

“BUDDY”[®] POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

Program Goals:

- “Buddy”[®] Poppy Education and Community Outreach
- National “Buddy”[®] Poppy Display Contest
- VFW National Home Education and Community Outreach

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT’S THEME

“Stand Up, Speak Out”

NATIONAL PRESIDENT’S THEME

“Banding Together For Veterans”

Buddy Poppy:

In February 1924, the VFW registered the name “Buddy” Poppy with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 24th, 1924, granting the VFW all trademark rights in the name of Buddy, under the classification of artificial flowers. No other organization, firm or individual can legally use the name “Buddy” Poppy.

- Create Poppy displays to bring awareness about veterans and service members to the community.
- Have an event to celebrate the “Buddy” Poppy
- Buddy Poppy Drive, remind volunteers they are not selling “Buddy” Poppies, but distributing them for donations.
- Get your ideas for “Buddy” Poppy display contest.

VFW National Home:

For nearly 100 years the VFW national Home for Children has helped Military and Veteran Families who need a fresh start. One way the Auxiliary supports the National Home is through gifts of 10 cents per member to the Health and Happiness fund. Health and Happiness supports Christmas Gifts, Graduation Gifts, maintenance of Auxiliary Sponsored Buildings.

- Educate the community, have a display of the National Home
- Show ways of National Home assistants, helpline, email addresses.
- Purchase a brick for the Tribute Park (Honor a Veteran or Family Member).
- Become a Life Member.
- Recognize a member who is dedicated to the Auxiliary (Purchase them a life Membership)
- Have a fund raiser for awareness of the VFW National Home and donate the funds to the VFW National Welcome Center Special Renovation Project.

The VFW Auxiliary National President, Carl Martinez and 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” Poppy and VFW National Home.

The VFW National Home first began as a place where families left behind by the war could go and be together. Today it has evolved to meet the changing needs of America’s military and veteran families.

There are 42 homes, for families in need, veterans and family of veterans could come and stay for a maximum of (4) years.

The National Home has resources to help our veterans even if they do not want to move to Michigan, they can connect the veterans to services in their own state.

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DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES:

1. Most Outstanding use of the “Buddy” Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program:

- Special Award to one Auxiliary in each of the (4) membership classes, that uses the “Buddy” Poppy in an event that honors the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Patent of the “Buddy” Poppy. Reports should be sent directly to the Department Chairman for judging by March 31st, 2024. Awards will be presented at June Convention 2024.
- Special Award to one Auxiliary in each of the (4) membership classes, that uses the “Buddy” Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program. Entry form must be sent to Department Chairman by March 31st, 2024. Awards will be presented at June Convention 2024.

2. Most Outstanding activity and/or event that educates their community and/or other Veterans Service Organizations about the VFW National Home.

- Special Award to one Auxiliary in each of the (4) membership classes that hosts an activity and/or event that educates the community and/or another Veteran Service Organization about the VFW National Home. Criteria and entry form (required) www.vfwauxiliary.org/resoures Auxiliaries must send the entry form to Department Chairman by March 31st, 2024.

NATIONAL AWARDS:

AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Most outstanding use of the “Buddy”[®] Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that uses the “Buddy”[®] Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department “Buddy”[®] Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding use of the “Buddy”[®] Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

Awards continued on next page

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2. Most outstanding activity and/or event that educates their community and/or other Veteran Service Organizations about the VFW National Home.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community or other Veteran Service Organization about the VFW National Home. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department “Buddy”[®] Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event that educates their community and/or another Veteran Service Organization about the VFW National Home. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

3. Citation to each Auxiliary that contributes a gift of 25 cents or more per member to the Health and Happiness Fund (based on June 30, 2023, membership statistics). Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.