

“Buddy” Poppy Program  
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The “Buddy” Poppy has been an integral part of the VFW community for 100 years. The “Buddy” Poppy is the symbol that represents the blood shed by our service members and that we shall never forget the sacrifice they made for our country’s freedom.

To purchase “Buddy” poppies, request a **“Buddy” Poppy Order Form** from the VFW Department Headquarters at least two to three months in advance of your distribution date. **All order forms MUST be sent to the VFW Adjutant, VFW Dept of NY Headquarters, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205.** You may order the Traditional “Buddy” Poppies or the “New” Tin Tab “Buddy” Poppies. The “New” Tin Tab “Buddy” Poppy may be worn as a decorative pin on a hat, collar or suit jacket.

The costs of the “Buddy” Poppies are as listed below. Note that the Post Quartermaster **MUST** provide a signature for the order form. All orders **Must** be in multiples of 500 and orders will require a shipping and handling cost. (See attached Buddy Poppy Order Form)

Traditional Poppies: 1000 Poppies - \$340.00; 500 Poppies - \$170.00  
“New” Tin Tab Poppies: 1000 Poppies - \$206.00; 500 Poppies – \$103.00

Just a reminder, the “Buddy” Poppy is not for sale; they are to be distributed for donations to your Auxiliary Relief Fund. “Buddy” Poppy drives can be hosted throughout the year and all auxiliaries are encouraged to do a least one drive a quarter if possible.

For the **Fall Conference**, I am asking each Auxiliary and District to bring a minimum gift card of \$10.00 or more to be raffled with proceeds going to the “Guitars for Heroes” program at the VFW National Home. Gift cards should be from brand name stores or gas stations available across the state.

**Spring Conference** will be our annual “Buddy” Poppy Display Contest. The three categories are: Public Promotion; Memorial or Inspirational; Artistic or Decorative

Your display **MUST** have one “Buddy” Poppy in its original form, color with the label attached. A 3 x 5 index card should be affixed to the bottom of the display identifying the category of entry, Auxiliary Number, District Number and the amount of “Buddy” Poppies used in the display. Include a written/typed report explaining the inspiration for your display. All first place winners in each category will then be entered into the National Judging in Columbus, Ohio.

**National Awards:** Most outstanding activity and/or event using the VFW “Buddy” Poppy to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy” Poppy. Citation and \$25.00 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Entry form is due to Department Chairman by March 31, 2025. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliary by National Headquarters and award money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary Account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

## VFW National Home

On January 7, 2025 the VFW National Home will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday through serving our Veterans and their families. On January 7, 1925, the VFW National Home was founded, helping to fulfill the VFW pledge to “honor the dead by helping the living.” Over the past 100 years, the National Home has evolved to meet the changing needs of America’s military and veterans’ families by maintaining its commitment to honor our nation’s veterans and active-duty military by providing help and hope for their children and families.

In honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, please consider sending a heartfelt birthday card to the VFW National Home prior to January 2025 so they can be displayed at the Birthday party. In an effort to assist the VFW National Home for its birthday celebration, we are being requested to use the **Amazon Wish List** to donate or **make a donation** to help with the costs of the 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

The Health & Happiness Fund is a key fundraiser for the VFW National Home. The Department goal for 2024 is to have all Auxiliaries contribute to the Health & Happiness Fund by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

- Auxiliaries may donate 10 cents per member based on their June 30, 2024 membership statistics.
- If your Auxiliary wishes to donate 25 cents or more to the fund, the auxiliary will receive a certificate from National.
- The Health & Happiness Program supports Christmas gifts, Graduation gifts, Maintenance of Auxiliary sponsored buildings, and Emergency repairs and renovations.
- Your donation may be made through MALTA or to send an Auxiliary check payable to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111, earmark Health & Happiness.

Other ways to support the VFW National Home is through becoming a Life Member; purchase a brick for the Tribute Park, or becoming a Hometown Hero contributor.

**Fall Conference Request:** The District having all Auxiliaries contributing to the Health and Happiness Fund by December 31<sup>st</sup> will be placed in a drawing to receive a monetary award of \$20.00. The drawing will be announced at the Department of NY Virtual Birthday Party via ZOOM on January 7, 2025. (More details to follow.)

**Spring Conference Request:** Purchase a Life Membership to the VFW National Home and be placed in a drawing to win a monetary award of \$50.

### **Cash Bash Celebration Raffle – VFW National Home 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

- Each Auxiliary and District will receive one ticket in their President’s Package for a Cash Bash Celebration. Ticket price: \$20.00. Only 300 tickets will be sold.
- Auxiliary Checks payable to VFW Auxiliary, Department of New York – send check and completed ticket to Dept. Chairman, Flora Becker, 86 Garden Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
- Prizes – 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$600, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$300, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$200, 4<sup>th</sup> Place \$100 (4 winners) and 5<sup>th</sup> Place \$50 (10 winners). Winning tickets will be drawn at **Spring Conference**.
- All proceeds benefit the VFW National Home 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.

### **National Awards:**

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event to recognize and celebrate the VFW National Home’s 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Citation and \$25.00 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Entry form is due to Department Chairman by March 31, 2025. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliary by National Headquarters and award money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary Account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

2. Citation to each Auxiliary that contributes a gift of 25 cents per member to the Health and Happiness Fund based on June 30, 2024 membership statistics. Citation will be mailed to Auxiliary from National Headquarters.

*“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans” as we are  
“Soaring into the Next Century of Service with our Veterans and Their Families”.*