

**Buddy® Poppy Program**  
**Flora Becker Chairman Phone: 315-521-2675**

**Email: loveourveterans17@yahoo.com USPS: 86 Garden Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148**

This year we are on a mission to light the torch and spread Hope to our Veterans and their families and everyone else as well. Just like lighting a torch to spread hope, a Buddy® Poppy is a reminder that we don't forget what our Service men and women and our Veterans have done for our country and those that died fighting the fight. There is a poem that can be sung as a little song is about the "Buddy" Poppy. The Author is unknown.

**" I wear a little Poppy as red as red can be, to show that I remember the one who fought for me".**

We will not forget! Remember and honor those who gave their all.

**Important Info:** Our National Ambassador for "Buddy" Poppy/National Home, Lisa Jackson, said when reporting the "Buddy" Poppy program, it is important to know that **we only count the money brought in from your drives**. We need to know how much your Auxiliary donates to Veterans and the number of Poppies purchased.

Members are encouraged to use **#poppiescount** when you are posting photos of your "Buddy" Poppy drives. Include details about your projects and how you use Poppies in another program. The money from "Buddy" Poppies goes into your Relief Fund. It is useful to assist Veteran's, service members, and their families in their time of need.

**"Buddy" Poppy update:** National increased the cost of Buddy Poppies in April 2023. The new prices increased to \$165 plus shipping for orders of 500 and \$330 plus shipping of orders of 1000. You can place your orders from the VFW store or by calling 1-833-VFW-VETS.

Use our "Buddy" Poppies to decorate for events. The more we use, the more we buy, the more Veteran's, service members and their families benefit.

**" Buddy" Poppy Display contest.**

**Display classifications will be in the following 3 categories.**

**1. Public Promotion    2. Memorial or Inspirational    3. Artistic or Decorative**

One "Buddy" Poppy in the display needs to be in the original form and color and label attached. Attach a 3x5 index card to the bottom of the display with the Category, Auxiliary and District number. Include a written report explaining the inspiration for your display. the Department will go to National for Judging. The 1st place winners of each category from

Each Auxiliary can bring a display to be judged at the Department Spring Conference.

**Fall Conference:** Each Auxiliary to is asked to bring a themed basket of your choice to be raffled off at the Conference.

**Spring Conference:** The "Buddy" Poppy Display contest test will be judged. A monetary award of 1st of \$30, 2nd place of \$20, and 3rd place of \$10 per category. 1st place winners will then go to National to be Judged.

**National Awards**

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. Auxiliaries must send the Entry form to the Department Chairman by March 31,2024 for Judging.
2. Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding Poppy in another VFW program.

**Department Awards:** For Auxiliary and District awards see guidebook.

*"Lighting the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" as we are  
"Banding Together for Our Veterans."*

## National Home:

The VFW National Home was founded in 1925 and located in Easton Rapids Michigan. The National home helps meet needs of America's military and Veteran families. They have a new logo. They removed the blue screen from around the tree and the words "for Children". They kept the tree made of three hearts.

The VFW helps not just children but the family that is having difficult times.

**Goals for the National Home:** 1st -to be the 1st name that comes to mind for all Veterans service organizations. To be directed to the National Home. Share brochures with Clergy and Veterans Service Centers. The National Hotline is 1-800-313-4200. They are available Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm CST.

2nd They also want to upgrade their technology. They would like donations to update the internet in each of the host community buildings.

**There are other ways to donate to the National Home:** - \* Purchase a brick from the tribute park - \*Become a Life Member. One-time fee of \$50. \*Become a Hometown Hero contributor \* Shop the National Home Amazon wish list \*Donate to Health and Happiness- 10 cents per member to the Health and Happiness Fund. Contributions are Critical since **the campus and its programs receive no government funding**. This supports Christmas gifts, graduation gifts, maintenance of Auxiliary sponsored buildings and Emergency repairs and renovations. You can donate by using **Malta or send check to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters** at 406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111. **Goal to have all Auxiliaries contribute by Sept 30th** . If you give 25 cents or more per member you will get a Citation from National.

**Fall Conference:** The District who gets all Auxiliaries to contribute to the Health and Happiness Fund in their District will be put in a drawing to receive a monetary award for their District of \$20.

**Spring Conference:** \* Purchase a Life Membership to the National Home and be put in a drawing to win a monetary award of \$50. Drawing at Conference. \* District Presidents will have "houses" to take to their visits to collect donations help the National Home update its technology. These will be returned to Chairman at the Spring Conference.

## National Awards

1. 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 another's Veteran Service organization about the National Home. Entry requests are available on Malta. Auxiliaries must send the entry to the Department Chairman by **March 31, 2024**, for Judging.
2. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters. Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 4 conferences with the most outstanding event that educates and/or their community and/or another Veterans service organization About the National Home.
3. Citation to each Auxiliary that contributes a gift of 25 cents per member to the Health and Happiness Fund based on June 30, 2023, membership statistics. Citation will be mailed out by the National Headquarters. Let's **"Light the Flame Of Hope for our Veterans "**

**Department Awards:** For Auxiliary and District awards see guidebook.