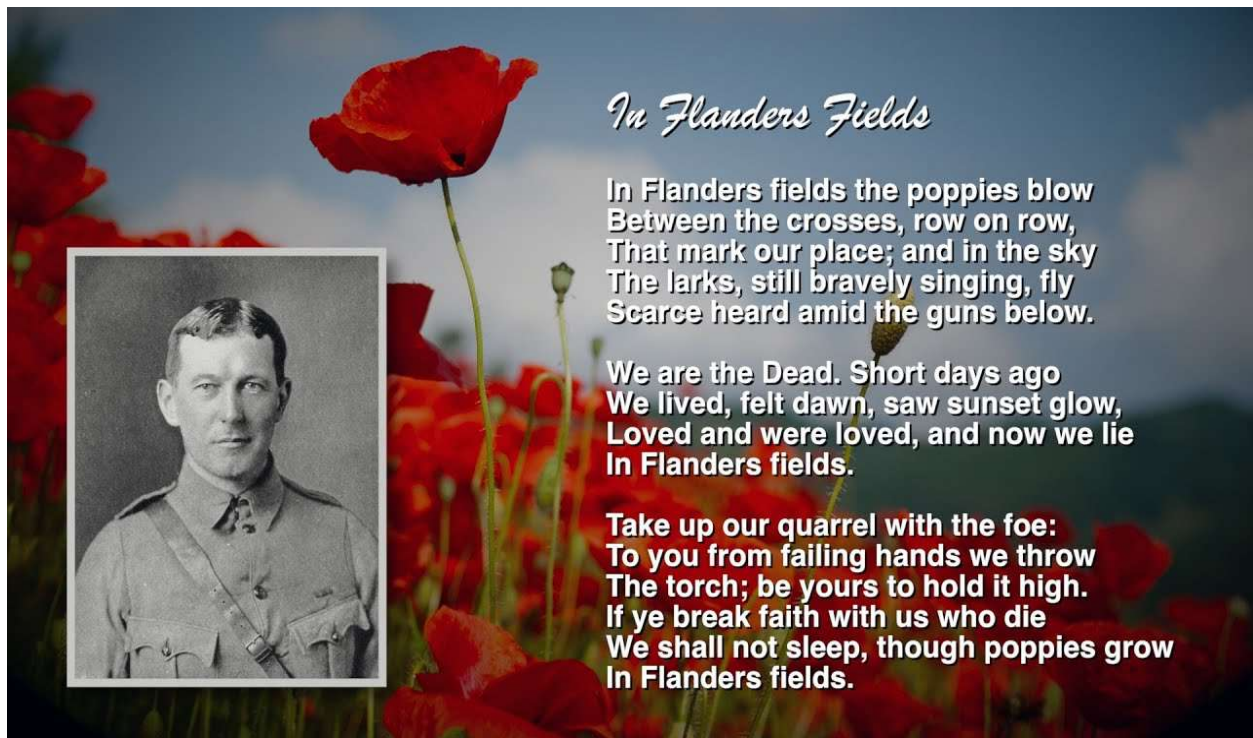


“Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home September 2024 Promotion

Department of California
Leslie Alday
BPNH Chairperson
209-298-4469
lesmig@att.net



In Flanders Fields

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.

“Buddy”® Poppy

Greetings to you all. Call me corny, but I never get tired of talking about the “Buddy”® Poppy. It stirs up a sense of nostalgia, not of my own experiences but of/for those brave men and women that sacrificed EVERYTHING for us. It’s a sacrifice I will never fully grasp, but one I will be forever grateful and humbled for, as we all should be, not as individuals, but as One Nation Under God.

The VFW “Buddy”® Poppy is worn as a profound gesture of respect to honor the valor and sacrifice of those who have laid down their lives for their country. Let is NOT forget those sacrifices as we continue to do the work that carries on their

legacies and shows that their sacrifices were for a cause greater than us as individuals.

The first “Buddy”® Poppy distribution was held on Memorial Day 1922. When you hold a “Buddy”® Poppy distribution, be it your own Auxiliary, or by teaming up with your Comrades, you are honoring the dead by helping the living. You are bringing awareness to your communities about the significance of the “Buddy”® Poppy. This is also a great opportunity to get the word out to your communities about who we are, what we do as an organization. We know all too well that so many people, Veterans included, do not understand who and what we are or do. Collaborate with JROTC, Scouts or other youth groups and ask them to join you in the distribution of the “Buddy”® Poppy? Get the word out.

