

Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
General Orders
November/December 2024

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“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.” ~ Marcus Garvey

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to everyone that made ornaments for our Fall “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest. There were so many wonderful ornaments and I’m sure the Veterans will LOVE them.

Congratulations to our adult division ornament winners

1st place ornament winner, Kenzie Phillips from Auxiliary 4288 (District 6)

2nd place winner Janice Johnson also from Auxiliary 4288 (District 6)

Congratulations, also, to our youth division ornament winners

1st place Brooklyn H sponsored by Auxiliary 5077 (District 9)

2nd place Lori McFalls and class sponsored by Auxiliary 6133 (District 9)

Thank you to everyone that donated items to take to National Home (items for goody bags, prizes for games, kitchen towels/potholders or monetary gifts). Thank you, the kids loved all their goodies.

Thank you to everyone that went on the National Home trip – I hope you had an amazing time and that you brought back loads of information to share with your Auxiliary.

Don’t forget the cards!! The National Home will be celebrating 100 years of helping veterans and their families this year and they would love to receive birthday cards from all over. Make a trip to your local school, teach them about the National Home and have the kids get creative with some birthday card making.

Don’t forget! Our Winter C of A will be here before we know it! Our “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest is: “MO on the move” poster contest explaining the history of the “Buddy”® Poppy.

Fun facts about the Buddy Poppy/ National Home Chairmanship-

- Madame Anna E Guérin, founder of the American and French Children's League, spoke at servicemen's organizations and always requested the same thing: whenever possible, wear a silk red poppy flower to honor the fallen.
- In August of 1922, the poppy was adopted as the official memorial flower of the VFW.
- From 1940-1961 there were "Buddy"® Poppy Girls. Some of these Buddy Poppy Girls autographed photos of themselves to distribute to Posts for selling the poppies. **Does your Post have one of these autographed photos?**
- Take a **field trip to "Flanders Field."**
 - Post/Auxiliary 2210 believes they have one of the cannons from Flanders Field. They hope to soon have a mural behind it on their wall.
- In November 1925, the Board of Trustees had their first annual meeting. At that meeting, the groundbreaking ceremony was held for the first building at National Home. That building was financed by the VFW baseball trust fund.
- In 1957 the National Home had 29 cottages and 200 children living there. The Department of Michigan Auxiliary donated money to build a housemother's cottage where they could go on their day off to rest without children. When Mr. Charles Henry, Manager of the Home was asked why a housemother needed time away from the children when some were their own, he replied, "Mothers could do a better job if they could have a day each week of relief from the worry and frustrations of taking care of a large family, be it their own or others."
- The original Welcome Center structure at the National Home was paid for by a baseball game and careful investments. In 1922, the New York Yankees were playing the Giants in the World Series. The game was called due to darkness and both fans and writers said it was collusion to make more money on another game. Judge K. M. Landis, then commissioner, ordered the money be turned over to charity. Past Commander-in-Chief Tillinghast Huston, at the time was a part owner of the Yankees. He was able to secure \$20,352.10 of the proceeds for the VFW and it was turned over to the National Home. The money was then invested and 25 years later they had the \$60,000 needed to build the Administration building.

"HELPING OUR VETERANS BY BRIDGING THE GAP" WE CAN REACH "FROM OUR ROOTS TO OUR BRANCHES EXTENDING SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS"