



Buddy Poppy/ National Home

VFW Auxiliary Department of Maryland

While the Cross of Malta is a recognizable symbol of our organization, the "Buddy"® Poppy is a symbol that reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms.

Sandra Jeffries, National Ambassador



Karen Rooker, PDP
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VFW Auxiliary to the Department of Maryland
Buddy Poppy & National Home Program
2025-2026 Chairman
Karen D Rooker, PDP
6502 Randolph Rd
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301-335-3365
ladykd922@yahoo.com

Hello –

My name is Karen Rooker and I have been appointed by President William Siperek to be the Buddy Poppy & National Home Chairman for the Department of Maryland for the 25-26 year.

We all know that the Buddy Poppy & National Home have both been around like what seems FOREVER! It is up to us to find new & innovative ways to get their stories out to the membership & general public even “shuzzing” up the “old school” stuff. Donation cans in the canteens or nearby stores, making poppy crosses & wreaths for all holidays (not just Memorial and Veterans Days), and don’t forget the ever-popular silverware wrapping and Poppy placemats - use them at all events! Poppies on the end of flags when passing them out (looky there 2 reports!) This is so simple that I expect every auxiliary to send in a report.

There will be 2 special awards this year.

#1 is for Most Outstanding Activity and/or Event with Your VFW Post to Educate Your Community About the VFW Buddy Poppy. If your auxiliary is the Department winner, I send it to National and then there is a contest for the best one from each of the 10 program divisions. Our Department should have no problem winning the citation and the \$25, right?? I will provide the official form once it has been finalized by National.

#2 is 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. If your auxiliary is the Department winner, I send it to National and then there is a contest for the best one from each of the 10 program divisions. Again, our Department should have no problem winning the citation and the \$25, right?? I will provide the official form once it has been finalized by National.

The new Buddy Poppy Order Forms are not available yet. When they are, I will let everyone know. You do not have to go through your Post to do this. I would advise you not to order your poppies before August as there have been times when purchases that are made earlier, they are not credited in the current year but the prior one. Put this in your standing rules, that way you won’t forget. It should take 6-8 weeks for your order to arrive

DO NOT report income from Buddy Poppy, only report money purchasing the Poppies and any supplies needed for the projects you do under this program. All income generated using Buddy Poppies is to be deposited into the Relief Fund.

The Buddy Poppy Display Contest rules will be published in a later mailing; however, you can find them on MALTA if you want to see them now.

The Department of Maryland sponsors 1 of the 42 houses at the VFW National Home. We really need to get the word out there that the National Home and its resources are not just for VFW members and their families but for all veterans. A lot of us are members in other organizations, not just for veterans. Take the informational brochure that you can get from the National store and place them around your area, American Legions, DAV, Moose, Elks, churches, stores, libraries, gas stations, etc. You never know who needs the VFW's help but just doesn't know what we have to offer. If they don't want to move to Eaton Rapids to get the help, the National Home will provide them with resources in their home area to get the assistance they need.

Post the helpline wherever you can 1-800-313-4200 or vfwnationalhome.org/get-help.

Please Note:

This year President Bill's Special Project is the Maryland House Kitchen. This does not get reported to me. It gets reported to Mary Cardinal-Vogt, the Special Project Chairman. Please note in the memo portion of your donation that it is specifically for Maryland Home Kitchen.

You can still make other donations to the National Home, just make sure they are marked properly as to what they are for.

Health & Happiness donations are **MANDATORY!** The minimum amount to send is 10 cents a member, using the membership as of June 30, if you send 25 cents or more per member you will get a citation from National for your donation. This is another thing to add to your standing rules for August. Do it early & get it out of the way. Donations to National Home can be made from the relief fund. People ask all the time "What is the Health & Happiness" money used for? Well, it is used for Christmas gifts, graduation gifts, maintenance of Auxiliary sponsored buildings on campus, emergency repairs and renovations. You can have easy fundraisers to get the required donations. Have a basket at your meetings and have everyone in attendance put in \$1 when they sign in or get one of the National Home banks and put it in your canteen.

An easy way to tell someone you appreciate all they have done is to purchase a Life Membership in the National Home. The cost is \$50 per membership. You can also purchase a tribute brick for \$100. See ordering information included in this packet.

I look forward to seeing all of the innovative ways that the Department of Maryland will make sure to get the word out about these 2 amazing programs. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. If I don't know the answer, I will find someone who does.

Here's to an exciting year ahead!!



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MALTA RESOURCES FOR BUDDY POPPY & NATIONAL HOME

Buddy Poppy

- [Buddy Poppy Chairman's Manual](#)
- [Buddy Poppy Story Cards-print using Avery 5371 or equivalent](#)
- [The Veterans Behind the Buddy Poppy Article from Sept. 2015 VFW Auxiliary Magazine](#)
- [The Veterans Behind the Buddy Poppy Video](#)
- [VFW National Convention Buddy Poppy Display Contest Rules](#)

National Home

- [National Home Helpline](#)
- [VFW National Home Website](#)
- [VFW National Home Virtual Campus Tour](#)



LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBER INFORMATION

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Date of birth:

*Email:

*Mobile Phone:

Membership Type:

☐ Associate (not a member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary)

☐ Life Member (must be a member in good standing of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary or a unit of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary.

