

# BUDDY POPPY & NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

## Program Goals:

- Educate the community about the Buddy Poppy.
- Participate in the Department and National Buddy Poppy Contest.
- Educate the community about the National home for Children.

## National Home

The VFW National Home is turning 100 this year. Located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. We are celebrating the mission of the National Home, to take care of Veterans, and Active Military and their families. National Home has resources to help active military and veteran's through employment service, Mental health for the entire family, peer support and many other services for our service men and women. Veterans can live in this home for up to 4 years while learning a new way of life.

To help keep the National Homes dreams alive:

- Donate to Health and Happiness at \$.25 per member of your auxiliary (based on the June 30<sup>th</sup> Malta membership count.
- Purchase a brick for the Tribute Park
- Purchase from the National Homes wish list on Amazon.
- Have a Fundraiser to help purchase items they are in need of.
- Send a birthday card to the National Home in celebration of their 100 years of service by January 2025.
- Create Displays to help educate about the National Home.

The National Home now has resources to help even if a family does not want to move to Eaton Rapids, Michigan. For News and Events, Testimonials, Strategic Planning, History and their online store go to their website at <https://vfwnationalhome.org>.

## Buddy Poppy

These small but bright blood red flowers represent the blood shed by our service members. Inspired by a poem written a Canadian Army Col. John McCrea's, "*In Flounders Fields.*" The VFW started its distribution of the Poppy flower in 1922 and was trade marked by May 20, 1924, as the "Buddy" Poppy. The name Buddy was a name given to the poppies by the Disabled American vets of the VFW who make these flowers by hand. No other organization can legally use the name "Buddy" Poppy. It is an Honor to wear a buddy poppy in remembrance of those who sacrificed their lives for us to have the life we have today.

- Honor the dead by supporting the living. Have a "BUDDY" Poppy drive.
- Remind volunteers that they are not selling "Buddy" Poppies. We distribute them for a donation.
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## **BUDDY POPPY & NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN**

- Create a “Buddy” poppy display for the Mid Year Conference. Following the national guidelines.
- Celebrate Memorial Day by having a “Buddy” poppy drive and educate the public on the “Buddy Poppy.”
- Celebrate Veterans Day by having a “Buddy” poppy drive and educate the public on the “Buddy Poppy.”

To purchase “Buddy” Poppies contact your VFW Post or the Department Quartermaster to place and order. Allow enough time for delivery 3 to 8 weeks. There are two options of “Buddy” Poppy a traditional “Buddy” Poppy and the new metal “Buddy Poppy”.

- One (1) cent goes to the VFW National Home
- One (1) cent goes to the VFW National Headquarters Veterans Service Fund
- One and Half (1.5) cent goes to the Department of Florida Veterans Service Fund to help Veterans in need.

### **DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES:**

1. One special award per membership class for the Most outstanding activity and/or event using the VFW “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy.
2. One special award per membership class for the most outstanding activity and/or event to recognize and celebrate the VFW National Home’s 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

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“Buddy” Poppy/National Home Chairman  
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## **NATIONAL AWARDS**

### **Awards for Auxiliaries**

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event using the VFW “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy.

Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event using the VFW “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy

2. Most outstanding activity and/or event to recognize and celebrate the VFW National Home’s 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to recognize and celebrate the VFW National Home’s 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Entry forms required for each award and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry forms to their Department “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging. The Department “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry forms to the National “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy & VFW National Home Ambassador by April 30, 2025 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.