing along that the name and Logo have changed They have created a new logo, removing the blue screen from around the tree and the words “for Children.” They kept the tree made from three hearts if you have not already noticed. Also exciting is that VFW Auxiliary National President Carla Martinez & 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”<sup>®</sup> Poppy & VFW National Home.

THE GOAL IS TO REMODEL the existing lobby area into a welcoming retail space, updated reception, and information area. JUST A FEW OF THE THINGS THAT WILL BE DONE WITH THE RENOVATION: • Floors would be replaced with a nonslip surface • A sidewalk would be added from the administration walkway to ensure ADA compliance • Increased retail space and expanded items available for resident convenience, such as milk and bread • Postal and parcel operations will be combined for resident and postal worker convenience Beginning July 1, 2023, members may donate to this project in MALTA by selecting Make a Gift, National President’s Special Project. CHECKS CAN BE MADE PAYABLE/SENT TO: VFW National Home 3573 S Waverly Rd. Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 Reference “Welcome Center Renovation Project” Or go to: [vfnationalhome.org/donate](https://vfnationalhome.org/donate) In comments section type: “Welcome Center Renovation Project” Please help them and donate to their cause, it’s a great one.

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.

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.

The 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.

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.

**Stay Tuned District Presidents,** for a message from our very own Mary Anne Kreutz who is running for Trustee 12 for VFW National Home. Voting is open to all Life Members of the VFW National Home from 8/21-9/27. If you’re not already a Life Member, what another super reason to become one, to support our Junior Past Department President in becoming Trustee 12.

Respectfully,

Leslie Alday

Department of California - Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home

Department of California – Guard

District 13 – President

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