



2023 – 2024

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND  
BUDDY POPPY &  
NATIONAL HOME

Karen D Rooker, PDP  
Buddy Poppy & National Home Chairman  
VFWA Dept of MD  
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VFW Auxiliary to the Department of Maryland  
Buddy Poppy & National Home Program  
2023-2024 Chairman  
Karen D Rooker, PDP  
6502 Randolph Rd  
Morningside, MD 20746  
301-335-3365  
ladykd922@yahoo.com

Hello –

My name is Karen Rooker and I have been appointed by President VaNette Jones to be the Buddy Poppy & National Home Chairman for the Department of Maryland for the 23-24 year.

We all know that the Buddy Poppy & National Home have both been around like what seems FOREVER! It is up to us to find new & innovative ways to get their stories out to the membership & general public even “shuzzing” up the “old school” stuff. Donation cans in the canteens or nearby stores, making poppy crosses & wreaths for all holidays (not just Memorial and Veterans Days), and don’t forget the ever-popular silverware wrapping and Poppy placemats - use them at all events! Poppies on the end of flags when passing them out (looky there 2 reports!) – that is a new award this year. A certificate from National for every auxiliary that uses Buddy Poppies in another National Program. This is so simple that I expect every auxiliary to get one of these. If your auxiliary is the Department winner, I send it to National and then there is a contest for the best one from each of the 4 conferences. The BEAST FROM THE EAST should have no problem winning the citation and the \$25, right?? I will provide the official form once it has been finalized by National.

Order your poppies from the Department of Maryland (Order form in this information). You do not have to go through your Post to do this. I would advise you not to order your poppies before August as there have been times when purchases that are made earlier, they are not credited in the current year but the prior one. Put this in your standing rules, that way you won’t forget. It should take 6-8 weeks for your order to arrive to you.

DO NOT report income from Buddy Poppy, only report money purchasing the Poppies and any supplies needed for the projects you do under this program. All income generated using Buddy Poppies is to be deposited into the Relief Fund.

The Buddy Poppy Display Contest rules will be published in a later mailing; however, you can find them on MALTA if you want to see them now.

The Department of Maryland sponsors 1 of the 42 houses at the VFW National Home. We really need to get the word out there that the National Home and its resources are not just for VFW members and their families but for all veterans. A lot of us are members of other organizations, not just for veterans. Take the informational brochure that you can get from the National store and place them around your area, American Legions, DAV, Moose, Elks, churches, stores, libraries, gas stations, etc. You never know who needs the VFW's help but just doesn't know what we have to offer. If they don't want to move to Eaton Rapids to get the help, the National Home will provide them with resources in their home area to get the assistance they need.  
**Post the helpline wherever you can 1-800-313-4200.**

Health & Happiness donations are MANDATORY! The minimum amount to send is 10 cents a member, using the membership as of June 30, if you send 25 cents or more per member you will get a citation from National for your donation. This is another thing to add to your standing rules for August. Do it early & get it out of the way. Donations to National Home can be made from the relief fund. People ask all the time "What is the Health & Happiness" money used for? Well, it is used for Christmas gifts, graduation gifts, maintenance of Auxiliary sponsored buildings on campus, emergency repairs and renovations. You can have easy fundraisers to get the required donations. Have a basket at your meetings and have everyone in attendance put in \$1 when they sign in or get one of the National Home banks and put it in your canteen.

An easy way to tell someone you appreciate all they have done is to purchase a Life Membership in the National Home. The cost is \$50 per membership. You can also purchase a tribute brick for \$100. See the ordering information included in this packet.

There is a National citation for auxiliaries that host an activity or event that educates the community or another service organization about the National Home. Again, this is so simple that I expect every auxiliary to get one of these. If your auxiliary is the Department winner, I send it to National and then there is a contest for the best one from each of the 4 conferences. The BEAST FROM THE EAST should have no problem winning the citation and the \$25, right?? I will provide the official form once it has been finalized by National.

I look forward to seeing all of the innovative ways that the Department of Maryland will make sure to get the word out about these 2 amazing programs. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. If I don't know the answer, I will find someone who does.

Here's to an exciting year ahead!!



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## MALTA RESOURCES FOR BUDDY POPPY & NATIONAL HOME

### **Buddy Poppy**

- [Buddy Poppy Chairman's Manual](#)
- [Buddy Poppy Story Cards-print using Avery 5371 or equivalent](#)
- [The Veterans Behind the Buddy Poppy Article from Sept. 2015 VFW Auxiliary Magazine](#)
- [The Veterans Behind the Buddy Poppy Video](#)
- [VFW National Convention Buddy Poppy Display Contest Rules](#)

### **National Home**

- [National Home Helpline](#)
- [VFW National Home for Children Website](#)
- [VFW National Home Virtual Campus Tour](#)

Price as of:

**Department of Maryland  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

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War Memorial Building, Room J  
101 North Gay Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Phone: 410-752-6474 Fax: 410-783-2939

BUDDY POPPY ORDER FORM

-- PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION --

\_\_\_\_\_ BOX OF 500 \$70.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ BOX OF 1,000 \$130.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL OF ORDER = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: Department of Maryland, VFW**  
Mail orders to Department Headquarters not later than May 13<sup>th</sup>

**Poppies are shipped by UPS – DO NOT use a P.O. Box**

**Ship to:**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Aux. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

All other Buddy Poppy supplies *must* be ordered from the VFW Emblem and Supply Catalog, which is available through your Post Quartermaster.

