

“BUDDY” POPPY

Goals:

“Buddy” Poppy Education & Distribution
VFW National “Buddy” Poppy Display contest

To convey the importance of the “Buddy” Poppy to our member and Community – the “Buddy” Poppy is once again a program on its own!

The origins of the “Buddy” Poppy: The “Buddy” Poppy is a symbol of remembrance for our Veterans. In April 1919, the “Poppy Lady” Madame Guerin turned to the VFW for help and the organization readily agreed to take over from the American Legion. In May 1922, the VFW conducted the first nationwide distribution of poppies in the United States. The “Buddy” Poppy was adopted by the VFW in 1922 to support disabled Veterans and it represented as the Memorial Flower during its National encampment in August of that same year.

Use of the “Buddy” Poppy shows a continued support for Veterans. Funds raised by the distribution of the “Buddy” Poppy not only on Memorial Day, Labor Day and Veterans Day but in the schools, in our care packages, in birthday, sympathy and thinking of you cards help with the rehabilitation and assistance for all Veterans and their families. We truly need to educate the community, students and even our members about the meaning of the “Buddy” poppy. Use them during parades, wrap silverware for events, create centerpieces, make Christmas wreaths.

Promoting the “Buddy” Poppy: Work with your post to select locations and get permission for those locations. Set dates and times. Encourage your members to volunteer and seek out assistance from the JROTC and other youth in the community to help. As an Auxiliary, you may order your own poppies. Contact the State A/Q – John Coleman for assistance. Make sure to wear something that reflects the Auxiliary and identifies who you are. Remember, we do not sell the “Buddy” Poppy – we distribute them to help the community to “Remember”. You may also choose to order supplies/promotional items from the VFW Store to hand out to those who visit your table. The poem “In Flanders Field” can easily be printed off and handed out.

Did you know that we have two types of “Buddy” Poppy? The original is the artificial flower but we also have the tin tab “Buddy” Poppy available. While supplies last you may also order the Anniversary “Buddy” Poppy to help celebrate your 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th anniversary. These may be purchased through the VFW Store.

We do this to “Honor the Dead by Helping the Living”



Mary Conkle
Dept. “Buddy” Poppy Chairman
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DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS

Special Award to one Auxiliary in each membership class for the most outstanding activity and/or event to educate their community about the VFW "Buddy" Poppy.

NATIONAL AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Citation and \$24 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding activity and/or event to educate their community about the VFW "Buddy" Poppy.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must be sent the required entry form to the VFW Auxiliary Dept. "Buddy" Poppy Chairman by March 31, 2027 for judging.

The VFW Auxiliary Dept. "Buddy" Poppy Chairman MUST sign and send a copy of the completed Department winning entry form to the VFW Auxiliary National "Buddy" Poppy Ambassador by April 30, 2027 for judging.

CITATIONS WILL BE MAILED DIRECTLY TO THE WINNING VFW AUXILIARIES FROM VFW AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND MONEY WILL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE VFW AUXILIARY ACCOUNT AFTER THE 2027 VFW AUXILIARY NATIONAL CONVENTION