



VFW Auxiliary to the Department of Maryland
Buddy Poppy & National Home Program
2025-2026 Chairman
Karen D Rooker, PDP
6502 Randolph Rd
Morningside, MD 20746
301-335-3365
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February 2026

Tick Tock...Tick Tock...

Time is fast approaching for the end of the year reports!

There are 2 Special National Awards that your Auxiliary can win from the Buddy Poppy/National Home Chairman. ***The deadline to submit these award applications to me is MARCH 31, 2026.***

Award #1 is for the Most Outstanding Activity/Event with your Post to educate your community about the VFW Buddy Poppy.

Award #2 is for the Most Outstanding Activity/Event that creates awareness and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the VFW National Home, promoting it within the Department to help veterans and their families.

The report forms for each of these awards are attached to this mailer. Your entries have to be submitted on these forms to be considered. If you have already reported your event, please do it again on this form so I can forward it to the National Ambassador by the National deadline of April 30, 2026.

Hopefully you have paid your Health & Happiness for this year. These funds help with the everyday expenses at the National Home. ***This donation is not optional; it is an obligation.*** A minimum of 10 cents per member is all you need to send in. But, if you send in 25 cents per member, your Auxiliary will receive a certificate from National. (Again, don't forget to send me a report!!)

I know there are a lot of "Special Projects" requesting funds from our Auxiliaries. Attached is a flyer from the Department of Maryland Liaison to the VFW, Nancy August for a Joint National Special Project of "Stock the Store" at the National Home. Anything your Auxiliary can do would be greatly appreciated. This would be reported on the Buddy Poppy/National Home report form under "Donation made to the National Home (NOT Health & Happiness)". (Again, don't forget to send me a report!!)

Please make sure to let me know how many poppies you have used/distributed. I cannot wait to see how the Department of Maryland has spread our beautiful little flower all over the land and shared its story with everyone!

From the reports I have already received I am so proud of our little Department. Keep up the good work! Spread a smile & share an ear, you never know what others are dealing with.

Special January Promotional Mailing From the Liaison to the VFW

Nancy August

VFW Department Office: 410-752-6474

nancyaugust342@gmail.com



✓ Supporting Our VFW National Home – *Let's Do More: Stock the Store*

VFW National Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore and our National Auxiliary President Lois Callahan have joined for a National Joint Project – *Let's Do More: Stock the Store*. Their goal is to promote direct financial support for starting a store available to the families living on the VFW National Home campus.

Donations will help purchase store equipment to set up the store. Also needed in the retail section are coolers and freezers for fresh and frozen foods. Contributions would also be used as the start-up money needed to first stock the shelves so that sales can begin.

This fundraising project will also purchase a program for an honor system point of sale to allow residents to enter the store both during and after business hours using a swipe card to pick up items and pay for them with their credit or debit card.

To make auxiliary or personal donations to *Stock the Store* Joint Project:

Online: <https://vfwnationalhome.org/donate/>
(Note – *Retail Store* in comment section)

By mail:
VFW National Home
3573 S. Waverly Road
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
(Note - *Retail Store* on your check)

Remember to report your donations on the report form available on the department's website. Send to PDP Karen Rooker, the VFW National Home Program Chairman.



More information on Let's Do More: Stock the Store the attachment from National.



“Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home

National Program Award No. 1 2025-2026 Entry Form

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event with their VFW Post to educate their community about the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy.
- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding activity and/or event with their VFW Post to educate their community about the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form to the Department "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Name: _____

VFW Auxiliary No: _____ Department of: _____

Describe the activity and/or event with their VFW Post to educate their community about the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy. (E.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

The Department "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to National "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home Ambassador Sandra Jeffries by April 30, 2026 for judging.

Department "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman: _____ *Signature*

Date: _____ *Forms sent to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.*



“Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home

National Program Award No. 2

2025-2026 Entry Form

Awards for Auxiliaries

2. Most outstanding activity and/or event that creates awareness and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the VFW National Home and promoting it within their Department to help veterans and their families.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that creates awareness and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the VFW National Home and promoting it within their Department to help veterans and their families.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

**VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form to the
Department “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman
by March 31, 2026 for judging.**

VFW Auxiliary Name: _____

VFW Auxiliary No: _____ Department of: _____

Describe the activity and/or event that created awareness and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the VFW National Home and promoting it within their Department to help veterans and their families. (e.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

The Department “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to National “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Ambassador Sandra Jeffries by April 30, 2026 for judging.

Department “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman: _____

Signature

Date: _____

Forms sent to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.

"Buddy® Poppy" & VFW National Home



2025 - 2026 Report Form

Karen Rooker, PDP Dept. Chairman

6502 Randolph Road
Morningside, MD 20746



301-335-3365 ladykd922@yahoo.com

Auxiliary _____ District _____ Chairman _____ Contact info _____

Report Period: From _____ To _____

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

"Buddy® Poppy"

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

Number of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies that were distributed. # _____

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

VFW National Home for Children

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 (NOT for kitchen) \$ _____ 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