**DEPARTMENT USE ONLY**

Post # \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Check Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received by Department \_\_\_\_\_



# VFW NATIONAL HOME

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### MEMBER INFORMATION

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss		Name:
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Date of birth:	*Email:	*Mobile Phone:

#### Membership Type:

- Associate (not a member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary)  
 Life Member (must be a member in good standing of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary or a unit of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary.  
 Complete affiliation information below. If no Post or Auxiliary number is provided, an Associate Membership will be issued.)

### VFW & VFW AUXILIARY INFORMATION

(Required if a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member)

- I am a member of VFW Post \_\_\_\_\_ in the Department of \_\_\_\_\_ VFW  
 I am a member of VFW Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_ in the Department of VFW Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_

### RECRUITER (Not required)

Recruiter name: \_\_\_\_\_ Recruiter Post or Auxiliary number: \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

Apply online at: <a href="http://www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership">www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership</a>	One-time membership fee \$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed and made payable to <b>VFW National Home</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Charge my <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express	
Name on card:	Card number:
Signature:	Expiration date:

### WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A LIFE MEMBER

BEING A LIFE MEMBER or an Associate Life Member of the VFW National Home is one way you can create a bond between yourself and the mission of the National Home. Your support and encouragement honor our veterans and today's military by helping their children and families in times of need. Life Members in good standing with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary may vote for trustees representing their National Home District and proposed Bylaw or Articles of Incorporation changes.



Scan to buy your membership now!

\*These fields are required for electronic voting.

# Make Your Gift A Lasting Memorial!



VFW National Home's Brick Campaign lets you send a special tribute, inspiring message, or create a permanent legacy of caring.

Each 4" x 8" brick costs \$100. Proceeds provide much-needed revenue for our daily operations.

Simply print and complete the form below and return it with your gift of \$100 per brick.

You may also purchase a brick on our website at [vfwnationalhome.org/brick](http://vfwnationalhome.org/brick). To learn more, call 866-483-9642 or email [info@vfwnationalhome.org](mailto:info@vfwnationalhome.org).

**YES!** I would like to dedicate a commemorative brick, etched with this message:


The message is limited to 3 rows of 18 characters each, including spaces and punctuation. We reserve the right to edit the text if the number of characters exceeds this limit.

I have enclosed my tax-deductible gift of \$100, made payable to VFW National Home.

Please charge \$100 to my:

American Express  Visa  MasterCard  Discover

NAME

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

APARTMENT/SUITE #

CARD NUMBER

CITY

STATE

ZIP

EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE



VFW  
NATIONAL HOME

**Thank you!** Return this form with your gift to:

VFW National Home

3573 South Waverly Rd. • Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 USA

tel 866-483-9642 • [vfwnationalhome.org/brick](http://vfwnationalhome.org/brick) • email [info@vfwnationalhome.org](mailto:info@vfwnationalhome.org)

# "Buddy® Poppy" & VFW National Home for Children

## 2023-2024 Report Form

Karen Rooker, PDP Dept. Chairperson

6502 Randolph Road  
Morningside, MD 20748

301-335-3365 ladykd922@yahoo.com



Be a Veteran's P.A.L.



Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Report Period: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

This month - Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Projects Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Mileage \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteers # \_\_\_\_\_

### "Buddy® Poppy"

Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the "Buddy® Poppy material/resources available in MALTA Member Resources?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Did you order "Buddy"® Poppies? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you host a "Buddy"® Poppy drive with your Post in this reporting period? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Did you host a "Buddy"® Poppy drive without your Post in this reporting period \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Are you participating in the "Buddy"® Poppy Display Contest at Convention? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

### VFW National Home for Children

Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the VFW National Home material/resources available in MALTA Member Resources?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Did you promote the National Home through education? Within the Post/Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_ In the community \_\_\_\_\_

Did you promote the National Home Helpline? Within the Post/Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_ In the community \_\_\_\_\_

Made donation to National Home Maryland House \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Health & Happiness \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Made donation to National Home (NOT Health & Happiness) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you purchase a National Home Life Membership for an Auxiliary Member this reporting period? How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you purchase a National Home Tribute Brick this reporting period? How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Other Buddy Poppy or VFW National Home for Children projects/activities? Briefly explain