Complete affiliation information below. If no Post or Auxiliary number is provided, an Associate Membership will be issued.)

VFW & VFW AUXILIARY INFORMATION

(Required if a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member)

☐ I am a member of VFW Post _____ in the Department of _____ VFW

☐ I am a member of VFW Auxiliary _____ in the Department of VFW Auxiliary _____

RECRUITER (Not required)

Recruiter name: _____ Recruiter Post or Auxiliary number: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Apply online at:

www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership

One-time membership fee \$50

☐ Check enclosed and made payable to **VFW National Home**

☐ Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Name on card:

Card number:

Signature:

Expiration date:

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A LIFE MEMBER

BEING A LIFE MEMBER or an Associate Life Member of the VFW National Home is one way you can create a bond between yourself and the mission of the National Home. Your support and encouragement honor our veterans and today's military by helping their children and families in times of need. Life Members in good standing with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary may vote for trustees representing their National Home District and proposed Bylaw or Articles of Incorporation changes.

*These fields are required for electronic voting.



Scan to buy your membership now!

VFW NATIONAL HOME **CENTENNIAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

MEMBER INFORMATION

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss		Name:	
Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP Code:	
Date of birth:	*Email:	*Mobile Phone:	
☐ Associate (<i>not a member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary</i>) ☐ Life Member (<i>must be a member in good standing of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary or a unit of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. Complete affiliation information below. If no Post or Auxiliary number is provided, an Associate Membership will be issued.</i>)			

VFW & VFW AUXILIARY INFORMATION

(Required if a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member)

☐ I am a member of VFW Post _____ in the Department of _____
☐ I am a member of VFW Auxiliary _____ in the Department of VFW Auxiliary _____

RECRUITER (Not required)

Recruiter name: _____ Recruiter Post or Auxiliary number: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Apply online at: www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership	One-time membership fee \$100
☐ Check enclosed and made payable to VFW National Home ☐ Charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express	
Name on card:	Card number:
Signature:	Expiration date: Security code:

CENTENNIAL LIFE MEMBERS



The VFW National Home will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2025, and we want you to be part of it. That's why we are inviting you to join our Centennial Membership program. As a token of our appreciation, we are making this special offer **available to current and nonmembers**.

When you apply between April 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025, you will receive an exclusive Centennial Membership pin, member-only apparel, and 10% off souvenirs, apparel, and lodging. Your support is appreciated, and we are excited to have you join us in our second century of service.

*These fields are required for electronic voting.



Scan to buy your membership online!



Celebrate the upcoming VFW National Home Centennial in style with a personalized engraved brick in our 2025 Centennial Garden. Whether it's to honor a loved one, commemorate a special event, or simply leave your mark on this historic occasion, our 8x8 engraved bricks offer a timeless way to do just that. And for a limited time only, you can secure your place in history for an

Our bricks are made from the highest quality materials and engraved with the latest technology, ensuring that your message will last for generations to come. Not only will your brick be a lasting tribute to your contribution to celebrate our 2025 Centennial, but it will also add to the beauty and legacy of the garden for years to come.

With only a limited number of bricks available, now is the time to act. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Order your personalized engraved brick today for only \$500 and be a part of history.



6 lines of text, 25 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)

[illegible]

4 lines of text, 25 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)

[illegible]

Clipart 

Name: _____

Address:

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: Phone:

Email: _____

MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

VFW National Home
Attn: Development Dept
3573 S Waverly Rd
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

VFW National Home

Make Your Gift A Lasting Memorial!



VFW National Home's Brick Campaign lets you send a special tribute, inspiring message, or create a permanent legacy of caring.

Each 4" x 8" brick costs \$100. Proceeds provide much-needed revenue for our daily operations.

Simply print and complete the form below and return it with your gift of \$100 per brick.

You may also purchase a brick on our website at vfwnationalhome.org/brick. To learn more, call 866-483-9642 or email info@vfwnationalhome.org.

☐ **YES!** I would like to dedicate a commemorative brick, etched with this message:

The message is limited to 3 rows of 18 characters each, including spaces and punctuation. We reserve the right to edit the text if the number of characters exceeds this limit.

☐ I have enclosed my tax-deductible gift of \$100, made payable to VFW National Home.

☐ Please charge \$100 to my:

☐ American Express ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

NAME

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

APARTMENT/SUITE #

CARD NUMBER

CITY

STATE

ZIP

EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE



Thank you! Return this form with your gift to:

VFW National Home

3573 South Waverly Rd. • Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 **USA**

tel 866-483-9642 • vfwnationalhome.org/brick • **email** info@vfwnationalhome.org

"Buddy® Poppy" & VFW National Home

2025 - 2026 Report Form

Karen Rooker, PDP Dept. Chairman

6502 Randolph Road
Morningside, MD 20746

301-335-33655 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 \$ _____ Health & Happiness \$ _____

Made donation to National Home (NOT Health & Happiness)	\$ _____	Date: _____
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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