VFW Auxiliary to the Department of Maryland
Buddy Poppy & National Home Program
2025-2026 Chairman
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April 2026

And just like that, all good things must come to an end…

Department of Maryland, I am so very proud of all of the things that you have accomplished this reporting year and I know there are still some reports that I will receive before the cut-off date of April 15th. The report form contains places for you to fill in all of the information that is needed for me to report to National. I cannot wait to hear our name called out during the awards ceremony!

Please go back and look at all of the reports you have sent in to make sure you reported every hour, all mileage, volunteers, project cost and how many poppies you used/distributed along with Life Memberships in the National Home and Tribute Bricks. I am sure there are so many reports out there where Poppies were used but not reported. If you haven't sent in a report, do it now. Put it all on 1 report and send it to me. I want to make sure everyone gets the credit they deserve for all of the hard work they have done. Don't forget, our reports that we share with the VFW who reports the numbers to Congress is what help us keep our non-profit status.

I am so looking forward to the many Poppy displays that will be at the Department Convention. I have included the rules for this contest with this mailer.

We are so close to the finish line. Let's cross it by letting everyone know what we are doing.

REPORT – REPORT – REPORT!!!

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT "BUDDY"®
POPPY PROGRAM DISPLAY CONTEST

These guidelines have been designed to place emphasis on the purpose and effectiveness of the displays. It is suggested and recommended that Department (State) contests rule be established in a like form.

RULES (1) Displays will be presented and judged in three categories:

CATEGORY 1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign (Window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.) (a) Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy. (b) At least one (1) of the Poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

CATEGORY 2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays (Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes) (a) Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the "Buddy"® Poppy. (b) At least one (1) of the Poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

CATEGORY 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies (Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.) (a) Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3. (b) At least one (1) of the Poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

NONE of the entries should have your Post/Auxiliary name or number visible on your display. There will be forms available to fill out when you drop off your entry.

Each Post/Auxiliary is responsible for the delivery and pick up of their entry. Please check upon arrival at the Convention for the room number to bring your display to.

NATIONAL BUDDY POPPY CONTEST

A Buddy Poppy Display Contest will be held at the National Convention. Rules have been designed to put emphasis on the purpose and effectiveness of the displays. It is suggested that Department Contest rules be set up in conformance with this outline.

Rules
Displays will be presented and judged in three categories:
Category 1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign
(Window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.) Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW Buddy Poppy. At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.
Category 2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays
(Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes) Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy. At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.
Category 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies
(Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.) Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3. At least one Poppy used in the display must be in original form and color, with label attached.

SPECIAL NOTE: Departments purchasing over 250,000 Poppies will be allowed two displays in each of the three categories for the National Display Contest. All others will be allowed one display in each of the three categories.

The Department Adjutant will have to notify the Programs Director, in writing, by June 30 of the Posts that will represent the Department in each category. This will allow us the time necessary to ensure each entry has sufficient space to set up at the National Convention. The National Programs Committee shall have no responsibility in setting up, taking down, or returning displays. Displays may be entered and set up at any time from 8 a.m. Saturday until 12 Noon on Monday of the Convention week. Displays shall be set up in space provided in the Convention exhibit or meeting halls. At the time the display is set up, the responsible person must complete an entry form which will show the category of competition, the number of Poppies used, the purpose of the display, the Post and/or Auxiliary number and location, and the name of the person who will dismantle and remove the display at the close of the Convention. Displays may be accompanied by a white card, not to exceed 4 X 6 inches in size, on which is lettered in black ink an explanation of the theme for the display or other information of interest to the viewer or the judges. Post name, Post number, city or state (including the shape of your state) may not be visible on display entries; failure to comply will result in disqualification. Any use of non VFW trademarks or copyrighted material on your display must have prior approval from the

trademark or copyright holder. These include but are not limited to names, logos, audio/visual graphics, images and/or props. The VFW and Buddy Poppy logo and name is authorized but use of any outside organization trademark or copyrighted material and/or logos must have prior approval through their respective organization.

Judging

Judging of displays will be on the basis of effectiveness, purpose, clarity of theme, suitability, originality, beauty and number of Poppies used. Where a sample of a large number of identical items (such as corsages or wreaths) is entered, full credit shall be given for the total number of Poppies used.

Prizes

Plaques will be awarded to the first, second, and
Third place winners in each of the three categories,

"Buddy® Poppy" & VFW National Home

2025 - 2026 Report Form

Karen Rooker, PDP Dept. Chairman

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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