

“Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Promotion #1 | July 2024

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Hello National Officers, Past National Officers, Department Presidents and Department Chairmen. I have the privilege of being the “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Ambassador this year. Attending my first Auxiliary meeting for the Cyrus R. Peters Memorial Auxiliary 5956 I was nominated to be the Junior Vice-President and things haven't stopped since. In addition to Auxiliary and District offices held, I am currently the Department of Pennsylvania Secretary-Treasurer, serving my ninth term. I have had the honor of being the National Credentials Chairman, Co-Chairman and in 2020-2021, was the Youth Activities Ambassador. My husband Keith and I will celebrate 32 years of marriage in October. Our son Benjamin is 30 and our daughter Lillian is 25 and both live in our small town. I am the proud grandmother of the most adorable 1-year-old grandson, Asher.

In 2019, our Department Junior Vice-President invited me to be her guest when she visited the VFW National Home. After being on the campus and seeing what happens there, I knew I wanted to be part of that. So, in 2021 I became the District 3 Trustee at the VFW National Home.

To me, it's amazing the number of our members that still are unaware of the wonderful things



happening at the National Home. With the help of the resources available at the Home the veteran and their families are able to get the support they need in specific areas and work on family goals, personal goals and self-care.

From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans is something the VFW Auxiliary has excelled at for many years. Our service to the veterans includes the veterans that are now living at the National Home.

Did you make your reservations for the CAFE? National President, Brenda is holding her Celebrating America's Freedom Event on the grounds of the National Home on September 7, 2024. Don't miss this opportunity to visit and learn more about the home. Details can be found at www.vfwauxiliary.org under events.

We want to CELEBRATE the National Home every day but this year will be even bigger! The National Home will turn 100 years old soon. I hope I can count on all of you to help me cover the walls of the gym at the Home with birthday cards from Auxiliaries across the country. On January 7, 2025 the VFW National Home will have its 100th birthday and we will hold a small celebration that day. I would appreciate your help in asking the Auxiliaries and anyone who is sending a birthday card to have it arrive by January 1, 2025 to ensure it is hanging in time for the celebration.

As we CELEBRATE all of these wonderful things about the National Home throughout this year, please remember to check your Program Book for information on awards and deadlines. The

National 2024-2025 Program Book will be available after National Convention when you log into MALTA under Member Resources.

While you are in Member Resources you can click the tab on the left “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home. There is a video – Behind the “Buddy”® Poppy, maybe this is something you want to use to promote the “Buddy”® Poppy.

Years ago, during a Poppy distribution a gentleman walked out of the store where we were set up wearing a hat with veteran printed on it and he said, “I’m sorry I have no cash on me.” I explained that it was ok because I wasn’t selling anything but I would like to give him a Poppy instead. He was so appreciative and asked me to please help him with it. As I was figuring out a way to attach the Poppy to his collar he shared his story with me. I have never forgotten that day and the talk I had with him.



Our “Buddy”® Poppy Program is our way of honoring the dead by helping the living. Please remember, any contributions collected during your distribution will go into your Relief Fund.

I look forward to seeing ideas from across the country as we CELEBRATE the National Home and sharing different ideas on promoting the “Buddy”® Poppy this year.