



## Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary "Buddy"® Poppy/National Home Bulletin – December 2024-January 2025

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: "Buddy"® Poppy/VFW National Home-Michigan

December is here and along with it comes the season of giving. Thank you all for giving your time, resources, ideas, support, and so much more to our veterans, families, and communities this past month. I have seen how hard you have worked and this month I know you will work just as hard, if not harder!

With the holidays fast approaching there are some easy ways to support the National Home. Ideas to include gifting a Life Membership or a Tribute Brick, purchasing a much-needed item from their Amazon Wishlist, or supporting their 2024 Santa Shop! This program offers the children an opportunity to shop for the special person(s) in their life. Purchases come from "credit" they earned by spending time during the year volunteering in their community. Please consider making a purchase to donate.



### **Creativity is Contagious**

To help support your Home Front Hero commitment and add funds to your relief fund this December – your Auxiliary can purchase fillable ornaments. You can fill the ornaments with a little bit of "snow" and a "Buddy"® Poppy. Once you create your masterpieces, you can then put them on a Christmas tree in your Post home. The ornaments can then be purchased off the tree and the funds put into your relief fund. Be sure to read blog #2 from our National Ambassador (located in Malta) as she has other festive ideas to support your commitment!

### **Reporting**

How does your Auxiliary earn a Department Award that is listed on the Guide Sheet? The short answer. Report! Quite a few awards are up for grabs concerning promotions. How can I pick your Auxiliary to win if I don't know what you are doing by not reporting? And when an Auxiliary reports, they only indicated "promoted the National Home" with no more clarification. Please tell me how! What did your Auxiliary do? In what ways did you promote? Did something stand out during the experience of promoting or did you see a result from your promoting experience. By reporting and giving me details, I can put your Auxiliary up for consideration!



### **VFW National Home Helpline**

This time of year, can be very challenging for families. Be sure to share the VFW National Home Helpline. Remember, it is a HELPLINE not a HOTLINE!

**REMINDER: Please don't forget to send in a 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday card from your Auxiliary to the National Home by January 1<sup>st</sup>!**

## Mid-Winter “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest

Now is the time to start thinking about Mid-Winter “Buddy”® Poppy Contest. Here is the flyer to help guide you in your thought process along with guidelines you will need to follow. I can’t wait to see what ideas you bring! Don’t forget, we have a Youth category. Perhaps host a craft night for your youth at your Post home. Consider offering some hot chocolate, cookies and maybe a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place award. This is an excellent opportunity for the youth to learn about the “mighty flower,” fellowship and create some inspiring work.

# Mid-Winter “Buddy”® Poppy Contest 2025

- **Theme: “Aspire to Inspire”**

- **Specifications:**

- Entry dimensions must be NO larger than 16” wide, 16” deep, 20” tall.
- Post, Auxiliary, Name, Number or City can **NOT** be visible on your entry. It **MUST** be posted on the bottom only where not visible. Please **DO NOT** include any members picture that a judge might recognize.
- Each entry **MUST** have at least **ONE** “Buddy”® Poppy in original form (that means a poppy with the white tag still attached).

- **Awards:**

- \$20, \$15, \$10 to Auxiliaries for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner.
- Youth Category: Plaque for 1<sup>st</sup> place winner and Citation to all youth who participate.

Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo, MI from Thursday, January 30, 2025 – Sunday, February 1, 2025. The drop off for displays will begin Friday morning from 8:00- 5:00 and will end Saturday morning at 9:00. More details to follow.



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**Reminder:** Every Department Program has a designated Facebook page! You can find them by typing in the name of the program in the search box at the top of your Facebook page. The name of your program is located at the top of every program’s specific bulletin. If you have not joined ours, please find us at: **“Buddy”® Poppy/VFW National Home-Michigan**

I just want to say a quick “Thank you!” for all you have done this year! Have a blessed holiday season!

Christine LeBrun, “Buddy”® Poppy/VFW National Home Chairman  
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