

“Buddy” Poppy & VFW National Home  
Debby McCarthy, Chairwoman  
Cell Number: 270-765-9341 Email: debmc@netscape.com

### HONOR THE DEAD BY HELPING THE LIVING

The “Buddy” Poppy has been an integral part of the VFW community since 1922. The “Buddy” Poppy is the symbol that represents the blood shed by our service members, **those with two feet and those with four**, 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. 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 Post Quartermaster **MUST** provide a signature on the order form. All orders **MUST** be in multiples of 500 and orders will require shipping and handling cost.

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 at least one drive per quarter, if possible.

For the **Fall Conference**, I am asking each Auxiliary and District to bring a Nationally recognized minimum gift card of \$10.00 or more to be raffled off with proceeds going to the NY Sponsored Homes at the VFW National Home.

**Spring Conference** will be our Annual “Buddy” Poppy Display Contest. Also, there will be an exciting raffle happening! **Watch for more details to follow in the Auxiliary News.**

**National Awards:** Most outstanding activity and/or event using the VFW “Buddy” Poppy to educate their community. Citation and \$25.00 each to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Entry form is due to Department Chairman by March 31, 2026.

**Department Awards:** Auxiliary Awards for the Buddy Poppy/National Home Program can be found on page 4 of this Guidebook.



**VFW National Home  
Debby McCarthy, Chairman  
13775 Leitchfield Rd, Eastview KY 42732  
270-765-9341**

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 last 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**.

**Let’s focus on promoting the VFW National Home Military and Veterans’ Family Website and Helpline, which are [www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org) and 1-800-313-4200, respectively.**

The Health & Happiness Fund is a key fundraiser for the VFW National Home. The Department goal for 2025 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, 2025, membership statistics.
- Auxiliaries are encouraged to donate 25 cents or more to the fund.
- The Health & Happiness Program supports Christmas gifts, maintenance of Auxiliary sponsored buildings, and Emergency repairs and renovations.
- Your donation may be made through MALTA or send an Auxiliary check payable to: **VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kanas City, MO, 64111. Earmark Health & Happiness.**

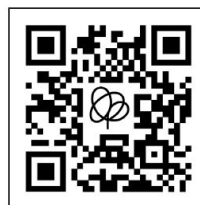
Other ways to support the VFW National Home is through becoming a Life Member; Purchasing a brick for the Tribute Park; or becoming a Hometown Hero contributor. **Reminder: watch the *Auxiliary News* for more information.**

**Fall Conference Request:** I am asking each Auxiliary to bring 1 dozen **HOMEMADE** cookies, packaged in 2 bags of 6, to sell for \$5 with proceeds going to the VFW National Home’s NY Houses.

**Spring Conference Request:** I am asking each Auxiliary to bring a minimum of \$10.00 or more of nationally recognized gift cards to be raffled off with proceeds going to the NY Sponsored Homes at the VFW National Home. This will benefit the Dept President’s and Commander’s Special Project at the National Home.

**National Awards:**

Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding activity and/or event that creates awareness and education of the VFW National Home. **Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.**



*“Always Stay True to Our Red, White, and Blue.”*

## Department President's & Commander's Joint Project



**Let's GENERATE Some Funds for OUR Homes!!!**

**Hey Folks! Did you know that we have not 1 but 2 houses at the VFW National Home?!**

My daughter and I recently visited our VFW National Home, took lots of pictures and were able to have a personal tour of the entire campus. In doing so, we were able to receive the INCREDIBLE history pertaining to our sponsored homes and the National Home itself. One of the many things needed for our sponsored homes are GENERATORS! Whatever we help raise for this amazing project is only to benefit our Veterans and their families! Let's dig deep into our pockets and fill the need of our New York sponsored Homes!!

---

### **"Buddy" Poppy Display Contest Rules**

There are 3 Categories for the "Buddy" Poppy Display Contest, each with their own qualifications.

Category 1 - Public Promotion (Window, booth, parade, or poster displays, etc) Displays must be designed for the public exposure and must bear a message urging the donating and wearing of the VFW "Buddy" Poppy.

Category 2 – Memorial or Inspirational Displays (Wreaths, Memorial Tablets or Plaques, Patriotic or Devotional Themes) Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the "Buddy" Poppy Program.

Category 3 – Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies (Novelty Pieces, Centerpieces, etc.) Displays not meeting the qualifications for Category 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered into Category 3 Complete freedom shall be permitted in the use of poppies, poppy parts or poppy labels

**ALL CATEGORIES MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE (1) "BUDDY" POPPY IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM AND COLOR WITH ITS LABEL ATTACHED. Department awards in each category: 1<sup>st</sup>-\$30; 2<sup>nd</sup>-\$20; 3<sup>rd</sup>-\$10**

**ALL ENTRIES MUST HAVE A 3X5 CARD AFFIXED TO THE BOTTOM WITH DISTRICT #, HOW MANY MEMBERS ASSISTED, HOW MANY POPPIES WERE USED AND HOW LONG IT TOOK TO CREATE!!**