

Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
Buddy Poppy / National Home

Program Book 2024-25

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“A single poppy has the soul of a thousand heroes and the tears of a million loved ones.”

For over a hundred years the **“Buddy”® Poppy** has been an integral part of the VFW community. The Poppy is the official memorial flower of the VFW representing the blood shed by American service members. It reminds us that we will not forget their sacrifices.

This year marks 100 years since the VFW registered the name **“Buddy”® Poppy** with the U.S. Patent Office. On May 20, 1924 a certificate was issued granting the VFW all trademark rights in the name Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers.

How to Order

- Contact your VFW Post to order Poppies. If you have any problems ordering, please contact me.
- Request the order form from your Department Headquarters. Be sure to allow plenty of time (8-12 weeks) for delivery before your distribution date.
- Brochures, “Buddy”® Poppy distribution supplies and promotional items can be purchased from the VFW store at vfwstore.org or by calling 1-833-VFW-Vets.

New “Buddy”® Poppy

- ✓ Is made of tin
- ✓ It does not REPLACE the original “Buddy”® Poppy but is an alternative to the original “Buddy”® Poppy.
- ✓ The original “Buddy”® Poppy is NOT going away.

“Buddy”® Poppy Distribution Tips

1. Contact your city/town clerk’s office to see if a permit is required for your distribution event.
2. Get permission from your desired distribution location(s). Ask store manager/owners permission before promoting your distribution event.
3. Make sure Auxiliary members know when and where the distribution event will take place.
4. Contact your local radio station or paper to share information about your distribution event and/or share on social media.
5. Ask local youth groups for their assistance.
6. Have Poppy distributors wear Auxiliary (or VFW) braded clothing to promote the Auxiliary and VFW while also helping the public to connect the distribution event to the organization.
7. Use the “Buddy”® Poppy Chairmans Manuel to educate distributors. Remind them that they are distributing the Poppies for donations **NOT** selling them.

NEVER refuse someone a “Buddy”® Poppy because they are unable to donate.

“Buddy”® Poppy Fall Contest

Our “Buddy”® Poppy Contest at the Fall Council of Administration this year will be a Christmas ornament contest.

- ✓ The theme for the ornaments will be Patriotic
- ✓ There will be two categories: Made by Youth (age 15 and below) and made by an Adult (age 16 and up).
- ✓ Ornament can be any size/shape. (Remember it must be able to hang on a tree.) ✓ Make sure you have at least one Poppy in its original form with tag on the ornament.
- ✓ An envelope with:
 - **Adult** or **Youth** on outside ➤
 - On the inside:
 - Auxiliary number
 - number of members
 - number of poppies used
 - number of hours spent making ornament

DO NOT add anything to your ornament that will identify who made it.

Ornaments will be judged and winners will be announced during our meeting Saturday. Ornaments will be given to President Amy Jo Lett to distribute to Veterans Homes and Hospitals as she makes her visits.

“Buddy”® Poppy Winter Contest

The theme for our “Buddy”® Poppy Contest for the winter C of A this year will be **“MO on the Move.”**

- ✓ On a posterboard or trifold create a display explaining our “Buddy”® Poppy.
- ✓ This display can be used at your “Buddy”® Poppy Drive, explaining to our community the history of the Poppy.
- ✓ Make sure you have at least one Poppy in its original form with tag on it.
- ✓ An envelope with:
 - Nothing on the outside
 - On the inside:
 - Auxiliary number
 - number of members
 - number of poppies used
 - number of hours spent making ornament

VFW National Home

Happy Birthday National Home!!!! Almost 100 years ago the VFW National Home was founded to fulfill the VFW pledge to “honor the dead by helping the living”. In the spring of 1925, Mrs. Pollett, a widow with six children, was the first family welcomed to the VFW National Home. They lived in an old frame farmhouse.

Over the years the VFW National Home has grown from an old frame farmhouse to a campus with playgrounds, park areas, single-family homes, a community center and gymnasium, childcare facility, guest lodge, chapel and administrative offices. The VFW National Home continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of America’s military and Veterans’ families. One thing has remained the same over the years and that is the National Home’s commitment to honor our nation’s Veterans and active-duty military by providing help and hope for their children and families.

During this year our National Ambassador, Jodie Hollinger, would like all the Auxiliaries to take the time to CELEBRATE with her by sending a heartfelt birthday card to the VFW National Home in celebration of its 100th birthday. Mail your Auxiliary cards to the National Home at the beginning of the year so that it can be displayed at the National Home, all year long.

Ways You Can Help the VFW National Home

- ✓ Education and Publicity- Educate the public about the VFW National Home.
- ✓ Donate to Department National Home Fund
- ✓ Donate to National Home Fund (not including Health and Happiness)
- ✓ Purchase a National Home Life Membership
- ✓ Shop the National Homes Amazon wish list.

National Home Bus Trip

The annual VFW National Home Bus trip is scheduled for October 25th – 27th. Our theme this year is **Hotel Transylvania**. I will include additional information in future promotional materials. It is my goal to have VFW and VFW Auxiliary members run the games so that the VFW National Home staff can be a part of the party. If you have any game ideas (or would like to be in charge of a game/station) or would like to donate prizes for the games, please let me know. We would also like to collect “handmade” items for the game prizes.

The staff at the National Home said that when a new family comes to the home, they sometimes do not have much with them. Since our Department President, Amy Jo Lett, and Commander Ric DePontee are both crafters, what better way to help the families at the National Home than making items such as kitchen towels, potholders, etc that can be used in their homes. You can bring your items to the Fall Conference or send with someone that is going on the trip. PLEASE DO NOT MAKE LARGE ITEMS LIKE QUILTS, DUE TO LACK OF SPACE TO HAUL THEM. Please read future promotional materials to see what we are asking from the Auxiliaries.

Department Awards for Auxiliaries:

The Building Bridges Award:

First place - \$20 (subject to approval by the council) and a citation to one Auxiliary in each of the membership groups with the most outstanding program/project including teamwork within the Auxiliary and including the VFW members.

Second place: A citation to one Auxiliary in each of the membership groups with the most outstanding program/project including teamwork within the Auxiliary and including the VFW members.

National Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Most outstanding photo activity and/or event using the VFW “Buddy”[®] Poppy to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”[®] Poppy.
2. Most outstanding activity and/or event to recognize and celebrate the VFW National Home’s 100th Birthday.



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