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V F W
NATIONAL HOME

“Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home

Department of Maryland
April 2025



“Buddy”® Poppy”

We are coming down to the homestretch. Is your “Buddy”® Poppy Display almost completed? Here are important reminders about your display.

Department VFW “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest

*Takes place annually at Department Convention

*Displays are judged in three (3) categories:

- 1) Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign (Window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.).
- 2) Memorial or Inspirational Displays (Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes)
- 3) Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies (Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages)

*At least one Poppy used in the display must be in original form and color, with label attached. This applies to all three (3) categories listed above.

*See the VFW’s “Buddy”® Poppy Chairman’s Guide for rules, deadlines, judging and awards of the National “Buddy”® Poppy Contest, as well as other helpful resources. The guide can be found at vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

*Continue to incorporate the “Buddy”® Poppy in all your programs. Here are a few examples:

***Americanism**—Decorate your spring and summer wreaths with flags and poppies.

***Historian Media Relations**—Include poppies in all your upcoming spring and summer photos. The Story does not end on April 15th.

***Hospital**—Plan Spring and Summer events for a local VAMC and/or nursing home. Decorate your fun activity tables with poppies. The poppy reminds us that we have not forgotten Our Heroes.

***Membership**—Have plenty of poppies on hand at your next recruitment event. The poppy is recognized in our community as our memorial flower & brands us as to who we are & what we do.

***Veterans and Family Support**—With warmer temperatures, it is the perfect time of year to host a Military Mental Health Awareness event using the slogan: “22-A Day”. Make sure you share all the VFW resources with your local Veterans. Also, set up a “Buddy”® Poppy Drive table.

***Youth Activities**—Our FUTURE! Educate local youth groups about the history of the “Buddy”® Poppy. Ask the leader if you can speak to the group about our memorial flower. Create an activity for the youth to participate in, like making cards for our hospitalized veterans with poppies.

All this and more will bring awareness to our “Mighty Little Flower”





VFW NATIONAL HOME

THE MISSION

“The VFW National Home assists military, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment.”

Have you ever asked how you can support the VFW National Home’s mission? The answer is simple, become a life member. As we are completing our task for the year and coming down the homestretch, encourage your members to purchase a life membership to our “HOME”. Another way to gain life members is to hold a raffle in your Auxiliary or use as a prize at your fundraisers. You do not need to be a VFW or Auxiliary member in order to become a life member. There are 3 types of membership.

- 1) Life Membership—Are you a proud member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary? By becoming a VFW National Home Life Member, you gain access to VFW National Home voting privileges and a unique pin and membership card to display your affiliation proudly.
- 2) ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP— Any individual or organization wishing to support the National Home’s mission can become an Associate Life Member. Associate Life Members do not have voting privileges.
- 3) CENTENNIAL MEMBERSHIP—The VFW National Home celebrated its 100th Anniversary. As a token of our appreciation, the VFW National Home is making this special offer available to current and nonmembers. When you apply between April 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025, they offer the following benefits:
 - *Exclusive Centennial Membership Pin
 - *10% Off Souvenirs and Apparel
 - *Reduced Guest Lodge Rate
 - *Exclusive Member-only Apparel

I am very sad that this is my last promotion of the 2024-25 year. I enjoyed sharing my thoughts and ideas with our membership across the great State of Maryland. I would like to thank Department President Debbie Sturgis for having the faith to appoint me as Department Chairman for this very special program that is near and dear to my heart. I would also like to thank all the Auxiliary Chairmen for all their hard work. I enjoyed reading each and every report that was sent to me, especially seeing all the pictures taken with their poppy projects.

It is with great pride that I say that I am a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary.

An organization that I believe in because we offer “Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes®”.