Donations collected during your “Buddy”® Poppy distribution will be allocated to the Relief Fund per our Bylaws. You are encouraged to consult the Booklet of Instructions found within your Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual on ways to use the funds.



VISIT OUR ONLINE STORE AND EXPLORE OUR EXCLUSIVE 100TH ANNIVERSARY ITEMS.

VFW National Home

... Continuing with “Beginnings”, Did you know the origins of today’s VFW National Home can be traced to a 23-year-old woman named Amy Ross. In 1922, Ross made it her mission to help find jobs for the thousands of unemployed veterans in Detroit.

On Jan. 7, 1925, the VFW National Home was founded, helping to fulfill the VFW pledge to “honor the dead by helping the living.” Later that spring, the Home welcomed its first family in an old frame farmhouse, Mrs. Pollett and her six children. Pollett had become suddenly widowed and lost her husband’s military pension.

The VFW National Home has transformed from an old frame farmhouse to a sprawling campus with playgrounds; park areas; and multiple buildings, including single-family homes, a community center and gymnasium, childcare facility, guest lodge, chapel, and administrative offices.

Now, nearly one hundred years later, the National Home continues evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of America’s military and veterans’ families. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the National Home’s commitment to honor our nation’s veterans and active-duty military by providing help and hope for their children and families.

Here's a slight glimpse into some of the services the VFW National Home provides: **Education** – Tutoring, Life Skills, Computer Lab, Library, Summer Enrichment Science Lab, and Community service and Patriotism. **Recreation**, **Case Management**, and **Day Care** (The Early Education Center is home to the National Home’s on-site early childhood education program.)

Built in 1945, the Child Care and Early Education Center is a full-service, state-licensed childcare facility with classrooms for infants, toddlers and preschool/school-age children. Teachers work closely with parents and one another to help each individual child reach his or her full potential, and parents are encouraged to take an active role in their child’s development. Here, children up to

6 years of age receive high-quality care in a safe and nurturing environment designed with them in mind. National Home residents can utilize the facility at no cost while working or attending school. This is another great part of the VFW National Home that you can choose to Donate to, the Nursery.

If you know someone who needs assistance, encourage them to:

- Call the Helpline at 1-800-313-4200,
- Email help@vfwnationalhome.org, or
- Visit vfwnationalhome.org/help,
- Donations: 866-483-9642
- General: 800-424-8360
- info@vfwnationalhome.org
- Mailing Address:
VFW National Home
3573 S Waverly Rd.
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

CALIFORNIA 1 HOUSE

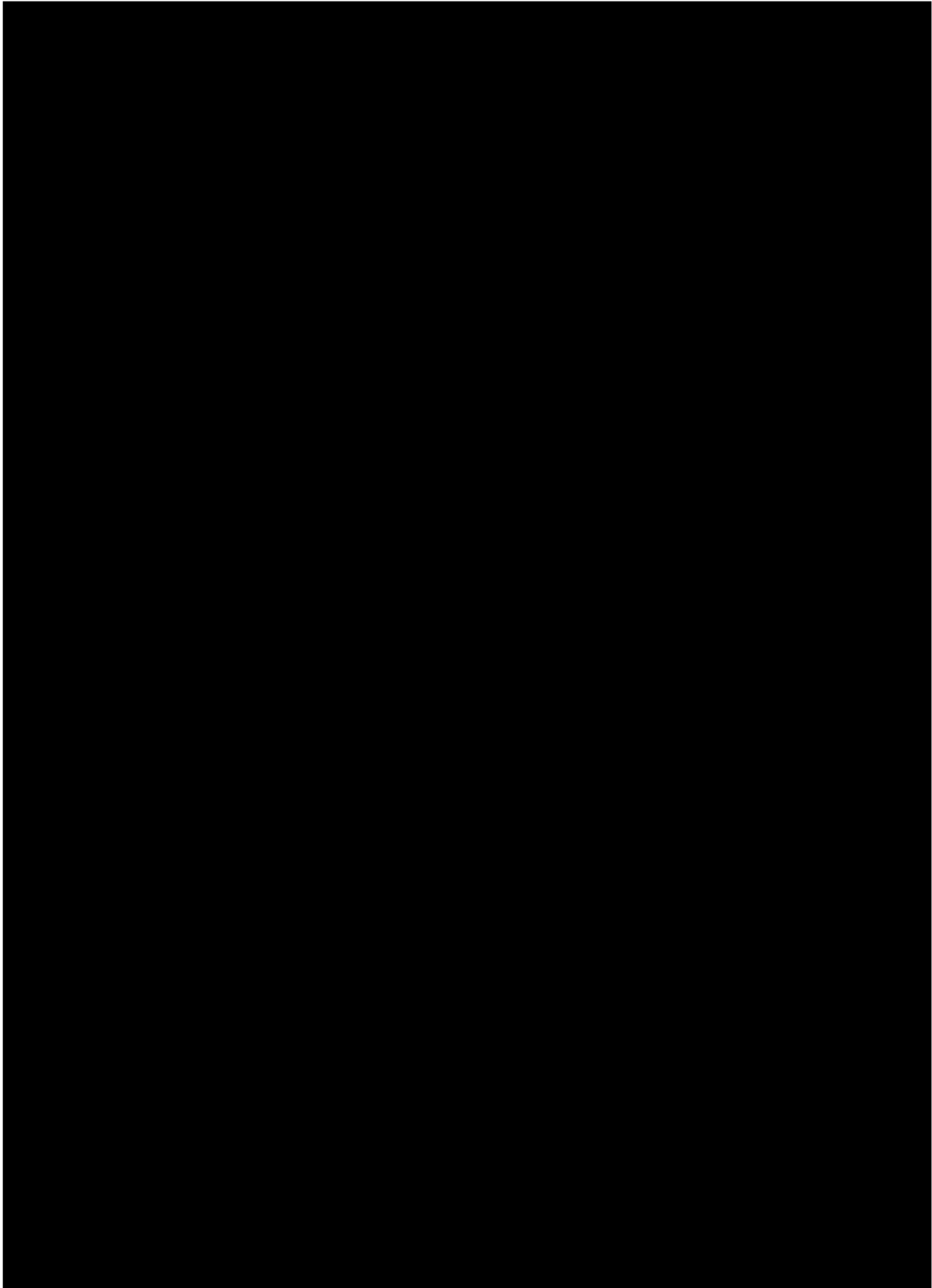




CALIFORNIA 2 HOUSE







Department Judging Will Occur at COA Meeting on VOD Weekend.

WESTERN CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS
VFW NATIONAL HOME FUNDRAISER

- 1) Please use the VFW National Home “Home/Bank” that were given to all District Presidents at Convention and decorate it to represent your state or with a theme or let your imagination run wild.

DON NOT COVER THE MONEY RECEPTICLE (to put donations in)
THE ROOF MUST BE REMOVABLE (to count money)

- 2) Bring your decorated house with you to our COA in October in Bakersfield (Sharonda & Deb’s Homecoming)
- 3) All our 17 homes will be displayed, and members will vote on their favorite(s) by donating in your home.
- 4) The donations will be counted and the District with the most donations will win a prize, and your “Home/Bank” will be taken to the Western Conference (Hawaii in November) to represent the Department of California.
- 5) You can use your decorated home to collect donations prior to our COA in October in Bakersfield and those donations will be counted for your home.
IDEALLY, CHECK IS PREFERRED TO CASH...Bring a check payable to Department of California and Julie will combine all and write a check to VFW National Home.
SHOULD YOUR BANK BE CHOSEN TO REPRESENT DEPT OF CA,
YOU WILL BE GIVEN A “LENDER BANK TO CARRY YOU
THROUGH UNTIL YOURS IS RETURNED.

DISTRICT “HOME/BANK” CONTEST

- 1) Our FINAL judgement will take place at Department President Sharonda’s Convention in June 2025.
- 2) At least one Buddy Poppy must be used in its entirety. Tin or the original one.
- 3) House size no larger than 18 inches wide, and 18 inches long, height is the actual height of the “Home/Bank”. You may have a Flagpole up to 12 inches high.
- 4) Decorate: 3Dementional, painted, just be creative.
- 5) PRIZES: Third Place is a VFW National Home Poker Chip, Second Place will be a VFW National Homa Ball Cap, and First place will be a VFW National Home Polo Shirt.

