

"Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home

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PROGRAM GOALS

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

Our National President Brenda Bryant's theme is *"From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans"* and our Department President Sharonda Lewis' theme is *"Growing in Service to Our Veterans Rooted in Strength."*

Let us all join together and educate our communities to understand and appreciate the benefits Veterans and their families receive from our "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home.

"Buddy"® Poppy Program

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. It has been an integral part of the VFW's community for about as many years. It is the VFW's official memorial flower; and it 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 and how many were used. 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.

How to Order

- Contact your VFW Post to order Poppies.
- Request the order form from your VFW department headquarters at least 2-3 months (8-12 weeks) in advance of your distribution date.
- Brochures, “Buddy”[®] Poppy distribution supplies and promotional items can be purchased from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org or by calling 1-833-VFW-VETS, be sure to mention you are with the Department of California.

“Buddy”[®] Poppy Distribution Tips

- Speak with your VFW Post about a joint drive and splitting the proceeds.
- Get permission from desired location and check with city/town clerk’s office to see if permits are needed.
- Ask for volunteers from the community as well as from your Post and Auxiliary, also ask your local JROTC, Scouts, Youth Groups, etc.
- Ask volunteers to wear VFW/Auxiliary brans clothing, name tags and such.
- NEVER refuse someone a “Buddy”[®] Poppy because they are unable to donate. A “Buddy”[®] Poppy honors all veterans.
- See the VFW’s “Buddy”[®] Poppy Chairman’s Guide for further assistance in setting up a “Buddy”[®] Poppy drive, as well as obtaining other helpful resources. This guide can be found in MALTA member Resources.
- Distribution of “Buddy”[®] Poppies should be included in all Auxiliary, District and Department activities, including Parades, Patriotic events, Membership Drives, BINGO, Bunco, etc.

Official National VFW “Buddy”[®] Poppy Display Contest

- Takes place annually at National Convention
- Displays are judged in three (3) categories
- This is an Official National VFW Contest

VFW National Home

This Program year the VFW National Home is turning 100!

It was founded in 1925 and 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, allowing the families to live there rent free for up to four years and have access to professional case management services, on-site childcare, life skills training and a variety of educational, recreational and community service opportunities. There currently are 42 single-family homes in which they may reside. Over the years the VFW National Home has met the ever-changing needs of America's Military and Veterans' families.

Only one thing is asked of families being accepted to the Program, and that is: They must be committed to make changes in their lives. To remain at the National Home, they are expected to demonstrate consistent progress towards family goals. Together, in partnership with the whole family, the National Home is Dedicated to helping each family reach its potential.

Military families need not live on the premises to receive assistance. They may use the National Home Hotline to receive invaluable assistance staffed by caring professionals who help callers with urgent needs seek solutions within their own communities. If you know someone who needs assistance, encourage them to not hesitate to reach out to:

- **Call** the Helpline at 1-800-313-4200,
- **Email** help@vfnationalhome.org, or
- **Visit** vfnationalhome.org/help.

Through it all, one thing has remained constant: The National Home's commitment to honor our Nations Veterans and Service members by providing help and hope for their children and families.

The VFW National Home is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

For more information, visit the National Home's website at: vfnationalhome.org and/or:

For Donations, call 866-483-9642

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



V F W
N A T I O N A L H O M E

These are the questions you should try to answer when you make your reports about your Auxiliary's "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home projects online. Include sufficient details in your description to help your Department Chairman recognize your accomplishments. Select the appropriate "Activity" when completing your report.

VFW Auxiliary National Year-End Report Worksheet "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home 2024-2025

This form is for statistical purposes only.
The Department Chairman must submit this report form to their Department President by May 1. This report to be processed in MALTA by the Department President by May 10.

Department: _____ Number of participating Auxiliaries: _____

VFW "Buddy"® Poppy

1. Number of Auxiliaries that held a VFW "Buddy"® Poppy drive with or without their VFW Post. _____
2. Number of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies that were distributed. _____
3. Number of Auxiliaries that participated in the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy Display Contest. _____

VFW National Home

1. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted the VFW National Home. _____
2. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted the VFW National Home Helpline. _____
3. Number of Auxiliaries that purchased at least one VFW National Home Life Membership in the current Program Year. _____
4. Number of Auxiliaries that purchased at least one VFW National Home Tribute Brick in the current Program Year. _____

Department Chairman signature: _____

Date: _____ Conference: _____