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**“Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Program
Department of Maryland
October 2024**

Program Goals

*“Buddy”® Poppy Education/Outreach
National “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest
VFW National Home Education and Community Outreach*

For each “Buddy”® Poppy purchased by our Department for distribution:

- ***One-and-a half cents go to the Department’s Veterans Service Fund.***
- ***One cent goes to VFW National Headquarters Veterans Service Fund.***
- ***One cent goes to the VFW National Home***

Ways to use your “Buddy”® Poppies in every National Program in October

Americanism—Add flags with “Buddy”® Poppies attached to your Halloween Treat Bags

Auxiliary Outreach—“Buddy” Up with a community center or organization for the Halloween Festivities. Distribute and include “Buddy”® Poppies in your decorations.

Historian/Media Relations—Stage “Buddy”® Poppies in your Fall pictures.

Hospital—Sponsor a Trick or Treat for Hospitalized Veterans. Include “Buddy”® Poppies with your treat bags.

Legislative—Host a town hall at your Post. Include “Buddy”® Poppies in your decorations.

Membership— Retain your members with an invite to an event or meeting. Include a “Buddy”® Poppy with your invitation.

Scholarships—Arrange to speak at a local PTA meeting. Include a small token of appreciation and add “Buddy”® poppies to it.

Veterans & Family Support—Another “Buddy”® Poppy Trick or Treat idea. Donate treats to Homeless Veterans such as MCVET and Baltimore Station. Treats can be toiletries, socks, underwear, etc. Attach a “Buddy”® Poppy to your gift in kind.

Youth Activities— Happy Halloween! Add “Buddy”® Poppies when you decorate your vehicle for the “Trunk or Treat Event”. Goodie Bags can be decorated with “Buddy”® poppies.

Included with my October promotion is the Buddy Poppy Order Form.

“It’s not about the “Buddy”® Poppy inventory, what counts is how the “Buddy”® Poppy is used to bring awareness to our programs and our Veterans.”





VFW NATIONAL HOME

Did you know?

The origins of today's VFW National Home can be traced to a 23-year-old woman named Amy Ross. In 1922, Ross made it her mission to help find jobs for the thousands of unemployed veterans in Detroit.

THE BEGINNING - News of Ross' efforts reached millionaire cattleman Corey Spencer, who gifted 472 acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan, to build on Ross' vision of supporting veterans. On January 7, 1925, the VFW National Home was founded, helping to fulfill the VFW pledge to "honor the dead by helping the living." Later that spring, the Home welcomed its first family in an old frame farmhouse, Mrs. Pollett and her six children. Pollett had become suddenly widowed and lost her husband's military pension. On January 7, 2025 our National Home will be celebrating 100 years of service to our Veterans, Military and their families. *Happy Birthday!* Remember to send your birthday card to the National Home by January 1st to be displayed for the celebration party. If your Auxiliary is planning to send the National Home a Birthday present, remember the National Home has an Amazon Wish List or you can send a donation to help with the cost of the 100th celebration.

How does the VFW National Home help Veterans and their Families?

Families find a healing calm in a tranquil, rural, small-town community. Maryland House is one of 42 single-family homes with facilities like a gym, library, computer and science labs, daycare center, playgrounds, a fishing pond, hiking trails, and more. VFW National Home strives to help residents of all ages "turn on the lights" through student-centered programming focused on building a sense of duty to self, family, school, and community. Throughout the school year, education staff and volunteers work closely with local schools, parents, and others who are invested in the success of National Home students. Help is available to all age groups, from preschool through college and beyond. The Early Education Center is home to the National Home's on-site early childhood education program. This service is available for free to the military and veteran families residing at the National Home. Promoting fun, friendship, and fitness is the goal of the Recreation Program. The staff plans and hosts a variety of physical and lifelong learning activities throughout the year and strives to promote physical health, social skills, and decision-making strategies in a fun environment. Case management is a collaborative process of assessment, planning, facilitation, care coordination, evaluation, and advocacy for options and services to meet an individual's and family's comprehensive needs through communication and available resources to promote quality, cost-effective outcomes.

National Home Prayer—Which Prayer does your Auxiliary use?

1. At this hour of the evening, we turn our thoughts towards Eaton Rapids and with bowed heads we say:
Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for such is the Kingdom of God. May God Bless our National Home.

OR

2. Dear God, let us so deliberate this day that the widows and orphans of our Departed Comrades will enjoy the manifold blessing and comforts which surround us. So guide us in our deliberations that we will not allow our passions, prejudices or interests to betray us, and that we may be able to render to every orphan and widow their just due without distinction. Please, dear God, fold your arms of love and protection around our National Home and look after the spirits of our departed comrades. Amen

Did you know? Announcing our "NEW" National Home Prayer!

Almighty God, we ask for Your divine blessing on the children, families and staff of our National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. May Your Spirit dwell with them forever, giving them health and guiding their lives. Help us to always be faithful to our fallen comrades by providing shelter, guidance and support for their families. We ask in Your Holy Name. Amen.

**Please
insert order
form here**