

Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
Buddy® Poppy/ National Home
September/ October 2025-2026

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"There's no better way to chase horizons than in a caravan full of friends- each mile a memory, every stop a story."



And just like that, summer waved goodbye like a Sunday picnic in Missouri, and fall rolled in on a breeze that smells like bonfires and applebutter. The leaves are crunching down the yellow brick road, the lion's courage is in full roar, and our young adventurers are heading back to school - brave, bright-eyed, and ready for the next chapter.

It's inspiring to see how many Auxiliaries are out there hosting their **"Buddy"® Poppy** drives, and working with their VFW counterparts, with heart and dedication. Every event adds to the momentum, making a lasting impact in our communities and honoring those who've served. **Paint the full picture-** the more detail that you add the more powerful your report.

El Dorado Springs Auxiliary #257 recently showcased the elegant Diamond Poppies during their event.

💎🌸 **Do you know what a Diamond Poppy represents?** Share your answer by email (with me) and you'll be entered into a drawing at the Fall Conference for a special Poppy-themed prize!

Calling all munchkins, poppy dreamers, and hat-loving wanderers of the Yellow Brick Road...Step right into the **Fall Conference "Buddy"® Poppy Display Contest and Hat Parade**. Get your hat, get creative, and show us what you've got! Whether it's a twister-topper, lion's mane bonnet, or a sparkle-covered crown fit for Glinda herself- let your whimsical spirit shine! Judging will take place in both **Youth and Adult categories**, so everyone from the tiniest Toto to the most sapper Tin Man can strut their stuff. Because in this parade, there's **NO PLACE LIKE WOW!**

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to St. Charles on **September 18, 2025**, for a whimsical day of golf and giving at the **Charity Golf Tournament benefiting the VFW National Home!** Just like in *The Wizard of Oz*, where heart, courage, and brainpower lead the way, **your swing could make a real difference—details and flyer are on the website!**

🗺️🌟 **One Road, One Cause, Countless Heroes**—and we're off to see the (Did you try to sing that?) VFW National Home with courage, kindness, and a touch of Oz! From October 24–26, 2025, join us for a **magical trip and spook-tacular Halloween party co-hosted with our friends from Wisconsin**. With *The Wizard of Oz* spirit guiding us and **Route 66 nostalgia** adding a classic American twist, this adventure is a **wonderful chance to spend time with friends and get a meaningful taste of the VFW National Home's mission and heart**. Every mile is a tribute to unity, joy, and honoring those who serve. Last year, families were delighted to receive kitchen towels, and **this year we're bringing even more comfort by adding bath towels!** We're also collecting goody bag items (no candy, please)—fun, thoughtful goodies to share the heart of giving.

"Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today" as we stand together "From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans – Who Keep Us Free."